

**EDITORIAL PAGE**



**THE ADVANCE**

*Herbert Peale*  
**EDITOR**

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"Entered as second-class matter,  
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Our tenant farmers, courageous, honest, patient and long-suffering, when shall they see light? When shall their burdens be lifted? In the Springtime they go forth, and with our brothers in black set their hands to the plow. They bend their backs to the burden, and when the frost falls they have added \$1,000,000,000 to the wealth of the world. But small, indeed, is their share, and meager their recompense. Every two years, according to the government census, they move from one place to another.

They build no homes, they live in rude huts, no flowers about their dwellings, no trees to shade them from the sun, consumed by the summer's heat, and chilled by the winter's cold, no lawns about their houses, no garden fences; and with the accursed cotton plant crowning the very threshold of their rude dwellings and thrusting its limbs into their very windows, their lot is indeed pitiable.

Their sons and daughters come to manhood and womanhood, desert the farms and are lost in some distant community. Finally when their pilgrimage is over, they are laid to rest in the rude churchyards of the country, others take their places and continue the fight. They have established no permanent homes, their kith and kin are scattered far and wide, and the places that knew them once know them no more forever.

I have no word of criticism for men like these. I know them, I have lived among them, I sprang from them. Who shall undertake to lead these men out of the wilderness of their trouble? Men whom they elevate to high offices in the State and national government, are ever ready to teach them politics but they are not prepared to help them solve their problems of life. A fearful responsibility rests at this time upon men in authority and men in high offices. Will they meet it?

—Joseph T. Holman, President Southern Mortgage Company and Director American National Bank of Atlanta.

**A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION**

"We urge upon the presiding elders and pastors of rural churches that for the future wherever practicable, in the location of church buildings, they be placed adjacent to school buildings, and that in the location of parsonages, we join with the school authorities in placing the homes of the teacher and preacher alongside church and school buildings. We recognize that these two institutions—the church and the school—should together form the center of community life, and that preacher and teacher should be the natural leaders and moulders of this community life.

This quotation is from a report adopted by the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, appearing in last week's issue of the University News Letter. It is in line with the idea which The Advance has put forward time and again, that is,

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Hulls per ton \$15.00

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that country churches should be served by country preachers—preachers who live in the country and know the needs of the rural people whom they serve.

The preacher and the teacher are the natural leaders in their community, and if either of them is not equipped for this leadership it is time for the church to get a new preacher and the school a new teacher. But however well equipped he may be, it goes without saying that no man can lead in a community without living in it. When a church is served by an absentee preacher, a preacher whose service to the church is nothing more than a once a month or twice a month sermon, what vital interest has that preacher in the school which serves the community in which the church is situated. And what prerogatives of leadership can the teacher exercise who runs home to spend every week end as soon as his school work is finished on Friday afternoon?

We have preached this sermon before and we are likely to preach it again, even at the risk of the subject matter becoming wearisome to our readers. But when we see our country communities building their preacher a home beside the church and building their teacher a home beside the school, we will desist.

**THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE CITY**

It was Professor Branson who, in his address here on Community Service Day, called our attention to the fact that Pasquotank has 93,000 idle wilderness acres within its bounds—that three-fifths of the county's total area is a total waste.

It was The Advance which, following Professor Branson's address and commenting on it, pointed out that these lands were waste not on account of lack of fertility but on account of lack of drainage. By incorporating these waste lands in drainage districts and digging canals to take off the surface water, not only would the area of tillable land in the county be doubled but the productivity of much cultivated land which now in wet years is water soaked would be vastly increased.

It was The Advance, too, which called public attention to the fact that though drainage districts have been formed and wilderness acres reclaimed in other counties in this section, in Pasquotank not a single community has formed such a district.

We are glad to hear that there is now talk of forming such a district in Newland township. We hope sincerely that the matter will not rest at talk. We urge the business men of Elizabeth City to show themselves interested in this movement; we urge the banks to lend their influence to foster it.

Incidentally, it is said that the formation of the proposed drainage

district will pave the way, or rather ditch the way, for the opening of a direct road from Tadmire to Gates county. Here is something about which people have been talking for a generation, and we do not know how much longer, here is a project which would unite farming lands only a few miles apart as the crow flies; but which, under present conditions, are as far apart commercially as if they were in different states.

Elizabeth City is interested in both these propositions. We want more farmers and better farmers and bigger crops in Pasquotank county. We want closer and quicker communication with Gates county.

The opportunity of the city lies in the country.

**A BETTER OPPORTUNITY**

Some time ago an announcement appeared to the effect that the early opening of a new banking house in Elizabeth City was probable. Having heard nothing further of the movement, we infer that it has come to nothing.

A citizen of the city in whose business judgement this paper and the people generally have great confidence remarked to the editor, after noticing the news item, that a better proposition in Elizabeth City would be the establishment of a building and loan association. Coming from any one, the suggestion would probably have impressed us favorably; but from a man already in the business of building houses for other people it appealed to us with peculiar force.

