

The Franklin Press

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The Press invites its readers to express their opinions through its columns and each week it plans to carry Letters to the Editor on its editorial page. This newspaper is independent in its policies and is glad to print both sides of any question. Letters to the Editor should be written legibly on only one side of the paper and should be of reasonable length. Of course, the editor reserves the right to reject letters which are too long or violate one's better sensibilities.

Penny Wisdom

In time of stress it is only human that one's better judgment sometimes is overwhelmed by some passing but pressing movement. It is natural perhaps that one might give way under the strain and succumb to a prevailing opinion, which, though it be not the majority opinion, is nevertheless powerful and urgent in its demands. It is easy under such conditions to take a step that is ill advised and later will bring regrets.

Just now, the trend is toward economy and retrenchment, a much needed end. It is high time to cut down and eliminate unnecessary expenditures, individually and collectively. Most of us have been forced to do so individually; and government, local, state and national, is finally coming to the point of reducing its far too heavy outlays.

But there is a limit even to economy. You can starve the goose that lays the golden egg.

The County Commissioners, seeking with good intentions to lower expenses and relieve somewhat the heavy burden of taxes on farmers already bearing too much of the cost of government, have voted to abolish the job of farm demonstration agent, effective February 1. The Press believes that clamor for such a step does not represent the opinion of the majority of the people in this county, which has derived inestimable benefits through this office.

The farm demonstration agent, perhaps, has done more than any one man to cut down the cost of seeds and to bring about cooperation of the farmers in the movement of their products to profitable markets. His is one governmental investment that can show a definite financial return of benefit to the whole county.

Furthermore, the county bears less than half of the cost of supporting the office of the farm demonstration agent. State and federal appropriations take care of the greater part of the expense. Abolishing this job is just like refusing a gift.

The Press hopes that the Commissioners will see fit to reconsider their action. There is a difficult position, to be true, making ends meet in these dollar-scarce times, but let us hope that further study of the situation will lead to discovery of some other means of economizing. It is gravely doubtful whether such a step should be called economy or penny wisdom.

A Lesson from an Old Hen

Said the little red rooster, "Gosh all hemlock, things are tough. Seems that worms are getting scarcer, and I cannot find enough. What's become of all those fat ones is a mystery to me; There were thousands through the rainy spell—but now where can they be?"

The old black hen who heard him didn't grumble or complain—She had gone through lots of dry spells, she had lived through floods of rain—

So she flew up on the grindstone, and she gave her claws a whet. As she said, "I've never seen the time there weren't worms to get."

She picked a new and undug spot; the earth was hard and firm. The little rooster jeered: "New ground—that's no place for a worm."

The old black hen just spread her feet, she dug both fast and free; "I must go to the worms," she said; "the worms won't come to me."

The rooster vainly spent his day—through habit, by the way—Where fat, round worms had passed in squads back in the rainy day. When nightfall found him supperless he growled in accents rough: "I'm hungry as a fowl can be—conditions sure are tough."

He turned then to the old hen and said, "It's worse with you, For you're not only hungry but you're tired, too. I rested while I watched for worms, so I feel fairly perk; But how are you without worms, and after all that work?"

The old black hen hopped to her perch, and dropped her eyes to sleep. And murmured in a drowsy tone, "Young man, hear this and weep: I'm full of worms and happy, for I've dined both long and well; The worms are there as always, but I had to dig like hell!"—Anonymous.

There's the wisdom of prophets and sages in the simple verses quoted above. In these lines is a lesson for all of us. There's no denying that business is dull—the worms are scarce—but, nevertheless, there still is some business. Perhaps you think there are fewer worms in your own back yard (you've scratched the surface and found none) but maybe the other fellow is getting more of them because he is scratching a little deeper.

Whether you are a farmer, a merchant, a day laborer or a professional man there is still some field where you can profitably apply your labors. At least, you can be getting the ground ready for the future.

Business may not be in the same paths where you have found it before, but that's no sign there are not other paths where it might be found. When you hunt over one field the birds you haven't killed fly to another. Maybe there's an oversupply of the crops you have been growing, with consequent low prices to be obtained. Scratch your head, wrinkle your brow and look around you. There are other crops you can grow that may bring a better return. At least, you can follow the advice of Governor Gardner and "Farm To Live at Home."

