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By

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Editor

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SNAPS AND SHOTS

"The king can do no wrong". But the Bishop of Canterbury and Prime Minister Baldwin did not think so.

Men like mules get the most accomplished when they stop kicking and all pull together.

A real optimist would be the fellow who tried to pick an editor's pocket.

Buy at home is good advice. Are you as ready to take it as you are to give it?

We wonder how many church members will celebrate their Lord's birthday by getting drunk.

Physical force has never cleared a character nor righted a wrong. Fighting with facts alone wins.

The kickers and knockers are so busy in a church or community that they do not have time to see what others are doing.

We heard a bishop once say: "Selfishness is sin; sin is of the devil; therefore, selfishness is the devil in folks."

The spirit of Christmas is expressed in what one gives and not what he gets. Most of us show a pagan rather than a christian spirit in our giving and living at Christmas time.

KIND OR HARDBOILED

Much is being said about Kerr Scott, the next Commissioner of Agriculture, giving advance notice to many of the employees of this State department that he will not need their services when he assumes office in January. It not only appears that Mr. Scott is hardboiled, but that he is well-nigh taking their scalps. This may so appear to many and especially so to those receiving notice that their services will cease with their present appointment.

But when one considers that usually new department heads make such changes as they believe advisable when taking office and it is accepted as within their right if not duty to do so, we must believe some one is going to lose his job. If Mr. Scott would later let these now receiving advance notice know, it would be in a new year and possibly too late for them to find another position. But by their knowing now what will happen later, they have ample time to look for other work. The only fear we have is that the new Commissioner may embarrass himself later by dispensing with the services of so many of his best men, men who are trained in their work and are considered experts in their lines. At least one must admit that Mr. Scott is acting within his rights, whether he is seeking

efficiency in his department or rewards for his political and other friends.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW

This law seems to us to be somewhat of a riddle, but the best we can make of it from reading extracts and newspaper reports is that it applies only to employers working over 8 people and that the insurance thus provided applies only to such employees. It does not seem to affect the people on farms, in small business concerns and the great mass of laboring folks who trust to odd jobs. Your cook, hired man, small garage employees and hundreds of others employed in honest livelihoods are left high and dry by the government's effort at compensation. Our own opinion is that the most needy, if not the most worthy class, has been entirely overlooked or ignored by the government. We hope sufficient legislation will be speedily passed by the next Congress to protect every individual and with equal justice.

INCREASING DRUNKENNESS

We have seen and heard of more drinking of intoxicants within the last month or two in our community than we have known for six months previously. We have seen them drunk in cars, drunk on the streets and others have reported cases of drunkenness that the authorities did not know about. Our officers seem to be doing their best to change this deplorable situation. While much of the liquor may come from Middlesex and Bailey ABC stores we are reliably informed that it does not all come from legal sources. A man whose name we are not at liberty to give told us that liquor was being sold within the corporate limits of Zebulon. We do not know that, but we do know that as high as 20 per cent alcoholic content drink is being sold openly in Zebulon. It may be legal stuff and it may not be. We think it would be wise to investigate some of the places selling beer and wine in town.

The law is slack enough anyway, but we believe our town officials and Recorder's Court should place good stiff fines on anyone found drunk on the streets of the town. A \$5.00 fine may be enough for the first offense, but we believe it should be made clear to the offender that the second offense will be the limit allowed by the law. Each citizen who believes in and practices sobriety should give our officials his moral support in ridding our community of this growing evil.

SERVING YOURSELF

As a rule life is a fifty-fifty proposition. Many of us forget that the local merchant often renders a greater service to his customers than he does to himself. He maintains our community activities, he supports all worthy enterprises, he contributes to our churches and public institutions, he pays taxes to support our schools and civic institutions. And these taxes are above what others pay on personal property and real estate.

But we do not ask you to support him for these reasons alone. We merely advise you to help maintain the business life of the community because you thereby serve your own interests.

If you own property, if your children attend school, if you are interested in one of Zebulon's churches or other community interest, if you are drawing your pay check or wages from this community, obviously you should give the local merchants first consideration when you spend money.

