

Sam Jones' Last Sermon

(After preaching this remarkable sermon the famous Georgia evangelist started for his next appointment, but died that night on the train. Jones was an outstanding Methodist minister.—Editor.)

He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy (Prov. 29:1).

The bare announcement of this text is enough to bring every one of us to our feet with this question: "Unto whom does God speak those fearful words? Unto whom does God address Himself in that fearful language?" There are in this audience hundreds of people who ought to remain standing and announce another fact, and that is, "Surely God means me, for I have been often warned, I have often been reproved and have often heard His Word. Surely He means me." I announce strictly a fact when I say there have been more sudden deaths in the last twelve months of this world's history than any year since the evening and the morning of the first day of this world's life. More men in the last twelve months have suddenly gone into the presence of God than in any twelve months in all the world's history. You hardly pick up a leading daily newspaper in the United States that there is not from fifty to 5,000 persons that have been swept away suddenly and have come into the presence of God. By earthquake, by fire, by tidal waves, by accidents on railroads, by storms at sea, by apoplexy, by paralysis, by heart failure; day by day the register has gone way up; and, mark my words, just as

God gives the warning to men so is that proportion of sudden death multiplied in all the earth. More men have hardened their hearts and more men have been swept into the presence of God, and as you hear me tonight I shall recall illustrations of these fearful facts that lie back in my brain and which have been gathered from all parts of the country.

I was preaching at the memorable meeting at Nashville, Tenn., some years ago. On the second Tuesday night Captain Ryan, a man who owned all the steamboats along the river, came forward and asked to be prayed for. Shortly one of the pastors walked up to my side and said, "Mr. Jones, that man, Captain Ryan, is the most wicked man in the city and a very great sinner." That night Captain Ryan was converted, and he walked up to me after the service and said, "I want you to come to my house and I want you to see my wife and children." I answered, "I cannot come before a certain date." He said, "I will come for you on that day." On the morning of the day arranged he was at the service, and after the service we got into a buggy and rode up to his splendid home. When we got out of the buggy he introduced me to the mayor of the city and three of the captains of boats which he, himself, owned; also to lawyers and other influential men of Nashville.

Presently Mr. Ryan's wife walked in and I was introduced to her, and after a few moments of conversation she said, "Now, gentlemen, dinner is ready." As we crossed the hall into the large dining room the captain took my arm. "Mr. Jones," he said, "not one of these four men are religious, and I want every last one of them brought to Christ." He put me at the head of the table. The mayor of the city sat directly on my right and at his side was one of the captains. Immediately on the left side were the other two captains—four great, big, stalwart men. I addressed my conversation right to those four men, pressing Christianity and the question of religion on them with all the force I could, incidentally mentioning the fact that within twelve months there would be sudden deaths among those sitting at the table.

After the meal was over we parted and not one of the four men were Christians or came to the meetings. I had not been away from Nashville three months before the steamboat captain who sat next to the mayor on my right hand side walked up to his home one day, and when his feet struck the front porch of his home he fell with a heavy thud and was dead when his wife and children reached him. Not three months more had passed when the man who sat on my left stepped onto his boat just as the boat started to move off. He fell on his face and never spoke another word. Not two months more had passed when Captain Ryan sent me a

paper from Nashville in which I noticed that the steamboat captain who sat second to my left went suddenly into the presence of God. A few days later I saw where the mayor of the city had been out hunting and while loading his gun the gun went off, putting the whole load of shot into his head. He fell forward and never breathed another breath; and before I had been away from that town twelve months those four stalwart men had all been suddenly called into the presence of God.

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy."

I was preaching at a Tennessee camp meeting a few years ago and we were having great crowds there. On a certain day a young man who had been in the back of the tent, standing up while I was preaching (and I was "saying things" that night) turned on his foot with an oath on his lips and said: "I have had enough of that." He went out and went toward the railroad station. There was a freight train passing at that time which was going about eight or ten miles an hour. That young man grabbed at the side irons on the side of the train, lost his grip and rolled under the wheels and was in the presence of God almost before I was done speaking.

I was preaching at Gainesville, Miss., some three or four years ago. There were only a few days left in the meeting and I said to the men who were helping: "Let us all get down to work."

Next morning Pastor Brown came up to me and said that he had passed two saloonkeepers on the street that morning as he was coming down and had asked them to close up their saloons and come down and hear Sam Jones. They said, "Does Jones think that we can close up our business and go down to hear a man like him talk?" I mentioned this incident in the meeting and said that two saloonkeepers of that town had cursed on the street and said they could not close up their places of business to hear the Word of God. I said, "I have seen doors closed with black crepe tied on the door knob; they had better look out."

