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Washington Comment

Whether it be right to do evil that good may come has been a point much in dispute since the first man said "Let's argue about something." That evil may result from doing good is not so well understood, but it sometimes happens. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that all gambling is an evil, and that betting, whether upon a card game, horse race, baseball contest, or the weather, is gambling it emphatically does not follow that any means for preventing gambling is necessarily a good means.

A fly is a pest. It can be killed with a blow of a hatchet. If fly is on man's head and hatchet crushes fly and incidentally destroys man, act of destruction is hardly to be commended as good because fly is exterminated! To prevent gambling by suppressing all news of gambling, or contest upon which wagers could be made, may or may not accomplish the result expected by the framers of the Sterling bill, now before Congress. But it is certain that the bill should it pass, would seriously interfere with the liberty of the press, guaranteed in the Constitution, and the main bulwark free America has against oppression and autocracy.

Let us kill our flies, by all means - but not by destroying the life blood of American consciousness, the daily press.

Republican Leader Mondell, deploring the expense involved in the passage of the Lampert bill to increase the force and salaries in the Patent Office, and calling attention to the fact that it represents the greatest single increase ever proposed in the government, went on to say "It may be that the patent service should be raised 50 per cent above all other government services, but I doubt it."

So does everyone else doubt it; but it is the other government services which should be raised to the new Patent Office level, not the Patent Office which should be starved to allow politicians to cry themselves "economists." Economy is not putting cash in a stocking, but spending wisely to get more cash. The Patent Office is the rock on which American industry rests. Starve it, delay its procedure, make United States patents a joke by allowing them to be issued by unskilled inefficient, and underpaid examiners, and our national loss will be billions, where the Patent Office costs thousands. Incidentally the Patent Office does not cost; it pays. It is the one government department Burleson figures for the Post Office expected which pays a surplus to the Treasury on its operation.

Churches fought motion pictures because they cut down attendance. Now they give motion picture shows to increase attendance.

Churches banned dancing because it cut down attendance. Rev. E. J. Prescott, Unitarian pastor, North Andover, Mass., takes a truck and some touring cars, travels in a radius of seven miles every Sunday morning, and gathers up a load of children, carries them to his church fills them full of enthusiasm and the World, and takes them home again.

Things are good or evil only as they are used for evil or for good!

To The Parents And Physicians Of Madison County.

I have received a letter from the State Board of Health telling me that in 1922 a very accurate record will be kept on the reporting of contagious diseases. The accuracy of reporting one county will be compared with that of another. Especially interesting will be a comparison of the reporting in counties with whole-time and part time county health officers.

Let me say that reports are to be made by parents and teachers when cases are known to them. If your doctor forgets to report, the householder should remind him of it and ask me to get a record of the case from him.

Don't forget to report every case. Because your house has a placard on it does not excuse you from reporting other cases as the law requires.

A large number of cases were not reported last year. The State Board of Health does not desire to prosecute people, but the law is going to be enforced more strictly this year than formerly.

Yours very truly,
FRANK ROBERTS,
Quarantine Officer.

Tobacco Specialist

Mr. E. L. Ring, Tobacco specialist for the Southern Railway, has been in the County doing work on the burley tobacco. His intention is to get as many farmers as possible to grow a small amount of good tobacco. The man that will make a profit growing tobacco in this section is not the one who plants his whole farm but the one who grows a small amount of high quality tobacco. The price for this kind of tobacco is good and is most sure to continue good. To produce tobacco of high quality we need to use more care in selecting seed, soil on which the tobacco is grown, sowing seed beds, and handling the tobacco after it leaves the field.

These are the things that Mr. Ring is well prepared to handle and is anxious to assist any farmer who is interested. Mr. Ring has had years of experience in handling tobacco from the sowing of seed to the consumption of the cured product. We are fortunate to secure the services of an experienced man like Mr. Ring and if we show proper appreciation it makes it easier to get him and other specialists to come our way.

There are yet some of the books on growing the burley tobacco at the banks and court house. Mr. Ring will be back in the county in a few days and have another supply of seed that will be available for any farmer who is interested in tobacco growing.

W. R. HOOTS,
County Agent.

WANTED

Agent for Marshall and vicinity to represent Accident and Health Department of one of the oldest and strongest Life Insurance Companies in the United States. Liberal commissions in either whole or part time contract. Write at once for further particulars. Hill and Baker General Agents, Hot Springs, N. C.

Some Things in Regard to The Board of Education.