Don't be discouraged because your profits are not as large as they have been in former years. It's better to make a penny than to lose a dollar, and if you are not making something, you are losing a great deal. What you are failing to make, the time is passing, and don't let it go.

By Way of Introduction

Pardon, if you will, this breach of editorial convention and bear with us a while for the sake of an introduction:

The new editor and publisher of The Franklin Press comes to Macon County from Asheville, where for the greater part of the last two years he has been on the editorial staff of The Asheville Times as feature editor, then as telegraph editor, editing and handling the news brought in over the Associated Press and United Press wires.

In about nine years of newspapering he satisfied a desire for varied experience and new scenes, and now he is ready to "stay put" in this community, situated in the midst of the most satisfying panorama of scenery he has yet seen.

In those nine years of meandering the editor acted as reporter or copy editor in High Point, Charlotte, Raleigh and Asheville, in North Carolina, and in New York City and Albany, N. Y. He "covered" all manner of news events and saw legislators making laws in the lobbies and hotel rooms—and enacting them in legislative halls. He came in contact with people high and low from all parts of this continent and from other countries far and wide. And he arrived at the conclusion that people are pretty much the same wherever they come from, whether they speak differently or wear different clothing and eat different foods.

Their customs may be different, but essentially, all people are very much the same. You can classify them in various groups, or individually and it all simmers down to the old verse:

There's enough good in the worst of us and enough bad in the best of us. To keep all of us from talking ill of the rest of us.

Three years in New York, two of them with the Associated Press, convinced the writer that one lives life more fully in a small community where he can recognize most of the people he passes on the street. A metropolis such as New York City affords many advantages but for a steady diet mountains are more soul-satisfying than skyscrapers.

So back to North Carolina. Then there came an urge to hoe one's own row in one's own fashion, to grow in experience with the upcoming plant—to have one's feet rooted firmly in rich soil just as the plant.

This is the soil where this wanderer is ready to sink his roots.

Other Opinions

HALF A COW PER FARM

Out of the drought-stricken area of eastern Arkansas has come one of the strongest recent arguments for diversification. It concerns Mississippi County, potentially one of the richest sections in Arkansas. Whatever economic lesson one may derive from the story is applicable to the farmers in North Carolina and every other state who depend upon one crop.

Riding through the county, a staff writer for the Memphis Commercial Appeal stops to talk with a farmer who is waiting to receive food from the Red Cross for his wife and five children:

"What do you grow on your farm?"

"Cotton."

"What else?"

"Nothin' else. What else could a fellow grow in this county? If I didn't plant cotton, no merchant would supply me during the growing season; no land owner would rent me land to farm. I know it ain't the best thing to do, but in this county we've got to grow cotton or move somewhere else."

On 10,811 farms, the reporter learned, 175,000 acres had been planted to cotton, leaving a comparatively small acreage for corn, hay, truck and other crops. There were only 6,200 cows, or slightly more than half a cow per farm, in that section. And the number of families was approximately equal to the number of farms.

Many counties in Arkansas and in other Southern states are in a more fortunate position today, largely because of their diversified products. But the ideal of diversification is yet to be achieved. We have gone a long way toward that goal in North Carolina. In 1929, when asked what he considered the most important recent developments in the state's agriculture, Commissioner William A. Graham said:

"The tendency to get away from the one-crop or even the two-crop idea is the most hopeful sign."

Likewise, Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia have achieved considerable diversification. In 1928, Virginia's gross farm income was \$195,021,000, of which 47 per cent, came from livestock. The main "money crops" were tobacco, potatoes, wheat and fruit. Tennessee had a \$50,000,000 dairy industry that year, with nearly half a million cows in milk. Georgia received \$40,000,000 from poultry. How these sources of ready cash must be helping during this depression!

Five cracking good cows, one hundred cracking good hens, help build farms and bank accounts.



WHAT CHILDREN NEED

For his best development, the child needs a comfortable home, well supplied with fresh air, a comfortable bed, an undisturbed place in which to keep his clothing and belongings and where he can rest, work or play in quiet at times. He also needs a proper place in which to welcome his friends.

He needs three square meals a day, at regular hours. His daily diet should include: at least one pint of milk; butter; bread and cereal; green vegetables, especially leafy vegetables; fruit; and meat, egg or fish.

