

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 31, 1931

BIBLE THOUGHT

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Psalm 103:1-2.

CONFIDENCE AS A BUSINESS ASSET

Some times we go a long way from home for the thing we need. W. J. Bulow, a political curiosity in the shape of a Democratic United States Senator from the State of South Dakota, the first one of the kind in many years from that state, puts the business situation as it exists to-day in a light that is needed in the west as well as the east.

Senator Bulow chews his tobacco vigorously, spits accurately, and hits the nail on the head whenever he speaks. When asked his opinion a few days ago about how to end the depression and bring about a revival of business, he was concise and plain enough to be a "Out in the agricultural area," he said, "we perfectly understood.

have a surplus of crops and live stock, but a shortage of shoes, clothing, and all sorts of factory products, and the east has a surplus of shoes, clothing and factory products, and a shortage of farm products. We in the west would like to trade our surplus for the east's surplus and no doubt the eastern folk would like to trade their surplus for ours. Well, why don't we do it? We can't somehow; nobody appears to know just why not."

And why not? There's the situation as it exists between the agricultural areas and the manufacturing centers. It's the same old rillery that has popped out every now and then since the days of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. The badinage between the two, however, has generally been good natured, and is, yet.

As the squirrel said to the mountain after being badgered for being so small, "No, I'm not as big as you, but then you are not so little as I."

Big business and the farmer have no more right to jeer at each other than the mountain and the squirrel. The squirrel could climb a tree, but the mountain could not.

Reduced to the final analysis, the trouble with business at the present is the lack of confidence. It may not appear between man and man and yet be apparent in the system.

But why is it that the surplus of the farmer cannot be traded for the surplus of the manufacturer? Upon the proper answer to that question rests the welfare of all classes in the country to-day.

Farmers in Haywood County will gain or lose in proportion to their ability to trade their surplus crops in a fair and equitable manner for what they need. The question of economics can go on deeper than that.

Business integrity is being tried as never before. There is no question but that square dealing between man and man is needed worse than at any time in the past. Business promises should be kept to the letter, or a satisfactory explanation given.

If the real old Scotch honesty, that our people were once noted for, would return as in the old days, it is almost sure that the Scotch thrift would again be our heritage despite the lack of confidence that seems to prevail in other lands.

WHEN WE LOOK FOR BETTER BUSINESS WE'LL FIND IT

Today is the last day of the year 1931, which will go down in history as being the year of the "great depression." It is true that the old year brought forth new problems to this country and individuals that never before have come to light. Thousands of words have been written, thousands of speeches made, thousands of causes have been given, hundreds

of thousands of remedies, many, many complaints and an innumerable number of alibis used to keep from paying of honest debts, have been made about these "hard times."

We seem to have enjoyed the opportunity to express our opinions, causes, remedies and dig up our foolish alibis, but what have we accomplished by doing all this? To many people, good times will never come again. During a period of good times people have to work harder, longer and more steadily, to keep up with the demands of the public.

It seems that if this country is to get back to so-called "normal conditions" that we must follow the advice of business men who have studied the "real" cause and the "only remedy" instead of listening to the chronic knocker on the street corner, who would not admit conditions were better if silver dollars were rolling down the middle of the street. He would want five dollar gold pieces instead, so he would not have to stoop over so much.

The "brainiest" men of this nation, predict 1932 as a better business year than the last two. Why not from this day on think less and talk less of hard times, buy more and do more to really make 1932 a prosperous year?

Last week this community was saddened by the death of Mr. George Sherrill. He will be missed, of course, but his influence remains. Although, frail in body, he was a giant mentally and spiritually. No one was a stranger to him but once. No task was too great or too small, no job complete until it was a masterpiece and almost perfect. What better example could we want to inspire us to accomplish more in 1932?

About the poorest excuse a business man could make for not advertising is "they all know where my place is." So does the old cow know where the milking stall is, but few will leave a fine field of clover in the middle of the day to come to dry shucks without being induced. The same applies to the buying public—you can't tell 'em unless you tell 'em.

