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LEGISLATORS MUST CONSIDER EVILS OF ABSENTEE LANDLORDISM

A Letter About North Carolina Conditions Just as Applicable in Texas, Alabama, or Any Other State

(Judge Winston in Progressive Farmer.)

The statistics of production, of wealth, and of other matters relating to farms in North Carolina, are of great interest. They are especially suggestive in this season of low-priced cotton. In nearly every particular the cotton producing counties of North Carolina are less successful than in those counties where no cotton is raised. The cotton counties have fewer horses, cattle, hogs and other domestic and farm animals per 1,000 acres than do the average of the counties in North Carolina.

There must be some fundamental reason for this condition. Naturally those counties are unusually productive; any crop of any value will grow in them. Usually they have fine range for stock and especially for cattle and hogs. The great swamp areas of eastern North Carolina are the finest pasturage for animals to be found in the State. An animal can thrive in them the year around. Why, then, do we have fewer animals, so essential to successful farming in these favored localities?

I cannot speak authoritatively for any other county, but I am quite sure I can give the reason applicable to all, based on the conditions in Bertie county. There can be no permanent improvement of agricultural conditions where every dollar of money crop goes to buy meat and bread for man and corn and forage for beast. We buy more of these things than we raise. Why?

Two causes are responsible for this condition: First, easy, credit, the time merchant, and the tenant system; second, absentee landlordism.

In fact, both of these causes may be classed as one. Under our system of working, there can be no permanent improvement of lands. Farms go to ruin under any tenant system.

In Bertie county we have the time merchant and absentee landlord combined in one. In this county and in many others I have personal knowledge of merchants in town who rent thousands of acres of land and then sub-let to hundreds of small tenants. Their only purpose is to create trade for the store. The statistics of land rented and sub-rented in this way would startle you. I do not give them for fear of inaccuracy. Under this system the real landlord, the man who comes in contact with the real renter, is the merchant. He has no reason for wanting lands improved; for wanting more stock in proportion to population. He is interested in the largest cotton crop his tenant can raise and has encouraged a store account larger than the biggest crop the land is capable of and at a prospective price the market would not warrant. It is what may be called fair wealth-

er, excellent crop, high price trading. Whenever a pinch comes we have both parties in the lurch; the merchant who gets all that is sold and yet is not paid; the tenant who has given up his all and has not paid out. There has been no dishonesty on either hand. But there has been a false situation; a perversion of the basic principle of farm life.

I have also been interested in our study of the enormous amount of waste land in North Carolina; lands that could easily be reduced to a state of great productiveness. Of course, there can be but one remedy for this situation and that is more people; and by more people I mean a greater number or greater intelligence and activity on the part of those here.

Absentee landlordism cursed "the fairest land on earth"—Ireland. The rents went from the land into distant hands. We may well consider it, as it is now in vogue in this State.

Two ways of dealing with our lands occur to me. Our waste lands should be acquired by the State; either by purchase or by enactment. That will give the State control of their disposition. The sale of these lands to desirable settlers upon long time and at a small rate of interest can be easily brought about by a system of taxation. Tax vacant land such a sum as will make it unprofitable to own it; and at once reduce its taxpaying value when sold for actual settlement. The same method might be applied to the taxation of lands that are rented under the system I have referred to. Why not increase the taxation on lands that are rented by the owners to those who are simply speculating, renting for the purpose of sub-renting and selling goods on time?

The legislator who gives these questions the proper study and passes a bill through our next General Assembly will do the cotton counties a lasting service; by reducing the farm to a state of real agriculture; not speculation.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech

(Address of the Dedication of Gettysburg Cemetery, Nov. 19, 1863.)

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we can not dedicate we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Levena Catherine Perry

On the evening of January 15, 1915, Aunt Levena Catherine Perry departed this life. She was born April 11th, 1827, being 87 years, 9 months and 3 days. She had attained a ripe age and was ready when the call came and like Jacob of old, she gave direction concerning her body.

Her father was Miles Hughes, a prominent and well known citizen of Bertie county in his day.

