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OPEN - MINDEDNESS VS. TIGHT - MINDEDNESS

I recall a statement made by my father years ago that I accepted at the time without question. Though I have never doubted the sincerity of his words since, yet I have doubted the wisdom of it. His sons were trying to convert him to their side of an argument on playing a certain game. He said: "I am willing to listen to you, but I tell you right now, you will never convince me that it is right." His trouble was tight-mindedness. He wanted to be honest with the truth; he was willing to hear the other side, but he had set his mind in a stubborn attitude such that new light would not be admitted or accepted.

"The Tight-Minders are folk who believe what they believe because they believe it. The Open-Minders believe what they believe because the facts compel them to believe it. The Tight-Minders believe what they believe in spite of the facts. The Open-Minders believe what they believe in spite of themselves—in spite of their preconceived ideas, vested interests, and prejudices.

Probably there is no question that confronts people today that reveals this attitude of tight-mindedness quite so much as the liquor question. The dries, believing theirs' the side of righteousness, flout and even sarcastically dismiss any argument advanced by the other side. The wets, to cover the moral and civil aspects of the question, proclaim the practical revenue benefits to be gained or sit in silence. There is a certain tight-mindedness on the part of both that makes it a difficult matter for everybody to adjust in his thinking and voting. There are facts involved that the wets cannot deny. There are also facts that the dries will not admit. On each side there are those who believe what they believe because they believe it.

No question of public concern will ever be answered or settled satisfactorily to all the people until they approach it with open-mindedness. An open mind need not accept evil or error. Tight-mindedness refuses facts that are absolutely necessary to make one free. An open mind permits the truth to enter drives out selfishness and prejudice. We hope every citizen will meet this responsibility of good citizenship with an open mind and set his heart to do what is right as he finds the facts as a citizen of the state and Kingdom of God as regards liquor.

NEIGHBORS

Have you noticed that the mad pace at which the race has been going for the last quarter of a century or more is slowing down somewhat?

Even people riding in automobiles do not hurry quite so fast. More people are riding the trains. You see more men sitting on boxes and benches along the business parts of towns, talking and perhaps meditating.

But what seems to me to be just about the finest thing in this slowing process is country folks finding time to visit one another and stay awhile. Not just call, but visit. As I came from a meeting in Smithfield Sunday in the late afternoon I passed a number of homes where half a dozen cars were parked. On the front porches were a number of older people sitting while a crowd of children played in the yard. At one home there must have been a dozen cars and fifty people. They looked so contented and happy that I felt like stopping and visiting with them.

I recall how years ago after returning from Sunday School and Church and eating dinner, my parents would take the whole family and go visiting at a neighbor's a mile or two away. My father could carry the baby, my mother would lead the next youngest and the other children would race ahead to begin a game of town ball, as the ancestor of modern baseball was called. Those days of a half century ago were slow and long, but they were good days when neighbors had time to come and just "set" and visit.

ARGUING

When I was a boy I knew a man who would first find out one's views on a subject and then immediately start an argument on the opposite side. And the crowd usually agreed that he bested in the debate. We heard of an old Scotchman who had been very ill. When better, he asked that the minister be sent for. His wife asked if he wished him to read the Word to him. He replied no. Did he want prayer? No. Then, she asked, why did he want the minister. His reply was, "I want to argue."

I recall, when I was a young man, an argument between myself and a school mate on the doctrine of baptism. Neither knew much about the Scriptures, but I seemed to have the better of it when he said, "Well, now, for the sake of argument—". I replied, "No, let's not argue any longer. If we can't argue for the sake of the truth one of us will soon get mad."

We hear preachers say, "Don't argue with sinners." Lately we have heard speakers on the ABC election campaign say, "Don't argue with the other side". My own opinion is that so long as one has facts, he can well afford to argue. I think of the lawyer who said, "Your honor, there are certain facts of the plaintiff which we wish to refute". Now if they were facts they were as a Gibraltar of defense. If one admits a thing is dangerous, or wrong, or hurtful, or immoral, and the admission is true to facts, no amount of oratory and argument can change the facts. One may be fanatical just as far as the facts will admit and he is still safe.

In the present conflict between the wet and dry forces in Wake county, I hope the people will get at the facts on both sides, not overlooking the spiritual, moral, social, financial and every other phase of the question. I hope father and mother will weigh the facts as they relate to themselves, their children and their neighbors as well as humanity at large. If they honestly reach a conclusion that liquor selling by the county will be good for everybody and for all time, then no one has a right to condemn, question or deny then the right to vote according to their findings. If a church member can face the facts and conclude that he doing that which will be best for his sons and daughters and his fellow men, and deep down in his heart look his God in the face and ask his blessings on the vote he casts at the polls on June 22, then I believe that man shall go down to his house justified.

