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W. CURTIS RUSS Editor
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BIBLE THOUGHT

"Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?"
"For who knoweth what is good for man in this life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?" Ecclesiastes 6:11-12.

WELL QUALIFIED

The resignation of Rev. H. W. Baucom as pastor of the First Baptist Church, takes him into a field in which he is well qualified. While serving as pastor here for the past eight years, he has entered actively into a work that has been sorely needed in this community.

Before coming to Waynesville, he took an active part in the work of the Associated charities in Wilmington, and his service for many months with the Red Cross in France, gave him a background that enables him to excel in a work that he will enjoy as associate chaplain of the Good Samaritan Mission, in Asheville.

WHIPPING STUDENTS

In Mecklenburg County the other day, a judge dismissed a case against a school principal, who was being sued by the father of a 15-year-old student, who claimed injuries were suffered when the principal whipped the 160-pound athlete.

The evidence showed that the boy refused to obey his teacher, and had been the source of much trouble in the school. He rebelled against punishment, and went so far as to take off his coat when the principal approached to make the foot ball star of the school behave.

The principal got the best of the rebellious student, and proceeded to lay a leather belt on his back at frequent intervals.

We have no idea that the boy suffered physically from the whipping—but his pride was hurt, as he realized that all the students had seen he couldn't bluff the principal, who was in his right, in demanding respect for himself and rules of the school.

Sometimes, a school teacher might act too quickly under such conditions, but in this case, the principal is to be commended for his tactics.

MOB DEMANDS

Just to show how absurd some "mob demands" are, is proven by the typical example of high school students in Kearney, N. J., when they presented the principal with a "Campus Bill of Rights." The bill, signed by students of both sexes, included in its demands: creation of a student body; permissions to "truck" and dance the big apple; and last the right of students to grow mustaches.

The principal should have readily agreed to the demands, and expelled any student who signed the "bill" who did not live up to it—even the last demand, and include the girls in on it too.

TAX COLLECTORS

Some 19 or 20 centuries ago when the Master walked this earth, there was much discussion of taxation and the tax collector was an unpopular citizen. In these more modern days, the tax collector, in most cases, is held in high regard, and citizens who are not pleased with the amount of their tax bills do not usually resort to cursing the tax collector. Rather the "government" or certain "party" bears the brunt of the dissatisfaction. With taxes mounting higher and higher every year, we have arrived at the conclusion that relief will not come until we get the matter back on a personal basis, as it was in days of old. We need not necessarily take it out on the collector, but we can go after those who are responsible for spending the money and actually levying the taxes. And we might take a look at ourselves, and see whether we are on the receiving end of the line more than we should be.—Stanley News and Press.

PEACE AT ANY PRICE

As war clouds continue to hover over Europe, and the far East, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, have started a campaign to get 25 million American signatures to be presented to the President, saying that the people of this nation want to keep out of war.

The ballot which they are asking voters to sign is headed: Keep America Out of War, by Ballots, not Bullets."

The campaign is meeting with success, and indications are that it will gather momentum as the days go by.

Along this same line of thought, The Progressive Farmer, in a pointed editorial captioned: "Will Your Son Die In The Next War?", recently said:

"For months past now parts of Europe and Asia have run red with soldiers' blood. . . while England, Germany, France, Italy, Russia have trembled on the brink of war. . . on the brink of war that might involve America. . . and no one can say that the war that did not come in 1937 may not come in '38 or '39 or '42 or '45. That potential war—that war that may even now have your own son marked as one of its victims—can no doubt yet be averted, provided, and provided only, that peace-loving people in all nations move quickly, a million bereaved mothers and fathers a decade hence may echo the heart-breaking cry:

"Statesmanship waited too long! All those who loved peace waited too long! Too, too long!"

"The only sure preventive of war is to set up some kind of Supreme Court of Nations to hear disputes between nations and with power to enforce its decrees. Until some effective League of Nations or Supreme Court of Nations is set up, some carefully planned neutrality may be our wisest course. But in the long run 'neutrality' will not save us. And even if it would, America would never be content merely to save her own skin while permitting weak and defenseless nations to be butchered and raped by brutal and vicious nations. We must cooperate with all peace-loving nations to put the laws of God above the laws of the jungle and the brute."

