

By SPECTATOR...

COMMENTS ON MEN AND THINGS

It is too early to predict what relief, if any, the General Assembly will grant to the taxpayers. According to newspaper reports it appears that new or additional taxes were imposed last year because of an apparent deficit of ten million dollars. During the ensuing months the condition appears to be changed so that we now have—or may have—a surplus of ten million dollars.

What do you think ought to be done? A frank discussion of this with your Senator and Representatives would be very interesting.

Statistics are not always conclusive. If a hundred men together have a hundred million dollars the statistical average would be a million dollars for each man. If John D. Rockefeller II were in the group it might well be that he has a hundred million and the other ninety-nine are "on relief."

Statistics indicate that the citizens of the country are riding a high tide of prosperity; that money is flowing like a Spring tide on the beach or like a mountain torrent in flood. But the merchants and farmers of this state don't speak of easy, abundant money.

The Congress and the State Legislature might do well to look into legal conditions instead of accepting statistics.

What of February? If February produced only two men it would shine with special splendor. But it produced numerous average men and the world rests on average men. True it is that a great intellect or

a great spirit may illumine the path for us average men, but the fact is indisputable that without the wheels of a magnificent, high-powered, plush automobile would be useless. But who ever thinks of the wheels?

Great Generals and Admirals are necessary, but by their genius alone no victory would result; we must have the private soldier and the sailor or boy to make genius effective.

February is credited with Ground Hog Day; and if there is one day fresh in the minds of the farmers it is Ground Hog Day. Great birthdays and great battles; anniversaries of great occasions, successes, failures, calamities, or what not, may be lightly regarded or disregarded, but not Ground Hog Day and the shadow of the Ground Hog.

So February is imperishable because of the renowned Ground Hog. Among men of distinction throughout the Nation February gave us General Joseph E. Johnston, General Philip H. Sheridan, William Henry Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, St. Valentine and George Washington.

If I should hazard the guess that the Ground Hog and St. Valentine are more highly esteemed, regarded and celebrated than those two world figures, Washington and Lincoln. It may not only surprise and astonish you, but it may even offend your idea of the proprieties, but I submit it to you respectfully: Do Washington and Lincoln mean as much to the average man in the street as the Ground Hog and Saint Valentine? Observe the widespread sale of stuff and nonsense occasioned by St. Valentine!! Stuff and nonsense?

Yea, verily; but the world cherishes stuff and nonsense, tomfoolery in the comics—and "such like," much more than it fondly embraces the resplendent intellectual achievements of the world's greatest benefactors. If you dissent from this iconoclast look about you, even, perchance, in your own home.

Well, so you and I may not be victims of the image-breakers, known among the high-faluting as iconoclasts, let us soberly and respectfully contemplate some of the men associated with February; may I say that I was not flippant though I may shock some sensibilities; the sad truth is that few people (comparatively) read solid, informative matter; still fewer think over it. The great achievements and thoughts of ancient glory are for most people, just a lot of dry stuff covered over with the dust of indifference.

Let us see: General Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate general highly regarded as a strategist and a commander in the early days of the war.

General Johnston is lost in the haze of time and is not regarded today by the average man as a great general.

We come next to General Sheridan, well known cavalry leader of the Union Army; toward the close of the Civil War, the three most prominent Union generals were Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

Just how great Sheridan would have been in class with J. E. B. Stuart or Wade Hampton at the beginning of the war one can only imagine; but Sheridan is highly regarded by our Northern friends.

The third figure of February was Abraham Lincoln. Even writing as a Southerner, a native of Charleston, a grandson of old Society Hill, Darlington County, on my mother's side; and a grandson of the Valley of Virginia on my mother's side, I think the bitterness of the South springs from the Reconstruction abuses rather than from the war itself. None of the splendid spirit shown by us to the Germans, Italians and Japanese was shown to the South. Even today the South is not accorded a due consideration and respect. Toward the South, following Lincoln's death, the savage ferocity, incredible vindictiveness actuated by the Federal Government in all its dealings with the South.

As a matter of fairness I must say that all that malevolence was not shared by Abraham Lincoln;

he wished to restore the South to her rightful place.

If we can deal kindly, gently and generously with Japan, after the disaster to our fleet in the Pacific, we certainly can show magnanimity to the man who planned to treat our people graciously.

George Washington: the one name about which there will be no quibbles. First in war; First in peace; and First in the hearts of his countrymen.

Without Washington we should probably have lost our war for independence, for in the dark days his name, his character, his integrity, his unflinching dedication and resourceful application—all those qualities in one man may have won the war.

After some feeble and faltering efforts to build a nation on the Articles of Confederation it was George Washington who called the conference at Annapolis, which adjourned to Philadelphia, resulting in the preparation of the Constitution. It was probably Washington's decision and wisdom which won the doubtful states to ratify it. It was Washington's wisdom and patriotism which formed the new government.

