



The Manassas Journal



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LOOKING BACK- WARD TO 1919-20

(Town Manager Cocke submitted the following which, coming from a center of commerce (Conn.) and from a northern paper, offers food for thought. One of the strong elements of character and nation building is inherent love of work and the pleasure of earning what we spend, without "holding up" employers for ridiculous wages that business may go on.

When a business man reaches the point that he is earning nothing for himself, and is the victim of greed, it is time for him to stop. When big manufacturers do this, or big farms cease operation, thousands are thrown out of work. Whose fault is this?—Ed.)

One of the outstanding phenomena of the financial crisis of the last three years, culminating in the worst industrial depression we have experienced since that of 1873-'79 (with its roots in the War Between the States as the roots of this depression are in the World War), has been the absence of strikes, riots and other types of physical rebellion.

The outbreaks chiefly notable have been through the criminal violence of gangsters, for the most part directly or indirectly associated with bootlegging organizations, warring upon each other and in spots breaking loose individually and sometimes collectively into many and atrocious robberies and hold-ups.

On the whole the patience of the American people has been a marvel to behold, to a large degree made possible because of the unstinted millions given by personal contributions and through local, state and governmental agencies—for the relief of those in greatest need.

In looking backward it is interesting to compare this condition with that existing during the period immediately following the Armistice.

At that time there was plenty of work to do, but there was anything but peace within our borders.

It was at this time that we were fighting the I. W. W. menace (Industrial Workers of the World, popularly known as "I won't Workers"), and strikes, riots and sabotage were the order of our industrial day.

The great steel strike was holding the center of the stage, headed by one W. Z. Foster (still among us) who was attempting, under his "bring-from-within" philosophy, to get the control of the American Federation of Labor into the hands of the I. W. W. and form one big union under the dictatorship of the proletariat with its program for the obliteration of capital, annihilation of the wage scale, the control of production agencies, and the extermination of government censorship over speech and press.

Here are a few of the headlines in a paper of September, 1919—

"Underwood Typewriter strikers hold a fiery meeting." "Columbia Graphophone Company closes its plant and will leave Bridgeport."

"Freight Embargo due to Shop-men's strike." "Steel operators vote to strike."

"Is it war with Mexico?" "Race riots harvest over 500 injured."

There was plenty of work to do in 1919 and '20, but there was no peace.

As the by-word today is "The Depression," so then was it the "H. C. L." (High Cost of Living).

At that time it seemed as though men were just as anxious not to work as today they are to work.

Read these figures published the latter part of 1920—

"Production records for the years between 1909 and 1920 in the Brick-laying trade:

Year	Rate an Hour	Bricks Laid per Day
1909	\$0.55	1100
1916	0.65	900
1918	0.80	614
1919	1.00	587
1920	1.25	541

From these figures note that while the Bricklayers' pay, measured merely by the wage scale, had advanced from 55c to \$1.25 per hour, or about 125 per cent, the cost to the consuming public for getting bricks laid on an eight-hour day basis had gone up from \$4.40 for 1,100 bricks, to \$10.00 for 540 bricks. Or, to put it another way, any man who needed bricks for factory or home paid, in 1920, \$18.50 per thousand bricks laid instead of \$4.00 per thousand, or an increase of 462 per cent.

By our own performance we were raising for ourselves the price of our own bricks so high that we could not pay for them, and were forcing ourselves to go without that which was our own product, so to speak.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REFUNDING TAXES

Enormous refunds in taxes at a time of great deficits in the federal budget are now being made, which are said to be based upon erroneous assessments. More than \$80,000,000 has already been paid, an amount greatly in excess of the deficit occasioned by the French repudiation of their debt. A total of 65 Virginia corporations and individuals were included in the list, the R. F. & P. Railroad receiving the largest amount, \$33,521.

