

The Polk County News

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NECESSARY DELAY IN GREAT PROJECTS

The project of Western States to be affected by the development of the Colorado river—the postponement of final action on the Salton bill until the next session of Congress is not at all disheartening. The project is too big to rush through. Even if all engineering matters were solved, it is still necessary for more compatible re-arranging among the interested States.

An ill wind that blows nobody good, and it's an ill dam that leaks no water controversy. Every conceivable objection to the distribution and allotment of water—the "white gold" so vital to the life and prosperity of lower Colorado basin—should be ironed out and every possible misunderstanding should be ironed out before one pound of concrete is poured into the Colorado point along its mighty course.

Great projects take time in their development. The canal was no overnight realization. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence development has claimed the thought and attention of thousands of people of the United States and Canada. The Panama Canal, established several years ago, has not yet means linked the two oceans by a continuous thread.

People will not be pushed; nor should they be. Our nation is developing materially in proportion to its advance in literature and in the arts. Many believe we are too fast. The problem always is to adjust the social and economic trend in healthy ratio to the economic. This makes progress in nationality and for goodness in citizenship, and corresponding stability in business and commerce.

WHY NOT LONGER LIVES?

Law of compensation works in the changing habits and life. Altho people are having better sanitation, clean buildings, preventive measures for health, more shower and fewer flies, there is a negative factor at work in the diet—concentrated foods and artificial stimulants of all kinds get into the body.

People still lived as our forefathers lived in matters of plain and simple habits, such existence, plus the modern standard methods of hygiene, undoubtedly would produce such as the world has never seen.

BENEFICIAL CONTESTS

Press has it right, a 17-year old Hollywood boy won the Oratorical Contest by making fewer and milder gestures than any of the six other contestants. Five justices of the Supreme Court selected the winner. Now the boy, a wisecracker, will represent the United States in an international oratory.

SMOKE THIS IN YOUR PIPE

If you will, but be careful where you throw your cigar or cigarette stubs and pipe ashes. Careless smokers are a menace to property. Forest fires are probably the most serious source of danger. Next come buildings, and the danger to growing and harvested crops of grain caused by thrown along the roadside.

Personal liberty of smoking has not yet been generally attacked, nor is it likely that it will be so attacked in the next decades. But no question of personal liberty is involved in the reckless casting aside of the munitions and leaving the streets directly and seriously affects the other's rights.

TALENT AND GENIUS

Genius is the power and the capacity to create new forms and combinations. Talent is the art of performing the combinations that Genius has made manifest. The school teacher "breaks a piece" and is encored. The same school girl composes a poem and is laughed at. Why? Grant that the elocutionist and grant that the poem is poor; there is yet an explanation for the difference in public attitude.

The world is slow to accept the new creations, whether in art, literature or invention. The one who creates suffers while the one who performs gets the applause of the masses. Note this difference in the human make-up. Genius is for daring to show that there are stories yet untold, untried, inventions unrealized. While Talent, the cousin of Genius, and without which cunning and wins are lauded for her ability to express what Genius has in her possession.

THE GREAT GAME OF TAXATION

State taxes were reduced \$1,974,000,000 from 1919 to 1924; while state taxes, during the same period, increased 87 percent and local taxes, 56 percent. The total of federal, state and local taxes today constitutes a drain on our national resources than ever before. Mr. Mills says we are confronted with three very definite problems: First, whether costs of state and local governments are excessive; judged from the standpoint of whether we could get the present service at lower cost; secondly, whether the methods of financing these costs are sound economically; third, whether our state and local tax systems are not



in need of a thorough overhauling in the interest of a fairer allocation of the burden.

The danger from most "overhauling" schemes, is that new methods of taxation are devised without removing old tax burdens. The great game of states and cities seem to be "how to get more taxes," rather than how to reduce the per capita tax load.

"THE INVINCIBLE BALANCE SHEET"

Judge Warren R. Voorhis, in a little sermon on the human values in the financial statement, as contrasted with the cold figures shown on the balance sheet, paints an interesting picture.

"I like to study the items of a balance sheet of a public utility with which I am acquainted; for example: 'Station grounds and buildings, \$290,000'. This is an attempt by arithmetic to describe these buildings.

"But I see a broad brown river, a level place set about with trees, a high green hill rising behind it. The buildings are of gray slate, warm red bricks and white stone. The waters in the reservoir are shining in the sun. The driveways are marked with whitewashed stones, which is old-fashioned, but green grass and whitewash are the cleanest combination in the world. The entrance gates are open and people sit about under the trees, and children run about in the grass with never a \$5.00 fine sign to stumble over."

