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We wish to call your attention to the fact that it is and has been our custom to charge five cents per line for resolutions of respect, cards of thanks and obituary notices, after one death notice has been published. This will be strictly adhered to.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1931

TWINKLES

Buy a poppy tomorrow. You would have considered such a purchase a mighty little thing 13 years ago.

Rudy Vallee says the radios and not the newspapers made him. And Ye Twinkler, being a newspaperman, breathes sincere thanks to science for the radio.

Will Rogers refused an honorary college degree because he had "too much respect for people that work hard and earn 'em to see 'em handed around to every notorious character." Another bulls-eye for the cowboy humorist.

The "communist menace" seems to be about the same thing to the modern orator and windjammer as did the man-eating shark to the old-fashioned editor who desired to bawl out something without making any of his audience mad.

Making hay while the sun shines is a policy not limited only to wise men. Ever notice how the politicians of North Carolina are abroad at this season of the year in the role of commencement speakers?

PROVIDES OWN FARM RELIEF

OVER IN THE EASTERN section of Cleveland county is a farmer who is not the least bit interested and cares nothing at all about what the farm relief board may or may not do.

There is no reason why he should; the farm board, made up of able men as it is, can tell him nothing about making ends meet and avoiding hard times. Instead, he might be able to tell the farm board a few things. The board, perhaps, knows them, but finds it a difficult task to get all farmers to see them.

Butler Dixon is one of the most successful and outstanding farmers in North Carolina's largest cotton county, a county that shows the way to the South in per acre cotton production. Yet Mr. Dixon, believe it or not, plants just one acre of cotton for each member of the family. He seems to have realized that the old folks were not merely coining pretty phrases in the chimney corner but were really handing out wise advice when they said "never put all your eggs in one basket." Butler Dixon doesn't, and Butler Dixon does not roll and tumble on his bed worrying about the price of cotton. In fact, a trip over his farm is proof enough that he has very little of anything to worry about.

Cleveland county has often been pointed out as "the example farm county," once by an agricultural magazine with a nation-wide circulation. Butler Dixon might, likewise, be pointed out as the example farmer of an example farm county. He grows cotton, but he grows corn, wheat, hay, and nearly every kind of food and feed crop imaginable. He has good cows, fine hogs and livestock. The ribbons hanging about his home and won at the Cleveland County Fair are proof of that. He conducts his farm as systematically as a modern business man does his factory or store. He knows how much money and how much labor has gone into every department and into every field, and he keeps a record of it. At the end of the year he knows where the profit was made or not made. Next year he has something more than a jumbled memory to go by. As long as the earth will produce he will know nothing of hard times. He truly lives at home and boards at the same place.

The more Butler Dixons a county has the more that county will stand out at the forefront of successful agriculture.

COURT HOUSE NEEDS CLEANING

THIS, FOR THEIR COMFORT at the outset, is not a movement to rid the court house of its occupants. The Cleveland county court house needs a thorough spring cleaning just as do the hundreds of residences and business houses which make an annual affair of spring cleaning.

Men are not endowed with the house-cleaning urge as are women. Perhaps that is the reason the dirt and dust in the nooks and corners of the county court house have been overlooked as long as they have. But since a number of women have called attention to it, it is clearly evident that a good house-cleaning would not be amiss in the offices and rooms of the county structure.

Here and there about the offices of the building it is possible to write your name with your finger in the dust. At the recent city election women voters, who are not frequent visitors at the court house, noticed the dust and dirt and had quite a bit to say about it. Dirt is an inexcusable thing to women—the majority of them, anyway—and nothing will arouse the indignation of a woman quicker than a dirty spot that has no plausible excuse for being dirty. In recent weeks several organizations of women have held meetings in the court house and they, too, have noticed the dirt. It must be admitted that The Star can make no claim for starting the movement for a court house cleaning. The women are behind it. So far they have taken no official action about and have blamed no particular person; but they have noticed it and several of them have called it to the attention of The Star, asking that something be done about it. It does seem as if a thorough cleaning of the building

TOPNOTCHERS by KET

Sir Thomas Lipton
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GOLD CUP WHICH SIR THOMAS LIPTON RECEIVED AS A GIFT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE—THE NATION'S APPRECIATION OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST LOVER.

(© W. N. U.)

would cost very little if anything. In the county jail and at the convict camp are numerous prisoners who are not employed full time. The county feeds and houses them, so why not get some work out of them? A half dozen prisoners in one day's time could make the court house look like a different place. They could leave it so spotless that a close-observing woman could find nothing wrong with it.

Why not do it? In the first place, it should be done, and, in the second place, the average woman will not become aroused over the customary political issues but give her a splash of dirt and she can make her vote and her political influence felt.

The general complaint by the women always includes a reference to the rest room for women. This room should be given a thorough cleaning and should so be maintained day after day.