FAIRFAX DEMOCRAT BECOMES VERY WET

Robert Ions, of Fairfax Station, a member of the Democratic Executive Committee of Fairfax county, became very wet last Sunday night. Slipping from a railway trestle near Clifton Station, Mr. Ions was plunged into icy water and after swimming out became so exhausted that he was unable to proceed on his way. Later he was found by a track walker and hurried to his home, where his condition is said to be very satisfactory—his rugged constitution quickly overcoming the effects of the exposure which he suffered.

DIXIE THEATRE ACTS AS HOST

Approximately 100 Young Friends Entertained by Manager Hibbs.

Pitts' Dixie Theatre on last Saturday distributed approximately 100 complimentary tickets to the afternoon show. Manager Hibbs was particularly anxious that any of his young friends who might not be able to afford the regular cost of admission should be remembered and these, together with a number of other happy youngsters who were also remembered, formed an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

ROOSEVELT GOES OUT NEXT SATURDAY

On Saturday Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt retires as Chief Executive of the State of New York and until March 4 will for the first time in many years be a private citizen. However, his position as President-elect of the United States will prevent his enjoyment of a vacation. The formation of his Cabinet is said to be his most immediate concern.

BAD WEATHER AND ILLNESS

Continued snow and rain since the middle of the month have brought the precipitation to 1932 up to and slightly above normal.

The accompanying warm and changeable weather has greatly aided the spread of the dreaded "flu." It has had a rather depressing effect on many Christmas activities.

At that time a similar situation existed in most branches of trade.

Men were striving to get 100 per cent of payment for 60 per cent of energy — then for 50 per cent — and so down the scale.

Is there any wonder that we had the panic of 1921?

During the following years and up to the beginning of this depression, work was considered a necessary evil. "Pleasure and an easy time" was the "golden calf" before which too many fell down in worship.

Today "work" is the greatest blessing the mind of a normal man can conceive.

When it was plenty, it was despised; when it is scarce it is glorified.

The law of supply and demand not only makes prices high or low; it makes our mental estimates of our precious privileges high or low.

We now are realizing the truth expressed in the lines — "There is not a joy the world can give like that it takes away."

The program to which the soul and brain of every man is consecrated is "Work for the Unemployed."

Little by little (and it seems oh, so slow) as we are able to re-obtain the priceless blessing of work to do, will it again be despised and shirked?

Is it possible that men in our day and generation will swing back to the personal programs of the days of '19 and '20 when the cry arose to high heaven of "less work for more pay," under the false philosophy that men can eat without work.

That it will not — is a Christmas prayer.

Editor, Manassas Journal:

Enclosed you will find the following article written by Wayne Dinsmore, secretary Horse Association of America, and published in "The Horse," a December magazine published and edited by A. A. Cedarwald of Washington, D. C.

I think this should be read carefully by all farmers or those who are interested in farming operations and also by those who are interested in the return of Old Dobbins to replace the worn-out and broken-up machinery that you will find on so many farms in our state. This article is entitled "Reaping the Whirlwind."

E. R. CONNER.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

Last spring my friend Robert was called to his old home by a letter from his brother. On his arrival he was informed that the old home farm was about to be lost through foreclosure proceedings, because his brother was unable to pay an overdue mortgage.

Greatly surprised, because he knew that the farm was free from debt in 1912 when it passed by will to his brother, he asked how, when and why the debt secured by the mortgage had been incurred. Step by step, each expenditure, each accrued indebtedness was traced out, under his patient questioning. At the end he said to his brother—"Jim, do you mean to tell me you have traded this farm—our old home farm,—for that mess of machinery out behind the barn?"

Jim studied a moment then answered—"I never thought of it in that light, but that is about what I have done."

Jim's situation is like that of many other farmers who have mortgages against their farms. They have only to add up the money they have spent for farm implements and machinery (which includes automobiles, tractors and motor trucks) in the last 20 years to find that the sum so spent is greater than their debt.