Judge Voorhis then contrasts such a property with one, which by its unsightly appearance and the unfriendly atmosphere which pervades the whole organization of the company, actually repels people. Continuing he says:

"I would not expect a utility to build up the asset side of its 'invisible balance sheet' by large money expenditures, for we were long ago told that the things of the spirit cannot be bought with money, but good judgement, common sense, tact and unflinching and sincere courtesy, thoughtful consideration for the men and women who help us serve, these are the expenditures, this is the legal tender which effects changes in the 'invisible balance sheet.'

"A public utility with its treasury empty of such currency may with confidence expect to find its regular balance sheet and income account adversely affected, so closely do things invisible impinge upon things material."

WILL REVOLUTIONIZE ROAD WORK

(THE COLUMBIA RECORD)

Through the perfection of a refined process for making cement, it will be possible to build a concrete highway and use it at the expiration of 24 hours, according to drastic tests made in the presence of more than 100 city officials and highway engineers at Dayton, Ohio, the other day.

Not only will the new cement shorten the time in paving work of all kinds, but it costs no more than the cement now used in construction, which in the present order of things is required to "ripen" for 21 or 28 days, according to the way the engineer on the job feels about it.

R. R. Cogan, chief chemist for the company, is the discoverer of the revolutionary process for making new highway work immediately available, and for performing similar service in all building plans throughout the country, if not, indeed the world.

Now to the test. Miniature stretches of highway were built on company grounds. They were permitted to "cure" for periods of 72, 48 and 24 hours, respectively. Then a truck, which, with its load, weighed ten tons, was sent over the pavement, back and forth, crosswise, and in every other way it could be made to travel.

Following the test at both slow and high speed, of the pavements. Large rocks were then placed there was not even a mark or a crack on these rocks and the truck ambled over. The rocks were crushed, but again the surface showed no wear, scaling or cracking. A great beam was placed on the surface and the truck operated with the same result.

These tests were made to show the tensile strength of the new concrete. The officials of cities throughout the country and their expert engineers declared the new material will not only speed up and revolutionize highway construction, but it will be similar benefit in construction of foundations for buildings and particularly in hastening bridge work.

WHAT TO DO WITH THEM

(GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS)

The troubles of the superintendent of a convict camp which has come to be the name for a county prison where able-bodied men under sentence are confined as distinguished from a jail, where men under suspicion are confined, impress Dr. R. M. Bule, county health officer. At the Guilford central camp he finds nine negroes afflicted with laziness and pretending it is sickness that disinclines them to hard labor as duly imposed by the court for their sins. "What are you going to do with them?" the health officer asked a reporter. Of course it was understood between them that the reporter was not going to do anything with them; in classical language, he don't belong to do anything. The query was rhetorical. Superintendent Green is as kind as can be, tries to make it as easy on the men as possible, but they do not appreciate his efforts. The men swear, they gamble, they play cards on Sunday—or at least, the last whippings out there were for infractions of rules against these inquiries. The doctor "wasn't willing to go on record as favoring flogging," but he sees the problem of handling convicts become "more trying each year"; and what is a kind superintendent, who tries to make it easy on the men but is not appreciated, going to do with them?

Doctor Bule would have to stop to read a considerable library in order to find the answer to his question that would satisfy his scientific mind. What to do with convicts is the subject of a rapidly growing literature, much of it the record of clinical experience. But offhand, almost anybody who knows no more about the subject than we do, or

than Dr. Bule does—which may be much more—would answer, first off, "stop their rattans."

If so inclined, the jaller might in addition quote Scripture to them: "If any would not work, neither should he eat."

THREEFOLD REVOLUTION FOR AGRICULTURE

(GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS)

Benjamin C. Mash, "agricultural student and philosopher," prescribes as follows:

Reduction of the farm population by removal of "three or four million" farmers from the farms. If by farmers he means adult men, that would mean a shifting of population from the farms of ten or 15 million people.

A corporate form of farm production, application of factory methods, farming to be done by corporations and not by individuals.

A much reduced farm acreage. Any of the three things would be practically revolutionary in effect, the change from individual to corporate production being actually revolutionary. If the industry is in need of a threefold revolution it must be sick indeed. Even sicker than appears from the declaration that in the half decade ended last year capital invested in farming returned only three-tenths of one percent per annum.