One of the greatest hinderances to the average business today is the lack of a genuine smile. More customers can be driven from a place of business with a "sick" frown than with a loaded shot gun.

Greet 1932 with a smile.

A GAS TAX RACKET

When, twelve years ago, the first State gas tax of one cent a gallon was imposed and applied honestly to roadbuilding, could it have been imagined that this system, too, would lead itself to the purpose of the racketeer? Yet such, apparently is the fact, with the gasoline tax now the center and stimulus of a group of fundamental transactions in which the States themselves, to a certain extent, are parties, if we are to consider a breach of faith with the public as a symbol of wrong. From the modest one cent a gallon, collected with the cooperation of the companies and applied to the stated purpose of providing the chief users of gasoline with better roads, we now have taxes running as high as six and even seven cents, and their proceeds used to meet other municipal expenses for which provision should be made by other means. Worse than that, in some States a special gas tax is levied for general revenue; thus penalizing one class of citizens for the benefit of another.

Perhaps it is not realized how far the evil of unrestricted taxation of gasoline has gone. A list of no fewer than eight separate and distinct offenses against decency and fair play have been listed. These include demoralization of the retail gasoline markets in many cities; the entrance into the system of distribution gasoline of racketeers, criminals who have been preying upon honest business in other lines; operation, for the promise of illegal profit, of carelessly constructed and badly managed bulk plants; a new source of direct financial loss to refiners and other sources of supply through firms which operate only to beat the tax laws; division to other purposes of money collected from motorists who assented to taxation under an explicit understanding that the funds were to go for roads; selling of inferior goods as a means of evading tax; fraudulent claims for exemption by some consumers, on whom the tax bears heavily, and other ills which have flowed from an originally admirable system which has been abused.

It is no less true of gasoline taxation than of any other form of taxation that if it is overdone, the inevitable result will be loss of revenue, evasion and fraud. Bootlegging of gasoline is as much a violation of law as bootlegging of liquor. It has been suggested that the oil industry and the motorists should work together to secure inclusion in various State laws of such safeguards as licensing and bonding of all dealers, adequate provisions for checking shipments and sales, more severe punishment, including imprisonment, for those found guilty of violations, and so on. These are all right in their way, and should be incorporated, but the basic trouble is abuse of the tax privilege, with which some States and communities have run wild. Indeed, it is stated by no less an authority than the Oil and Gas Journal that "the profits from the racket have been so attractive that they have been divided with conniving officials, with the usual result of widespread corruption, as in the liquor racket." Liquor bootlegging is a national scandal, but more condoned in fact, because of peculiar conditions, than swindling of the public through improper use of the power to impose taxes on gasoline consumption ever will do—Boston Transcript.

20 Years Ago in HAYWOOD

Misses Olive Boone and Lillian Allen are at home from Meredith College. Misses Marguerite and Helen Briggs are here from Virginia Institute in Bristol, Virginia for the holidays. Misses Jennie Ray and Margurite Sloan have arrived from Converse College to spend the holidays.

Mr. Hugh Abel is here from Weaverville College. John Martin and Troy Wych are here from Trinity College for the holidays.

Mr. D. M. Cagle of Clyde was the guest of Mr. W. T. Lee Tuesday. Mrs. E. J. Hyatt arrived this week from Nevada on a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Shelton, for several weeks.

A picture of Miss Herma Medford, winner of the Courier Popularity Contest appears on the editorial page.

Mr. W. C. Allen, Superintendent, announces that school will open Wednesday, January 4, and that due to limited seating capacity no pupils will be taken after January 9.