Most of it was money that need not have been spent. In 1909 the farmers of the United States produced \$11,000,000 acres of crops (pasture excluded). April 15, 1910 they had 19,833,113 horses (value \$2,083,538,195), 4,267,709 mules (value \$525,391,868), and farm implements and machinery valued at \$1,265,148,783. Invested capital (animals, implements and machinery) per crop acre was \$12.49 of which \$4.12 was purchased equipment and \$8.37 was animal power.

In 1919 they produced 348,000,000 acres of crops (pasture excluded). January 1, 1920 they had 19,767,161 horses (value \$1,782,076,487), 5,432,391 mules (value \$779,294,411), and farm implements and machinery valued at \$3,594,772,928. Invested capital (animals, implements and machinery) per crop acre was \$17.69 of which \$10.26 was purchased equipment and \$7.43 was animal power.

In 1929 they produced 361,000,000 acres of crops (pasture excluded). April 1, 1930 they had 18,510,839 horses (value \$905,665,691), 5,375,017 mules (value \$442,262,371) and farm implements and machinery valued at \$3,301,654,481. Invested capital (animals, implements and machinery), per crop acre was \$12.88 of which \$9.14 was purchased equipment and only \$3.74 animal power.

Crops average no more per acre now than 20 years ago, and no well informed person will undertake to claim that they are produced more cheaply. Less human labor may be used, but the farmer pays for it anyway,—pays for it in higher taxes to help feed and care for unemployed men, and pays for it in lower prices received because so many men are unemployed; and last, but not least,

while he uses less horses and mules and uses more automobiles, tractors and trucks, he pays through the nose for this in the lower prices for all farm commodities. At least 25 million acres, which formerly fed horses and mules, now produce surplus grain or other farm commodities, which adds to the price-breaking surplus on our markets.

Farmers have sown the wind (of gasoline exhaust fumes) and they are reaping the whirlwind (of lower prices and higher taxes).

An exhaustive study of the census data by states, for the years 1930, 1920, and 1910, discloses that whereas in 1910, thirty states were raising enough horses to supply their own needs, with a surplus over to care for the shortage in the other states,—more than enough, so our horse population was increasing—in 1930 only four states—Montana, Wyoming, Nevada and Arizona—had a surplus above replacement needs, and that surplus so small that it is negligible, so that the number of horses has been going down 635,000 per year as an average of the decade from 1920 to 1930.

Under normal conditions, when replacements throughout the United States were being produced regularly, the average life of horses was 15 years; now, on account of the decrease in breeding during the last 10 years, there are so many older animals, in proportion to the young ones, that the average life of those now living is not over 13 years, even with lessened loss through disease. Breeding has been increasing since 1923 and has been accelerated during 1931 and 1932, but cannot possibly be increased sufficiently, or rapidly enough, to avoid a distinct shortage in the next three years. Dealers will have to scour the whole country to find work animals to supply the demand, farmers will have to pay more for them, many will have to get along with one or two less than they really need, because they lack money to buy them, and somewhat less land may go in crop in consequence,—which will be a good thing for all concerned, and particularly pleasing to the men who kept on breeding enough horses to permit selling their older animals at 5 or 6 years of age. They followed a sound policy, have always had some work animals to sell instead of being compelled to buy, and while they have been hurt by higher taxes and lower prices resulting from the insane craze for mechanical power, they are in better shape to survive the present depression in agriculture.

Robert told his brother he would help carry the mortgage, if he, Jim, would sell off all his implements and farm machinery except what he needed to operate the farm with horses and mules, and would get back to the sound policies that enabled the father and boys to pay for the farm in the first place. Jim accepted,—and thousands of other farmers will eventually take the same slow but sure road back to financial independence.

KIWANIS STUDIES JUSTICE PLAN

A study of the Trial Justice system is being made by the Kiwanis Club of Manassas to determine the various aspects of the plan as adopted by many counties in Virginia and to compare its efficiency with that of the Justice of the Peace system now in operation in Prince William county.

