

The Drama Of Drowning Creek Or How Men Worked Hard, Lived Simply And Prospered In N. C.

(This article was prepared by Ralph W. Page, prominent Aberdeen banker, in response to a request from the Daily News Greensboro.)

If political economy, so called, was really an exact science—or in the nature of anything that could fairly be classified as science at all—I would not have the hardihood to accept your invitation. You very kindly asked me, on behalf of the Page Trust company to contribute my present information and wisdom of the future to a symposium of hopes looking towards the dispelling of the prevailing financial fog. And in the prospectus of contributing authorities were all the high priests, magicians, wizards, prophets, authorities fact gatherers and prognosticators of the whole complicated world of political economy. If Babson does not know, what good to ask anybody? If Col. Ayres is 50 per cent wrong why consult a banker from the tobacco belt? If Irving Fisher and the phenologists don't even know what has hit us, how can the astrologers and Bob Hanes tell us the cure?

Foreign Figures. The answer is, there cannot, as long as they talk in figures, Car-loadings and gold reserves and clearing house statistics and Erie earnings and the movements of Pe-

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING. Notice is hereby given to the annual meeting of the stockholders of The First National Bank of Shelby, N. C., for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for any other business coming before the meeting, to be held Tuesday, January 12th, 1932 at 11 o'clock a. m. at their banking house in Shelby, N. C. FORREST BRIDGEMAN, Cashier.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING. Notice is hereby given of the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Union Trust Company of Shelby, N. C., for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for any other business coming before the meeting at their banking house in Shelby, N. C. on Tuesday, January 12th, 1932 at 11 o'clock a. m. FORREST BRIDGEMAN, Cashier.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Having qualified as executor of the estate of T. W. Hamrick, deceased of Cleveland county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the said estate to present same to me, as properly proven on or before the 26th day of December 1932 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons owing the said estate will please make immediate settlement to the undersigned. This Jan. 1, 1932. F. A. Hamrick, L. M. Hamrick, and Mae Hamrick, executors of estate of T. W. Hamrick, deceased. 81-Jan. 10

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If you feel old and run-down from Getting Up Nights, Backache, Leg Pains, Stiffness, Nervousness, Circles Under Eyes, Headaches, Burning and Bladder Weakness, caused by Kidney Acidity, I want you to quit suffering right now. Come in and get what I think is the greatest medicine I have ever found. It often gives big improvement in 24 hours. Just ask me for Cystex (Siss-tex). It's only 75c and I guarantee it to quickly combat these conditions and satisfy completely, or return empty package and get your money back. SUTTLE'S DRUG STORE.

BILIOUS

"I have used Black-Draught . . . and have not found anything that could take its place. I take Black-Draught for biliousness. When I get bilious, I have a nervous headache and a nervous, trembling feeling that unfits me for my work. After I take a few doses of Black-Draught, I get all right. When I begin to get bilious, I feel tired and run-down, and then the headache and trembling. But Black-Draught relieves all this."—J. C. Hendrix, Homerville, Ga.

For indigestion, constipation, biliousness, take

Theford's BLACK-DRAUGHT

WOMEN who need a tonic should take CARDIOL. Used over 40 years.

ruvian guano may be interesting, but they have a great deal less to do with the thoughts of people than either the compilers or experts imagine. And what has to do with peoples' thoughts not only has to do with their lives and actions, including their gettings and spendings, but as a plain fact is their lives.

Now from the vantage point of a country bank in Aberdeen, we certainly cannot tell whether there will be war in Manchuria or Timbuktoo, and whether if there is this will increase the demand for silk pajamas or depress the laundry market. Neither can we guess whether the gamblers will buy or sell electric power securities and so revive the millennium on the strength of three hours demagogic appeal to the Ignoramuses of the world by Gifford Pinchot.

Solution at Home. Nevertheless we do feel that we can contribute to the symposium. It may be that the salvation of Aberdeen is not to be sought in Berlin or Manchuria, or the stock exchange, or in the Babsonchart. It may be it cannot be found even in Raleigh or Washington. It is possible—barely possible—that it may be found in Aberdeen, North Carolina.

What is happening in Aberdeen is to a degree typical of what is happening from Albemarle to Zebulon, the whole territory covered by our observation. And what is happening from Albemarle to Zebulon may be reflected from Miami to Charlottesville—or even further.

Now this whole deplorable affair nationally celebrated as "The Depression" is fairly simple when examined in personal detail on the waters of Drowning Creek.

Living Off Of Land. The old Scotch inhabitants of that district live from the products of the soil. Almost anything indigenous to the temperate zone will grow there. It is the native health of the famous long leaf pine—eternal source of timber, firewood, tar pitch, and turpentine. Long before any railroad whistle even broke the stillness, or any mortgage company arrived to scatter universal blessings, these people learned how to make the earth support the homes and the joys and sorrows and the human drama that produced every individual of consequence that ever came from there. (Note: If any filling station or garage or guano factory or mortgage company ever contributed to the personnel or leadership or inspiration of the state, it has escaped our notice.)

These people steadily improved their economic, social and intellectual lives by a fairly simple process. They were hardy enough to make their living out of the land. It was a country of smoke houses, cow barns, soap kettles, potato hills, preserve closets and chicken yards. Capitalization had not appeared. Farm land was valued—and seldom sold—late as 1912 at \$5 to \$10 an acre. A mortgage was a disgrace.

Capital as we know it had to be saved by the more thrifty, by slow degrees. This saving, of course, represented the growth of culture—the painstaking work of a lifetime, by men enured to stern realities, and taking for granted that the major financial virtues of courage, perseverance and thrift produced the surplus whence sprang the school houses and roads and churches and bathtubs since superceded with such grandeur and hurrah.

Then came Prosperity. Then came Easy Money. **Credit Too Easy.** And with them the underwriter and the land bank and the note sellers and the finance. Did a farmer want anything on earth from a houseboat to a melodian? All he had to do was to sign a note. Why then raise pigs? Sign a note and buy bacon. Why wear overalls, keep the children at churning, and try to save \$300, buy a Killing Kuppenheimer new suit, send the children to the drug store, and buy a piano? Why, for heaven's sake, raise chickens. If you can raise money? Why indeed!

The point need not be stressed. For a thousand years before the miracle of Wall Street appeared the literature of the world and the wisdom and example of the leaders of mankind had taught that this planet could be successfully inhabited only by those individuals who cultivate strength, fortitude, perseverance, and followed a hard road with faith and a set purpose. Suddenly it appeared that all this was changed—that General Motors Acceptance Corporation, highway bonds and land bank mortgages had produced a new world where men no longer had to be frugal, or trained, or have principles or even a home or a name. Here was a system that automatically gave everybody a living—that built towns, schools, courthouses, farms, hotels, movies—all costing anywhere from ten to a hundred times the total income of the entire population. Why worry? Why save? Why know anything or learn anything, or get ready for anything except the benediction?

A Case Cited. In detail it comes to this. In 1912 Duncan McDougall owned 437 acres

a six room house, four cows, 10 pigs, a flock of turkeys, a grist mill, a million feet of timber and \$190 in the bank. This represented the work of two generations, and he was grooming the third to rebuild the house, add a silo and a library and make a new road and a better school and perhaps save up enough more to send the fourth to the university.

Today he has the acres and the house, and owes \$9,760. He raises tobacco and corn and his son has just lost his job selling vacuum cleaners.

Teaching A Son. In 1931 Duncan McLeod was in the identical situation. But he borrowed no money. He did precisely nothing different from the last hundred years, except that he sold half his land at \$50 an acre and put the proceeds in the savings bank. And he went right on teaching his son with a sapling the same old story—that he had to earn what he spent, and before he spent it.