WE'D ALL LIKE TO ABOLISH TAXES

REPRESENTATIVE MacLEAN, father of the revenue bill which would raise the money for school from some source of revenue tax, is beginning to see the light. Last week he expressed himself anew by saying that his better judgment informed him that the schools could hardly be supported without some ad valorem tax but added that his "inclination" was against any ad valorem tax.

Sure, and why not? There are very few of us imperfect humans who would not applaud the abolishment of all taxes. Right at this moment we can think of nothing that would please us better, and that will go for the average person wherever you find him or her. But it is impossible. Our best judgment tells us that just as it does Mr. MacLean. We would like to see taxes banished from the face of the earth, but we know such cannot be done. That being the case, we should make the best of it. Schools and public institutions cannot be operated without money. The 15-cent land tax with a supplementary sales tax, as proposed by the conference committee, is a noticeable reduction in land tax and appears to be the best way out at the present time. When this is read, however, the compromise report may have been approved or rejected.

Proponents of the plan to finance schools without an ad valorem tax continue to advance their argument despite its lack of soundness by appealing to the general desire to see taxes done away with. All kinds of tactics have been employed to this end. Among them is an attack upon lobbying efforts of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The Star holds no brief for lobbyists and does not feel called upon to defend the tobacco manufacturers. They should, however, be given fair consideration. A group of men with thousands of dollars invested in the State and employing hundreds of North Carolina people has as much right to protect their interests against adverse legislation as do wealthy land barons, owners of city mansions and properties, or any other group of citizens. Legislation should be enacted for the best interests of the State as a whole; not to aid any special group, or to injure any special group.

Methods employed to prejudice the people against anything other than the MacLean revenue plan cause us to feel very much as does The Raleigh Times in the following comment

"At the hearing of the Senate committee investigating alleged bribery of members the vague charges were punctuated by frequent references to a statement that somebody had said in a bathroom that 'Clay has \$50,000.'

"Whereupon, S. Clay Williams, president of Reynolds Tobacco Company, voluntarily appeared and offered himself as a witness. Queried as to the reason for his presence in Raleigh, he stated that he had been here in the effort to defeat the Luxury Tax, ever since it became apparent that it was a menace to his company's interests.

"Whereupon Chairman Ward demanded in his best jury voice: 'By what right, Sir, do you and your company come to Raleigh and attempt to influence the members of this Legislature in the performance of their duty in respect to taxation?'

"To which Mr. Williams made reply, as stated on the record:

"By the right that it has as a substantial property owner and one of the largest taxpayers in the State. 'By the right that it has as an employer of a substantial group of North Carolina citizens including thou-

sands of industrial workers.

"By the right that it has as a manufacturer of a product that is consumed by a substantial group of citizens of the State.

"By the right that it has as one of the largest purchasers of a raw material grown by thousands of citizens of North Carolina.'

"Four pretty good reasons demanding the presence of a lobbyist in the open. A lobbyist in the open includes every person in the State, potentially. The right of petition, the right of argument, is still unimpaired in our system of government.

"In the Legislature daily and at almost its every session has been working a lobbyist antagonistic to Mr. Williams' ideas and specifically inimical to his company and his interests—Hon. Josephus Daniels, editor, and former Secretary of the Navy under Woodrow Wilson. In his personal work among the members he has been as indefatigable as in his paper he has been excitatory of passion.

"Mr. Daniels has the right to lobby, whatever we may think of his taste in so doing. But the climax came on Friday, when, there being a caucus of the MacLean bill forces, Mr. Daniels was invited to attend and to speak. Whereas other newspaper men present and anxious to get the result of the proceedings were excluded

"In these circumstances, Mr. Ward's question gains a real point.

"By what right does a committee, or a clique, or a caucus of legislators admit to its presence a lobbyist and member of the press and accord him exclusive privileges?

"By what right does a segment of the Legislature thus grant special privilege to and put itself under the sway of a man who advised it to throw a crank definitely into the machinery, to adjourn sine die, go home and 'compel' Governor Gardner to call an extra session, so that they might return to their stubborn policy, 'with pay?'

"By what right was a crucial meeting in a time of great crisis thus put in the hands of one rabid partisan, with the result that the people got the news of the proceedings only at second hand from the press in general. 'Conceding the right of a committee to go into executive session, barring all outsiders, by what right was this special outsider admitted to the inner chamber?'

"We admit that the above may sound a trifle oratorical, but oratory and precious little else has dominated the whole effort of the General Assembly to deal with the delicate question of setting up a system of taxation to make effective the coming Revenue Bill."

Alfonso might come to America. Any old Bourbon gets a royal welcome here.—Milwaukee Leader.

We never could understand why old men were so much worried about the way the flappers acted; they were certainly safe, not to say immune.

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