OUR NEW TOWN OFFICIALS

Changes in office holding is not always because of inefficiency on the part of the outgoing officers. Sometimes the voters just decide a change will be good. Sometimes a change takes place because the ones wanting office work harder than those in office. In Zebulon's last election we do not believe the citizens made the change because of any great dissatisfaction with those in office. We have a new mayor, a young man, and also young men on the Board who have never filled a place of public responsibility before.

There are at least four places in the town's affairs that are filled by appointment. We hope the Board will not make changes just for the sake of change. If those holding the jobs are satisfactory, we believe they should be retained. The Board has no right to discharge them to reward kin or friend. Of course if they are not doing their duties or are not capable of meeting requirements, then a change should be made. The average citizen in Zebulon knows very little if anything about the town's finances. How much does the town owe?

indebtedness being cared for? What salaries are paid? How is the revenue of the town spent? These and many other questions are in the mind of the citizen and the Board, we believe, should give the facts to the residents. An audit was made quite a while back, we believe. It was understood that this would be made public, but so far as the information given out goes, the audit might just as well have never been made and the expense saved. We hope the new Board will give the people all information through the press necessary to keep them informed of what is being done. We believe quarterly statements ought to be made public. It is the people's government. They pay the taxes and should be informed about how their money is being spent. This information our new Board can give and the paper hopes they will give it. It is to the interest of all concerned that this be done.



SEEN AND HEARD

DONE GOT HIS'N

As I went into a store in Zebulon last Saturday afternoon I rubbed against a man who spoke to me very familiarly. He invited me to Johnston county to get good liquor. I asked him how the election went. He replied that 71 had voted for it when he voted, and that two voted against it. And from the impression made on the crowd, it seemed that they thought he got his very soon after he voted. He was full of good feelings and corn liquor, for had he not just done his duty towards everybody, including himself and family?

TWO A KIND, YET DIFFERENT

As Marian Whitlock hurried to the train the other evening "Jabbo" Pearce called across the street, asking her why she had odd shoes on. I glanced at her shoes and sure enough the side of the one next to me was white and the other was brown. But when I got to where she was, I found that while they were different they were alike, inside and out.

SOME CHILDREN ARE KNOWN BY THEIR PARENTS

Cale Burgess who is the vice-president of the Dry Forces in N. C. is well-known for his strong views against intoxicating drink. A short time ago his small son went into a store in Raleigh and saw two larger boys drinking beer. His eyes grew bigger and bigger. Finally he said, "That will kill you." The boy looked at him hard and replied: "Who are you? I'll bet you're Cale Burgess' boy." And I venture to say that Cale Burgess and his son are both very proud of each other.

PLENTY

Some days ago Mrs. Harris, the wife of Lee Roy who is a member of the Record Force came for him. Cynthia, her little girl, was with Mrs. Harris in the car. I told her to open her hand and placed a penny in it. She closed her fingers tightly over it. I then placed another penny in her left hand. Her fingers immediately shut down on it. The mother asked, "Now, what must you say?" She replied, "Plenty".

Raleigh, N. C.—The 100 counties of North Carolina will spend during the year beginning July 1 the sum of approximately \$1,301,000 as their contribution to the Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children features of the State's Social Security program, according to estimates compiled by the statistical division of the North Carolina Board of Charities and Public Welfare, which will administer the new statute.

Of that large sum about \$901,000 will be for assistance to the indigent aged and \$500,000 for aid to dependent children. The State will allot \$100,000 of its \$1,000,000 appropriation for old age assistance to the counties as an equalization fund.

These figures indicate that the cost of the first year's Social Security program in North Carolina will be approximately \$5,104,600, exclusive of the Aid to the Blind section, which is expected to add \$340,000 to the total. This computation is based on the fact that the counties are expected to bear around one-fourth of the financial burden of Old Age Assistance, and one-third of that for Aid to Dependent Children.

The tentative survey made by the statistical division shows that 24,587 persons 65 years of age or older, and 21,837 dependent children are entitled to share in the Social Security benefits in North Carolina.

The compilation discloses that the State-wide average in individual benefits per month will be as follows: Old Age Assistance, \$12.20; Dependent Children, \$5.95; Aid to Blind, \$19.51. It was pointed out, however, by Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of the State Welfare Department, that the payments probably will vary considerably in