For clothing, he needs clean, wholesome garments and enough of them to keep clean and change frequently. He should change his stockings at least twice a week, and have different clothing for day and night. His shoes should be long and wide enough. He needs special clothing for protection against bad weather.

As to health habits, he should brush his teeth morning and night, take a bath every day, or at least once a week, be regular with toilet habits, wash his hands before eating, and sleep in a well ventilated place.

A child needs play, lots of it, preferably outdoors. He needs the right sort of playmates; the tools of play; a place to play; and it is good for him to have leadership in his games, sometimes, but not so much direction that it curbs his own imagination and initiative.

Schooling and some family responsibilities, or "chores," are good for him; but he also needs some vacation time each year, each week. He should not be going at top speed. He needs time to think, to dream his own dreams and just rest or do as he pleases. Do not crowd his program too full or you will crush his genius.

Every child needs moral training; religion, if you please. By the child who gets this at Mother's knee and in daily association with Dad—but he also needs some community religious exercises such as the church affords.

Rural Home Lighting

A study of rural home lighting has been made by home economics experts. It has been discovered that most of the lamps are the ordinary kerosene lamps, or the round wick kind, with a few gas-line lamps.

The degree of illumination is far below the desirable standards for efficient work or recreation after dark. Besides this, there is much glare in the eyes because of no shades, and the light is poorly distributed.

By four methods, the lighting of rural homes might be improved: (1) Use more lamps of higher candle-power; (2) Use two or more lamps per room; (3) Put the kitchen lamp above the eye level; (4) Shade all lamps to throw the light where you want it, and to prevent its glare in the eyes. Those who use electric light frequently suffer from improperly shaded lamps, as well as from insufficient light on their work. Sufficient light, properly distributed and properly shaded, will make for better eyesight.

Public Opinion

Editor of The Franklin Press:

Will you please give me a small place in your columns to say a few words? I am always accused of being a butter-in and right here is where I want to head-in. I saw a report in last week's Press of the day's doings of our Honorable Board of County Commissioners and some of it was very good and some of it was—well you know.

Now as to using economy. We don't even think they used a bit when they discontinued our county agent. I would venture to say that our county agent saved the farmers last year enough on seeds alone to pay half of his salary. We bought seed beans through him at \$10.00 per ton when otherwise they would have cost us \$15.00, besides the chicken and hog sales that were staged by him. Now, what are we going to do this year? Get our seed and sell our poultry and eggs as best we can or is our board going to give us a hand? I see our Governor has recommended a 10 per cent cut in all office holders' salaries, which I am sure will and should be passed. Then, I guess, they will howl about that. It is our opinion we could almost as well do without one or two of our county Commissioners as without our county agent. They seem to be trying to run in high gear, only, hitting on one or two plugs.

We sure hope our Legislature passes the law putting all public roads on the state for maintenance as urged by Gov. Gardner. He seems to have his heart on the right side. Respectively,

W. A. KEENER.
Gneiss, Jan. 13.

Editor of The Press:

Please allow me space in your paper to express myself in regard to the Great Smoky Mountain Park as we see it pictured on the front pages of most of our leading papers, although I am rather late expressing myself I have been conscious of its effects all the while

all the more by the slogan of Madison County, North Carolina, which one reads as he drives into Marshall:

"Five cracking good cows, one hundred cracking good hens, help build farms and bank accounts."

but have been waiting on someone else to hallow. Sure enough at last our adjoining county, Swain, has hallowed "Ouch." I would like to hear from some of the other readers of the Press as to how soon and in what way the park will benefit the common class of people of our country.

As to myself, personally, I have always been and am yet, 100 per cent against the park and would hesitate but little to say that 45 per cent of the common people of the two states, North Carolina and Tennessee, are against it, and at these present times I believe the larger portion of the people will allow themselves to be called "common folks."

As to my reasons for opposing the park at this time, space in this paper would not permit me to mention but few of the many reasons for opposing it. If for no other reason than the raising of our taxes. It seems to me that most any common thinking man would be against our two states buying up lands, shutting down wood and lumber industries that would now be employing thousands of men, also they would be paying us thousands of dollars taxes where after we have lawed and fixed our own prices on the private landowners and many other industries, and turn all these said properties over to our government, as we all know never to receive one penny of taxes for same again.