The next morning after I left Gainesville one of the saloonkeepers who had said this went downtown in the early morning to open his saloon, and just as he unlocked the door and pushed it open he fell in the doorway and lay there dead when the first policeman came around on his beat that morning. Dead before his wife and children could say "goodbye!" Mr. Brown sent me a marked copy of a paper a few days later which said that the other saloonkeeper went up to his home and fell on the floor as he was going in and was dead when his wife got to him. There was black crepe on the doors of those two saloons, and, mark my words, there are men in this town that are cursing the meeting and cursing on the street, who will be suddenly struck down. I am not a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but you will have deaths in this town that will startle it before the last day of this very month. Mark that! God hath said it. There are people in this town that are turning against God and despising His mercy, some of them in the last sixty days of their lives, and every time you turn your back on God and walk off from His mercy you are refusing the greatest offer that a man can ever have.

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy."

Years ago a corps of civil engineers came to a little town in a valley in Pennsylvania and went up into the mountains and examined the dam which controlled the waters of the stream which flowed down into the valley. They came back to the valley and said to the people of the town, "That dam is unsafe. The people in the valley are in constant danger." The people said to them, "You can't scare us." That fall the men came back to the valley and examined the dam again and said to the people in the valley, "We warn you people again, you are in danger every hour." They laughed at them again and said, "Scare us if you can." The men went up again in the spring and warned the people again, but the people said, "That is a chance. We have been hearing that so many times. Scare us if you can."

It was not fifteen days later that a boy with his horse on the dead run came down into the valley shouting, "Run for your lives! The dam has gone and the water is coming!" The people only laughed at him; but he did not wait to hear their laughter; he went on down the valley still shouting the warning. In a very few minutes the dirty water came and in less than thirty minutes after the water struck the town, Johnstown was in ruins with more than 8,700 of those who had been

The Growth of Bureaucracy

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN
National Chairman
Sentinels of the Republic

During the past five years the population of the District of Columbia, seat of our national government, has increased more than 33 per cent. No state, or group of states, has approached that rate of growth during the same period. It compares with a population increase of 2.3 per cent for the nation as a whole.

What caused the jump? A recent report of the Census Bureau, whose estimates supply the figures, attributes it to an unprecedented peacetime influx of Federal employes to jobs in the scores of new bureaus and commissions functioning during the past few years at Washington.

These are significant facts. They introduce an arresting element of novelty in the American picture. Except during the brief emergencies of war-time our most striking growths heretofore have occurred along what might be described as our geographical and industrial frontiers.

Population increased at the swiftest pace in states where new and productive lands were being developed by agriculture; in cities where new and productive industries were originating and expanding.

Inevitably such growth meant greater opportunity for the men and women who took part in the development; greater wealth for the nation and its citizens as a whole.

But an unprecedented increase of job-holders at Washington has quite a different meaning. It shows only a growth of Bureaucracy. Unlike the men and women who, by their energy and their labors, continue to develop America and to bear the costs of its government, many political job-holders produce little or nothing. They consume, instead—out of the share of all men and women who labor in the home, on the farm, in the factory or in business.

And the greater the number of those who merely consume, the greater the burden on those who produce.

in the town in the presence of God. You have been reproved many a time yourself, and frightened many a time yourself, and you sit out there and say, "Scare me if you can; get me by frightening me if you can." But on God's judgment day you will run and call for the rocks and mountains to hide from God's just fire, your little soul. God gets closest to the man who is honest with his own soul and is in need of Christ. God help you to pray about this, "I am not to be frightened into Christianity."

"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy."

It is an awful thing to die, anyway, but how awful it is to die without a moment to pray, without a moment to counsel the wife, without a moment to talk with the children; but to be struck down suddenly.

I don't know when I shall die or where I may go down, whether in a railroad wreck or in a storm at sea. I might even go down on a wagon or I might drop dead with heart failure; I don't know how I shall die, but I know I prefer to die easily. I know I deserve to die suddenly. I may be taken with a stroke of paralysis and would have to be carried to the train and from the depot up to the old home where I could live for years, into the room where I have sat and talked hours at night with my wife and children. I would suffer and linger there for days talking to them about the responsibilities that would rest upon them when I was gone, about right living, and, when the last day would come and the last night would come, and the doctor had packed up his stuff and gone; wife and children would stand around my couch and I would bid them live good lives; at the last moment I would turn to my wife and speak the last words of my heart to her and bid her be faithful to the end; I would kiss them all good night and go home as happy as any school boy ever went home from school; but to die suddenly and without preparation, without a word of counsel to the wife, without a word of comfort to the children, without a moment to utter anything to this world: "Cut down, why cumbereth he the ground?" God help me to go home easily.