What is proposed is the abandonment of great part of what may be called the present physical equipment of the industry of agriculture. A "much reduced farm acreage" means in its logical extension the utilization for each crop of those lands and those only which are best adapted to it. All lands which by reason of situation or soil constituents are not especially adapted to the production of anything needed by the people, not markedly superior grain lands, or vegetable, or fruit or textile lands, would be discarded from the agricultural industry as so much useless equipment. That would not depreciate the intrinsic value of the land as a whole, since that selected for use would do what the whole of it had been doing before supply the needs of the country and of the export market; but it would have the effect of wiping out the capital investment of all those owners who have no land at all that would be needed under the new system. Most of it would have a potential value as a producer of forests but it would require some generations for that potential value to be developed to any considerable extent as actual value. The evolution to "intensified" farming is well advanced, and wherever there has been a notable increase of the productivity per acre and abandonment or practical abandonment of fields of low productive potentiality, coexistent with an increased price of all lands, there is overcapitalization of the farming industry. Corporate industry in substituting more efficient for less efficient methods also discards any sort of equipment, no matter how much it may have cost, and does count this loss but counts its gain; whatever salvage is obtained from property no longer needed is so much added. If you can conceive of it as theoretically possible immediately to organize all agricultural capital and assets into corporate activity that would apply the principle of intensive cultivation then great part of the country's area would become practically valueless. It might seem good business to carry it on a low valuation because of the eventual yield of timber—and then we should see practical forestry indeed—or it might seem good business to let it go for what it would bring, and let somebody else work out the long experiments of reforestation. What will happen if the thing should come about at all would be by gradual process, in which there would be deflation of the investment in agricultural lands and losses taken.

First of all, says this philosopher, "we have literally got to get two or three million farmers off our farms." So far, the removal from the farms has been a financially bloodless operation. Industry has absorbed them; and the migration will logically continue to the saturation point. The hiking of Mr. Marsh is along economic lines and what may happen—what apparently will happen—to individualism in this triple revolution disturbs him not at all.

For years North Carolina has had reason to be familiar with the idea that the diversion of population from field to factory—and if by reason of the increase in manufacturing population and production of wealth a man quits farming to become a doctor or a merchant, it is essentially the same—is economically logical; and whether the idea is being much considered or not, there has been a subsidization of the discussion of the old "problem" of keeping them on the farm.

Men may come and go, but ideals live on forever.

The King of Italy should have time now to get up a new game of solitaire.

Women have a chance nowadays. Think what a good opening the lowly can opener presents.

Adversity builds character. Even a man with a can usually is bent on getting somewhere.



by Harlan Eugene Read

LAWYERS AND GUILTY CLIENTS

A story that has aroused stormy debate for a long time is this:

Many years ago a young man employed in a bank dashed across the street about ten in the morning and entered the law office of an old friend of his family. Incoherently he disclosed to the attorney the fact that he had been embezzling the bank's funds to the extent of fifty thousand dollars; that he had lost it all in speculations by means of which he had hoped to be able to replace it and make more; and that the bank examiner was in town and would not doubt discover his defalcations that afternoon.

"Have you still access to the bank's cash?" asked the lawyer.

"Yes."

"Then go get fifty thousand more and bring it to me immediately."

The young man did as instructed. Then the lawyer took him to the office of the president of the bank. "Mr. President," said the lawyer, "this young man has just come to my office and has confessed the embezzlement of one hundred thousand dollars from your bank. He is of an old and respected family, as you know. The examiner, he tells me, will discover the loss some time this afternoon, unless you can help me devise some way to avert this disaster."

The president of the bank was stupefied with amazement and wild with indignation, but after a short, violent conference he agreed to let the boy go unpunished if the amount lost could be refunded by his friends. At the last moment of grace the lawyer reported that he could get together fifty thousand dollars and no more. The banker, anxious to recover what he could for his stockholders, consented to a compromise

at fifty cents on a dollar, and the young embezzler got off scot free.

What is your opinion of the conduct of the lawyer and of the banker in this case? Is a lawyer justified in practically becoming the accomplice of his client? Is he any more to be excused because he is an old friend of the boy's parents than if he were not? Is he vindicated because he hoped by getting the young man out of his first scrape to influence him to go straight thereafter? Would his act have the effect of inducing the embezzler to go straight afterwards?

As a matter of fact this boy did go straight afterwards. That has nothing to do with the problem faced by the lawyer and the banker, for all they could use as a basis for their decision was their opinion at the time as to the possible effect of their act upon the young man. Suppose he had been as crooked afterwards as before, would that have any bearing on the case?

Remember there is no question as to the illegality of the acts of the lawyer and the banker. The question is as to the morality of those acts. Were they less moral because they were illegal? Should laws always be obeyed?

