

**PERSON COUNTY TIMES**

A PAPER FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

J. S. MERRITT, EDITOR — M. C. CLAYTON, Manager  
THOMAS J. SHAW, JR., City Editor

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SUNDAY, OCT. 8, 1939

**No Other Name For It**

You can't call it anything else but Fire Prevention Week. The other day we had a chat with Chief Henry O'Briant, of the Roxboro Fire department. The results of this conversation were printed in the Times on Thursday, but we cannot forget one aspect of Mr. O'Briant's remarks.

He said that the Roxboro Fire department, considering the volunteer personnel and the range of its mechanical equipment, is a very efficient organization, but that even the best regulated fire department cannot do its best work without continued cooperation and active support from all citizens.

There is the situation, in a few brief words. Mind you Chief O'Briant has not said that such cooperation has been lacking. He merely says that without active fire prevention cooperation the local citizens will not be able to expect the best possible protection from the organized fire department that we do have here. A careful survey of the suggested rules of cooperation will reveal nothing in the way of fire prevention that is not known to the average citizen. We know the rules, and yet, in our homes and in our respective places of business we are not as careful as we should be.

It is human nature to be careless in everyday matters. Our furnaces, fireplaces, matches, electric wires and smoking accessories are commonplace items of our everyday living, but only a little care in dealing with them and with their use should mean to us a certain protection from the ravages of unwanted conflagrations. Only a few weeks past Roxboro had a fire that could have been of serious consequences, but the fire department did its work, we almost said its duty, and, as a result most of us were not troubled by any fear of leaping flames.

October 9, tomorrow, as Chief O'Briant reminds us marks an anniversary of the day when Mrs. O'Leary's cow is supposed to have kicked over the lantern which started the great Chicago fire. Every year we observe the six days following this date as "Fire Prevention" week, but a mere weekly observation is not sufficient and it is to be hoped that all of us will remember fire prevention, in both spirit and fact, throughout the year.

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**One Way of Forgetting**

Here is a resolution: for the first time in a number of weeks, we are resolved to print an editorial column in which there shall be no mention of war or peace, of national or international affairs, or of the tobacco referendum that was settled by vote last week. These things cannot be disposed of in a few words; they are big subjects.

In fact, they are as unsolvable as the seasons of the year. And that, fellow readers, brings us to the point. We have had a week of October weather, varying from cold to cool and hot. October is one of those vital months, like March or April, when natural changes can be felt in the air, if you get up sufficiently early in the morning and it seems a pity that a good many people arise and go about their business and domestic affairs in October without stopping to consider the pungent quality of its unpredictable extremes of temperature and its variations of color schemes on the earth and in the trees outlined against the sky.

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**A Word to the Unwise**

For many years we lived in a county where the year's prosperity did not depend upon the production and sale of one crop, tobacco, cotton, or what you will, say, for another example, peanuts. But we do recall reading stories in the newspapers, dealing with flim-flam artists and pick-pockets who would steal a tobacco or cotton grower's hard earned cash through market-day sleight of hand performance. Most of the stories, we remember, used to come from Kinston, a town that has a reputation as a fountain head of curious and hard luck stories, or from Rocky Mount or even Durham, but never as we recall, from Roxboro.

Even so, although we would blush to think that unscrupulous people should even visit Roxboro, much less live in it, it seems to us to be a sort of public duty to remind growers-come-to-town to be reasonably careful of their money manners when the market opens here.

We feel that most of our Person county residents are too sophisticated to fall for the story of the guy who needs smaller change out of a large bill, or for the equally time worn trick of the pocketbook on a string.

But if the combined hopes of the growers, the warehousemen and the auctioneers and buyers are to be realized this week there should be a pile of extra money "walking" up and down main street and we trust that the wiser ones will know how to hold on to it—until they get ready to spend it.



**Wallace At Kinston**

Durham Morning Herald

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace is not, measured by any fair standard, a forceful speaker. The times we have heard him, at close range and over the air, he has manifest little of that quality which draws audiences to speakers and sways them this way or that.