Never before had so noble a figure stood in the forefront of a nation's life.

The one figure, standing alone as the supreme builder, under God, of a great nation.

How is the South progressing? Or is the South progressing?

They say that figures don't prevaricate, speaking now of mathematical figures, only! Other figures may be beguiling or misleading, but the plain old arithmetic of our school days never aroused false hopes, though sometimes they did leave you cast-down, utterly at sea.

An enthusiastic Southerner uses both language and figures, and I confidently assert that if you challenge his language of euphemistic words you must accept the language as depicted in figures.

Now then hear him: "Make no mistake about it! The modern South's phenomenal record of growth is no one-shot, flash in the pan proposition. Year after year it goes on, growing bigger and bigger, building up like a snowball rolling down hill.

As we said last year—don't take our word for it. Just look at the official U. S. Government figures shown in the panel below and you'll see that the South's economic development since World War II has outpaced the national rate of growth in practically every category you can

EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Bishop Herbert Spang

The growing secularization of the Christian Sabbath greatly disturbs those who are concerned with the welfare and safety of our republic. It is another of those symptoms of inward moral deterioration and decay which is a far greater danger than the feared attacks on our security from without. We read much about national danger from atomic attack, but little about the inward decay which has brought about the fall of other republics before ours.

Study history for yourself and you will discover that the average life of these republics has been about 200 years. That anniversary for us is in sight.

We are doing a good job in undermining the moral and spiritual foundations upon which this nation rests with the breakdown of the home and the complicated family problems which are resulting, multiple marriages, and the tragic damage to the children involved. Juvenile and youth delinquency is on the increase. Beverage alcohol has become not only respectable but also fashionable. The time given to spiritual rehabilitation is becoming less and less. Even the church which is the custodian and dispenser of spiritual truth is becoming chiefly a religious club, with little sense of the need of personal evangelism and practical and working Christian faith.

Now the church is slowly being squeezed out of the one remaining day—Sunday. It wouldn't be too bad if people used their time away from church in personal cultivation of their spiritual life. Chores which could easily be done on another day are now being undertaken on Sunday, such as grocery and other shopping. Commercial amusements have likewise invaded the day. Those who would substi-

nary. Not only that, in most instances this year's figures for the Southeast show even more startling gains for the region than its enviable record of growth published a year ago.

Yes, this is the era of opportunity for the young, fast-growing South the confident, vigorous growing up years.

A recent U. S. Department of Commerce report shows the following expansion in major fields of business activity from World War II (1946, 1947 or 1948) to 1959:

	For The Southeast	For The U. S.
Dollar Value of Construction Contracts	271%	75%
Manufacturing Employment	20%	1%
New Plant and Equipment Expenditures	145%	102%
Dollar Value Added By Manufacturer	104%	90%
Electric Energy Produced	250%	169%
Number of Manufacturing Establishments	40%	26%
Dollar Value of Manufacturing Payrolls	131%	117%
Contract Construction Employment	58%	34%
Dollar Value of Bank Deposits	74%	61%
Dollar Value of Life Insurance In Force	223%	148%
Motor Vehicle Registrations	121%	83%
Dollar Value of Retail Sales	70%	48%
Retail Trade Employment	27%	14%
Dollar Value of World Trade (Imports and Exports) Through Customs Districts	138%	111%
Dollar Value of Retail Trade Payrolls	82%	56%
Gross Personal Income	102%	88%
Per Capita Personal Income	66%	56%
Cash Farm Income	44%	32%
Number of Industrial and Commercial Firms	57%	25%

"No free government, or the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue, and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles."—Patrick Henry.

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tute the cash register for the collection plate could profitably spend some time in reading their Bibles and the pages of secular history.

Certain businesses necessary for the public welfare justify their operation on Sunday, such as hospitals, transportation, communication facilities, and the like. But we have gone far beyond that. Now when the average working man has Saturday at his disposal, he puts over into Sunday a portion of his purchasing which he could do equally as well on Saturday, and not encourage the greedy purveyor of merchandise who not only violates the divine scheme of things, but also compels his employees to be an accessory by denying them the proper use of Sunday.

These are not the complaints of

querulous clergymen. They are warnings of students of history. One day in seven for rest and spiritual restoration is a vital necessity in the divine order of things.

Those who are pulling down Sunday to the week-day level might well read Aesop's fable of "The Dog and the Bone." A dog was trotting home with a nice bone. He had to cross a stream on a foot log.

USE CHRONICLE WANT ADS

J. R. Crawford SURVEYING
CLINTON, S. C.
Phone 3493 Joanna

Looking down, he saw his reflection in the water and thinking it to be another dog with a larger bone, he opened his mouth to bark at it. He not only lost what he expected to get but also what he had.

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