

THE SOUTHERNER

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TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1920.

NEATNESS.

A city may have handsome residences and business blocks. But if the householders allow disorder about their places, and if litter blows freely about the streets, there will be a slovenly air about the place that casts a pall of neglect over all its fine features.

Similarly in many places you will see new buildings put up of the most handsome and substantial materials; and right close by will be some dingy and rickety old wooden building that attracts ten times as much notice as it would in a town where they are all of the same character.

In some struggling towns that have not been able to build with granite and marble and plate glass, yet you find a spirit of neatness that keeps all the old buildings nicely painted, the lawns trimly cut, and removes everything suggestive of decay and neglect. They look more like advancing towns than some other where there is more money.

SAVING THE HIGHWAYS.

The people of Tarboro are thoroughly converted to the idea that good roads pay. But construction costs are so very high, and deliveries of material so hard to get, that it will be impossible to do all the work this year that people had hoped for.

Meanwhile motorists and truck-drivers can do something to save the roads already in existence. The following suggestions are respectfully offered:

1. Don't drive too fast. It is the speeders who pull up the road surface.
2. Turn corners and curves at a moderate rate. The worst grind on the surface occurs when the wheels are turning.
3. Don't let ruts develop. If you see a regular track forming, keep out of it.
4. Don't feel you must drive in the center of the road. Keep to one side, and you will be safer and help distribute the traffic. General attention to a few common sense rules like these would lessen highway taxes for everybody.

RESTRICTING CREDITS.

In the old easy going days, when business men used to have to make all kinds of inducements to get the trade, the habit grew up among many manufacturers and wholesale dealers of allowing long credits to retail trade. The tendency in modern business is to restrict these credits, and come closer to a cash basis.

Monthly credits are now considered too long by many dealers. Retailers could formerly pay the wholesaler about when they pleased. Now if they don't pay promptly, they need not expect deliveries. Weekly payments are common in many lines.

With the shortage of capital now existing, it is impossible to allow any great sums to be tied up in slow accounts. To do the work, every dollar must keep busy. The credit system will eventually have to go. The world's work could be done for much less if everyone would pay cash. The people of Tarboro will put money in their own pockets if they will cut out the credit and pay cash down.

CHANCE FOR SLUM DWELLERS.

The people in the congested and unsanitary slums of great cities have a chance now to break away from their unwholesome surroundings. The country districts are crying for farm workers. A neat little cottage in a country town or market garden district would seem a splendid gain over a squalid tenement.

But there seems little disposition on the part of the slum dwellers to try country life. They would miss the lively scenes of city streets. Possibly, though, if organized efforts were made to get colonies of people of like nationality to go out together, some of them could be induced to try it. It would be a benefit to themselves and to the country.

THE UNSEEN SYSTEM.

The ideal way to organize a political campaign is to appoint committees who shall hold rallies, secure newspaper publicity, and educate the public by information and public discussion. But a great deal of work of another kind is going on under the surface, which the people who desire good government can not ignore. They must meet it with a similar organization of their own.

A great many votes are "hand-picked," the result of individual influence. Every person who takes an interest in politics is a center of political influence among his friends. The successful politician carries in his mind a long list of people who are such centers of influence.

He spends a lot of time cultivating their acquaintance and enlisting their support. Men of similar purposes are drawn together, and form what is called "rings" or "machines." When they can't agree on dividing the spoils, they split and form hostile factions. The ramifications of these structures of influence are very extensive, and control a great number of votes.

The trouble with many campaigns for good government has been, that they failed to reckon on the power of this unseen system. They thought if they had good rallies and newspaper support, they had the thing dead. Yet all the while the sub-surface system was beating them with its silent efficiency.

People who desire good government must do much of this personal work in order to rally their sympathizers, and get indolent and indifferent people to vote at primaries and elections. Unless they do organize in this thorough way, and get their vote out, the unseen power of the system will beat them.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS.

Roger W. Babson, who was brought into the limelight recently through a controversy with certain members of Congress, is a statistician of international repute. Born at Gloucester, Mass., 45 years ago today, he became a statistician soon after leaving college and has attained remarkable success in his chosen profession. Mr. Babson's specialty is the forecasting of supply and demand figures on a basis of statistics of business of past years. He is a lecturer on the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is a member of the executive committee of American Economic Association. The Royal Statistician Society, of London, also includes him in its membership. Mr. Babson's prediction of future tendencies have included surveys of the probable progress of railroads, international trade and diplomacy, and South American possibilities.

After writing up all the June brides, and representing that they all married captains of industry, when most of 'em are going to live in three-room flats, the overworked newspaper press is entitled to a long and restful vacation.

It is not sufficient ground to jail a newspaper man for criminal libel, merely because he failed to mention some detail in the bride's gown.

Formerly people used to boast of how much work they did, and now they brag of how little they do.

There is still a possibility that a college boy may succeed in life, even if he didn't get on the varsity ball team.

The sense of duty which people feel to take public office, seems to decline when there isn't much chance of their getting elected.

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.

- 1801—The British warship Hannibal was sunk in a naval engagement in Gibraltar Bay.
- 1818—First auction sale of public lands in Michigan took place at Detroit.
- 1845—The President was requested to occupy the ports of Texas, and to send an army for its protection.
- 1851—Thomas Davenport, the first to discover the principles of the electro rotary motor, died at Salisbury, Vt. Born at Williamstown, Vt., July, 1802.
- 1866—The Earl of Derby became British premier for the third time.
- 1895—The University of Cambridge accepted Yale's challenge to an athletic contest.
- 1916—David Lloyd George was appointed secretary for war in Great Britain.
- 1918—John Purroy Mitchel, former mayor of New York, was killed by a fall in his airplane at Lake Charles, La.

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Administrator's Notice.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of V. B. Knight, deceased, late of the County of Edgecombe, State of North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at Tarboro, N. C., on or before the 22d day of June, 1921, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

K. T. KNIGHT, and
MRS. T. A. MATHEWS,
j22-1tw-6wks Administrator.

LADIES

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LOST—Fisk non-skid tire, size 34x4, between Rocky Mount and Sparta. Return to The Southerner and receive reward.

FOR SALE—Sweet potato plants—\$1.50 per 1000, express collect; \$1.75 per 1000, postpaid. All varieties, prompt shipment. Dorris-Kensley Plant Co., Valdosta, Ga. June 10-4s-in wkly

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