In early life she was married to Martin Van Buren Perry, who preceded her to the grave some twenty five years ago. Their union was blessed with fourteen children of which only four survive their sainted mother. They are W. T. Perry of near Windsor, Martha E. Perce, Emma Williams and A. H. Perry. She had 36 grandchildren and 71 great grandchildren who greatly honored and respected her. She also leaves two sisters and one brother, Mrs. Fannie J. Lee, Mrs. Celia Perry and James S. Hughes of Northampton.

She joined Rosses' Baptist church while young and afterwards moved her membership to Capehart's, where she remained a consistent and faithful member till her death.

Aunt Levena will be greatly missed. She was kind and considerate. Her declining years were spent with her youngest daughter, Mrs. Emma Williams, who cared for her in the best possible manner--soothed her cares and administered to her wants with generous kindness and loving sympathy.

Her funeral services were conducted by Rev. S. B. Barnes and her body laid to rest by the side of her husband at their old homestead.

Old age serene and bright, And lovely as a lapland night, Shall lead to thy grave.

Her life was well spent in the service of mankind and her Master, and now she is resting from her labors. She has crossed over the great River to rest in the shade under the tree of life.

S. B. ADAMS.

Henry-Kelley

Mr. Charles Lee Henry of Colerain, N. C., and Miss Clio Elizabeth Kelley of Cypress, Nansemond county, Va., were united in marriage yesterday afternoon in the parlor of the Monticello hotel, Dr. Calvin S. Blackwell officiating. Only a few friends and members of the bride's family witnessing the ceremony. After an extensive trip south, Tampa, Fla., being the objective point, Mr. and Mrs. Henry will reside at Colerain, N. C. where Mr. Henry is an active and prosperous business man.--Norfolk Paper.

The many friends of Mr. Henry will read the above with much interest, and they extend to him many felicitations. Mr. Henry is widely known in the Chowan river section of our county where he is a prominent resident and one of the county's best citizens. The Ledger joins his many friends throughout the county in the wish that his married life will be long and happy. Mrs. Henry, or Miss Kelley, as is her maiden name, is also known very much in our Colerain section, where she made a great many friends while in charge of Mr. T. E. Beasley's millinery department. She is native of Virginia and is a very attractive and beautiful young woman. We gladly welcome her to our county.

Make a Fresh Start in Life

It has been wisely said that every day is a new opportunity. This saying is not only true of men and women, but of nations and of organized humanity. Kind Reader, are you making the best of your opportunities? Are you making an effort to better your condition, both morally and financially? If not then its time you should make a fresh start in life. Now the new year has arrived and will mark a change in the lives of many. Some will change their occupations, some will take up different vocations of living. With all these changes its never too late to begin life anew. Make a new start with the new year.

Doubtless after the great war the whole planet will take a fresh start. Certain forms of civilization will disappear and new forms will assume shape. The great war will mark an epoch. Many movements and systems of life which cornered large masses will vanish because their followers will perceive the falsity of them. The sham will be pushed aside for the real. The era of discontent which nourished neurotic, vain and dangerous fallacies, will not stand before the fierce blaze of truth which will burn its way into the councils of the most powerful nations and influence the habits of the most obscure laborers. We are almost at the end of the vista of detorted facts. Henceforward, for a time we shall walk in straight paths and see more clearly than we did. Shall militarism survive? Shall democracies endure? Shall woman suffrage continue to advance? Shall a thousand other philosophies and systems be aggressively advocated? The smoke of battle will blow away and we shall see that many things were futile which we thought were demanded by the needs of mankind. When we reflect again at our ease we shall create new vanities.

Kind Reader, have you followed false systems of life? Do you not know that your life battle will some day destroy them, and that you will reach out eagerly for the strength of truth? Is today the day for you to make a fresh start? As long as you are able to stand in your own shoes it is never too late to start your life over again. All you need is a bold heart. If I have a keen mind, a story body and a good character there is no spot in this nation where you can't get a flying start--always provided you have a bold heart. A bold heart means you have not lost hope. Good character as an aid to a fresh start, this was thoroughly understood by a Connecticut mill owner who failed in business at the age of seventy six years. The old yankee sold everything he owned and paid all his debts dollars for dollars. When asked why he had sacrificed everything the old man replied, because I am going to start all over again. A man must have a good reputation when starting out in life. You can start at any time from any place; and if you can't start with a good reputation, then start and make one.