So although some of those on hand say he spoke with unusual fervor and commanded unusual attention at Kinston Wednesday, we suspect the secretary's intellectual capacity and obvious sincerity carried more weight than any platform oratory he put into his Kinston effort.

And while it was to argue for control that Mr. Wallace came to Kinston, the argument he made there is sound and will remain applicable to the problems confronting tobacco growers if control is rejected and if it is approved.

At this writing, returns from the control referendum are not in hand. Growers are voting now and the count will not be in until hours after this is in type.

But it is true at this writing and will be true tomorrow, the next day, next year and in the years to come that regardless of how growers feel and regardless of what they do about control, the position they are in today and the experience of a lifetime teaches that it is to their interest to gauge their tobacco and not concentrate on tobacco to the neglect of food crops, for family and livestock.

Whether they approve or disapprove of crop control, growers like fair prices for their tobacco and food for themselves and their stocks. The average tobacco grower, given a reasonable chance, can grow on the soil he tills a good part of the food for his family table and most of the requirements of his livestock. It has been, and is, the practice in some areas, we know, for landlords to restrict the garden activities of tenants in order that more tobacco can be planted and cultivated. And some landlords, through shortsightedness, impose similar restrictions on themselves.

But diversified farming, as it is commonly called, is not a fetish. It is a practical solution to many of the problems now besetting tobacco and cotton farmers and it is the most sensible, if not the only, approach to the security and freedom they all long for.

That, as we get it, is the sum and substance of Secretary Wallace's argument at Kinston. He recommended, of course, adoption of crop control in the present emergency and promised federal support of tobacco prices this year and perhaps next in return for grower-approval of crop control. But his main theme was that since just so much tobacco can be marketed at a reasonable price, the sensible thing is for growers to recognize that fact, and take care of the resultant gap in income by growing more things to eat.

If farmers make up their minds to pursue that policy, they can write their own ticket so far as crop control is concerned. Crop control they must practice. But they can do it on their own or through governmental machinery. And lest there be some mistake about it, let it be said now that the farmer is going to have control whether he likes it or not, whether he votes for it or not, or whether he has it through self-control.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

From The Adult Student

**PREPARING THE WAY OF THE LORD**

By Roy L. SMITH

**Wilderness Preaching**

It is surprising how effective wilderness preaching has been throughout the centuries. Even the historians have been a little slow about giving credit to the men in the out of the way places who have kept on preaching until they were heard in high places.

There is good reason for saying that churches should be as

well located as theaters. Any institution that wants to attract the public must go where the public is, but it is also a fact that if a man has something important to say, the crowd will go to the wilderness to hear him.

A certain young preacher who had spent a good deal of his time out on the golf links, "Making contact" as he called it, was complaining to his wife about the fact that the people did not attend church regularly. He was distinctly discouraged about the small audiences that come to meet him on Sunday. To all of this his wife replied, "My dear, how far would you go to hear the sermon these people listened to last Sunday?"

During the American Revolution much opposition to the Methodist developed in the colonies, due to the fact that John Wesley took a very vigorous

stand against the Revolutionary movement. For this reason many Methodist preachers were compelled to go into hiding. Among them was Francis Asbury, who was bottled up in one small section of Virginia and Maryland for a period of nearly two years. It was a situation that would have been fatal to many another man, but to Asbury it was an opportunity. He demonstrated what could be done by a man who was shut up to the necessity of dealing at short range with people. In the two years he reported hundreds of converts, hundreds of private prayer meetings, thousands of pastoral calls. In some respects his confinement was his most productive period.

Let no man despise the wilderness into which he is thrust. Many great souls have used the wilderness as a sounding board.

**Repentance and the Kingdom**

John's message revolved about two centers—repentance and the kingdom. Neither was possible without the other. Even today, there can be no kingdom that is not preceded by repentance. If the people are not dissatisfied with the world in which the kingdom is not set up, then they will never be willing to work for the coming of the kingdom that is going to improve matters.