"Suddenly destroyed and that without remedy?" How we look to remedies here. Millions of dollars are spent in patent medicines, doctoring and all that sort of thing and it shows how men dread death and how they lean upon remedies and how they look to remedies to heal and remedies to effect the cure; but "without remedy." The saddest hour that I ever saw was after ten weeks

of suffering and hard work, when my wife was very sick. That night the doctor came to me and said: "I now break to you the saddest news that ever fell on human ears. Your wife cannot live." I looked at the doctor and said: "Doctor, do you mean it?" He said, "The symptoms now say that remedies are useless." I went into the upper chamber of my home and turned my face toward God and said, "O Lord Jesus Christ, who raised Lazarus from the dead when he had been buried four days, and said, 'Come forth, Lazarus,' and he stepped forth and had the napkin taken from his jaws and the grave clothes off him and walked home with his sisters; keep the words that you spoke that day and spare my wife." She lives today, cured by the only remedy of God.

The day will come to you, father, mother, man and woman, when your doctor will pack up his medicines and go, and when every instrumentality shall leave; mark my words, and you will turn your eyes toward humans and human instruments and they will say, "There is no remedy." Then is the time when that man or woman shall turn his eyes from human remedy to God and God shall sit upon His throne and say, "No remedy." There is no remedy in either human or instrumental power and there is no remedy in Heaven for that poor fellow. "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy."

I want every man of you here to settle this question tonight, either surrender your life right here tonight or deliberately make up your mind to run on to ruin.

You are daring God to His face to execute His Word on you. If you feel that there is more important business than we have here you may go, but I tell you what I want to do. I want to take the hands of you mothers, I want to take the hands of you fathers, I want to stay and let the other people do what they will. I want all the sinners here tonight to say, "God help me. I will be a Christian from this time on." I want you to come up here and say, "Here is my hand and I endorse every word you have said tonight," and I like the man with courage to do what his convictions tell him to do. Come on now and give me your hand and let us pray for you.

Washington News For U. S. Farmers

by Hugo P. Sims,
Special Washington Correspondent

REA PERMANENT
The Rural Electrification Administration has now become a permanent set-up as a result of the recent act of Congress, and Morris L. Cooke has been appointed Administrator for a term of 10 years, with the task of lending some \$400,000,000 in a way to bring electricity to the farmers of the nation.

Since last August the REA has managed to lend only about \$12,000,000 but under the new set-up, Mr. Cooke intends to take the initiative and actively show farmers how to organize in order to obtain loans.

The central idea behind the Administration will be to prevent the building of new lines to skim off the cream of the customers, leaving other families in situations where they would have little chance to obtain current.

What has been accomplished by REA is not to be measured by the small amount of money loaned for the construction of rural lines. As a result of its operation, there has been a considerable gain in mileage of electric lines in rural areas. Much of this has been constructed without financial aid from the REA.

FARM PRICES WEAKEN

Farm prices are tending toward weakness and Secretary Wallace is on record as expecting "surprising" things to happen to farm prices if normal weather continues and the American farmer fails to recapture foreign markets for his surplus production.

Given extremely favorable growing conditions, it is feared that production will outstrip present demand and thus pile up new surpluses. How to avoid this is the question. Of course, foreign outlets for excess production would answer the problem. Without them rigid production control will apparently be necessary to the welfare of the farmer, regardless of the methods adopted to secure such control.

LAND VALUES IMPROVE

Farm land values in the principal agricultural section of the country increased again for the year ending March 1st, according

to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is the third annual increase in succession since 1931, when farm land values shrank to the lowest price level since 1912.

CASH INCOME BETTER

A six-year high record for cash income was made by farmers of the country during the first four months of 1936, when the sale of their products, plus government benefit payments, reached \$2,079,000,000. This compares with \$1,970,000,000 a year ago, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Interesting also is the fact that only \$62,000,000 came from government rental payments, as compared with \$221,000,000 for last year. Lower prices of wheat, cattle, hogs, and other products were offset by larger marketings.

The experts believe that farm income for the second half of 1936 has a good chance to exceed that of last year if industrial activity continues at its present level, although this forecast may be affected by new crop yields, causing lower prices.

