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**A CLEAR-HEADED PREACHER**

At the meeting of the American legion at Hickory a few days ago the chaplain, a clergyman who had been with the army in France and knows his men, talked about the great mistake made in allowing whisky in quantities usually encountered at conventions. The clergyman deplored the drunkenness he saw at the Hickory convention, and urged local posts of the legion to refuse to elect to the state convention members who would not agree to cut out whisky while in attendance there.

If the Legion were the only convention at which whisky cuts too much figure it would not be so bad, but anybody who has occasion to attend any of the ordinary gatherings of large bodies of men, knows that whisky is too abundant at practically all of them, except, as the preacher soldier said, that church conventions are free. Why a man can go to a church convention without taking whisky along and cannot go to another convention without it is one of the mild mysteries, but the answer is probably that the men who go to church conventions are outspoken enough to refuse to permit whisky at such meets as those of religious organizations, while at other gatherings no one seems interested enough to lead in opposition.

What makes matters worse is that at some conventions representatives of business establishments that hope to do some trade with the delegates appear at the convention with contraband liquor in their possession and pass it along to prospective customers. This is one of the worst features of whisky at conventions. It is a defiance of law by men who should be broad enough to carry on their ordinary lines of work without bootlegging on a sort of protected basis, for these same men would despise to go out in the trade lanes of bootlegging and traffic in liquor. But in fact to sell their own goods they throw in whisky, which is no more than giving it as good measure for their sales. Men who attend conventions are as a rule representative men of the state. They owe it to their state and people to show decent respect for the laws of the state, and to themselves they owe the task of behaving decently. There is nothing funny about violating any law. Nothing profitable comes from questionable practices of any kind at any convention. Dignified and lawful procedure at any gathering is just as fruitful of satisfaction as drunkenness and contempt for law, and the clergyman at Hickory deserves much credit for taking the opportunity to ask the Legion to put its foot on any further course of this sort.

**THE CROP OF FORESTRY**

At a recent meeting of the Kiwanis club Colin Spencer showed the wide possibilities of the forest crop of Moore county as measured from the present uses of timber products. His exhibit and his description of what this section will produce in lumber was interesting, for it was the announcement to the club members that in the unused acres is a great resource. But while folks are interested in the tangible things they can see, and in timber if it is grown up to be trees, or if it is likely to grow up to be trees in a reasonable period, many are not enthusiastic over trees that do not give promise in the day of the owner

of the land to grow into commercial assets.

Frank Buchan not long ago stated a basic truth when he said that an acre of land planted to pine trees is worth more than an acre planted to peach trees because in the course of a reasonable time a buyer of an acre of pine trees will pay for it a price that is justified by the acre as a desirable home site, and a good home acre is worth more than any other acre in the Sandhills. Of course every acre cannot be a pine-clad home site, but Frank was right on the general principle that many an acre that now has little or nothing on it can be made a highly valuable piece of ground by planting it with pines that when it has a chance to come into market it will be forested with an attractive grove of young pines, and on that account just such a piece of land as might bring a good price as a building site.

Yet there is another thing to be remembered about land with trees on it. Up at Hemp is an object lesson. There a modern mill is making textiles of a material called rayon, which is an artificial imitation of silk, and it is made from the pulp of small trees. Rayon has already surpassed real silk in its use for textiles, and its use is yet only new. Pulp and similar material, made from wood of all kinds is to be a great industry of the future, not counting paper which is now already established as a big industry. Moore county is not very far now from finding a market for pulp material in big quantities, and it is not too soon to begin the growth of acres of forest that will be serviceable when pulp wood is called for in the days ahead. Already pulp mills are scouring the country in many sections calling for pulp wood, and day by day the quest grows more imperative. It is to be a great opportunity for this region. Forested lands will bring profit to their owners, who can begin now to improve this chance.

**THE TOBACCO FIASCO**

It seems that the tobacco cooperative movement has resulted in a collapse that is a failure. And it is hard to see where it might have done anything else, for it was the victim of several conditions that could not be recognized at the time they were influential, and which probably could not have been modified. The big difficulty is that the farmers do not have the organizing instinct, and will not tie together and work together. The farmer is an individualist, and no doubt will remain so, for he has never yet shown any real tendency to work in mass.

Although that was overcome to a moderate extent the organization was formed at a time when high prices for everything prevailed, and the management of the association accepted the high price as the basis for operation. High-priced employees, and high-priced other things formed the basis of the operation, and these met troubles by the gradual downward tendency of prices. That discouraged the members. Then some of the doctrines were not sound. It might as well be understood always that it is impossible to arbitrarily fix prices unless the product is an absolute monopoly, and even then when prices get too high the people refuse to buy, and thus kill high prices.

Promoters of the association led to the hope of prices that would kill themselves, for it is an axiom of industry that high prices make low prices and low prices make high prices. High prices stimulate increased production, and it is not possible to limit production of tobacco if the crop sells for a high figure. But all these things and others worked together for the disaster that overtook the association, among the others being the fight brought against the association by that type of individuals who are always ready to fight anything that does not walk behind their banner.

