

**EDITORIAL PAGE**



**THE ADVANCE**

*Herbert Peale*  
**EDITOR**

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

One Year ..... \$1.00  
Six Months ..... .50

Published Tuesdays & Fridays  
One Month ..... .10

**OBLIGATION AND OPPORTUNITY**

"The task that challenges the statesmanship of the hour is to stop the steady flow of population from the country to the town. The currents of human life run in the direction of the greatest profits and the greatest pleasures as the rivers run to the sea. Philosophy, preaching and oratory are powerless to turn the tide. It is as inexorable as the law of gravitation—it is gravitation. Hence the obligation and the opportunity of the hour is to make life on the farm just as profitable and just as attractive as life in the town. The man who most deeply feels this obligation who most clearly sees this opportunity will most surely serve his day and generation. The day will not hearken to the fanatic, the generation will not tolerate the demagogue; but he who would render this high service must bring to his task a serene faith, superb common sense and supreme unselfishness.

The first step to be taken is to give every man who tills the soil a fair chance to own it. This is the mud sill upon which alone can be builded a profitable and attractive rural civilization. The small farm owned by the man who tills it is the best plant bed in the world on which to grow men. A landless population will always make a Mexico, but the citizen standing in the doorway of his own home is at once the builder and the bulwark of the commonwealth"—Attorney General, T. W. Bickett.

It pays to advertise, of course. But something depends on how and when and where you advertise.

The best news to reach us lately has been to the effect that the sweet potato crop in Currituck is good and the price outlook encouraging.

When all parasites are weeded out and all humbugs are exposed the creature who hitherto has lived chiefly on the exploitation of scandal may get

an opportunity to learn at first hand the blessedness of toil.

There are things of more interest about a town than its population. Likewise in making inquiries as to a paper's circulation the advertiser would do well to learn not only how many but also who read its columns.

Farmers from the 'Dry Ridge' section of Salem township say that the corn crop is good in that part of the county. We are glad to hear of some good corn near home if we haven't seen any.

When an agitator harangues at the idle rich and then talks of a state of society in which men spend more of their time in recreation sport and pleasure than they do at work the great Utopia to which he is looking forward amounts to nothing more than a land in which all men are loafers.

The Advance is entirely sincere in believing that in few if any counties in the state will the tax assessment this year show an increase of over twelve per cent since 1914. This paper goes to practically every county in the state. If there are counties that make a better showing than Pasquotank we should like to hear from them.

The editor of this newspaper has never been an ardent disciple of William Jennings Bryan. But those who say that since his resignation from the cabinet he is politically dead would do well to remember how often that judgement has been pronounced on him already. As for the little fellows who are trying to ridicule him—well it's another case of what fools these mortals be.

A cat may look at a king but it doesn't hurt the king or help the cat.

When we get to that planet where nobody works but two hours a day how many Edisons will be born in that beautiful clime? There is no patience without tribulation, no endurance without hardship, no heroism without temptation. Some men have the idea that if the Lord had given them the task of making the world they would have turned out a better job. And maybe the Lord will have to give them a try at it before they understand that it takes more than leisure to make men

We introduce to our readers this week a new member of The Advance staff in the person of Mr. Wilfred Peale, fifteen years old, who has within the last few weeks linked his fortunes with this newspaper. Mr. Peale's first newspaper story appears under his own name in another column of this issue.

The county farmers met last Saturday to ask all the people, both of the country and of the town, to join them in making the general community picnic this month at Albemarle Park

a success. These farmers are working to secure a better understanding and more close and friendly relations between the people of the country and the people of the town. We hope that the people of this section generally and the business men of Elizabeth City in particular will cooperate with them in their undertaking.

**HERE ARE THE FACTS**

The Advance has endeavored to give its readers the facts in its accounts of what led to the recent downward revision of the tax assessments in this county, and we believe that substantially we have done so. We are persuaded, at any rate, that we have come nearer doing it than any other publication in these parts.

It is true that the tax assessors this year began work with the idea that they should assess property to its full cash valuation. But the matter began to raise such a hue and cry that Judge Leigh wrote Mr. Travis of the Corporation Commission and asked him if he was sure that to put such a valuation on property here would not work an injustice to Pasquotank County. Mr. Travis replied and in effect advised Mr. Leigh to go ahead on the first basis and that the corporation commission would see to it that no injustice was done in the matter. This letter was dated June 16th. Just two days later Mr. Travis wrote again and rather lamely explained that fearing that his first letter might be construed as meaning that property should be assessed at its full cash value, he was writing again to say that seventy five percent of the value would be about the proper figure.

There was nothing in the second letter to indicate that such a letter was being sent out over the state in general. On the contrary it was written in Mr. Travis' own hand and Mr. Travis intimated that he could not make such a statement to every assessor in the state as some of them would take advantage of it to greatly

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undervalue property.

When Mr. Leigh got Mr. Travis' letter of the 18th he was persuaded that his assessment had been somewhat high. He therefore went through his books making such reductions as he thought proper. But these reductions in no township amounted to as much as twenty five per cent. And the total of these reductions lacked a considerable amount of bringing the assessment within twelve per cent of the 1914 valuation.

But a twelve per cent increase in assessment was what the mass meeting had decided upon as sufficient, and twelve per cent increase in the total aggregate will be the basis for the reduction which the board of equalization has now ordered.

And get somebody wants to make the people think that the mass meeting had nothing to do with it.

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