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**Williamston Welcomes You Wednesday**

The invitation extended the people of the entire section by Williamston, its tobacco men and all others, is the outstanding event of the year. Everyone is welcoming everyone, and we believe, without our saying so here, that there are sufficient invitations scattered throughout this issue to have visitors to our town feel at home. We might add that they are all sincere and that we are going to look for you here next Wednesday.

The cordial welcome received by the boosters at the hands of the people of our neighboring towns has already made a deep impression in the hearts of Williamston's citizens. During the day's trip last Wednesday, thousands of new acquaintances were made, and with each one there developed a most friendly feeling. Stopping at Hamilton a few minutes, a good speech was made and a

good trip was seen to be at hand. On reaching Oak City, the boosters found that the already existing good friendship was under estimated, for that progressive little city offered a most warm welcome. And on through the other towns this hearty welcome was received.

Every member of the party returned with a most pleasant report of the day's trip. Taking these reports as a base, we feel justified in saying that from this trip alone much good can result to all parties involved.

Yesterday one of the heartiest welcomes ever recorded any one was accorded by Mayor Brown of Rich Square and its citizens. We are most appreciative of these welcomes and only hope that we can return the favors; we are willing and ready to do so at any time we can.

**Taxation Problem Always With Us**

Taxation is the old aggravating subject of every age and every year. People wonder why folks are always kicking taxes, even though they have to admit they are wonderfully blessed as a result of taxes.

The real trouble is uneven, unfair, and unjust taxes. Nothing shows this more clearly than the State tax report recently issued by R. A. Broughton, State tax commissioner, giving farm land values by counties.

This report states that all the lands of Gaston County average \$181.54 per acre, which is more than

twice as high as Durham, the second county, which stands at \$98.82. Graham County lands have the lowest assessment, \$6.02; and Dare, at \$7.21 per acre, comes next to the lowest.

Martin is the forty-ninth county from the highest with a value of \$30.34 per acre. This is \$2.66 below the State's average of \$33 for its 29,292,290 acres of land.

Gaston County with its 207,859 acres of land produces of the leading crops a value of only \$1,881,994, which is only \$9.01 per acre, and her lands are valued at \$181.54 an acre.

In Martin County we find 298,510 acres producing \$6,123,984 worth of leading crops, which is about \$21 for each acre, including timber, swamp, and wasted lands, as was also the case in Gaston County. Martin County lands produced more than twice as much as Gaston County lands, which are assessed six times higher than our Martin County lands.

A glimpse at the tax report shows the counties with large cities have high tax assessments on farm lands and low production value from their land. Examples of this may be found in Durham, with values \$89.92 per acre; Mecklenburg, Forsyth, and Guilford, all counties with the larger towns, have high values with low farm productive incomes.

Perhaps here is where the inequality comes. We find more than 100 cotton factories in Gaston County. All the politics, all the business, and half the voters are controlled by men of the factories. The men of the field can not produce much. Their land is unproductive but it is assessed very high by the fellow of the factory in order to heap the tax burden on the farm and lift it from the factory.

If we go to Hyde, we find the fine lands of that county assessed at only \$10.95 per acre, nearly 17 times less than the Gaston County lands. In Hyde there are no factories and not so much large industries. The politics are in the hands of the farmer, and he lifts the load from his shoulders.

We do not have to go out of our own State to see people who are selfish and unfair. Taking the two counties of Gaston and Hyde, everybody it is unfair for the strong corporate manufacturers line up to place a value of \$181.50 on the farmers' lands both cultivated and brush, bramble, and rocky worthless hillides. Nor is it fair for the Hyde County farmer to shirk his fair burden by assessing his land at the small sum of \$11, while he charges a high value against his weaker neighbors, the fisherman and small merchant. But he does it because he is the strongest voter. He appoints the county officers, the county and township assessors; and like the mill man, he takes care of his own.

We see the same results in Guilford, with her great city of Greensboro full of strong banks, big insurance companies, and large commercial and manufacturing establishments. And then there is her sister town, High Point, in the same county, with more furniture factories than any city in the world, save one. You will find here that the political power is centered a long way from the countryman; it is even away from his close friends. So in his absence, and

in the absence of any friend to speak for him, his 400,000 acres of land is assessed at \$69.83 per acre, producing crops valued at less than \$10 per acre.

