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A Job for the Legislature

The Greenville Reflector well says that one of the big things for the next legislature is a law regulating the automobile drivers.

It is almost as dangerous to the public for an inexperienced driver to operate an automobile on crowded highways as it is for a man who never drove a locomotive to pull a heavy passenger train.

There is too much at stake to allow either inexperienced or careless drivers to drive on the public highways of the State.

The Reflector further suggests that no person be permitted to drive any motor vehicle on such highways until they have passed a satisfactory examination and demonstrated their

ability to handle a car in accordance with the traffic laws and handle it in a satisfactory manner; and when once licensed as to proficiency, if caught wilfully disregarding traffic regulations, such license to be revoked, even if whisky is found in the car, on the person or on the breath of the driver.

Such a law would save half the automobile accidents, half the deaths, and half the cripples. The lives of at least 5 people would be saved in the State each week if such a law was in operation.

We agree with the Reflector that this question should be fully investigated and such legal regulations required of all drivers, so that our highways may be called avenues of travel rather than death rows.

The Young Criminal

Much is being said on every hand about young criminals. Yet when we look around us, the cause may be easily seen. A striking example has just presented itself in our midst. Four young men are now in jail here facing serious charges.

The general trend of each of their statements was that while boys not yet of age they lounged around the pool rooms, liquor den, and followed up bootleggers. They got out of touch with the home influence too soon, went from under the gentle touch of mothers' hands and the warning words from father and mother. It is a real boy and a real girl who is able to keep honest and gentle in this world of vice and slang. There are too many disreputable places around every town and city, and with the advent of the automobile practically every person is in daily touch with these vice dens, and even the automobile itself is too often made a

rendezvous for vice and destruction. A game of pool, a game of cards, a turn at the dance, a bottle of liquor, and an automobile ride are all subject to shift the morality of young men and young women.

The young folks are really not so much to blame for their crimes as those people who are too blind to see the dangers and who refuse or neglect to remove such temptation.

The old idea that every boy and every girl should sow their wild oats has caused much trouble in the land. We should remember that there are enough temptations, even in "the best regulated" families, but that automobiles, dance halls, pool rooms, poker games and bootleg joints all add temptations—not strong enough to get all, to be sure; yet they will get most of the weak ones.

Youth should be taught to keep in a healthy environment. If they will, we will have fewer young criminals.

Vote--Then You Have a Right to Criticize

Election day is of all other days the time that the people speak and give commands to their servants. Any man or woman who votes for an official has a perfect right to criticize that official for any breach of trust imposed upon him. Yet there is some doubt whether the non-voter has much right to complain against the official that he did not take enough interest to vote either for or against.

Every person should regard his franchise with enough reverence to exercise it whenever it is privileged to employ his servant.

A large majority of the world's

people have no right to select their rulers. They are exceedingly anxious to do so. Yet in our own country, where things are so free and easy, more than half the people entitled to vote pay no attention to an election.

If every voter in America would vote Tuesday, it would be a shock to indecent officials and have much to do in stabilizing honest government.

It would be a fine thing to see every person whose name is on the registration books in North Carolina march to the polls on November 2 and vote for the man of his choice.

Things To Think About

By JAMES D. TAYLOR

How foolish men sometimes are! Yesterday my friend sold his cotton for less than its cost of production. This panic selling by individual farmers is making matters worse. While it is to be very much regretted that the farmers planted more cotton than the market can absorb all at once, there is no sound argument for giving the product away. It is true that the farmer is to blame for the overproduction, but the fact that he has in the past been forced to plant a great deal of cotton to make allowance for the boll weevil should be taken into consideration.

This is not the first time that the Southern farmer has seen the price of cotton below cost of production. But in other years the price of almost every other commodity was low. This year there seems to be a high tide of prosperity except in the agricultural industry. The uses of cotton into various industries are growing larger all the time, and the thing for the farmer to do is to market his crop gradually. There are not many farmers in a financial condition to do this alone. But he can work out his own salvation through cooperation with others. Cooperative Associations are designed to give relief to the farmers. They are able to inaugurate economies in the marketing and sale of cotton. This can not be done through individual bargaining.