Contributed.

Will Baker Dead

Mr. Will Baker, son of Mr. Billie Baker of near Colerain, died last week. He was only sick one week, was taken ill on Wednesday before; Pneumonia set in and the end came the Tuesday following. Mr. Billie Baker is one of the county's best citizens, a brother of the late Geo. W. Baker of Lewiston, and Mr. Raleigh Baker of Aoshie. Young Mr. Baker was a man of many good qualities and his untimely death was a shock to the community.

WHEN YOU COME TO COURT Be sure you come to see us, our prices will please you, everything in our store reduced. We know we have the quality. You come, and you will be convinced that we have the price to suit you.

If you dont want to buy come to see us we are always glad to see our friends, also to make new ones. If you want that suit for yourself or boy, you will always be glad you come. Remember, we have a complete line of Gents Furnishing.

We also have the spring samples. Be sure you come to see us.

J. H. & J. E. White, Clothing Co. Successors to, C. A. Cooks.

George Washington Brown

Resolved by the Baraca Class of Merry Hill Baptist church, in season that by the death of our Brother, George Washington Brown, who was called to his reward January 11, 1915, that we lost one of our devoted members, one who was faithful in attendance, who studied and learned his lessons well.

He was cut down in early life, being in his 19th year when the summons came. He was a faithful and consistent member of Merry Hill Baptist church.

George was indeed a good boy. It can only be said by those who knew him that his departure from this life into the one to come must mean to him eternal rest. His aged father, one brother and one sister and many relatives and friends are left to mourn his loss.

Therefore be it resolved,

1st. That we, the members of the class, have sustained a serious loss.

2nd. That we should cherish his memory and pray that we may gain inspiration from his gentle and blameless life.

3rd. That we extend our tenderest sympathy to the bereaved ones and commend them to a loving Heavenly Father's care.

4th. That a copy of these resolutions be inscribed upon the minutes, a copy sent to the bereaved family and one to the Windsor Ledger for publication.

S. A. Adams, J. R. Raynor, Cecil White, Committee.

Household Helps

Dear Aunt Jane and Sisters: I want to help some others by sending a few tested remedies:

For Toothache--Naturate a bit of cotton in boiled vinegar and apply to tooth.

For Burns--Rub on butter immediately.

If a wart is rubbed three times daily with a slice of raw potato it will disappear within a month.

To the mother of little ones I will say, For scurf on a baby's head use sweet olive oil, rubbing it on in the evening and washing it off in the morning. Repeat until it disappears and never rub or try to comb it off clean. Sassafras root is a good blood purifier if made into a tea.

To prolong the life of a broom dip it for a few minutes in your wash boiler of boiling suds once a week, and the broom will last a long time.

Cut warm bread or cake with a hot knife.

Dipping fresh fish in scalding water will cause the scales to come off more.

I think if mothers would keep their girls with their dolls and teach them to help in the house, and above all be young with them, it would keep them pure and sweet.

Mothers should teach their little ones to pray, and ask God to forgive their sins and make them good; teach them to love Jesus and to believe in Him. Such teachings from mothers will never be forgotten.

Keep the boys at work or in school, and not have them sitting around country stores listening to some nobody who possibly is intoxicated, telling vulgar tales and using bad language. Keep the boys on the farm.

A Card Of Thanks

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. J. T. Mizell and wife, also the neighbors surrounding for their kind attention to my daughter while in her sickness and death at the home of Mr. J. T. Mizell. Nothing could have been done for her that was not done if she had been in my own home. And I can not speak too highly of them in their kind attention and hospitality towards my daughter. I shall ever remember Mr. Mizell and be under any obligation to him that he may ask at any time. And thanking him again for his kind affection and attention.

Respectfully, A. S. Perry,

It's surprising how many things you can find to criticize and how very few to commend.