When we come to our own county, we find about four-fifths of the people living on or interested in the farm land, and while they are generally unorganized they are of such a force that they keep the professional politician uneasy and afraid, so he panders to their demands. He tries to please them; he plays up to them; he carries favor with them. For that reason we find the Martin County land that produces 100 per cent more than the Guilford land only valued at

40 per cent as much per acre for taxation.

It makes little difference what the next legislature does, how much it discusses and plans, or how many wise things the governor advises, one thing will come out of it all; that is, the strongest man will get the longest end of the rope, and folks will "cuss" about taxes again.

Before the troubles are ended, something will have to be done that will spread taxation out over the entire people on a fairer and more equitable basis.

And for this purpose, the work of statesmen and not politicians will be required.

**The Real Cause**

Court dockets and general rumor hold that there is a decrease in gambling in and around our town, the general reason being that the time of many is occupied in the pool room shooting pool. The reason is perhaps feasible, but one would judge gambling to be very sorry when it gets so a pool table can attract the professionals from a round table.

However sorry it may be, the pool room must have something about it unseen by many, for it draws where the Harvard Classics and other valuable books fail. Too much credit, however, can't be given the pool room—for it might be that those who roll the Tennessee blocks and shuffle the cards are without money, and without money gambling is a back number.

This leads to another issue, and to treat all fair it should be mentioned. We have no library, many of us are unable, individually, to purchase worth-while books. Then what is there to be done? It is just running the horse from one stalk of corn to another. Every town should consider such problems from more than one angle, and when this one is considered as it should be, we'll hear more talk about a library than we now hear about closing pool rooms and raiding gambling dens.

No doubt every town has its professional gamblers, but we are only adding to the number when we fail to found something that will counteract the professional's invitation to the young man or boy to join.

**Things To Think About**

By JAMES D. TAYLOR

**Real Men**

My boss called me in to see him the other day. We talked of many things pertaining to our business. As I was leaving he said to me, "In your dealings with all people, be a real man. Deal with them just as you would have them deal with you." He told me about a man whom we both know and suggested that I "paddle after him." I shall try to do this, for this man is a real man. He believes in good homes, churches, and schools, and when you talk with him you know that he believes in and practices the "golden rule."

will break the best of men. Men and women in all walks of life come to him for advice. They know he has wisdom and is sincere in the giving of advice. They know also that he is daily learning "more about Jesus," and the more he learns about the gentle Nazarene, the greater his wisdom.

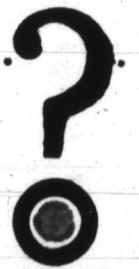
You will never be able to do anything worth while until you reach the point in life where you are anxious to learn each day "more about Jesus," for "in Him we live, and move, and have our being." It is not hard to be a real man or a real woman if we "paddle" after Him and daily try to learn more about Him.

**The Pawnbrokers' Symbol**

The pawnbrokers' symbol of three golden balls comes from the noted de Medici family, money lenders and bankers of the Middle Ages. Tradition has it that one of the earliest of the de Medicis, fighting under Charle magne, slew a giant whose mace was decorated with three golden balls. He adopted the mark as the family insignia.

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**CONNECTING TIES---**

The tie connecting the mother to the wee child is the greatest known. So strong is this tie that it can almost be ignored and mother and child looked upon as one. Such a tie is no less than the work of a superior being!

BUT, there are other ties, and while they may not be as important they are of tremendous value. These ties are built by furniture dealers and when of the best order possible serve to connect home to family. You owe it to yourself and to your family and to your home to establish such a connecting tie.

Once you have the following, you are assured of such a connecting tie:

**Parlor**—Fiber suits, Axmis Minister rugs, Dupont shades, Boye Cutrain Rods and curtains, Lamp, Edison phonograph, Mersman's Tables.

**Living Room**—Cane-Back Living Room Suits, Rugs, Wilson Heaters, Fire Tongs, Kiddie Koop, Windsor Rockers and chairs.

**Bed Room**—Mahogany, Walnut or Ivory Suits, Wardrobe, Chifforobe, bedroom chairs and rockers.

**Dining Room**—Latest Suits, Rugs, and Window Fixtures.

**Kitchen**—Majestic Range, Hoosier Cabinet, New Perfection Oil Stove, Mirror Aluminum Cooking Utensils with a guarantee of 20 years.

We mention the few above items, space prohibiting the mentioning of all, and to say that we have a full line awaiting you at the most reasonable prices.

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