

# THE ENTERPRISE

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### Disfranchise Officeholders

Why should people who receive tax money in any way be allowed to vote?

Would it not be better when a man's name goes on the roll as a receiver of taxes, either on salary, commission, or otherwise, to take his name from the poll books?

We have in this state an army of more than 30,000 people drawing salaries from governmental agencies. Naturally, when a convention or an election is held, the power that is in office generally has 30,000 votes to start with, and not only that but an army of campaigning politicians. It might be claimed that this would disfranchise good men; yet it would not except by choice—since no man has to accept office, and he would have his choice of a salaried position or the voting franchise.

When the taxpayers choose their own official servants, and the servant has nothing to do except attend to his duties, things will be better in government.

### On the Wrong Track

There seems to be no more unmanageable organization in the country than the American Legion. The members seem to cherish war by their advocacy of big army and navy programs.

While many millions of the world's finest citizens are preaching peace, the members of this organization rush in and whoop up a program of preparing for war. Taking the spirit of their program as the American policy, every dollar of American income for the next 50 years will be required to pay for wars past and wars to come, and our entire civilization will eventually die in its own sin and iniquity.

No country has ever survived its own big war programs, and we are no different from the people of the past. We are just as covetous, selfish, and bigoted as any of the past ages.

Our tariff laws and our trade laws are no less selfish than those of the past ages. The American Legion can make no greater mistake than to get "het up" and try to get the people of this country on a war basis is expending all we have for wars past and future wars. It violates all the teachings of Christianity. The women do not want such a program, the children do not want it, and no men want it except war profiteers, that is, the fellows who make war munitions and tie up the world in financial chains.

### The Dollar Should Be Cheaper

We have a few folks—and only a few—who would lose by cheaping the value of the dollar. The other 99 per cent would profit by increasing the circulation of our money. Which would be the most fair thing to do—work to the advantage of the 99 per cent of the people or to the advantage of the 1 per cent?

Since almost every obligation in the world was made on a false expansion of the money system, there is no reason why we should not expand the same system for the purpose of paying these obligations.

It is now less than 15 years since the banks of this country permitted the expansion five-fold on the simple promissory note, often without endorsement or security. That was poor financing. Now these same banks are opposed to the government increasing the amount of money in circulation. They know that if this is done, the debtors can pay their obligations with fewer days' work, fewer pounds of cotton, or bushels of wheat, and that their own power will be lowered.

The claim that if the government increases its money it will not be valuable is true to some extent. We admit it will lose its power to dominate, but it will make it easier to feed the hungry, and the people will not have to sacrifice their homes to pay taxes. It is argued that only gold is a safe basis for the unit of a dollar, which is entirely wrong, because there is not enough gold in times of stress, and gold is only good because governments say so. If they said silver, a cowskin, a bushel of wheat, or any other substance, it would make it good and that commodity would always be worth up to the amount set out.

More money is what we need. It will operate against the money trust, which has a corner on our gold and would make it easier on everybody who has brain, muscle, and every other commodity to market or exchange with other people.

### A New Kind of Bootlegging

A new kind of bootlegging is making its way throughout the United States. Like all other kinds of bootlegging it is done for the money there is in it. This time, however, it is not alcoholic liquor that is being bootlegged. It is a thing even more popular—gasoline.

The people of North Carolina are paying about \$14,000,000 annually for gasoline, and it is estimated that the State is losing about \$1,500,000 on gasoline that is brought in by the bootlegging methods.

When we see a lot of drunkenness, we know that the alcohol bootlegger is at work, but when we go to a filling station and buy gasoline upon which the tax has not been paid, we never know anything about it. The public presumes that it is perfectly all right, without any knowledge of whether the tax has been paid or not.

Like the bootleg liquor business, the traffic is hard to detect and break up. However, the leading oil companies, such as the Texas Company, Standard Oil Co., the Gulf Refining Co., and several others, have organized for the purpose of breaking up this type of lawlessness in North Carolina.

Another thing which the leading oil companies are trying to stamp out is the mixing of kerosene and naphtha with gasoline. They find in some states that as high as 40 per cent of the kerosene is being used in this manner, which saves 24 cents tax on a 10-gallon tank of gasoline. When the motorist buys 10 gallons, he gets an inferior mixture, the station gets 24 cents more profit, and the state loses the 24 cents North Carolina, so far, has not suffered as much from the various methods of tax evasion as many other states, but it is said to be growing here. All motorists are warned to watch out for price-cut gasoline. The profits are so small on the regular gasoline that there is not much room to cut prices, unless the product is bootlegged in or adulterated.

### A Short-Lived Boom

That cotton prosperity got off on the wrong foot. The price went up just after all the old crop was sold and just before the new crop came in. So it would not have been any help to the cotton growers if it had gone to a dollar a pound. What the farmers need is good prices when they sell, not after nor before.

Now, if the little price spurt was a political trick, it certainly was a flop that will not last until November 8th.

### Huey Long Grows

One of the strangest things in American politics is Huey Long's grip on the people of Louisiana. He was once looked upon as somewhat of a jackass—people generally taking him as a joke. Now, the strange thing is that he is growing at home in power and abroad in respect. In his short career in the Senate he has shown strength, and some wisdom. It now seems possible that he may develop into a respectable statesman. He has laid aside some of those senatorial dignities which have done the country so much harm already—a thing we all should commend.

### Printing the News

The task of a country editor is not without its problems. Not everything that happens makes agreeable stories. Very disagreeable things take place in every community, and it is these disagreeable happenings that affect the lives of so many innocent people that prove the most bothersome problems for the average country newspaper editor to handle.

In the case of those who offend against the public by being unfaithful to a public trust, or those who have proven guilty of serious offenses against the law of the land, the editor has very little room to exercise his own personal desires. These things affect the public as a whole, and it is the public's right as well as to the public interest that such happenings be given publicity. Such happenings are part of the day's news that demand to be published.

Many happenings in every community, however, are of such a personal nature only that no good purpose would be served by giving pitiless publicity to the matter. These include mistakes of judgment, errors in personal affairs, troubles, domestic or otherwise in which the general public has no interest except for the sake of curiosity. To carry all such stories would serve only to bring embarrassment and sorrow into the lives of those who are already carrying heavy loads and whose hearts are near the breaking point. Many of these are relations and connections who are innocent of any part in such affairs and who would have made almost any sacrifice to have prevented happenings after it was entirely too late. Publication of stories of this kind have never yet and never will serve any real beneficial purpose.

In such cases arriving at just the right decision in each one is no easy problem. The editor is confronted with some criticism regardless of what his decision in the matter may be. Printing these unnecessary stories always brings censure from the friends of those concerned who have reason to believe such publicity was unnecessary. Failure to print them disappoints those who delight in peddling scandal and who always charge the editor with having been influenced or bought off. And yet these same peddlers of scandal would howl the loudest were their own questionable acts held up to public gaze through the columns of a newspaper.

And so it is not only hard to please every one, but it is utterly impossible. In dealing with such affairs the editor must follow the dictates of his own conscience and form his own judgments without regard to the criticism that will come. The greatest satisfaction comes in a knowledge that he has acted toward others as he would that they should act toward him, and that their knowledge that should be on the side of kindness and sympathy for the unfortunate his error will be forgotten by enlightened and great-hearted readers of his paper. *Sampson Independent.*

## ODD --- BUT TRUE

