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W. C. Manning Editor

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Friday, November 28, 1930.

**Steadily Mounting School Costs**

People generally, and taxpayers in particular, understood why the cost of the public schools of the State rose from \$4,215,178.28 in 1915 to \$9,568,743.10 in 1920, a five-year period. Everything else went up, and naturally the cost of schools went up—not as much, however, as other things did during the war period. But who can understand what caused the cost of schools to increase from \$9,568,743.10 in 1920 to \$27,961,531.85 in 1929. In the war period of five years the cost doubled, while in the peace period of 10 years following the war, when the price of everything else was tumbling and falling, the cost of the schools increased three-fold.

It is reasonable to admit that we have some improvements in our schools, including a slight increase in length of term and a higher standard of teacher education. Yet in the final results shown in the finished product—that is, the boy and girl who goes through the schools today—there is only a little improvement over those who went through the schools 15 years ago.

We must remember, too, that the percentage of children enrolled in average daily attendance is not so much higher now that it was 15 years ago.

We challenge the educational system to justify the vast increase in cost by the results produced. Of course, the people, in their goodness, overlook the period from 1915 to 1925, because of the wartime upheaval, but they do not understand why the rapid increases should keep piling up on them; with a much larger increase last year than for the year before, in both total expenditure and in per capita cost per child.

We hardly think this rapid increase in school costs can be charged to the teacher, because salaries generally are only about twice as high as they were 15 years ago, while the total cost runs up more than six times as high.

It is to be hoped that this process of increase will not go on until the people rise up in their wrath and kill the goose that lays the golden eggs—by destroying the schools.

What people want is good schools economically administered. Unless something happens, the folks are going to demand an accounting. The taxpayers are not willing to hear economy talked and see their land sold for taxes at the same time. They can't understand why it costs four and two-thirds times as much to send a child to school a day now as it did 15 years ago.

We are not criticizing our educational system with a view of destroying it; but in order that we may save it. We do not like to see a good thing destroyed itself.

The schools are trying to progress according to certain ideals that are not proving practical in proportion to their cost. They, like the home, have fallen down in the handling of youth. The home accuses the school, and the school throws it back on the home. The fact remains that the youth is largely out of the hands of both. The school will have to make the first move to bring things back. The home will not be able.

The school should take the lead in both sanity and economy, which are so essential in the life of a nation.

**Gold Scarcity**

William Jennings Bryan said in 1896 that the great trouble then was the shortage of gold, and he declared we needed a larger base for a standard of wealth, and he advocated silver or bimetallism.

A group of great international bankers including J. P. Morgan, Owen D. Young and other notables from this country in a group meeting with other international bankers in London recently said that gold scarcity is the cause of "hard times." Their assertion is exactly the same as the one made by Bryan 35 years ago. He was right then and they are right now. There is hardly an item in the world today that is worth more than one-third as much as it was worth eleven years ago, with the exception of gold and it is worth now three times as much as it was eleven years ago.

The few folks holding the gold in 1896 said Bryan was all wrong, that what we needed was stable money, and the people followed the gold hoarders only to live to see them force all other values to dust and the gold holders collar the wealth of the earth again. The French and American gold-hoarders are, according to these bankers, doing the choking act.

It is true that we have Federal reserve banks, supposedly created to relieve emergencies, but they are of no use when the land and commodities of the pub-

lic are so reduced in value that they are worthless as security or collateral to produce loans. Nothing can be worse for the public than for any one item of great importance to fall into a few greedy hands. The bankers say that is the case with the gold which is the base of all other values according to our adopted monetary standard.

Free silver would cripple the hands of the money gods and give the people relief if we only had the double standard.

**Commissioners Face Huge Task**

The new board of county commissioners will face a great task on the day they qualify for office the first Monday in December when they shall take steps to reassess all real estate for the next four years. They will have to name supervisors at that time who will begin their work of assessing property about January 1.

Surely, the commissioners will deserve sympathy; but the assessing supervisors will deserve more. They will deserve real pity, because they are going to be met with more complaints than they have ever heard before in all their lives. They are going to hear more real kicking than has been heard before, and the worst of it all, they'll hardly be able to know what to do themselves.

The law generally operates on the theory that any piece of property should be based on its sale value, which should be determined on its income capacity. In this case, the assessors will have neither sale nor income as a base of values, because real estate has furnished neither a sale nor an income for several years. And of course a large majority of real estate owners both in town and country will want the lowest taxable value possible. Often the same man will declare his land almost worthless when he meets the tax assessor and when he sues for damages, he will go to the extreme on the other side.

Taxation has never raised a more perplexing question than at this time and even the wisest and best men are at a loss to know what to do.

If the same base of valuations is used this time as the one used in former years, real estate in these parts will drop from 30 to 40 per cent in value on the tax books. Then with taxes largely at a fixed figure, the rate naturally will go up or some out-side money will have to be found.

