

THE SPOTLIGHT

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G. Alex Rouse, Editor and Owner
Eva Horton Shackelford, Associate Editor

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And I will trust that He who heeds
The life that hides in mead and wold,
Who hangs yon alder's crimson beads
And stains these mosses green and gold,
Will still, as He hath done, incline
His gracious care to me and mine.

—Whittier.

THE YEAR 1 N. D.

In the years to come, when recovery is established on a permanently sound basis, History will record the Year 1 N. D., as the reconstruction days, following the breaking of the backbone of Depression, with many tales being told of the despairing kicks of the vigorous monster, as he strove to rise again. A year when the Multiplication Table and Ten Commandments, long discarded, were brought into use and their values recognized and restored. A year of transition when the reins of Selfishness and Greed gave way to the reign of Altruism and Rectitude.

Many tricks have been taken, many plays lost since the first hand of the NEW DEAL was dealt, and many of those "sitting in" are not behind a pat hand as yet, inasmuch as material progress is concerned, but the main issue of the NEW DEAL must not be lost in the materialistic sense of make and spend, gain and lose, it must bring what it was meant to give to those under its precepts, "The chance to love, and to work and to play, and to look up at the stars."

The year 1 N. D., saw America passing the crisis in the most seething decade of its history, a seige of panic, palsy and poverty, saw it rising to new heights under the Captain of Progress, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who is making a courageous fight to regain the pride and freedom of this nation.

It was a year of plans and codes for regulating capital, industry, business and labor into a system, which will work for the happiness of America and eventually the entire world; a year of planned economy, which will slowly but surely decrease poverty, distribute wealth, prolong life and give to it a savor of content.

Ignoring criticism of the nation being threatened with collapse, as a consequence of his program, the New Dealer has continued to deal, to carry on his announced plans and instead of publicly answering his critics let the results speak for themselves. When avidity and selfishness oppose the execution of these plans, common sense is augmented by force in the effort to bring about progress and human happiness.

The Roosevelt regime has meant, during

the Year 1, the employment of more than a hundred thousand persons, who are working to carry out the policies of the NEW DEAL. The Public Works Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, the Home Owners Loan Corporation, Agriculture Department and Emergency conservation work have employed the greater portion into the service of the government.

Contrary to public thought, the majority of workers are outside of the District of Columbia, only 87,196 persons listed as being in the crowded government buildings in Washington; the Post Office Department employing the largest number, 265,070, the War Department next, 60,087, the Navy third, 57,492, the Treasury 49,831 and Agriculture 33,298.

The Year 1 N. D. is too beset with political argument for any one to present at this time a true resume of its meaning to America; statistics show, however, an almost unbelievable increase in the countrywide index of employment, factory payrolls and industrial output.

And, in Eastern North Carolina, which is regarded as climbing back to normalcy faster than almost any other section of the country, where discouragement over the low level of prices for farm products was so apparent a year ago, a very definite impetus is now being felt in every line of activity; the darkening shadow of accumulated debts is being lifted, a new briskness is noted on the farms, where crops are being harvested with a greater zest, houses are being repainted, barns and machinery repaired, and every countryside bespeaks the evolution of benefits from the NEW DEAL.

Agriculture and Industry are interdependent, and as the NRA can function only on the basis of the cooperative principle, the success of the NEW DEAL depends on the loyalty and cooperation of those sitting in for a hand with the NEW DEALER, in his own words, "the fate of any plan depends upon the support it is given by those who are asked to put it into operation."

POLICY OF RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM GATHERS COBWEBS

The program mapped out by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was nothing less than a challenge for a renewal of the general opinion that the farmers will not organize; will not cooperate with each other, but are bound to continue the former policy of rugged individualism and independent action, handed down by generations to whom the word cooperation was unknown. This policy was self sufficient in their day but cannot obtain under present conditions.

This independence and isolation of action are impossible today. The frontiers of the modern farmer are no longer confined by the territorial bounds of his plantation. The power of his old adversaries—droughts, deluges, the elementary furies of wind and hail, and disease in his stock have been augmented by an intangible foe—low prices for his produce, and he cannot combat this one singlehanded. He must gird up his loins, and, motivated by a willingness to fight for

the good of all, join the rank and file of an army of planters, which can present a solid front to the enemy, if material prosperity is to be regained to any degree.

"ONSCREWING DE ONSCRUTABLE"

We stated as a fact defying contradiction, in our last issue of THE SPOTLIGHT, that "an estimation of the price average for any crop of tobacco is, in the words of a Negro preacher, 'to onscrow de onscrutable.'"

In less than a month from the publication of that statement, the Tobacco Section of the AAA had literally "onscrewed de onscrutable" by setting for the companies and farmers a parity price.

It has always been the policy of this establishment to publicly correct errors or misstatements when brought to our attention, and we take a genuine pride in declaring that "de onscrutable can be onscrowed," though we do agree with Will Rogers, since adverse weather conditions have put a second cut in tobacco acreage, that "that bird elements has no respect for office sitters, who figure out the farmer's acreage for him in advance."

Believing that "that bird elements" is an onscrutable matter that will stand the test, we hereby challenge anybody to successfully contradict this statement.

FINE PATRIOTISM

The fine spirit and high purpose together with the display of genuine patriotism actuating the formulation of plans of the Golden Weed Jubilee by the Major May Chapter, D. A. R., under the forward looking leadership of Mrs. T. C. Turnage, the regent, who was originator of the idea, deserves commendation from the entire commonwealth, for once given the suggestion, the whole of East Carolina heartily joined in to make the affair one of the finest and most successful ever held in the State

CAN'T "PLANT ALL HE DURN PLEASES" AND PROSPER

The rapidity with which the tobacco sign-up campaign was carried forward in this State to a successful campaign was the most promising sign observed in farming sections by leaders for generations, and the same fine spirit of signing of the crop limitation contracts and the strict observance of these agreements was sufficient proof that the farmer has learned that he may "plant all he durn pleases," but he may also expect low prices to obtain in such an event.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The census bureau says that this country needs an epidemic of quintuplets, and that if births do not increase rapidly there will never be more than 142,000,000 Americans. There are only 130,000,000 now. Statisticians say it is the high cost of living that is wrecking the hopes of an increased popu-