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and

# The Highlands Maconian

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### The Courthouse Project

**P**LANs and specifications for remodeling Macon County's courthouse have been drawn and submitted to state officials of the Works Progress Administration; but a difference of opinion over the material to be used in surfacing the building's old brick walls is reported to have resulted in a situation amounting almost to an impasse, threatening the entire project.

The architect employed by the county commissioners recommended the use of concrete paint for refinishing the exterior walls; but this material, The Press has been informed, does not meet with the approval of a WPA engineer sent here to investigate the project. He prefers the use of stucco.

What the difference in cost would amount to, we do not know; but a qualified expert tells us that stucco would not cost a great deal more than the finish proposed by the architect. On the advantages or disadvantages of either type of finish we are not prepared to argue. The fact is, we don't think the general public would be the slightest interested in such a discussion.

What the public wants is a better courthouse and it will be sorely disappointed in all parties concerned if they allow a minor technical question, or even a slight difference in cost, to jeopardize the long cherished hope of remodeling the county's courthouse.

We hope and trust our county commissioners,, who fully realize the inadequacy of our county administrative building, will be able to pour the right brand of oil in the troubled waters. If they are successful in obtaining WPA approval of the courthouse remodeling project they will deserve the commendation of every resident of the county. Even though it should mean a few thousand dollars expense to the taxpayers, it would be far better to spend this sum of money now than to allow the courthouse to disintegrate. It will not take many more years for the weather to ruin the building, if it is allowed to go unrepaired. If the necessary improvements are not soon made, the county doubtless will be faced in a few years with the necessity of erecting a costly new building and saddling the taxpayers with a heavy bonded indebtedness.

### William Green's Day Dream

**W**ILLIAM GREEN, president of the American Federation of Labor, says every American family should have at least \$3,600 a year to live on. That is a fine objective, and it may be wise to set one's sights high; but we should think a man of Mr. Green's position and influence would be a little more practical even in his day-dreaming.

We wonder if Mr. Green realizes that thousands of laborers in this country would consider themselves fortunate if they could earn \$1.50 a day consistently. We wonder if he knows that there are thousands of farmers who never see as much as \$200 cash in the course of a year. We wonder if he realizes that there are many, many professional folk—lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers and others who have completed costly educations—who have annual incomes of \$1,500 or far less in too many instances.

Mr. Green may have tickled the chins of a great many union workers with his Utopian yearning, but the average man will be more content with a sure hope of a smaller income than in wasting his time in dreaming of \$3,600 a year. To many hard-working men such an income is beyond comprehension.

# BRUCE BARTON Says:



### FORCES MORE POWERFUL THAN MEN

The principal lesson one learns in going around the world is that men do not make national policies and that the forces underlying national policies are tremendously more powerful than men.

I am not fond of the Japanese, but I understand their problem—the terrific pressure of sixty million people pent up in tiny little islands. I do like the Chinese, and I have some understanding of them also. They are a vast collection of families. Their loyalty is to the family, and as for who rules them the great mass hardly cares.

In India the Mohammedans hate the Hindus, and both hate the English. How India can ever be anything but a seething menace is difficult to see. I do not know the Italians, but in looking at the map I saw no outlet for their overcrowded population but to the south.

I like the Austrians and Hungarians, both proud people with dismembered territories, economically strangled. I like the Germans, and I wonder how long they can possibly be kept tied down inside their pinching boundaries.

Carlyle's old mother, when she laid down her son's first book, "The Life of Schiller," remarked: "I see that foreign peoples have much the same feelings as ourselves."

These are not optimistic thoughts, but mighty plain blunt truth.

### TRUTH IN CLASSICS FOR LAW MAKERS

"In order to spend on one side,"

said Goethe, "nature is forced to economize on the other." Taking up this theme, Drawin simplified it in "The Origin of Species, declaring that "if nourishment flows to one part or organ in excess, it rarely flows, at least in excess, to another part: thus it is difficult to get a cow to give much milk and fatten readily."

Goethe and Darwin were considering Nature's law of compensation, which is as ancient as the rocks. Emerson discussed it in a famous essay which every law maker ought to be compelled to read at least once a year.

"This law," he says, "writes the laws of cities and nations. It is in vain to build or plot or combine against it. Things refuse to be mismanaged long. Though no checks to a new evil appear, the checks exist and will appear. If the government is cruel, the governor's life is not safe. If you tax too high, the revenue will yield nothing. If you make the criminal code sanguinary, juries will not convict. If the law is too mild, private vengeance steps in. First or last, you must pay your entire debt. Persons and events may stand for a time between you and justice, but it is only a postponement. You must pay at least your own debt."

The leading manufacturers know that the only road to larger profits is via lower prices. All business men recognize that every added price burden means fewer sales. Unfortunately there seem to be some law makers who cling to the notion that they can over-milk and still have a fat cow.

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### Editorial Clippings

#### HOW CAN SOUTHERN FARMERS PROSPER?

Every so often distinguished speakers and writers proclaim that the future of Southern agriculture is gloomy and Southern farmers doomed to sink to the level of subsistence farming. Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, thinks, however, that there are measures which may be taken to prevent this. Discussing ways of helping families maintain a standard of living in keeping with an automobile age, Dr. Poe says:—

"First of all, in my opinion, the South must quit paying freight costs and middle-men's costs on Northern and Western farm products we could grow ourselves. Take North Carolina, for example. It is probably better off in this respect than other Southern states whose cotton production is larger, yet the state agricultural college reported some time ago that of the food and feed products used in North Carolina the state imported from the North and West—

- 1 out of every 4 cars of corn
- 2 out of every 3 biscuit
- 1 out of every 4 bales of hay
- 1 out of every 3 pounds of beef
- 5 out of every 6 mutton and lamb chops
- 2 out of every 3 quarts of milk
- 1 out of every 2 chickens and eggs.