Mr. E. P. Martin advertises Staple and Fancy Groceries, and Cheap and Medium Furniture.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Waynesville, N. C., Dec., 1931. Dear Editor:

The Richland Baptist church of Waynesville feels very thankful to our dear Lord for His past blessings of the gone by year. God is surely working with the good people of this church. We enjoyed a great revival in the past fall which many souls were saved and added to the church. Our beloved pastor, Rev. L. F. Clark, did some strong preaching and great work in this meeting. We are thankful for the great increase of the church and Sunday School and the good fellowship of the Christians. We feel very thankful for the faithful efforts of Brother Hawkins Freeman, Superintendent of Sunday School, who we now have preaching twice a month—first and third Sundays. We have a board of faithful members and we are striving to do all we can for our faithful pastor and the cause of Jesus Christ and feel that God will reward us all in the end. We ask the prayers of all Christian churches that we may do greater things in the new year.

You are invited to attend this church and find a welcome waiting all. "I was glad when they said, Let us go unto the House of the Lord."

FROM THE CHURCH.

J. A. Francis Reviews 1931

Ed. Note.—Mr. Francis lives in the Ratcliff Cove section of the county and is one of the oldest residents in Haywood county. Mr. Francis has promised to write for The Mountaineer—his articles are always interesting, beneficial and welcome.

The year nineteen and thirty-one is drawing to a close and going down in history as one of the most unsettled conditions in the annals of our country. There have been tragedies of the most outrageous nature, betrayal of public trust, misappropriation of both private and public funds, conspiracies in office for the purpose of defrauding the government and public institutions, dishonesty in almost all departments of our government, intimidation and bribery in our courts of justice, officials failing in the performance of their official duties, depression of a serious nature, loss of confidence in all departments of government—in humanity, and to a great extent in the church.

But when we view the situation from an optimistic standpoint we have many things for which we should be thankful and rejoice that conditions are as well with us as they are, especially we people of the mountain section who have been wonderfully blessed in many ways. First, we should be thankful for the Providential care that has been extended to us and for the bountiful crops which have blessed our county with supplies for man and beast. During another year we have not been visited with any disastrous storms, floods, or epidemics and no serious draught. The continual dry weather during the fall months retarded wheat sowing to some extent, but this was an advantage to the maturing crops and gave the farmers ample time to gather in all their crops in good condition.

The only serious problem facing our people is the tax situation. It is very evident that unless some relief is extended many of our people will lose their homes and all they possess.

Editor of The Mountaineer:

Sir: Everybody is familiar with Paul Revere's Ride. In the first article in the October Historical Review mention is made of Captain Jack's Ride, and in Old Time Stories by McCorkle we find an account of that Ride by Mrs. McNeich excellently done in poetry. Paul Revere carried some news—Captain Jack carried the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence! Captain Jack himself nearly fifty years later told about his Ride.

He said it was in June, and the first place he struck was Salisbury. Court was in session there. The peo-

Grins and Chuckle

Hasty Exit Alfred: I hear your haunted house last night opened?

Casper: About 12 came through the wall there was no wall there. Alfred: And what did Casper: I went through the wall the same way.

Foot Trouble She: I've had a dozen feet.

He: Chiropodists, I paid a small admission which was paid for the men, all ladies freed free.

Proving It "They say that marriage life. Do you believe it?" "I do. I know several who would have starved if it hadn't been for the war."

Ripe Repartee Two London cabmen met at each other.

"Aw, what's the matter demanded one.

"Nothing's the matter. "You gave me a nasty assist the first.

"Well," responded the you mention it, I see that tainly have a nasty look not give it to you."

ple had not heard of what lenburg folks had done. So Captain Jack furnished with a copy and it was Court-room. Everybody There was a great hurrah ought to be made of the the reading of the Mecklenburg Declaration in the Salisbury applause.

The proceedings of the Salisbury in June, 1776, in the 10th volume of records, and also a letter from an Committee to the Committee. But what was Jack carrying in June? Mecklenburg Declaration the only one that was No one had ever heard of any "May 20th." The one meeting—one declaration.

Who will draw the picture of Captain Jack having the Declaration read in Salisbury and amid great applause.

Raleigh, N. C.

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