Hon. Harry P. Davis, mayor of Manassas, addressed the Kiwanis Club last Friday evening on the subject, presenting arguments in favor of the proposition. As considerable data on the subject is necessary to a complete understanding of the proposition it is planned to continue the discussion tomorrow evening.

The club will hold its meeting as usual at 8:30 at the hotel.

COMMUNITY TREE GREATLY ENJOYED

The community Christmas celebration held last Friday evening on the hotel lot was greatly enjoyed by the large throng that braved the unfriendly weather to view the beautifully lighted tree and hear the sweet music.

Prof. Gill's recitation on the "First Christmas" was presented with the usual effectiveness of Mr. Gill's talks.

The complement of male voices came largely from the Kiwanis Club which adjourned promptly to take part.

The duet of Charmie Sinclair and Mrs. Thatcher and the singing of the Junior Woman's Club added greatly to the occasion.

MRS. CHAS. COMPTON ENTERTAINS U. D. C.

The Manassas Chapter, U. D. C., were the guests of Mrs. Charles Compton for the December meeting, the hostess being assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Alvin Compton.

The president, Mrs. Robert Hutchison, presided with twenty members and one guest, Mrs. Andrews, a member of a North Carolina chapter, present.

After the usual routine of business, opening exercises, reports of committees, etc., plans were made for distributing Christmas baskets to six Confederate veterans and three ladies of the Sixties.

The following committee was named to formulate plans, and arrange a program for the celebration of Lee's, Jackson's and Maury's birthdays to be held on Jan. 19.

J. E. B. Stuart's one hundredth anniversary Feb. 6 will also be celebrated.

A relief committee, composed of the following ladies, Miss Nelson, Mrs. Hill Brown and Mrs. Gillum, was announced by the president.

A very interesting paper on the life of Cyrus Hall McCormick prepared by Mrs. Alvin Compton and read by Mrs. E. Marsteller, held the attention of the chapter. The exercises closed with the Old Song Manassas's in the Cold, Cold Ground.

Tempting refreshments were served by the hostesses.

FIGHTING THE COMMON COLD

The common cold costs us about \$2,000,000,000 a year. It costs American workers and employers at least \$175,000,000 in wages alone, and the cost to business efficiency and in physical weakening is difficult to estimate. Nobody knows its cause or cure, and medical science has thus far been unable to conquer it. Encouraging progress is being made, however, and the story of the battle against this scourge will be told in an article in the Magazine of The Washington Star next Sunday, January 1.

HEAVY RAINS DAMAGE ROADS

Manassas-Centreville Road Suffers Heavily.

The very heavy rainfall of the past few days together with the saturated condition of the soil by reason of the recent snow, played havoc with the roads of Virginia, many of the surfaced highways suffering heavily.

Particularly destructive was the effect upon the recently surfaced Manassas-Centreville section of the highway leading to Washington. Here in many places the surfacing gave way completely, leaving water holes and muddy areas greatly retarding rapidly moving vehicles, although not becoming impassable.

Reports indicate that in many sections the damage was so great as to entirely obstruct traffic. One of these was the Marshall-Delaplane road, where great trenches formed by crumbling of the road bed in many places.

XMAS GOODIES FOR CHILDREN

The Kiwanis Club as usual played Santa Claus to a considerable number of children in Prince William.

Several machines were kept busy up to late afternoon. About dark Town Manager Cocke was seen riding off into the country, "pack on back."

Raymond Ratcliffe, Bob Hutchison, Arthur Boatwright and others whose names we did not get were also seen wandering around with packs of toys and goodies on their backs.

Fred Hynson was chairman of the committee which carried on the work.

REV. HUTCHISON RE- PORTED MUCH BETTER

Rev. Westwood Hutchison is on the road to recovery. His many friends will be glad to learn.