A TRIBUTE TO "THE COUNTRY DOCTOR"

In a recent issue of the New York Herald Tribune a very beautiful tribute was paid "the Country Doctor," the editorial pointing out that "probably it is inevitable that in time the beloved figures of the country doctors will become only a memory, but they are not yet all gone. . .

"The country doctor has come a long way from the horse-and-buggy days, but his place in many communities remains secure. He has an automobile now, and sometimes an airplane. But he knows, as his predecessors did, that the psychic factor, the bedside manner and friendliness, are things which cannot be replaced by cold and impersonal specialists. He knows, also, that he must not be aloof, but must be a part of the lives of his people. Many of these men still carry on, and some of their records are amazing.

"Dr. Pierre Herbert, in a little town in southern Quebec, reported last spring that he had attended 2,500 births and never lost a mother in childbirth. Dr. Richard A. Morgner of Fitchburg, Mass., reports 4,317 births. Dr. Stewart Harris, of Libson, Ohio, has passed the 2,000 mark. Last July Dr. W. E. Thompson, of Bethel, Ohio, the nation's oldest practicing physician, observed his 102nd birthday with the boast that he had delivered more than 1,800 babies and never lost a mother. In 1935 there was a celebration on Staten Island for Dr. Walker Washington, who had practiced there for fifty years and brought more than 2,500 Staten Islanders into the world.

"The country doctor's diagnosis may have been faulty on occasions; his medicines may have been confined to quinine, calomel and opium; his instruments may have been years behind the times; his lack of time and means may have made it impossible for him to keep up with the advances in medical knowledge. Nevertheless, it would have been rough going without him."

STILL A CURSE

Efforts to rid North Carolina of the slot machine curse have met with stiff resistance. The very fact that those who profit from the gambling devices spend so much time and so much money in the effort to over-ride laws passed against them is plenty of evidence that they should be out-lawed.

It is the desire for easy money which prompts the promoters to fight against all laws passed within the view of eliminating slot machines. Vast fortunes have been accumulated, and those who have reaped the rich harvest from slot machines are anxious to continue the process.

Aside from the fact that all who play slot machines are the losers, we know of nothing that has a greater tendency to promote the spirit of gambling, especially among young people. The slot machine racket has been a curse in the past and will continue to be a curse so long as it is allowed. Away with them.—Sampson Independent.

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Random SIDE GLANCES

By W. Curtis Russ

After a four week's rest from columning I am back in harness. The short vacation did not do much good—which is typical of vacations, because I wore myself out trying to remember to forget about not having to write a column.

If there are two negatives in the above paragraph don't take them to mean a positive—in plain English, I ain't rested.

All my life, I've heard of fog that was thick as pea soup, but not until last Friday night did I fully realize just how thick pea soup fog could be.

With Charles Ray at the wheel and L. M. Richeson acting as coxswain from the back seat, I watched as best I could for the right hand edge of the road, while we blindly pierced the fog for two hours and twenty minutes. The speedometer reached an all-time fast of ten miles an hour. Even the saturation that Charles has of Chamber of Commerce optimism could not throw off the feeling of foggy pressure.

While we three suffered from a severe case of jitters, we learned later that others experienced an equally hair-raising experience.

One Waynesville man actually got lost on the streets here, and stood beside his car, with hand on horn, sounding a call for help. For five minutes, he tried as best he could to get his bearings, but to no avail.

While all the country side from Asheville to Waynesville, and probably farther west, was enveloped in the dense pea soup, the higher points of town were bathed in clear moonshine, while the valley below resembled wind-driven snow. A picture that made one almost gasp for breath, after spending over two hours or rolling along a narrow ribbon of concrete at the bottom of the soup.

But as one philosopher said, we have to have the pea soup fog to fully appreciate the clear moonlight nights.

This is the season of notable birthdays—Edison, Lindbergh, Lincoln, Washington, and probably others. The only person I know that makes sport of the events is R. V. Erk, who tells people he was born a week after Lincoln's birthday and a week before Washington's.