"The church that never sees anything wrong is never going to make anything right." Unless a church in a community is able to see the terrible spiritual handicaps under which the workers, the children, the de-classed, and the under-privileged are living, it will never bring in any kind of redemption. Unless a church can see the frightful ravages of sin, it will never offer redemption. Unless it can see the disruptive and baleful effects of class hatreds, and class prejudice, it will never eliminate them nor make them right.

The beginning of the better day is in a certain sense of shame we hold hold for the world that is wrong. As long as we believe that everything is

"about as right as we can expect it to be," then things are going to go on about as bad as they are.

**Preparing the Lord's Way**

If we are in a tight room, with all the windows shut, it is silly to pray for fresh air unless we open some window to let it in. It is equally silly to pray for the coming of Christ's Kingdom on earth unless we are ready to open some of the windows by which it comes in.

The airtight room is completely surrounded with fresh air, which God is as anxious to give to us as we are anxious to get. But we will never get it until we make it possible for it to flow in upon the closed room. Neither will we be able to get the blessings of God until we open our hearts by personal commitments, so that the power of God may flow in upon our souls.

Preparing the way of the Lord means that we make it possible for the power of God to operate in such a world as our's

In my garden I have been digging ditches so that the water can run down from the hydrant to the plants. The ditch does not provide the water—it only conveys it to the thirsty plants. As builders of the kingdom we need to dig ditches of understanding, patience, charity, tolerance, and goodwill down which the spirit of the kingdom may flow to make our world like a world that is new.

Bringing about goodwill between the nations, and the races, is the first responsibility of the Christian church in such times as these. If goodwill cannot be made to prevail and function, then there is no hope for any future for the church. All hope of the establishment of the kingdom is vain.

In planting my bulbs I have to prepare the seedbed. I have lost many splendid bulbs because I did not give them the right environment. The kingdom will survive only in those hearts that provide it with the right environment.

**Pharisees at Baptisms**

It was a curious sight to see

the Pharisees and the Sadducees at the baptisms of John. They were deadly enemies, so far as religion and politics were concerned. They were poles removed from one another in their general attitudes. But there was one thing upon which they agreed—Nothing must be allowed to interfere with the status quo which was not according to their plans. John's preaching was something new. He did not belong to either union. No one knew what damage he might do if he got into the struggle.

The Pharisees were in control of the popular influence, and the Sadducees were in control of the money. If the kingdom came it was going to upset both. Those who held influence would have to surrender and those who had money would have to make new terms, and work according to a new code. Therefore, both parties went down to the Jordan to protect their own interest.

It is still easy to get an alliance between various interest when their selfish interests are involved. The alliance will hold together so long as the third power seems to hold a greater menace than either of the other two powers.

**Repentance and Fruits**

Repentance is a good deal more than mere regret. True repentance involves a willingness to do something about the thing that is regretted.

A man may be sorry that he drinks, but he is not truly repentant about the habit until he is ready to do something on his own behalf to the extent that he quits. One may be sorry that he has committed many sins and crimes, but he is not repentant until he has taken action to bring the evil way to an end.

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**Statement of Condition of THE PEOPLES BANK Roxboro, N. C.**

AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 2, 1939

**RESOURCES:**

Cash & Due from Banks	\$ 245,908.82
U. S. Bonds	159,899.37
N. C. State Bonds	104,380.87
Municipal Bonds	125,896.76
Other Stocks & Bonds	5,000.00
Interest earned on Bonds	3,094.89
Loans & Discounts	573,763.94
Banking House, Furniture & Fixtures	17,345.43
Other Real Estate	18,577.20
Other Assets	457.95
	\$1,254,325.23

**LIABILITIES:**

Capital Stock, Common	\$ 100,000.00
Capital Stock, Pref.	60,375.00
Surplus	32,000.00
Undivided Profits	14,649.20
Unearned Interests	487.92
Reserve for Retirement of Preferred Stock Fund	4,179.58
Reserve for Interest on Savings	2,705.96
Reserve for Tax	2,179.74
Cashier & Certified Checks	1,084.03
Deposits	1,086,713.80
	\$1,254,325.23

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