Editor News-Record:-

There has been a great deal said about the Board of Education and their management of the Schools of Madison County and probably I know more about the book's management than any other man in the County. I was elected County Commissioner in the year of 1882, the Commissioner at that time had the management of the schools of the County and with the expectations of four years I have been on the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education until the present time. At the time I entered the Board of Education, the School term per year was two one-half months. The schools was taught in the church houses and sorry school buildings some of which were log houses with split logs for seats, I suppose the school property at that time was worth some where from \$15,000 to \$20,000, I mean buildings and land. Now the school property of the County is worth from \$250,000 to \$300,000 and the school term has been increased from two one-half months to four, and at present six months. And the Board of Education has built the following school houses since and have been connected with the Board at Marshall, one was burned, the present one is fire proof. At Madison Seminary, Bull Creek, Central, Grapevine, Upper Grapevine, Forks of Ivy, Gabriel's Creek, Mars Hill, fire-proof, Beach Glenn, Paint Rock, Middle Fork, (Bethel) Walnut Creek, Mt. Neta, Hopewell, Walnut, Walnut Creek, California Creek, White Rock, Droid, Alleghany, Allenstand, Poisonfield, Piney Grove, Revere, Big Laurel Seminary, Big Laurel at Jackson Wallin's, Foster's Creek, Ivy Ridge, Lower and Upper Little Creek, Skyland, Pleasantview, Bear Creek, Piney Grove, Forks of Sandy Mush, Cross Rock, Little Pine Creek, Upper Little Pine, Anderson's Branch, Lower Big Pine, Woody, Freezeland, Spring Creek Seminary, Zion, Roaring Fork, Meadow Fork, Keener, Hot Springs, Paint Rock, Highland, Stackhouse, Oak Grove, Smith Farm, Reynolds's Hill and Antioch, and have put patent desks in almost all these school buildings. And as I have already said the terms have been increased to six months and the teachers have been paid all these years and will continue to be paid notwithstanding what has been said by certain persons. I hope they mean nothing disrespectful to any member of the Board. I have always had confidence in the people and have always believed that if the people made a mistake to leave them to themselves they would correct it, and when these reports that School funds were stolen or misappropriated, become known as they are, the good people of Madison County will applaud the board for its faithful and honest work. But those who persist and assisting in keeping up the sport, must consider one thing, that no one is so ready to accuse others of stealing as he who would steal himself and should also take into consideration that they may fool part of the people part of the time, but cannot fool all the

people all the time. I have given a great deal of my time to the schools of Madison County, the larger part of which I received nothing, nor asked nothing. I am only glad that I could do something to help raise the standard of education in Madison County and when I look and see the young men and young women that got their start in the common schools of the County who are now filling honorable positions in teaching and other positions of honor. And especially the young ladies who have been so faithful in the school rooms. I am proud of all the aid I have given to them, for which many of them have assured me of their appreciation and I think any one ought to be proud of our public schools, if they would only think of what the boys and girls of Madison County are doing who started in the public schools. We have representatives in almost every County in the State, and in many of the States, one missionary in China. Many of these boys and girls come from the humblest homes in the County, and without and education might have been tramps or criminals. Oh I wish every parent could see the worth of their children and the benefit they could be to their County, society and the world.

Our constitution says necessary to good citizenship are religion and knowledge. The State of North Carolina wants a strong citizenship and hence it has provided by which the poorest boy and girl in the State, if the parents will do their duty can obtain at least a common school education. As to myself and the services I have rendered although but little, I can now at an advanced age, look back over what has been done and content myself that I have love for all, malice toward none, and further content myself that my hands has not been soiled by dishonest money from school funds, or by funds that have been placed in my hands. So I want all the people to know that the Board of Education are your servants and at any time you should feel that you have not been treated right to come to the Board and make your grievances known and you shall be heard. I want the school committee of each school district to be up and doing and let us have a BETTER school next year than we have ever had in any of the districts. I am proud of the school at Marshall, Walnut, Hot Springs, Madison Seminary, Mar Hill, Spring Creek Seminary, Meadow Fork, Roaring Fork and all of the schools of the County, but these I have named are long term schools, or special tax districts. I further want to congratulate the parents teachers and students upon the obtaining by the Board of Education a worthy man for County Superintendent, - Prof. Homer Henry, a Haywood County boy is acquainted with all that any boy or girl will have to contend with in getting an education, he is a North Carolinian and an around good man, an educator of no mean quality.

I like the last few issues of The News-Record, and think every citizen of the County ought to take it, there is nothing better than to support your County paper, and it is not what you think it ought to be, you can help make it what you desire, and I want to thank the County Commissioners, the Clerk of the Court, Mr. Will West, and Sheriff Bailey, for their aid to us in helping us get the teachers paid.

Respectfully,
JASPER EBBS.