These Scout leaders should credit me with my daily good turn for last Thursday. About noon, in walked a prominent professional man. He reached over to pick up something and snapped his suspender strap. His fate hung by a mere thread. I would not dare offer tailoring aid. I cannot sew. No needle and thread were available. But the suffering must be relieved at any cost, I have been told, so I put my automatic paper clipper into use. He backed up, and I stapled his suspender strap in place, and he went merrily on his way, and no one the wiser.

The printers are setting this as fast as I write it, and one of them just whispered to the other that if I didn't soon stop, he would be out of capital "I's." All right, Mr. Printer, use the last one in this sentence . . . I'm through.

Good manners and soft words have brought many a difficult thing to pass.—Vanbrugh.

LETTERS to the Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE—Letters to the editor, if free of personal abuse, are always welcomed. All letters must be signed and the opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily the opinions of The Mountaineer.

OFFICE AND OFFICE-HOLDERS

Editor The Mountaineer:— Under our constitution all men are created equal with the same inherent right of suffrage—the privilege to aspire to and hold office. Neither our constitution or the law of the land has the power to prohibit—only man himself has the power to disqualify himself for either suffrage or office.

For more than a century after the formation of our American Government, the office, both great and small, sought the man. The only qualifications were honesty, integrity, sobriety and a reasonable amount of common sense. Frequently men were drafted for high positions, both in state and nation. So keenly did men feel the responsibility thrust upon them that they honored both the office and the people by the service they rendered. The people were prosperous and happy.

Soon the sad day came; customs changed and men began to seek office both for the honor and emoluments of office. Soon political favor began to make itself felt both in office and at the polls. Graft and corruption, on the one hand, and the purchase of votes, on the other, men frequently swept themselves into office regardless of their qualifications.

Under the new order of things, qualifications are no longer the prerequisite to hold office, but political strategy, money, trickery and, frequently, false promises. I do not mean to convey the impression that all men who hold office do not serve faithfully and well. But I do mean to say that such men are too far in the minority.

Competency and ability, not political favor, should be the stamp of

VIEWS OF EDITORS

Not In U. S. A.
It seems clear that parity does not derive from the verb "to pare."—Virginia-Pilot.

He Should
A centenarian in Germany is said to live on onions alone. Naturally he would be alone.—London Opinion.

Quite So!
Objection to hymns because they are emotional is objection to music because it is music.—The Detroit Free Press.

Have to Sleep Too
"Wives don't tell their husbands everything," says Judge Crawford. After all, there are only 24 hours in each day.—Punch.

Seat of Reason
Some men never change their opinion because it's been in the family for generations.—The Ohio State Journal.

Great For B. S. O.'s
Exhibition of an automobile that can be started and stopped by the human voice foreshadows brighter times for back seat drivers.—The South Bend Tribune.

Explained
General Summerall says soldiers well dressed are better fighters. This explains the old description, "dressed to kill."—The Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Character Sketch
A banquet, we believe, is a showy sort of meal, where the speaker eats a lot of food he doesn't want and then proceeds to talk about something he doesn't understand to a crowd of people who don't care to hear him.—Caper's Weekly.

approval for public service. If we would safeguard the social, political and financial security of our economic safety, both of the state and nation, we must check the rapid growing tendency of unscrupulous and unqualified would-be politicians from usurping office while qualified citizens, bearing the burden of taxation and responsibility, directly or indirectly, for the welfare of the people are brushed aside only to watch the unprofitable scions of undeserved favor undermine a civilization which it has taken a hundred and fifty years to make.

We, who are charged with the responsibility for the social, political and financial welfare of our community, must not be content with the exercise of citizenship, or the privilege of suffrage, but by act and word must demand the right to exercise this responsibility which is ours to the fullest extent.

As a further safe guard to true democracy, we must not only simplify but make stringent our election laws. Last, but by no means least, every good citizen, both male and female, must shoulder the responsibility which is theirs to see to it that our election laws are carried out.
F. E. HAYNES.

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Point Of View

Someone has said that a politician thinks of the next election, while statesmen think of the next generation. At Alexander's all thought of immediate profit is obscured by the desire to render to the sick and suffering in this community, a trustworthy and a helpful service.

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