We might compare this park picture with the real estate boom that swept through our country a few years back that temporarily, for the time being, raised the valuation of the lands along the highways to five times what its worth now, this causing numbers of mountain people to almost give away their mountain homes, or any way vacate them, and move to a costly lot near the highway to reap their reward from the tourists. By so doing they have reaped their harvest.

If I had no reasons for opposing the park then I would oppose the hellish method by which the park is being acquired. Even the private land owners, that for several reasons would not wish to sell their land for three times the actual worth of it has no say-so as to the price fixed by the park commission.

Yours truly,
J. H. COBBIN.

LISTEN TO THESE BOYS

The editor takes great pleasure in printing herewith some timely advice from the younger generation of farmers. It was submitted as a theme, entitled, "Some Hints to the Farmer," by Sexton Vinson and George Stuart, vocational agriculture students at the Franklin high school. Let the boys speak:

1. Just a little time and labor will accomplish much by improving the appearance of our farms. Now that the severe cold and disagreeableness of winter is with us the average farmer probably has the opinion that there is nothing to do but sit by the fire.

We assume that all the fall crops have been harvested and stored for the winter and the fall plowing done. Now that these duties have been accomplished and we have plenty of spare time left let us take an inventory of our farms and see them as other people do.

Did you ever stop to think about the condition of your house and out buildings. Now is a good time to repair these—if needed. And the paint brush may be put to an excellent use. In what condition are your fences. You remember that machinery weathers very easily and that large amounts of money are lost each year due to improper care of our farm implements. Grease and oil these well then put them under proper shelter.

After we have taken stock of these things let us do the following jobs if necessary:

1. Remove old and unused fences as they have a tendency to give the place a dilapidated and run-down condition.
2. Repair the gates so they will swing freely and have a neat appearance.
3. Clean out the trash and rubbish in and around the barns.
4. Collect and repair all tools and implements and arrange them in order.
5. Cut drains and ditches around the lots and barns to avoid wet places or stagnant water.
6. Fill in low places about the lot with dirt, cinders, rock and other material.
7. Make walks from the house to

lots and out buildings. Round them up on top with gravel so a dry walk will be available even during very wet weather.

8. There are those ditches clogged with mud and overgrown with briars. Now is the time to clean these out and preserve the productivity of the soil, as bad drainage causes the soil to sour and lower production.

9. See that the poultry is properly housed. Your hens cannot lay eggs even if they are roosting in their best cedar trees.

10. Keep stables and hoppers clean and well bedded as livestock must live under sanitary conditions to give best results.

11. If insects have attacked your stored grain now is a good time to check their damage. One of the best known methods of controlling these pests is fumigation with carbon disulfide, which can be bought at any drug store for a small sum.

Cowpeas and other leguminous seed may be fumigated in airtight barrels which are filled within a few inches of the top. The dosage for each barrel should be about one-half cup full. This may be poured in a shallow dish or plate and placed on top of the grain to evaporate. Then cover the barrel with heavy wrapping paper to prevent the escape of the evaporated insecticide. There are a few precautions that should be remembered in dealing with carbon disulfide. It is highly inflammable and should be kept away from heated objects. The gas is rated as highly poisonous if breathed for any length of time.

Auto Repair Shop Is Taken Over by Jim Westmoreland

Jim Westmoreland has leased the automobile repair shop formerly operated by the Macon Chevrolet company in the Porters-Allen Building and announces that he is prepared to do all kinds of automobile and tire repairing. He also is prepared to offer wrecker service free within the city limits.

Bank of Clayton CLAYTON, GA.

Condensed Statement of December 31st, 1930

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts.....	\$165,009.45
Banking House and Lot.....	4,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures.....	1,100.00
Other Real Estate.....	2,032.44
Due from Other Banks.....	1,641.46
Overdrafts	435.68
Cash, Bonds and with Reserve Agts.	134,065.74
TOTAL	\$308,284.77

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 25,000
Surplus and Profits.....	20,014.70
Reserve Fund	2,980.00
Deposits	260,290.07
TOTAL	\$308,284.77

To our patrons and friends, we invite your attention to the above statement and on the strength of same we ask a continuance of your business and confidence.

J. C. Dover, President.
T. A. Duckett, Cashier.
W. S. Long, Vice Pres.
Guy Green, Asst. Cash'r.

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