The value of your property, the character of the public service given in Zebulon and the nature of the social and fraternal life of the community all hinge upon the prosperity of local business. When you do your bit to help make it better you are merely furthering your own interests. Think it over. Then give the home town business man a break with your Christmas trade and then don't forget him when other days come along and other needs appear.

Seen And Heard

OUR PROBLEM

Our readers have heard of the old man with long beard who was asked whether he slept with his beard under or above the cover and the trouble he had in trying to decide. Well, a few days ago while passing a colored man I looked at the sun and sneezed, remarking afterwards that it was a habit of my family. His question was:—"Which do you do, let the sun shine in your mouth or nose?" I promised to let him know when I found out.

TWINS

James Pully came into the Record office Wednesday and paid up his subscription for 1937 and got one of those fine dollar electric lanterns free. Then he said, "I have some news for you. I've got twins at my house." Reaching out my hand I said, "Allow me to congratulate you. I know you must be glad they are not quintuplets." "But," said he, "they are twin calves."

A youngster, commenting upon the Womanless Wedding said, "I bet ladies don't even know how funny they act until they see men acting that same way."

FIRST GREETING

The first Christmas greeting of this season was received from Mrs. Helen P. Whitley of Siler City, who remembered all members of the Record force in her good wishes. A later message brought Mrs. Whitley's renewal with the statement that the Record is to her like a weekly letter from home. (The above may help some to understand why the associate editor is glad to receive personal items for the paper.

Open Forum

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

(The letter that follows was written to the editor personally and carries so forceful a thought that we are taking the liberty of allowing all our readers to see it. The writer is a friend of many years and we have labored together in the Lord's work in Johnston county. He has our sympathy and sincerest wishes for a rapid recovery. —Ed.)

Dear Bro. Davis:—

You no doubt will be surprised to get these few lines from me, but as you were partly involved in a dream that I have tried to forget two nights ago, I was prompted to write to you and if you want to use it in your paper do so, and if not there is the wastebasket—let 'er go.

My dream (now I don't want to be called a dreamer) was about the coming Xmas. Why do we celebrate the 25th day of December, in memory of who, and how are you going to celebrate it? In a big time way,

in eating, drinking, or worldly amusements—just how?

Then is all the family as it was a year ago so all can be together for the occasion? Have some of the older boys or girls gone out to seek for themselves what life has to offer, maybe far away; maybe sick, maybe in trouble, and the laws have laid hold on them and have them behind the prison bars; or has death claimed some of the other children, maybe the baby; or has it been mother that has been called to meet her maker, or is dad away? Oh, it doesn't differ about some of us dads; if we were at home we would probably spoil the day by being high (drunk).

Then I saw my father who has been dead for near 20 years, and saw a light. And you teaching in a Sunday school class, telling us about the light from the star that shone upon the shepherds as they watched over their flock by night when the angels said, Fear not. Peace on earth, Good will toward men. And were guided to the place where the Savior was born. Then I saw a light, the ray from heaven penetrated the darkness, over the cross. Where the Savior was nailed, and heard him say, Father, forgive them they know not what they do. Then I saw my dear old mother who has been an invalid for near 14 years now in her wheel chair, as she said, Behold that is the same light as that guided the shepherds to the Savior. It will guide you children. And the rest of the world if you will let it to a place of rest and happiness.

Now this mother who has for near 20 years never made complaint or found fault since her companion has been taken from her only for fear that she would be in some of her children's way and she would think maybe they were tired of her. She is a pathetic old soul if by chance you should see her. But she won't be with us many more Christmases. How are we going to celebrate the Lord's birthday this year, and how many will have the pleasure to be with our families? Who is going to take the kid and babies their toys? Is mother with dad, or dad with mother? Or is there some kids that have neither? Who is going to be a Santa Claus to those?

Unless a change unseen now I won't be able to see my kids' smiles when they awake on Xmas morn if old Santa should visit them. Neither will I be able to join in with the rest of the family, or to see my mother or you.

How and why do we celebrate the Xmas? How will it be 12 months from now with you? How is it with your soul now?

Now, preacher, I am getting tired trying to write as best I can lying here in bed and have been for six weeks. Not even to sit up five minutes yet.

But have plenty to be thankful for, even lying here on my back.

Season's greetings to you and yours. Sincerely,

A. L. TIPPETT.
Carolina General Hospital,
Wilson, N. C.

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