

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1932

BIBLE THOUGHT

I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent ye shall likewise perish. Luke 13:3.

MORE PEOPLE KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS THAN WAR

About a year ago the fact that more persons were killed in automobile accidents during an 18-month period than were killed in the A. F. in the World War, was extensively commented upon. Now, according to statistics, automobile accidents are growing worse every month.

During 18 months of the World War 0,510 American soldiers were killed in action or died of wounds, and 182,674 were wounded, or mortally. In the 18 months ending December 31, 1931, 53,650 people were killed in automobile accidents and 1,576,840 were injured.

During the last year deaths resulting from automobile wrecks increased 3.3 per cent over 1930, in spite of a reduction in the total number of accidents. Severe injuries likewise increased. This apparent contradiction is laid to the increasing speed with which we drive. Cutting in, violation of the right-of-way laws, driving on the wrong side of the road, skidding and driving off the roadway were likewise responsible for many deaths.

More than 42 per cent of the deaths were caused when a car struck a pedestrian. Collisions with fixed objects accounted for 12 per cent and collisions with other cars, 25 per cent.

The largest figure of all is that of pedestrians being killed. This fact was brought out last week by Judge A. M. Stack, presiding at the regular term of Superior Court here when he sentenced a driver for killing a pedestrian. Judge Stack made it very impressive that both motorists and pedestrians disregarded the rules of the highway and that entirely too many accidents were occurring when they could easily be avoided if those driving and those walking observed the rules more closely.

Every day finds more cars on the highways, and that necessarily calls for more careful driving and closer observance of all highway laws.

The way it looks to us is that we are crowding the highways and increasing the speed, either of which would be dangerous enough, but the two together makes the responsibility of a driver twice as much as before.

Then too, we all seem to be breaking our necks to get some where and have nothing to do after we get there. Why not slow down and take life just a little easier, especially on the highways?

Recently the man who invented a silencer for big guns, made the announcement that he was working on a device that would silence airplane motors, for which he believed he would receive a fortune. Perhaps his next invention will be a silencer for his wife; that would be worth more than a fortune to some men.

A prominent business man said the other day that we Americans call the Chinese heathen and uncivilized, but there is one thing about them, they never have a bank failure. They are said to have a casket already built for each bank official in case a bank fails.

A political student this week named the prospective Democratic candidates in order of their popularity and chances of being nominated; they were, Roosevelt, Baker, Smith, Garner and Byrd.

As one pessimist puts it, "I can't enjoy this beautiful weather for worrying over what we might have later." Now, isn't that gratitude?

LOSES OVER \$24,000 BUT CONTINUES TO SMILE

About the most unusual person in Western North Carolina is a certain business man in Waynesville who recently lost over \$24,000 and instead of frowning and telling his troubles to the four winds he merely buckles down to his business and smiles over his loss.

His attitude is that worrying would never bring it back and that fretting and grumbling would only hinder him from making the best of his opportunities. He has found that since adopting the smiling method that his business is much better and that his friends always welcome his presence.

Perhaps if every citizen would adopt this smiling habit instead of grumbling things would look much brighter for us.

Not only did he lose this amount, but he is paying out a like amount in monthly payments, but still, he smiles continually. Not even his best friends suspect who this man is who is keeping his troubles within and scattering sunshine everywhere he goes. A man like that is a citizen every community should envy.

Are you smiling or fretting over your troubles?

THE TAX CRISIS

We have heard much, in the last year, of the industrial crisis and of the obligations business owes to its employees, its investors and the general public.

Business is doing its best to bring light out of darkness, and to live up completely to those obligations. It is now time for government to do what it can to prevent another kind of crisis—that of confiscatory taxation.

This does not mean that the operation of any legitimate department of government must be hampered. But it does mean that public officials should do away with waste and unnecessary expense. It means that statesmanship, not politics, should dictate the actions on so called "relief" proposals which would cost the taxpayers millions or billions of dollars and payder nothing of permanent value. It means that that bureaucracy should be pruned so that the tree of real government may be seen again. It means that the public's money should be conserved and not thrown away.

The public realizes the tremendous problems now confronting government, and sympathizes with the difficulties in the way of solving them. But it will not long continue to countenance waste, extravagance and inefficiency, which find their reflection in the tax bill.

HATS OFF TO THE RAILROAD MEN

One of the biggest things that ever happened in the United States, from an industrial standpoint, is the decision of the unionized forces of our railroads to take a 10 per cent wage reduction, effective at once and to be in force one year.