It will be up to the legislature to find the new taxes because land values are certain to go down in taxable value.

**Pertinent Farm Questions**

If the acreage used in growing tobacco and cotton on Martin County farms this year had been planted to corn, oats, and hay or if it had been left idle altogether, would the county be poorer or richer? A timely question it is when a large majority of the farmers of this county say they have lost money on tobacco and cotton this year. They spent money to produce the crops, and failed to get a sufficient return to offset what they actually spent in raising the two crops.

The outcome causes one to wonder what effect the experience gained this year will have on the farming program in 1931. Will farmers put all of their labor, all of their land, all of their money and all they can borrow in an attempt to raise another big money crop? The present outlook is not at all encouraging for the money crop raiser next year, and he who attempts one is very likely to wear a sad look on his face next fall. We need to be careful and not spend big money to produce anything that stands two chances to sell low and only one to sell high.

The farmer who gets the ditch banks carried to the middle of the field, plans his drainage and buys less fertilizer will stand a better chance to make good next fall than the one ignoring these details.

**"Hard Times" Talk**

Were it not for the hard times, things would really be dull, from a conversational standpoint. We have hardly had enough weather during the summer to talk about—just one steady stream of dry weather.

The little ice and few frosts recently did not change things, because we still hear the "hard times tune."

Nearly anybody can converse fluently now. Just say the word "times," and everybody is in on the subject. There are a few folks who are not getting enough to eat. Some are ragged and cold. This is bad, but, after all, the worst thing about this panic is the flood of talk we hear about it. It will certainly be a happy day when we meet friends who will look bright and speak with some degree of appreciation for the many good things we do have.

**Lamont on the Tariff**

Thomas W. Lamont of the great J. P. Morgan and company, recently had the following to say about the latest tariff measures in the United States:

Incidentally, we have complicated this business situation of ours—though no one can as yet determine whether seriously or not—by hanging the load of a new tariff act around our own necks. The increased rates have certainly led to a certain feeling of dismay and ill will abroad and to some retaliatory tariffs. They have probably caused also some harm both to home trade and to our international commerce, because of the uncertainties and dislocations which they have created.

It would be easy to magnify the ill results of the new American tariff. We cannot class them as controlling factors in our present depression. But there can be little dispute that we chose a most inopportune time for this particular enactment. With both domestic and foreign trade beginning to show signs of a decline, as they did in the early summer of 1929, it surely was not the time to build up new barriers against world trade. Certainly, too, we did not take a happy method of encouraging our foreign customers to buy more of our goods. Nor did we make it any easier for them to pay their governmental debts to Washington.

**THE LETTER-BOX**

**Solicitation of Funds**

As a citizen of this community, I feel the time has come when something should be said about the indiscriminate solicitation of funds on our streets by outside organizations or individuals.

For I know not how many years, the representatives of certain organizations have been plying in and out of our town, soliciting funds both upon the streets, the places of business and in our private homes. They are still doing it. And they will still go on doing it unless we raise the question publicly.

Let it be said that we assume these organizations are "on the square." Whether or not it is the Salvation Army or the American Rescue Workers, we take it for granted that their cause is a good one, and that they are carrying on a good work.

However, there are many good causes and much good work here at home which needs a generous portion of our benevolent expenditures that are of a charitable nature. This is not charging that those who solicit funds upon our street are unworthy, but it is saying that we know little about them. They give no account to us of themselves or of the funds which they gather and carry out so quickly.

At home here our churches keep books and give an account to their congregations about the expenditures. Our secret orders do the same thing. So does the city government. And so do the business houses. Yet, these solicitors who are unknown to us, are allowed to come in any day they like, collect money all over them, go on their several ways and render no account of any penny of it to any of us here, whatsoever.

Futhermore, every penny of this money goes out of the town and so far as I know entirely out of the county. It is presumed that it is well spent for charitable purposes somewhere. Though we know nothing of it nor are ever informed. All we know is that they gather a good deal of money here, render no accounting of it to anyone and spend every cent of it elsewhere.

This year, particularly this winter, there is going to be a good deal of distress in Williamston and in Martin County. It is going to take a good deal of money for us all to do what we shall need to do. We cannot, and we shall not, sit supinely by while some of our unfortunate and underprivileged classes suffer. Therefore, we shall have to, and we want to, go into our pockets and do something about this humanitarian need.

And as a citizen of the town and county, I want to say that for the most part, we shall do better to spend our charitable money where we know it is needed and where we may have an accounting rendered if we want.

This is not meant selfishly. All good humanitarian impulses and all good religious impulses bid us to relieve human suffering wherever it is found—whether in Williamston or in Pegin; whether in Martin County or Africa. And we all want to do that as we have opportunity. But those who belong to, or are affiliated with any of the churches or denominations, have a superb opportunity there of ministering to the whole world through these legally constituted religious bodies. And if any man wants to contribute to the Salvation army or any other institution, that is his business.