Well, his money is still in the bank. There is plenty of money still in the bank, owned by the Duncan McLeods of this story. That's one reason it is so hard to get hold of. They never did lend it to the people to pay their debts, or to build year before last's cupolas.

The story drags. The answer is plain. **Must Have Character.** The depression has separated the sheep from the goats, and rewritten the story of the foolish virgins. Nothing has happened except that the nature of the world and the character of men was not changed by either war, high finance, or the boom. For a short while there seemed to be a premium upon extravagance, indolence, speculation.

It now appears that to prosper a man and his family must still have as much character, and be able to stand as much adversity, and pit his energy and his wisdom against the same difficulties that have built the race from the dawn of history.

It is a simple fact that the real farmer of the pioneer type, those now able and willing to adopt his methods and philosophy are prospering in this moment in this vicinity. And equally a fact that where the sturdy human factor is lacking the land bank and the system based upon figures, and not men, is rushing to its just and inevitable conclusion.

Unfortunately the philosophy of prosperity and financing has so far weakened both the morale and character of many of the younger generation, that they will have to undergo a severe training, in the hard school of practical life, unaided by finance companies, government systems or necromancies, before they will be fit to beat nature to a decent living. Hereabout that is the only problem. For the income of the townsmen in an agricultural community is simple the surplus after the farmer has had his living.

No Outside Help. We don't expect anyone to get us out of our difficulties. We have no interest whatever in any political scheme, or governmental action, or credit association. We do not believe that for any length of time anyone on earth is going to keep us or support us, or provide manna for us.

Neither do we believe anyone is going to come forward with a system or scheme or plan for anything else that will make any man living or the land able to keep up on living there unless he has the ability to live off the land, and provide his luxuries from the accumulation of his surplus and his lucky breaks. There are plenty such. Not even the federal treasury can help the rest.

And as far as farmers are concerned, the whole commercial money and credit system the whole structure of selling future profits, the whole mechanistic and manufacturing theory and practice of capitalization is an utter failure. A farm is worth nothing. The farmer is worth everything. Better the real man with no money and a piece of bottom land, than a whole county and a million dollars, and no man.

Aberdeen, N. C. December 30, 1931.

Warns Democrats About Wrangling

Washington.—Democrats were advised by Representative Howard of Nebraska, to discourage favorite son candidacies, "lest the power trusts and international bankers defeat the nomination of Franklin Roosevelt."

"Nine Democrats in ten, in nine states in ten, are in favor of the nomination of Governor Roosevelt," he told the House.

"It does not seem possible that the power and trusts and international bankers can defeat him. Yet, I fear the damnable deed may be done."

Howard predicted Roosevelt's opponents would play their "trump card" at the Democratic gathering here January 9. With the nomination of a friend of the power trust virtually assured in the Republican party, Howard said, these forces are working to put the same kind of man as President Hoover at the head of the Democratic ticket.

"Mercy Killer"



Rather than permit longer the sufferings of her invalid daughter, Mrs. Rosebud Harris (above), of Glendale, Cal., shot 20-year-old Helen to death, then ended her own life by inhaling gas. The frantic mother put eight bullets into her daughter's body as the invalid girl lay asleep in the bed-room of their modest home.

Magazine Article Boost For Gardner As 1932 Candidate

Charlotte Writer Thinks Gardner As Vice Presidential Would Please.

Charlotte, Jan. 6.—Publicity that has been given Governor O. Max Gardner as a result of the publication of his article on North Carolina's four pioneering pieces of legislation has resulted in a renewal of talk centering about the governor as a likely democratic vice presidential nominee.

The magazine article, entitled "One State Clean House," has been given wide notice and much favorable comment. Last week Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York, one of the state's leading members and representative in the upper body of a state admittedly among the most influential in any democratic national convention, praised the Gardner article highly and spoke of North Carolina and its governor in very flattering terms.

Makes Fine Impression. Admittedly no finer medium of publicity is available than The Post and among those interested in matters pertaining to politics and government the article will have wide circulation. It has already made a fine impression.