For the first time in history, presidents of the railroads and the heads of the labor organizations sat down at a conference table and worked out a wage agreement based on the plain facts involved, without threats of strikes or arbitrary action on either side. Lawyers were used only to help word the articles of agreement.

David B. Robinson, an ex-fireman, who rose to the head of his own brotherhood and then to leadership of the entire railroad labor structure, made it clear that in signing away part of their pay at this time, the workers were not accepting the theory that such reductions, "are to be regarded ordinarily as the appropriate means to promote prosperity." He pointed out that the men recognized the present unparalleled situation affecting both the railroads and the public, and said: "In the hope that that our action may improve the health of our industry, may improve the co-operative relations of management and employees, may stimulate revival of business and may advance the general welfare, we have decided to accept the proposal."

Thus, railroad labor and railroad executives have established a new precedent in settling a problem of industry. This is an outstanding step toward stabilizing business conditions in the United States and its effect will be far-reaching.

In a nearby county some school children have to go to school at seven o'clock in the morning. No doubt, getting an early education.

20 Years Ago in HAYWOOD

Miss Sylla Davis came over from Asheville last Sunday and spent several days here visiting her mother, Mrs. Tony Davis.

Misses Margaret Stringfield and Josephine Gilmer spent Saturday in Asheville.

Mr. Hugh Sloan was in Canton Saturday.

Miss Lyda Smathers entertained informally Tuesday evening complimentary to Miss Louise Muller of Asheville, who is visiting Miss Lillie Satterthwait.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Love entertained very delightfully Saturday evening with an elegant seven course dinner. About a dozen guests were present.

Frederika Bowles entertained her little friends with a birthday party Wednesday, February 16. Each guest received a flag and a red heart valentine as souvenirs. Among the guests were: Winifred Swift, Isabelle McDowell, S. A. Jones, Elizabeth Reeves, Ruth, Clarice, and Mary Abel, Sue Willard Lindsley, Lois Harrold, Janie Love Mitchell, and Virginia Rotha.

As a sequel to a number of robberies in Waynesville the last few weeks it was learned Tuesday morning that the store of J. M. Long at Hazelwood had been broken into and goods to the amount of \$200.00 taken therefrom. As yet there is no clue to the identity of the thieves, but Mr. Long is leaving no stone unturned to find them out.

Washington's Birthday was appropriately observed at the Academy by singing and patriotic address and impressive songs.

HAZELWOOD SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

First Grade—Miss Tucker; Carl McCracken, Buddy Parris, David Putnam, Harry Sheehan, Bobbie Stone, Edith Mull, Doris Ruff, Ruby Parton, Mildred Gaddy, Ida Coffey, Margaret Blalock, Miss Creasman; Carl Griffin, Billie McClure, Rufus McClure, Ollie McAmis.

Second Grade—Miss Martin; Richard Bradley, Meta Dicus, Lavonn Moore, Dorothy Richeson, Miss Leatherwood; John Summerow, Edith Queen, Kathryn Blalock, Catherine Davis, Thurman Smith.

Third Grade—Miss Leatherwood; Blanche Cody, Hilda Smiley, J. D. Truett, Miss Tucker; Jack Dagenhart, Joe Jimmy Stone, Eloise Knight, Mary Long.

Fourth Grade—Miss Ferguson; Arba Arrington, Pauline Ray, Miss Miss Crawford; Jack Richeson.

Fifth Grade—Mrs. Knight; Howard Collins, Carrie Buchanan, Margaret Harris, Carrie Rogers, Miss Stringfield; Rufus Cochran, Carol Truett, Reine Rathbone.

Sixth Grade—Mildred Brennie; Mary Potent, Mable Wyatt, Edna Mae Kuykendall.

Seventh Grade—Sara Welch, "B" Blalock.

The county farm agent in Alamance County is developing competition among his 4-H clubs this winter by arranging a series of basket ball contests.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

THE TAX SITUATION

Dear Editor:— I have watched with keen interest, the movement on foot in Western North Carolina, the last few months, to organize the farmers of the State in a campaign for better farming and have no criticism to offer whatever on the plan adopted, but would like to suggest that the equalization of taxes be added as one of the objectives.

I know that the subject of taxation is a troublesome one, but the equalization of taxes is only troublesome on the one hand to the politician who has promised his constituents to adjust tax inequality and after receiving his passport to the Capitol the lobbyist from every trust in the State so generously offer their assistance in the solution of the knotty problems that confront him in the sixty days that he is in the Legislature that he seemingly forgets the toilers back home and thus is enabled to give but little if any relief to those who elected him. On the other hand, the equalization of taxes is troublesome to those who are trying to dodge taxes altogether and place the burden, too often, on those who are already overburdened with taxation.