100 VENIREMEN SUMMONED FOR BALL CASE JANUARY 4

The work of summoning one hundred veniremen from which to select a jury of twelve to sit in the case of E. Wade Ball, former treasurer of Arlington county, was begun Monday by Sheriff Howard B. Fields. The case is set for trial January 4 next. On the first trial Ball was acquitted by a jury, the case being in connection with the alleged shortage as claimed by auditors who examined the books of the county.

LARGE CROWD ATTENDS BALL

Manassas Annual Assembly Widely Attended.

The assembly, given under the auspices of the Woman's Club, held last night, was a most brilliant and colorful affair.

Miniature forests of beautifully decorated Christmas trees lined the walls and the glimmering, multi-colored canopy of lights gave the effect of stars.

Mrs. Robert Smith, president of the Woman's Club, was assisted by the officers of the club and Miss Eleanor Gibson, president of the Junior Club.

The ball was strictly formal and dancing began at 10:30 and continued till 1:30 a.m. Several delightful intermission parties were given and buffet supper was served in the assembly room at midnight.

The Journal was not able to secure a list of the guests as there were several hundred, many of them out-of-town visitors for the occasion.

STATE GAS REVENUE 7 P. C. OFF IN NOV.

First Year in History Tax Figures Fail to Increase.

Gasoline taxes for the month of November totaled \$960,302.50 as compared with \$1,036,966.49 for the corresponding month of 1931, it was learned at the offices of the State Division of Motor Vehicles. The decline was about 7 per cent.

Total gasoline taxes for the first eleven months of this year are \$10,606,010.43 as compared with \$11,208,356.97 for a corresponding period in 1931 and with \$10,523,127.75 for the first eleven months of 1930. Collections thus far in 1932 have declined 5.38 per cent under the comparable figure for 1931.

This year is the first in the history of the gas tax that annual figures will fail to increase. The decline, however, is less than was anticipated.

RECEIVERSHIP FOR MCCOY TRANSPORTATION CO.

On December 23 Judge McCarthy of the Circuit Court of Prince William county appointed Mr. A. S. Boatwright, of Manassas, receiver for the McCoy Transportation Company.

FORT HUMPHREYS POSTMASTER DIES

On Sunday, Ross Walker, postmaster at Fort Humphreys, died at Walter Reid Hospital in Washington. He was buried at Arlington on Tuesday.

ALPAUGH-HAYDON

Miss Frances Haydon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Edward Haydon, Clarendon, will be married this evening at 7 o'clock in St. George's Episcopal church, to Mr. Walter A. Alpaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Alpaugh, Manassas. Rev. H. J. Miller, rector of the church, will perform the ceremony. The church will be decorated in Christmas greens.

The bride, who will be given in marriage by her father, will wear a light blue formal evening dress with a jacket, a rhinestone cap and silver slippers. She will carry an old-fashioned bouquet of sweetheart roses.

Miss Nina H. Dalton, Manassas, cousin of the bride, will be the maid-of-honor. She will wear a rose beige gown with gold cap and slippers. She will carry talisman roses and dwarf iris.

Mr. Paul Loughran, Washington, will be the best man. The ushers will be Mr. Luther A. Alpaugh, Manassas, brother of the groom, and Mr. Edward Wade Dalton, Manassas, cousin of the bride.

A reception at the bride's home to the immediate members of the family will follow the ceremony. Mrs. Haydon and Mrs. Alpaugh will receive with the young couple. The living room will be decorated in Christmas greens and the dining room in white.

Mr. and Mrs. Alpaugh will be at home Christmas Day at 2514 14th street, Washington.

—Commonwealth-Monitor.

Saturday, December 24.

Manassas guests were, besides the members of the Alpaugh family, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wade Dalton, uncle and aunt of the bride; Miss Barbara O'Neill, Messrs. Chamblin, John Wurdemann and Delmar Cosgrove.