Tobacco is back again where it was, except that some of the farmers have dug a little deeper

into the laws that govern industry and commerce, and have a better understanding of general principles of economic influences. But we start in again under the full control of supply and demand, of quality, quantity and consumptive demands, and the market will make the price.

It is unfortunate that the association could not have made more of a success, but the chances are invariably against anything that involves the harmonious working of a large body of men where conformity to discipline and law of the organization is essential to success. Too many men want to run the machine regardless of their ability or of its laws, and they invite destruction from the beginning. Some mighty capable men tried to make this thing work, but it was too big a task, and too much against it. Few men can see for enough beyond their noses to co-operate successfully.

**CONCERNING THE SLAUGHTER**

The Pilot has referred recently right frequently to the bloody record of the state on the highway, and from week to week the ghastly record makes it timely to continue to remark this shameful pouring out of human life and the long list of injuries on the roads. This paper has no particular notions of what should be done in the effort to stop the daily murders and mutilations, but it does realize that thorough police enforcement of the highway law is one of the first and most essential steps. As a people we are almost without regard for the laws of the state, not only as applied to the highways, but as well as to practically everything else. We will not obey laws because they are founded on the principle of right toward each other, and the only way to bring about law observance is to put teeth in the laws.

Drunkenness, reckless driving, speeding and incompetence on the part of drivers are four causes stated by the statisticians who investigated the accidents as the causes of the greater proportion of the cases reported. A driver's license is one thing necessary for safety. We require the doctor, the lawyer,

the dentist, the great number of men who do anything that involves risk to others, to have a license, and to pass an examination. But the automobile, which is the most persistent wrecker of life and property of anything in the state, is allowed to run wild without the slightest restraint or responsibility. There is the first step necessary to make the highway safe. Require of every driver a license, and make accident the subject of a recall of the licenses. A dangerous man of the road has no business to be there, no matter what his argument. He will not be tolerated on a railroad train, nor in any other place where risks are taken by the patrons of the industry. Nor should he be tolerated on the highways which are now continued streams of traveling humanity subject to his recklessness and incompetency. And to make travel safe and to keep the incompetent or the reckless driver under control we need a state highway police.

The detail of that police system is of small consequence if we do not fool around and make it a political bit of cowardice and emasculate the measure by destroying the power of the officers and weakening the plain laws that should govern the movement. Few requirements are called for. Simply have a good force in the hands of a capable superintendent who has the authority to enforce the law and the courage to see that it is done regardless of who is involved.

That's all. No red tape, no great number of whereases, resolveds, or exemptions, or provideds in the bill. Simply a brief law and the observation of it, and a penalty for every violation regardless.

**WINTER SIGNS OF BUSINESS**

(Continued From Page 1)

Mr. Sledge says the indications are that Pinehurst and Mid-Pines will have a good season, and one thing that stimulates his optimism is that he was north a short time ago and while running around up in the land from which winter business comes he noticed a sentiment that indicates a southward movement of big dimensions for the winter, and in fact already he says the exodus has set in. Others who have been north tell of the big movement of travel on the roads, while the count of tourist cars moving through the state shows that a big wave of winter business is shaping up.

One of the encouraging signs is the good work Virginia has been doing on the highways, for in places where construction was going on last year completed hard top road is the result this fall, and Virginia is no longer any interference with southbound traffic. Virginia is getting a road system that is a credit to herself and to the entire nation.

The Seaboard is far better equipped this fall to handle big business than at previous times, for the automatic signal system installed a few months ago moves trains with far less delay at passing points, and a great deal more traffic can be moved in twenty-four hours in that single track zone between Hamlet and Norlina, which has always been the difficulty with the road.

Farmers of Wake County who used magnesium limestone on their tobacco find that it has greatly improved the quality of leaf reports County Agent John C. Anderson.

**NOTICE OF SALE OF DRUG STORE**

Under and by virtue of a DEED OF ASSIGNMENT executed and delivered to the undersigned L. B. McKeithen, as assignee, by E. L. Ray, trading as Crabtree & Co., on the 19th day of April, 1926, and recorded in the office of Register of Deeds of Moore County in Book No. 99, page 287, the said undersigned L. B. McKeithen, assignee aforesaid, will, on Tuesday September 14, 1926, at 12 o'clock, noon, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the front door of the Crabtree & Co. drug store, in Cameron, N. C., Womack & Thomas Building, the following personal property, to-wit:

All and singular the stock in trade stock of drugs, drug sundries, medicines, goods, wares, merchandise, store fixtures and furniture, soda fountain, and all other personal property and effects of every nature and kind, except books, accounts and choses in action, now in the store and place of business of Crabtree & Co., in Cameron, Moore County, N. C. Said property will be sold as a whole and as a going concern.

This August 21, 1926.  
L. B. McKEITHEN,  
Assignee.  
R. L. Burns,  
Attorney. 27-3-10 Sept.

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