Should any person use illegal means to assist any other person at any time to escape from the consequence of violating the law? Should parents stand behind their children who have violated the laws? And if parents should, why not others?

If there are cases in which offenders should be aided in escaping from penalties, what line of distinction would you draw between those entitled to aid and those not entitled to it. What do you think.

HAS TAMMANY REFORMED

(SPARTANBURG HERALD)

Gustavus Myers, who published a "History of Tammany Hall" a number of years ago, has written an article for a current magazine in which he asks, but does not definitely answer, the question as to whether Tammany Hall has really reformed. Mr. Myers points to the fact that the present leader of Tammany, Judge George W. Olvany, is a man of an entirely different type from those who have for more than a hundred years served in that capacity. The typical Tammany leader, he states, was of the practical contracting, saloon-keeping, joint-operating stripe, such as Tweed, Croker, Murphy and some of the earlier ones. On the other hand, Judge Olvany worked his way through school and university, and has been a more or less reputable lawyer throughout his career. He served as a judge of one of the New York courts for some time prior to his selection to head the great political organization. His professional life, Mr. Myers believes, has been ethical and proper, and upon this fact, to a large extent, the Tammany historian bases his hope that the organization's professed reforms will prove to be genuine.

In an interview with Mr. Myers, Chief Olvany declared the policies under which he is undertaking to operate the organization. He declared that there was to be no graft, no wire-pulling, no job traffic. Everything is to be carried on in the most honorable manner, both in the organization of city affairs, so far as the organization can influence those affairs through its political control of the city administration.

Mr. Myers indicates that he is frankly skeptical as to the performance of this altruistic Tammany program. Knowing the organization as he does from long study of its operation, he finds it difficult to believe that it can change its policies so radically. All that the can hope for, it seems, is that performance will follow reasonably well the promise outlined in Judge Olvany's attitude.

When machine-guns are brought into pay, the play part is only for the men behind them.

Some people want the word "obey" taken out of the laws as well as out of the marriage ceremonies.

Economist says we ought not do anything we can't afford to do. How about paying one's honest debts?

If they get enough beer and light wines into the political platforms they will float,—but only in the direction the land lays.

They recently conducted "liquor hearings" in Washington, but the record won't show a thing about how many corks they heard popping out of champagne bottles.

Europe wants to meet our delegates to the arms conference with open arms. And closed fists.

CONSCIENCE AND BUSINESS

(From The Charlotte Observer)

W. R. Manley, Atlanta banker, was president of the Bankers Trust company, which failed and caused the failure of scores of other banks in Georgia and Florida. He faces indictment for felony. Now his wife testifies in his behalf that he has not been rational since 1914, and offers proof of her statement that he "no longer believes in God or that there is a soul." Many there be who will accept the evidence offered by Mrs. Manley, if her statement proves to be true, as conclusive that her husband is not rational.

However that may be, a great many of us would not care to entrust our money for its safekeeping in the hands of a man who does not believe he has a soul and denies the existence of God.

It is difficult to understand how a man can have a conscience who does not believe there is a God or that men have souls. If a man has no conscience, what motive can he have for dealing honestly with his fellow-men? We can conceive of no higher motive for such a man to be honest than that "honesty is the best (business) policy." And a man is not honest at heart who has no higher motive than that because if that be the only restraint to keep him from turning from the straight and narrow way, he is liable to turn the first time he reaches the point where he believes he can escape the penalty that society would impose upon the crook if he were caught. In other words, a man without a conscience, a man who believes he has no soul and that there is no God—no power to punish for wrong doing but his fellow man—is liable to take a notion some day that honesty is no longer the best policy for him because he can make more money by being dishonest. When he reaches that point, those who have trusted him are liable to pay the price in financial losses.

Even as a cold-blooded business proposition, give us the man who has a conscience and believes himself to be more than an educated beast. Watch the man who is "honest" only because he thinks it pays him in dollars and cents. He is liable to change his mind without giving his customers warning.

"Not knowing what styles will be twenty-five years hence, it is a little hard to say where the child ought to be vaccinated." — Detroit News. Not "where," brother, but "whether."

Railroads claim their big losses in dining car service is not that they do charge enough, but on account of food cooked and not used. They could easily remedy this by putting more on the plates when serving.

J. Pat Murphy, former bartender, testified that Prohibition has brought great improvement to the West Virginia and nearby mining fields. Evidently J. Pat is one of those former optimists who has quit carrying a bottle-opener on his keyring.