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MOTHERS' DAY, MAY 8

We have grown accustomed to doing certain things on certain occasions, and they are now somewhat automatic. We use holly and poinsettias for Christmas decorations; we emphasize hearts on St. Valentine's Day; we buy white lilies for Easter; we place black cats, bats and witches for Hallowe'en; we use turkeys and pumpkins as Thanksgiving symbols. In between-times, if we get around to it we plan a green-and-white table for St. Patrick's Day, a Fourth of July party in red, white, and blue; and we may design or copy plans for Labor Day functions and as many others as our means and inclinations dictate.

Therefore, when on Mother's Day, next Sunday, we pin on a red rose or a white one, there is danger that it may be only another perfunctory observance of what was meant to be a special memorial to all mothers. While we would never in any sense advise that the day be one of formal presentation of gifts or writing of letters that should have been sent regularly through the years, we would urge that the meaning be carried in the heart. In its fulness the definition of Mother's Day can not be comprehended until time and experience have broadened mind and sympathies; but we may, at least, express whatever emotions are sincere. It will not matter how often we have said the same words, if only we mean them.

SMART CHILDREN, OR TEACHERS

When two Iredell county girls, only 12 years old, carry off the prize in debating in North Carolina, the older children must be quite dull. Or, perhaps these girls had better help in preparing their speeches. We are somewhat skeptical about their actually winning the debate without considerable help of a sort that would not be permissible according to the rules as outlined by the forensic folk. We have had a suspicion for a number of years that these debates in many instances are original only in the delivery after some teacher has exhausted her elocutionary ability in giving assistance.

HELP A-COMIN' AND A-GOIN'

We learn from a bulletin sent The Record from Washington by the AAA, or Agricultural Adjustment Administration, that down in Florida and Louisiana, where a large part of the sugar crop has been damaged from natural causes, one-third of the value of the normal yield will be paid the sugar cane growers. In S. C. the farmers find they have 5,800 short tons more cabbage than the average for the last ten years. So, the AAA is going to buy up a lot of this cabbage and send it to other states to give people on relief. The news item did not say whether a piece of fat back would be supplied with each cabbage head.

Whether the planter grows too little or too much, it is all the same. It may be right and fair to thus assist certain agricultural interests, but it seems to us that such help ought to be extended to every class, not only farmers, but producers of any commodity. And if this were done, where would it stop and what would be the end?

SCHOOL TAX ELECTION

A few citizens are discussing the coming school tax election, but the people as a whole are not saying much. Many will not even register and numbers who do will not vote. At present it appears from conversations with voters that the election will be lost to the tax proponents. We are not giving any advice except to say again that every citizen, whether he is for or against the tax, should register and vote.

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?"

A short time ago while passing the A. B. C. store in our town I saw an elderly man come out of the store with a package. The wrapping was newspaper. The man is perhaps seventy years old and it was apparently with great effort that he was able to get in his car. The following day I rode up to the curb in front of Job P. Wyatt Sons' store. Raleigh's white working man's A. B. C. Store, No. 2, is located nearby. You know Raleigh has some class to its liquor business—a place for the high ups to buy, another for the countryman, and a third for the colored gentlemen. I had hardly stopped my car, when a man who appeared to be about 45 came out with his 'en wrapped in the tell-tale newspaper. And almost immediately a second man came out with his latest newspaper!

I almost expected to see a 15 year old boy next in line, till I remembered that he must look to daddy, or some grown up, for his bottle. And I might have also waited to see the baby come crawling out with his bottle, had I not recalled that the law permits infants keeping their own private bottles at home, giving the mother full authority to regulate the youngster's time and amount of drink. The last thing in the world that mother would give her baby would be the bottle that father brought home.

Our liquor stores are wonderful institutions. They permit the clerks staying in bed late to catch up on lost sleep from staying up late to catch the last customer who might buy a pint from some bootlegger and thus deprive the county of a few cents revenue. They make it possible for the legger to buy late at night his supply for the holiday or Sunday following when the A. B. C. store is closed. It will not sell to a person under 21, yet there is no law against any one of age and in his right mind buying it and carrying it home where the whole family may sit down convivially. These stores are kept proverbially clean and have beautiful gold lettering telling the passerby that this is the place. They may not advertise the lowest percent drink sold, yet the liquor manufacturers may spread their tale of fountains, dreams, virtues, roses, nectars, soothers and solacers and whatnots all over the newspaper going into our homes. There is no law against this; rather, the law is for it. And a lot of newspapers are for the money in this advertising if not for the liquor, which is not different after all.