"What we primarily need, of course, is not simply a 'live-at-home' policy so far as practicable for each individual farm, but we need to go further and supply also the needs of Southern towns and cities. As The Progressive Farmer has so often insisted, there are two great arms for producing agricultural wealth:—

- "1. Plant Production—any and all kinds of crops.
- "2. Animal Production—livestock, dairying, poultry raising, etc.

"It is the curse of the South that we depend primarily on a one-armed system of farming—plant production alone. Take the 15 richest states in the Union and compare them with our 15 Southern states and what do we find? In the latest year for which I have compiled statistics these richest of all states produced only about the same crop values as our Southern

states. In plant production we were not materially behind them. In animal production, however, they were 200 per cent ahead of us—and hence 400 per cent ahead of us in wealth per farm family. These richest states had a two-armed system of farming with plant production and animal production almost equally balanced. For each \$5 they produce in crop values they produce \$4.16 on livestock values. But here in the South for each \$5 in crop values we produce only \$1.76 in livestock values.

"To sum it all up: Our Southern people cannot maintain modern living standards without a more prosperous agriculture. And we shall not have a more prosperous agriculture until we add animal production—livestock, dairying, and poultry—to plant production."

#### ONE-STROKE LAWMAKING

Nebraska has inaugurated her one-house legislature. With the blessing of its sponsor, Senator George W. Norris, the unicameral non-partisan assembly has begun its session. But Senator Norris warned the members that "special interests" would do all they could to embarrass the experiment and misconstrue its effects.

This seems a rather needless whacking of the bushes for goblins. It may be that professional politicians and lobbyists do not relish a change on the rules by which they have learned to operate. Mr. Norris may have some special information that "representatives of greed and monopoly" are conniving to make the work a failure. Still, the probabilities are that the forty-three members of the new house will need to look within as much as without for the factors that will determine the success of the unicameral plan.

It was not by accident but by experience that the two-house, or bicameral, legislature became the prevalent form in the United States. Pennsylvania had a single-house assembly in Benjamin Franklin's time and he urged it for the national government. The conscious purposes, however, of preventing hasty legislation and of representing both the popular and the conservative im-

pulses of the community impelled the state-government designers generally to set up the bicameral machinery. It might be slower but it would be safer, they thought.

Whether citizens and their representatives have now reached a stage of political education where they can trust their first thoughts as much as their second or else can trust their own self-restraint in matters of doubt—this is the question. If so, states can indulge the desire for a quicker, more decisive lawmaking machinery. The quality of judgment exercised by the Nebraska legislators will be watched intently by states potentially interested in following the new lead.

—Christian Science Monitor.

Barber—"How is the razor, sir? Does it go easy?"

Man—"Well, that depends on the operation. If you're shaving me, it goes hard, but if you're merely skimming me it goes tolerable easy?"

### Muse's Corner

#### MY SCHOOL WORK

By Mattie Pearl Raby

At evening when the lamp is lit  
Then with my school books,  
down I sit;  
While all the others talk and sing,  
I cannot play at anything.

Then with my pen and papers all  
And with a slow and painful scrawl,  
I follow history's awful trend,  
(A thing, it seems, that has no end).

My English teacher (she's a dear),  
Would surely shed one lovely tear  
If she could see my sorry plight  
And see me study every night.

She says, "Now don't do this and that,"  
And the first two months she failed me flat;  
But after that I made a "B"  
And, boy, that's good enough for me.

#### A Word of Appreciation for a Beautiful Life

In the death of Mrs. R. C. Dady, the people of Franklin and community feel that they have sustained a real loss. Coming to the Franklin High School in 1928 as a teacher of languages, she was soon recognized as a very capable, cooperative and intelligent teacher, inspiring her pupils to a more earnest and serious study of the subjects which she taught.

Possessed of a charming and dynamic personality, the embodiment of enthusiasm, culture and refinement, Mrs. Dady was an inspiration to all who contacted her. Idealistic in her attitude toward life, emotional in her temperament, she lifted others who knew her into a higher realm of living and to a new vision of service.

Her ability and qualifications as a leader among the young people in the church made her invaluable. The pastor of her church in Franklin said that she was the answer to a minister's prayer.

Utterly unselfish, her thought was always of others. No task was too heavy, no labor too arduous, no burden too great, no sacrifice too much, if through her efforts she might help some one in trouble, or make life a little easier for someone.

Hers was a short life as measured by the passing of time, but in the richness and fullness of that life, it was a long one.

Many people have sought to live on and on through writing their dreams into a book to be read by generations coming after them; others have left an invention, a discovery, a painted picture, a fortune, as a memorial of their efforts to cheat death. She vested all—her hopes, her ideals, her dreams—in serving others. A book may be forgotten, a picture may lie covered with dust, a fortune may be quickly dissipated, but a beautiful life—as hers truly was—lives on forever. Today is less than we dreamed but better than it would have been had we not known her. Through knowing her others will live more nobly—she will live eternally.

—By Friends who knew and loved her.

lte—(Adv.)