Would not the organization of some such company here tend to increase the percentage of home owners among us? Would it not tend to improve the appearance of the city's residence streets? Would it not afford an outlet for capital now comparatively idle? And could not an organization of this kind be speedily effected in Elizabeth City?

The Advance will be glad to put any person genuinely interested in this proposition in touch with the man from whom this paper got the idea.

**MORE WORKERS AND FEWER TALKERS THE NEED**

The annual rumor, that the Y. M. C. A. will open in the Spring has repeated its annual debut and the matter is being mildly agitated on the street corners, in the drug stores and hotels, lobbies and wherever young men are in the habit of assembling.

As usual there is no announcement of any definite plan of action unless it is expected that a Young Men's Christian Association can be talked into life. That has seemed to be the idea of some of those who have continually urged this paper to boost the Y. M. C. A. without giving us any data from which to take a text. Continual talk, unless it is followed by some sort of action usually does more harm than good. It is conceivably possible to talk a live man to death; but it is inconceivable to think of talking a dead one into life. And frequently when popular interest in a public movement has waned, the continual effort to talk it up makes the people the more weary of it and less favorably disposed toward it. Better to say nothing whatever about the Y. M. C. A. unless what is proposed can definitely and decisively and vigorously and promptly undertaken.

This year there is one hopeful sign, however, in the talk of the movement to raise the needed funds. It is stated that the young men will undertake the canvass for funds. The Advance believes that if the young men will enlist themselves for active service in this movement that something definite will be accomplished. The young men realize more clearly than any one else their need of what a Y. M. C. A. would give them. An appeal from a young man, when he can overcome his natural timidity

so far as to make one with his whole heart, is the most irritable appeal in the world—also surely the majority of the world's women would remain unmarried. Then, as those who would be most benefitted by an active Y. M. C. A. in the town, it behooves the young men to show their interest in the movement by their works. If they will give their time and their talent and their enthusiasm to raising money for a Y. M. C. A. they will show their interest and their need ten thousand times more forcibly upon the heart of the city than they ever will by making a great lamentation to the effect that Elizabeth City does nothing for its young men.

In connection with the suggestion of mapping out a definite plan of campaign, an idea has occurred to us that we pass on for the young men's consideration. One of Elizabeth City's citizens who is not so very old made us his confessor in a moment of confidence and acknowledged that the two desires of his heart were to see the opening of Elizabeth City's Y. M. C. A. and the reorganization of Elizabeth City's chamber of Commerce. Now would not the reorganization of a chamber of commerce be the one best first step toward the opening of a Y. M. C. A.? Could not a chamber be organized with the understanding that its first step would be a campaign to open a Y. M. C. A. in Elizabeth City? Would not a chamber of Commerce organized on this basis be sure of enrolling young men as its members—a consummation long devoutly desired by some of us?

In order to plan a successful campaign for a Y. M. C. A. fund the young men must have organization. What better organization for this purpose than a Chamber of Commerce? Then when the Y. M. C. A. had been made an active force in the city's life, the chamber of Commerce could find other worlds to conquer.

**MRS. C. N. HOBBS DEAD**

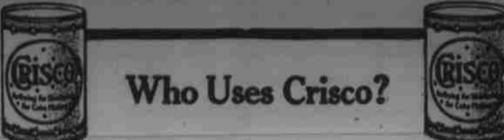
Mrs. Charles Norman Hobbs died Monday morning at the Elizabeth City Hospital at twenty-three minutes to five o'clock from blood poisoning. Mrs. Hobbs home was at Durants Neck and she entered the hospital here last Wednesday after a ten days illness. The funeral will be conducted at two o'clock this afternoon by Rev. J. Y. Old at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Banks on Main Street. Mrs. Hobbs was about thirty years of age and is survived by her husband and three small children. Before her marriage she was Miss Lizzie Relf, and a brother, Nathan Relf, of Perquimans; a sister, Mrs. Walter Newbern of Powells Point; and an aunt, Mrs. B. L. Banks of this city, also survive her.

**FUNERAL ELBERT GREGORY**

The funeral of Elbert Gregory was conducted from the home Sunday afternoon at four o'clock by Rev. J. N. Loftin. The Odd Fellows of the city of which order he was a member attended in a body. Mr. Gregory died Saturday evening shortly after six o'clock at his home on North Road street, having been a victim of tuberculosis for a number of months and confined to his room for the past two weeks. He was twenty-eight years of age and a painter by trade, the son of Mr. M. D. Gregory of this city. Besides his father he is survived by four brothers; Henry, Edward, Frank and Richard; and by two sisters; Miss Beattie Gregory and Mrs. M. G. Wright.

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Lakeport, N. H.—"Our little girl 8 years of age was in a debilitated, run-down condition and had a stubborn cough so she was weak and ailing all the time. Nothing helped her until we tried Vinol. Then her appetite increased and she is strong and well, and I wish other parents of weak, delicate children would try Vinol."—Geo. A. COLLINS.  
This is because Vinol contains the tissue building, strengthening cod liver elements and the tonic iron which a weak and run-down system needs.  
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**February 9--13**

.....account.....

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For additional information consult Norfolk Southern Ticket Agents or address the undersigned.

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**CONTENTMENT**