Hundreds Human Skeletons Are Found In a Cave Near Bristol, Tenn., On Wednesday.

Bristol, Tenn.-Va., Jan. 25.-Discovery of approximately 800 human skeletons in a cave in the mountains about 15 miles from Bristol, was made today by Professor Henry Woodman, of this city, who made an inspection of the cave at the invitation of mountaineers.

An opening which runs 40 feet straight down in the earth was found several days ago by people living in that section. Upon making investigation they found several skulls. The skulls were brought to Bristol and newspaper men and college professors were asked to enter and inspect the interior of the opening.

Upon descending the tunnel by means of a rope, Professor Woodman found a heap of human bones 300 feet high and about 80 feet wide. Indian hatchets and beads were also found. The cave has several tunnels reaching off on the sides and in the shape of a huge crevice in the earth. The bones were partly covered over by earth which is thought to have fallen in from the opening above. The peak of the heap is directly under the entrance and this leads to the belief that the Indians threw their dead into the cavity.

The heap is cone shaped and contains an assortment of every bone in the human body. Professor Woodman declares experiments show that some of the bones have been in the cave for about 1,000 years. A number of experts and archaeologists are planning to spend a night in the cave to continue the investigation. The cave is located in a spot in the mountains almost inaccessible.

Careful measurements of the heap of bones were taken by Professor Woodman, who lived several years with the Indians in the west. A telegram tonight was sent to the Smithsonian institute at Washington, asking that an expert be sent here to assist in the investigation. A guard has been stationed at the mouth of the cave to prevent molestation by trophy seekers and a ladder is being built from the opening to the heap of skeletons below.

Useful Little Booklet.

The Legislative Reference Library of the North Carolina Historical Commission has just issued a very useful little booklet of 68 pages entitled "Directory of State and County Officials of North Carolina" which contains a complete list of North Carolina Congressman, State officers heads of the various State departments, boards and commissions, State institutions and presidents, judicial officers, members of the Legislature and of county officials with their postoffice addresses. It gives for each county the name and address of the clerk of the court, register of deeds, sheriff, treasurer, coroner, surveyor, auditor, superintendent of health, superintendent of schools, superintendent of public welfare, chairman of the board of elections, county and highway commissioners. Copies of the booklet may be obtained upon application to H. H. London, Legislative Reference Librarian, Raleigh, N. C.

Superintendent Henry Explains Operation of State Regulations.

As given out by Prof. Homer Henry, county superintendent of schools, there are 62 schools for white children and three for colored children in the county. At the present state rating of teachers salaries, it requires \$67,324.90 to run the county schools for six months.

Mr. Henry says that there is some misapprehension among school patrons in regard to the salaries and the cost of operating school trucks. For example, if the salaries of all the teachers in the county were reduced to \$45 a month, the superintendent's salary cut half in too, and the truck expenses reduced half, school taxes could not be reduced one dollar. For with such a reduction it would cost the county \$39,480 to run its schools six months. The present value of taxable property in the county is \$10,250,000. At the present tax rate that amount of property would net \$39,797. Allowing for certain losses, there would not be a dollar to spare.

How then can the county pay the higher salaries and get a better grade of teachers and officers without its costing the taxpayers more? The explanation is simple. The state has set a rating on teachers salaries. Put it this way: based on the present rate of salaries paid the teachers in this county, state aid for this year will amount to about \$20,000. Lowering the grade of the teachers will not decrease taxes in the county but decrease the state appropriation. To increase teachers salaries in the county does not mean to increase county taxes, but more state aid for the schools.

Take any three-teacher school like the Walnut Creek school. The principal gets \$93.50 a month and the other two teachers get \$85 a month each. The school district pays each teacher \$45 a month of that amount. The state pays the rest. To lower the grade of their teachers would simply cut off state appropriation, not lessen their taxes.

The average salary for teaching in the county now is \$68.78. Superintendent Henry hopes to raise the grade of teachers in the county by next year until the average salary will not be less than \$75 a month. It will not cost the county one cent more for him to do that, but it will increase the state school aid for this county to about \$25,000. With the state taking the interest in education that it does there is no reason for any district having poor schools and poor teachers, if the people will half way do their part, he says.

The Walnut school district now leads in education matters in the county. That district has already voted bonds for \$25,000 to build and equip a standard high school. Their school will provide for a department of domestic science and laboratories for teaching the other sciences. It will comply with all the conditions necessary to get full state credit.

There is now also a movement on foot by which Marshall and Madison Seminary districts combine to establish a standard high school. Many of the patrons in both districts are anxious to see such a school erected. Superintendent Henry hopes to see the matter consummated before many more moons.

Better Teachers Draw State Aid.