There are millions of dollars in the South that can and should be used to protect the many hundreds of farmers who will be bankrupted if they are forced to sell their cotton below the cost of its production. The growers should more largely form themselves into organizations and thereby secure relief that is not so easily obtainable in any other way.

At this time prosperity is the general rule. This being true, gankers, business men, and farmers should cooperate in getting the money necessary to warehouse cotton until prices are better. Arrangements should be promptly made to reduce substantially the acreage next season.

What Williamston Can Do to Improve and Enlarge School

In Williamston local tax district there is now in the neighborhood of \$1,600,000 worth of taxable property on which is levied annually a special tax of 35 cents on each \$100 of it. This yields somewhere between \$5,000 and \$6,000 of special tax annually to supplement the appropriations for running the school for six months, which are made by the county board of education.

Somewhat outweighing this revenue for maintenance is the load of 435 school children, about 70 of which are in the high-school department, and an annual sinking fund and interest payment on bonds outstanding. This revenue provides for three teachers in the high-school department and ten teachers in the elementary department, covering the first seven grades. For some time it has been the policy of the local committee to admit children from the outside non-local tax districts without charging any tuition for the seventh and eighth months, because under the present law the larger average attendance of a given year the greater number of teachers are allowed and their salaries paid for by the county board of education for the ensuing term.

For the above revenue a limited course of study provided by the high schools of class B, group II, is what Williamston can offer at present and expect her pupils with any degree of certainty to get credit for when they desire to enter the University or apply for a certificate to teach school. It therefore stands to reason if a large variety of course of study is to be offered it will be necessary to increase the revenue. A number have wondered why the course of study offered in Williamston does not afford as wide variety as Robersonville now offers, which is a class A, group II, school. In addition to the increase in income for its support, numbers are necessary. Robersonville had 104 in the high-school average for term 1925-1926, and is therefore entitled to 5 teachers for the present term.

If the surrounding schools, Biggs, Sandy Ridge, Burroughs, and Whitely, and their territory, were added by vote of the citizens of same, the school in Williamston might then rival that of Kinston in respect to revenue, numbers, and course of study offered. Petitions from citizens of these respective districts asking for an election to ascertain the will of these people on the question of annexation to Williamston district will be necessary before any move can be made. The future of Williamston School as to enlarging its course of study, as well as improving the condition of the rural school child is wrapped up in this program. The retarded children, those too old for their grade, in our school are largely from the weaker schools, and we are gradually reducing this group to a minimum, but it will be almost impossible to make greater progress in this respect until both the rural child and town child enjoy like terms. When the rural child enjoys like opportunities with the town child, the records show similar improvement.

It is entirely possible, seeing that the interests of all the children would be served, that within 5 years a move will be made to make this plan come true. What is needed? The united

effort of Williamston's citizens to make her school the most attractive school and of greater service to the county is necessary. But from time to time the school should and does invite outside children to come to Williamston and try it out. In it all, in all, we need to say we are willing, act we are willing, and know we are willing to try the plan. When we have proved our soul, we will have a township school district. With this provided we can look back with pride and say we have arrived and ask what is next. Until then, citizens of Williamston, we are highly proud of the children's attainments, and we are sure all will be done by your officials, teachers, pupils, and patrons that is within their power to be worthy of what we now have. Who knows what this crop of boys will bring forth? You and I may be obliged to borrow money from one of them a score of years hence, or perhaps he will preach to us, or maybe he will stand aproned, serve steady, and instruments in hand, by you as the effects of ether steals throughout your veins. What he will be is in our hands today.—Contributed.

STRAYED OR TAKEN FROM MY Home Tuesday night, October 19, one female hound, black with brown back and legs. Will answer to the name of Queen. Finder please notify J. E. Harrison.

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Democratic Meetings

The candidates of the Democratic party will hold meetings in Martin County at the following places at 8 o'clock p. m., on dates mentioned below.

All citizens are cordially invited to attend the meetings.

Friday Night, October 29th—Bear Grass
Saturday Night, October 30th—Mills Schoolhouse and Fairview
Monday Night, November 1st—Everetts

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