Those two groups alone have been and are still blocking the solution to the tax problem. The ad valorem tax is unjust, unfair, and discriminatory and should be repealed altogether.

Productive lands, building residences and other improvements of the farm is essential to the progress of civilization and yet a heavy penalty has been placed on their production and ownership.

On the theory of our constitution, equality to all men, we still continue the practice of a tax system that was hoary with age at the birth of Christ. If I make one thousand dollars a year working for some corporation, and my neighbor makes the same on an average farm, why is my neighbor assessed one hundred dollars as taxes and I am exempted?

We have thousands of people working in the post office department, railroads, telephone companies and other institutions—about ten thousand in the United States—entirely or in part, supported by the public payroll to say nothing of the vast army employed at public works and yet a very small per cent of their vast production find its way into the channels of taxation.

The farmers of this country produce the wealth which we as a nation boast, and yet they own the least part of the \$380,000,000,000.00 placed upon the country's valuation.

As a solution for taxation, why should not the State take a certain per cent of every citizen's production whether it is produced from crops, salaries or any other source, thus substitute this for property tax. By this method we would all be paying tax in exact proportion to our ability to pay. In this way we would get rid of unwise bond issues, voted by people who pay no tax. Land relieved of taxes would be increased in price, banks would again be willing to loan money on property, being relieved of taxes without the fear of confiscatory taxation. People would buy and improve property, put hoarded money in circulation and we would be on the road to a more permanent prosperity.

F. E. HAYNES, Clyde, N. C.

Grins and Chuckles

North—There won't be any crime today.

South—No? North—Naw, they fed the to the elephants and they ate up the grounds.

Friend—Was your uncle's mind vigorous and sane up to the very last?

Heir—I don't know, the will won't be read until tomorrow.

Convict (reading newspaper)—"Dere's justice fer yer! A football player breaks two men's jaws and another man's leg and is de line of de hour, while I gets ten years for only stunnin' an old guy with a black jack."

"You say you make paper from those trees. That's a funny looking tree over there."

"Yes, ma'am. It'll be a comic supplement some day."

Friend—Have you noticed any signs of better business?

Other—Yes, the people who could not pay their bills are starting to promise.

Judge—How could you swindle those who trusted you?

Prisoner—But, your honor, how could I swindle them unless they distrust me?

"What silly questions is he asking now?"

"Oh, he wants to know if you got a barking cough eating hot dogs."

SAUNOOK

Mr. W. M. Wright has moved from this section to Lake Junaluska.

Mr. W. G. Arrington was a visitor in Hazelwood last Sunday.

Mr. S. H. Hawkins has moved to the Welch farm.

The new home of Mrs. J. C. B. is now completed. The owner's family will move into it some time this week.

Mr. Jule Barker has moved to his new home.

Mr. Charley Trull of Cowpens, C. spent the past week-end in the home of Mr. W. H. Inman.

Mrs. C. Burgess has been visiting her mother in Canton during the past week.

Mr. William Murray of Fines Creek visited in the home of Mr. and A. Sparks Saturday night.

Mr. W. A. Hill and three sons made a recent visit to Fines Creek.

Mr. Ed Barber and Mr. Ned Sparks sold a truck load of apples in South Carolina last week.

The teachers of the school were entertained at supper in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trull Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Smathers have returned from Boone where they have been visiting their son.

Of much interest to the people of this section is the report of the marriage of Miss Blanche Corzine to Mr. Junior Hall of Saunook.

Mr. Rufus Inman and Miss Estelle Page were married in Sylva last Saturday.

The Ford Exhaust

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The whole country is talking about the New Fords. They're worth talking about, too. We expect them in a few days.

We have a special on overhaul jobs now that will save you money. Investigate this proposition, you have another opportunity like this again in years. Come in today.

We suggest that you bring in your car for that "spring tonic." Get it in shape for the lovely days that we are having.

Had your springs sprayed yet? All you have to do is drive in and we spray them while you wait. The charges, oh, not one cent. This is just one of our free services.

We have several bargains in used cars that someone should buy immediately. Look at these prices: Model A Pickup ---- \$150

Ride more and get more out of life. What's the use of staying indoors all the time? Ride for your health's sake.

Judge: "Did you and your husband quarrel on Friday?"

Model T Coupe \$35 Many miles of service in this car.

Nut: "Was it a big wedding?" Washer: "Yes, I got in line twice to kiss the bride and nobody noticed it."

Wife: "And the next day pay day? Certainly not."

Model T Pickup \$25 Chevrolet ton truck \$150

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