That farmers are buying increased goods is also apparent. This is evidenced by a report from Moline, Illinois, where a housing shortage is reported as a result of the influx of hundreds of families, attracted by booms in the factories of three principal farm implement companies. These plants recently set an all-time high for factory employment.

Better Than Walking

Mr. Humby (after four months of unemployment): "What d'you think, lass? I've got a job as a postman."

Mrs. Humby: "Now, isn't that fine? It'll be much better than walking about the town all day." El Posa World-Herald.

Reins - Sturdivant
Funeral Home
Ambulance Service Day or Night
Licensed Embalmers
SPARTA, N. C.
Telephone 85

SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE

Under and by virtue of a decree in the case of M. E. Reeves, Administrator of J. J. Miller, vs. Kemp Miller and others in the Superior Court of Allegheny County, I will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on

JUNE 8th, 1936, AT 1:00 P. M. at the Court House door in Sparta, all the lands owned by the said J. J. Miller at the time of his death, consisting of the following tracts:

First Tract: Containing 136 acres, bounded and surrounded by the lands of J. C. Moxley, Sarah Blevins, Tobias Long, Eli Long, R. A. Waddell, the Sheriff Edwards land and the W. F. Thompson land.

Second Tract: Containing 50 acres, adjoining Tract No. 1.

Third Tract: Containing about 300 acres, more or less, bounded and surrounded by the lands of Callie Wyatt, Clyde Brinegar, F. Miller and others, and the said tracts are to be sold as herein listed.

Terms of Sale: One-third cash on day of sale, one-third on a credit of four months and the balance on a credit of eight months.

M. E. REEVES,
Commissioner



All You Need to Know About a Refrigerator—It's a General Electric—and it costs less to own!

Research keeps G-E Refrigerators years ahead always... in all ways! Choose a G-E and you don't need to be concerned over your refrigerator's operating cost. Nor need you bother your head about fast freezing speeds, proper temperatures of storage compartment or cabinet "gadgets."

Today there are more G-E sealed mechanisms in use than all other refrigerator "sealed" mechanisms combined. Every minute of every day somebody buys a General Electric!

Sealed-in-steel
G-E THRIFT-UNIT
has exclusive
FORCED-FEED LUBRICATION
and **OIL COOLING**
Now gives "Double the Cold" and uses even less current than ever.
5 YEARS PERFORMANCE PROTECTION

NORTHWEST
Carolina Utilities
INC.



The only complete low-priced car is the most economical car to own

CHEVROLET Owners will tell you that the new Chevrolet for 1936 is the most economical of all motor cars. And, in addition to giving economy without equal, it also gives enjoyment without equal, because it's the only complete low-priced car! It alone brings you the safer, quicker, smoother stopping-power of **New Perfected Hydraulic Brakes**, and the maximum overhead protection of a **Solid Steel one-piece Turret Top**. It alone brings you the unequalled gliding smoothness of the famous **Knee-Action Ride***. It alone brings you the more healthful comfort of **Genuine Fisher No Draft Ventilation—the greater driving comfort of Shockproof Steering***. And it alone brings you the combined performance and economy advantages of a **High-Compression Valve-in-Head Engine—all at Chevrolet's remarkably low prices!**

See this car at your Chevrolet dealer's—today!
CHEVROLET MOTOR CO., DETROIT, MICH.

NEW PERFECTED HYDRAULIC BRAKES (Double-Acting, Self-Articulating), the safest and smoothest brakes ever developed • **SOLID STEEL ONE-PIECE TURRET TOP**, a crown of beauty, a fortress of safety • **IMPROVED GLIDING KNEE-ACTION RIDE***, the smoothest, safest ride of all • **GENUINE FISHER NO DRAFT VENTILATION** in New Turret Top Bodies, the most beautiful and comfortable bodies ever created for a low-priced car • **HIGH-COMPRESSION VALVE-IN-HEAD ENGINE**, giving even better performance with even less gas and oil • **SHOCKPROOF STEERING***, making driving easier and safer than ever before

ALL THESE FEATURES AT CHEVROLET'S LOW PRICES
\$495 AND UP. List price of New Standard Coupe at Flint, Michigan. With bumpers, spare tire and tire lock, the list price is \$50 additional. *Knee-Action on Master Models only, \$20 additional. Prices quoted in this advertisement are list at Flint, Michigan, and subject to change without notice. A General Motors Value.

GENERAL MOTORS INSTALLMENT PLAN—MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO SUIT YOUR PURSE

FLOWERS
For All Occasions
At B & T Drug Co.
SPARTA, N. C.

CHEVROLET
CASTEVENS MOTOR COMPANY
SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA.