

TRUTH ABOUT THE EASTERN SHORE

The report made by Dr. Broadus Mitchell at the request of the Federal Council of Churches has reopened afresh the wound that was afflicted by earlier criticism heaped upon our Eastern Shore.

More and more our loyal citizens are resenting these unjust attacks upon their institutions, ideals, and intelligence.

This learned doctor of a famous university, who was supposed to give ponderous consideration to the task assigned him, spent only three hours on the Eastern Shore, at the end of that short stay he tells that the whole Eastern Shore is "backward"—"geographically isolated"—"ignorant."

By what method can he possibly have gotten a comprehensive idea of the Eastern Shore and its people in three hours? Did the doctor take the trouble to visit half of the nine counties that stretch for more than 150 miles along the Chesapeake Bay? Did he interview any of the people of this section? Did he delve very deeply into our ideals, our institutions, our churches?

Fortunately, while the criticism is very offensive to every Eastern Shoreman, it nevertheless, is doing no great harm. The Eastern Shore is being broadcast far and wide, and while its enemies are seeking to give it a "Black eye", its friends too are active.

Former Senator Bruce, who in our opinion, by reason of his closer contact with the Eastern Shore is far better to voice an opinion, answers Dr. Mitchell with these words."

"Having thrice canvassed every part of the Eastern Shore, as a candidate for a seat in the United States Senate, and having been brought into intimate contact with its people, I wish to deny, if my personal testimony is worth anything, that the Eastern Shore is, as Prof. Mitchell affirms, 'backward' in its 'mental and spiritual development.'

"Suffice it is to say that the idea is laughable.

"One cannot move along the roads that lead up to them (the Eastern Shore towns) without being struck with the heavy burden of transportation that trucks are unceasingly carrying over these roads, and their well-stocked stores, and the numerous motor cars parked, or in motion, on their streets, are unmistakably indicative of brisk activity.

"No kinder, more courteous, more hospitable, more intelligent, more moral, more God-fearing people, as a whole, have I ever met. If they have any special infirmities worthy of criticism these infirmities are so inextricably interwoven with their splendid personal and domestic virtues that I, at least, have no inclination to distinguish the one from the other."

This able Marylander recalled a lynching right outside of Baltimore that occurred within his memory.

This article appeared in the Baltimore "Observer":

Help! Help! We need your help. For three hundred years, the Eastern Shore has been supplying the country with leaders in war, politics and finances. One trouble after another seems coming upon us since Mr. Rascob came to live with us last year. Murders, lynchings, bank closings, almost unknown in this Garden of Eden, have visited us all at once.

Worst of all, for the first time in history—we are accused of "being backward"—and other horrible things by a learned professor representing some big church organization that is always asking for money. We are not much,