I am simply saying, personally, that I do not think it good judgment to contribute indiscriminately to outside organizations of which we know nothing, to the expense of our own needy people. When we want to send money out of town there are the regular channels, such as the Red Cross and the church which carry on their business, for the most part, in a way that is above reproach. But I stand against public solicitation of our people upon

the streets of our town by any and every outside organization which gives no report and brings no credentials.

Have you seen the containers sitting about in our drug store? They ask for contributions for "the relief of our needy people." And when our own people are facing a winter when many of them shall be short on bread, clothing and fuel, let us think twice before we encourage promiscuous solicitation of funds, one penny of which will never be spent in our town in our county, and no penny of which will ever be accounted for here.

C. H. DICKEY.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

North Carolina, In Superior Court, Martin County.

D. G. Mathews

H. M. Burras and wife, Mrs. Ora Burras.

Under and by virtue of a judgment of the Superior Court in an action entitled as above, the undersigned Commissioner, will on the 24 day of November, 1930, at 12 o'clock, Noon, in front of the Courthouse door in Williamston, N. C., offer for sale to the highest bidder, for cash, the following described real estate:

A house and lot in the Town of Williamston, N. C., located on Main Street, and adjoining the Eli Gurganus property on two sides and the Williams house and lot on the other, and being the same land listed by defendants, and described in tax certificate of sale dated June 6, 1927, and being the same premises now occupied by the above named defendants.

This 24 day of October, 1930.

B. A. CRITCHER,

028-2tw Commissioner.

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust, executed to the undersigned Trustee, dated 25th day of June, 1927, and recorded in Book Y-Z, page 268, and the stipulations not having been complied with, and at the request of the holder of said bond, the undersigned Trustee will, on the 15th day of December, 1930, at 12 o'clock, NOON, in front of the Courthouse door of Martin County, offer for sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, the

following described land:

One (1) tract of land lying and being in the town of Hamilton, N. C., beginning at the southeast corner of Light Front Street, of the Town of Hamilton, N. C., running down said street 127 feet to H. S. Clark's line; thence along Clark's line to the old Methodist E. Church, by Jas. T. Waldo on the 15th day of June, 1884; thence including said church lot, along said Light Street to the begin-

ning. Containing 3-8 of an acre, more or less, and being the same premises as described in the deed from W. A. Haislip to Augustus Floyd, which is of record in the Public Registry of Martin County in Book AAA, at page 421, to which reference is made for further information.

This the 13th day of November, 1930.

B. A. CRITCHER, Trustee.

**Lumber Prices Have Come DOWN**



Now is the time to make construction repairs at lowest cost. You will save the most money on labor and materials now.

**Murray and McCabe Co.**  
 WILLIAMSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

**After Thanksgiving Sale**

**Now Going On**

WITH EVERY ITEM OF SEASONABLE MERCHANDISE BEING SOLD BELOW COST. YOU WILL FIND EVERY TYPE OF MERCHANDISE LOWER THAN IT HAS BEEN IN YEARS.

**Buy Now - Can't Get Lower**

**SILKS AND WOOLENS**

- One lot fast color Washable Printed Rayon Crepes, 36 inches wide, special yard 49c
- One lot of fast color Washable Printed Crepes. Big range of patterns, in all the new colors. 36 inches wide. Regular 79c yard quality. 59c Now, yard
- One lot fast color heavy Travel Crepes—all new fall patterns and colors. Wonderful values at, yard 98c

**LADIES' SILK UNDERWEAR**

- Ladies' fine quality Glove Silk Bloomers in flesh color \$1.95
- Combination suits of Glove Silk, in flesh color. All sizes, special \$2.95
- Ladies' Rayon Pajamas, in all shades and sizes, pair \$1.95
- One lot Ladies' Cotton Pajamas \$1.49

**LADIES' HATS**

- One lot of Felt Hats \$1.00
- A wonderful selection in the newer shapes, materials, and shades \$2.95

**LADIES' HOSE**

- One lot ladies' and children's cotton hose. All sizes and colors, pair 19c
- One lot ladies' Full Fashioned Silk Hose. Fall shades, pair 69c
- One lot ladies' Full Fashioned Silk Hose in all the fall colors and black. Satisfactory service assured. Pair 98c
- One lot Ladies' Full Fashioned Silk Hose. Silk to top. Pair \$1.19
- One lot Gold Stripe Hose, regular price \$1.95. While they last, pair \$1.19

**Blount - Harvey Co.**  
 GREENVILLE, N. C.

**WOOD FOR SALE**

Hard wood. Well seasoned and very cheap. See FRANK CARSTARPHEN

**Town Taxes Are Now Due PAY NOW AND GET THE DISCOUNT**

You will find it easier to pay in the fall than in the spring. If you wish, you may pay in small installments.

**W. B. DANIEL, Tax Collector**