North Carolina as the south's outstanding state is well situated geographically, and the democratic convention, which is expected to nominate Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York as presidential candidate, will very likely go south or west to select its vice presidential nominee. Coming south, it could do much worse than select a Tar Heel, North Carolina has become a highly publicized state. It has been advertised throughout the nation as a lively, progressive, up-and-coming leader in the very front rank of the states. Its good roads have become a tradition, and thousands of tourists have traveled over them and have gone home to talk of this state as a model in many ways.

Has Powerful Friends. Governor Gardner, too, should be altogether acceptable to Governor Roosevelt as a running mate. They are friends, and Governor Roosevelt has visited the North Carolina first family in the mansion at Raleigh. So has Gov. Alfred E. Smith, along with Harry Flood Byrd, former governor of Virginia, leading democrat of the Old Dominion. All of them are powers in the democratic party and their friendship in the national convention would certainly be an important factor.

The same should hold true in event Newton D. Baker is the nominee. Baker is from Ohio, and therefore is not a real westerner. He is more of an easterner, in fact the south should be well situated geographically as the section from which to name the vice presidential candidate even in event the presidential candidate comes from Ohio.

Senator Copeland's unusually flattering remarks about the governor and North Carolina may have more in them than mere friendship. The New York democrat may be lighting a few small fireworks with the purpose of using them to prime a later cannonade for Gardner. Such a suggestion is not beyond the realms of possibility, at any rate.

Now It's Black.

Chicago.—Betel-chewing Asiatics will have nothing on the platinum blonde if the latest cosmetic idea becomes a vogue. Finger and toenails, eyebrows, eyelashes and lips will come in black. The idea is that of Max Hofer, head of the Illinois Hair Dressers' association.

It's evident the nation has decided to gird against the depression. Knowing, of course, that a good girdle supply support

Near 3 Thousand Couples Marry At York During 1932

South Carolina Town Has Only One Rival As America's Leading Gretina Green.

York, S. C., Jan. 6.—In the alleged depression of last year, 110 more persons were married here in York county in 1931, than in the previous year of 1930.

Last year 2,944 licenses were issued here at York, against 2,889 licenses in 1930, an increase last year of 55 marriage licenses over the previous year. The record for any one year is 3,050 in 1929. Nearly all the almost 3,000 couples came here from North Carolina to enter wedlock, York being the Gretina Green of the South with more weddings for its population than any other Southern town. Its only rival in the United States is a village in West Virginia which is the mecca for marriage of a considerable part of three states.

New York Editor Notes Progress Of N. Carolina Program

(The New York Times.)

There are the days when every government—local, state and national—is trying to balance its budget. Such outstanding examples as Milwaukee, Tennessee and North Carolina are interesting to taxpayers everywhere. Milwaukee's taxes are low, its public order excellent and its treasury solvent. Tennessee, after an unusual experience with high finance and the usual spending spree, balanced her budget somewhat violently. In the opinion of Governor Gardner of North Carolina, who writes about it in the current Saturday Evening Post, his state best dealt with the common problem.

"No miracle has been performed," according to the governor, and other states, for local reasons, might not be able to do what the North Carolina legislature has recently done. But what was done is worth attention of all American taxpayers and the administrators of public affairs. In the summer of 1930 Governor Gardner began to prepare for the general assembly of the following year, and tax bills were ready when it met. They believe in North Carolina that the preparedness course they followed is partly responsible for the present contrast between the condition of their treasury and that of the federal government. During the last two years \$9,750,000 of the states debt was paid off, and \$20,000,000 will have been paid on the bonded debt by this administration. But the specific contributions of the general assembly to the situation as revealed in 1931 were these: They "stopped the advancing tax burden in its tracks" by reducing state expenses "and turned the curve of taxation downward" at the same time; county jurisdiction over roads and schools was abolished, and their centralization at Raleigh cut the property tax \$12,000,000. This year, property which in 1921 paid 85 per cent of the state tax will pay 52 per cent. No longer may a small board in a town or county confiscate the property of its citizens through unlimited and unrestrained power to mortgage its future. The local government act, which makes a state commission the supervisor of all local financing—through the people by vote may give the approval which the commission has refused—changed all that.