These liquor stores are so high-toned and sanitary that I heard a good Baptist churchman say a few days ago that if the places from which beer is sold were as clean and moral as the liquor stores, then he would not mind drinking beer. And about the same time I heard another churchman, a Methodist this time, say that these stores were conducted in such a way that one could go into them and buy his drink and there was nothing dishonest or immoral in it like buying from a private seller.

Somehow I cannot understand it. All things are right or wrong. And if they are right they cannot by legislation be made right. If they are wrong, I can't by any stretch of my imagination see how legality, sanitation, Christian cleanliness and commissioners, can make them right. I have a fine setup. It is providing the very best (?) liquor on the market for everybody, and babies excepted. But there is a little shame on the faces of both the seller and the buyer. Am I persuaded that deep down in the conscience of these men there's a conviction that state approval of what they are doing does not bring Divine approval.

The Letter Box

MR. EDITOR:

In all the agitation for and against a special school tax of 15 cents on the hundred dollars for Wakelon school I have heard much said. Considerable of it no doubt was someone's personal or prejudiced opinion with no basis of fact. I cannot blame a man who has children to educate seeking the very best school facilities possible. But, on the other hand I cannot criticize the man who owns property and already has a heavy tax to pay objecting to more tax.

But I understand that there is a certain man in the Wakelon school district who is "hot" for this special tax and who has not paid his local tax for a past year. In fact his salary or income has been garnished or attached by the tax collector. Of course he may have overlooked payment. If he has not paid this tax, I believe if I were in that man's shoes I would hush and be mum till after the election is over. This is largely a matter for the taxpayer and if any one is entitled to be heard with authority it would be the fellow who would have to go down into his pocket for most of the money, and not the one who talks loudest and pays least. I am not saying this either for or against the proposed tax, but for justice to those who bear the burdens of our schools and the government generally.

PATRON OF SCHOOL

TO THE EDITOR:

That the public schools of North Carolina are not all they ought to be is an admission made by all who have studied our state school system. For one thing, the teachers in this state are paid so little as to force into other occupations many college graduates who have prepared themselves to teach. There are, of course, other defects.

Raising the salaries of the teachers would raise the standards of our school system. Many doubt, however, that a nine months school term or a 12 grade school would help our schools to any great extent. In an agricultural community a nine months school term is undesirable. Many eminent educators believe that a 12 grade school is just as undesirable in any community. These educators do not believe that the money necessary to maintain a 12 grade school will yield sufficient benefits to justify the additional expenditure.

According to Dr. A. J. Loomis, the average high school graduate in North Carolina is a little over eighteen years old. A boy or girl of eighteen years is usually well equipped either to obtain employment or to enter college.

Concerning the supposedly greater mental aptitude of graduates of twelve grade school, please read data given below. The data explodes this myth.

From a North Carolina college with an enrollment of 971 comes this information. (The name of the college will be given to anyone desiring it.) In this school during the past year there were 26 students on the first honor roll. Of these 26 there were 24 from 11 grade schools, 1 from a 12 grade school and 1 from a preparatory school. On the second honor roll

grade school? Is the 12th grade worth the additional expenditure? And ought we not to pay the teachers we have decent salaries before we add any more teachers?

FERD DAVIS,
Mars Hill College,
North Carolina.

SEEN & HEARD

THEN AND NOW

Paul Brantley says: Competition was once the life of trade, but now it's the death of business.

UNEMPLOYMENT — The special committee on unemployment and relief of the United States Senate estimates the number of un-

BOARD OF WAKE COUNTY DATE — MAY 21st, 1938

On the question of levying not more than 15 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation of real and personal property, to be collected annually for the purpose of operating schools of said school district of a higher standard than provided by state support and to supplement state budget allotment for such purposes.

Beginning at a point on the line between Wake and Johnston Counties where Little River crosses said line, thence up Little River to the line between Little River and Mark's Creek Township; hence in a northwesterly direction along said township line to a point where the road leading from Talton's Store to Zebulon crosses said township line; thence in a northerly direction to the crossroads about one-half mile south of the Berry Horton residence; thence in a direct line westwardly to a point on Buffaloe Creek where the line between Little River and Mark's Creek Townships crosses said creek; thence up Buffaloe Creek to a point where the first branch north of the dam of Perry's Pond flows into Buffaloe Creek; thence northeastwardly to the forks of the road east of John Fowler's residence; thence north-