As if he heard the incredulous North exclaiming at the new spirit in the South to centralize at the state capital and to subordinate local self-government, Governor Gardner concludes his recital: "New conditions demand new remedies; for new wine, new bottles." Speaking on the same subject of growing costs of local government, this is

Night Coughing Quickly Stopped
In a few minutes after taking Thoxine, a doctor's famous prescription, your cough stops. It acts on a new principle—relieves throat irritation and goes direct to the internal cause not reached by ordinary cough remedies.

Most coughs are caused by an irritated throat. Thoxine stops these at once. Safe for the whole family—guaranteed no dope. Money back if not satisfied, 55c. Suttle's Drug Store and all other good Drug stores.

NOTICE OF FIRST MEETING OF CREDITORS
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of H. D. Jolley, trading as Soda and Great Shop, (Shelby, N. C.) Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given to all creditors and other parties in interest that the above named party has been adjudicated a bankrupt; that the first meeting of the creditors will be held in the law office of the undersigned Referee, 200 Law Building, Charlotte, N. C., on Saturday, the 9th day of January, 1932, at 10:30 o'clock A. M., at which time and place creditors may attend, prove their claims, elect a trustee, examine the bankrupt, and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting. This meeting may be continued from time to time without further notice.

All claims should be made upon the regular bankruptcy forms properly verified and sworn to, and filed with the undersigned referee. This the 20th day of December, 1931. R. Marion Ross, Referee in Bankruptcy, Charlotte, N. C. 11-Jan 11

Will Not Die For Larceny Of Shoes

Executive Counsel to Recommend Negro's Death Sentence Be Commuted.

Raleigh.—John Moore, who has stood under the shadow of the death penalty for weeks because he stole a pair of shoes in Winston-Salem, is not to die for his offense.

After a hearing, Tyre C. Taylor, executive counsel to Governor Gardner, announced he would recommend commutation of Moore's sentence to life imprisonment. The executive counsel's word is practically final in such matters.

Moore was convicted of first degree burglary, which, under the North Carolina law, consists of entry into a house or room, in which people are sleeping, for an illegal purpose. Moore stole the shoes from a room in which a negro girl slept. The jury which tried him recommended mercy, but such a recommendation has no legal standing in a North Carolina court, so Moore was sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Beauty Parlor—Dried Hay. (From The Stanly News and Press.) They are now using a beauty parlor device out in the west for drying hay. Since it has not been possible to do all the haying while the sun shines, a mechanical drier similar to the hair dryer used in beauty parlors, has been put into use. This enables the farmer to cut his hay while it is green, and eliminates the danger of getting it wet after it dries out. Cows, it is understood, add another inch to the cream line on the milk bottle without being told when they are fed on machine-dried hay. Who will be the first Stanly County farmer to rig up a hay dryer?

Beaten by Japs



Here is a recent photo of Culver B. Chamberlain, American Vice-Consul at Mukden, Manchuria, who was set upon and beaten by Japanese soldiers while driving to the railroad station in the Manchurian city. Chamberlain, whose home is in Kansas City, Mo., was recently transferred from Canton, China, to Harbin on account of his linguistic ability.

To Aid Poor With Wheat Contribution

Forty Million Bushels to Be Made Available Through Relief Agencies.

Washington.—Forty million bushels of Farm Board wheat was voted by the senate for relief of hunger and suffering among the millions of the nation's unemployed. It was the first direct federal relief proposal approved by either house.

The senate passed and sent to the house the Capper joint resolution directing the Farm Board to place this amount, one-fourth of its great store, at the disposal of the Red Cross and other relief agencies to be milled and furnished free to destitute and needy persons.

The action followed testimony by Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania, and John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, telling of dire suffering in Pennsylvania and other mining states. Lewis demanded relief for "destitute population of more than 1,200,000" and Pinchot attacked the administration for its opposition to federal relief.

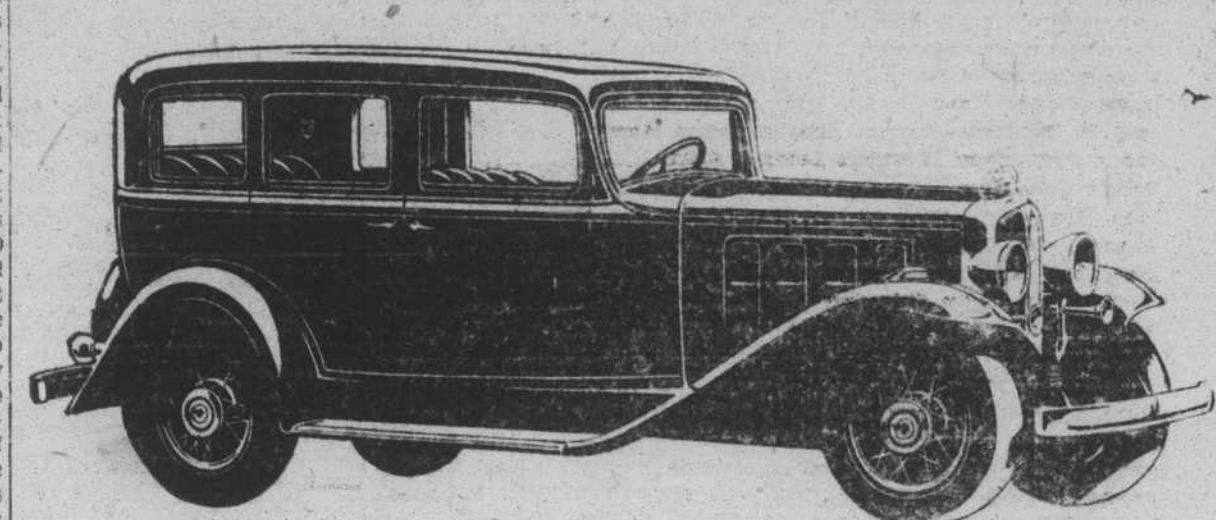
Experts say we must either act just or revive our war debts. Probably meaning we've got to fix it up some way so we know we are going to get our money.

Things have got so bad that the man on the street says stock market suckers are waiting for a rebound.

Norma Shearer IN 'PRIVATE LIVES' Monday & Tuesday — 10c and 25c — WEBB THEATRE

Mothers! to reduce your family "Colds-Tax" use the Vick Plan for Better "Control-of-Colds" in your Home. F-tf

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Brings the Important Developments of the Year to the Low-Price Field. Value takes on an entirely new meaning with the new Pontiac Six just introduced. Here you'll find real riding comfort, great speed and power, smart styling, at extremely low first-cost and low running cost.

The transmission is Synco-Mesh for effortless shifting. The new second gear is quiet. Then you have free wheeling . . . all three of these improvements at no extra cost. There's a big, powerful motor for extra speed, extra pick-up; extra stamina.

THE NEW PONTIAC V-8

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Only "luxury" cars have offered the brilliant, reliable V-type motor. Now you can have it in Pontiac V-Eight at a list price below \$850!

And with distinctive performance you also get Synco-Mesh, quiet second gear, free wheeling, Ride Control. . . Weight and length are what a powerful, fast car requires for fine balance and roominess. Fisher craftsmen have contributed striking body design, rich interior finish.

If you have owned smaller, less capable cars, Pontiac V-Eight will advance all your motoring standards without greatly increasing your expenditure. If you have driven expensive cars, Pontiac V-Eight will give you most of the same advantages at far lower cost.

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