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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1934

Speed Limit Too Low

Along with thousands of other small towns, North Wilkesboro has a ridiculously low speed limit. As a result, practically every motorist violates the regulations governing speed.

How many automobile drivers do not exceed 12 miles per hour through the business section? How many keep within 10 miles per hour in turning corners? How many mosey along in the residential sections under 20 miles per hour?

On a guess, it would be just as satisfactory to set a higher speed limit or simply say "drive reasonable," as Tennessee does, as it is to have such low speeds that few people will observe the regulations.

Most people will agree that the present speed laws in North Wilkesboro are seldom observed.

Wilkes County's Candidate

Wilkes county has a candidate that is well qualified indeed for the honor and title of "poet laureate of North Carolina." At the present time, no one is so designated, but we can think of no one more deserving of the title than James Larkin Pearson, of Boomer.

The mountain poet, as he is often referred to, has written much that will eventually take its place among the best that North Carolina poets have produced. He has gained national recognition, but is too little known in North Carolina. Why wait until he is dead to cast a few flowers in his pathway?

While struggling under handicaps that would engulf most of us and cause us to throw up our hands in despair, James Larkin Pearson has used his spare time, when he is not laboring at other tasks to care for an invalid wife and his children, to write some of the best poetry of modern times. Any man who can win national recognition under such conditions is entitled to the highest honors his own people can bestow.

Save the Good Features

Now that it is no longer considered unpatriotic to criticize the NRA and the administration, expressions of opposition are more frequent.

Crusading, plain-spoken Carl Goerch, the dynamic editor of The State, called for the scrapping of NRA in a strong editorial which appeared in a recent issue of his publication. In the government's semi-control over business, he sees things contrary to the rugged individualism which characterized the growth of the American nation.

Numerous other reasons, most of which will be incorporated in the Republican campaign this year, are given junking NRA. It is a fearless, courageous stand that the Raleigh editor takes and one that will meet with both opposition and approval.

A majority of the people are inclined to favor a middle course. There is considerable sentiment for the retention of the essential features of NRA and for the removal of those features which are likely to hamper the unrestricted conduct of one's own business affairs. In other words, the probability is that President Roosevelt will receive word from the people that a man has a right to run his own business so long as the way he conducts it does not injure his competitor or push down the yoke of semi-slavery upon the necks of those in his employ. That no man should be allowed to use cut-throat business methods which tend to destroy a competitor or cut the wages of the laboring man to a point where it is difficult for him to earn a decent living is a position that is generally supported by the average citizen.

There will be considerable discussion, pro and con, relative to the NRA within the next few months. Developments will be interesting to watch and the probability of a scrap always holds a measure of attention.

Fewer Counties

It is a safe prediction to say the states will be slow to follow the example of Idaho and Oklahoma which have amended their laws to permit consolidation of counties. That the cost of administering county government—and state and federal governments for that matter—is too great is no longer any secret. That the cost to the taxpayers could be appreciably reduced by the elimination of many small counties is unquestioned. But where do we go from here?

When we go out into the counties, we find political machines entrenched as only such organizations can be entrenched. We find them drunk with power and unwilling to surrender even the slightest privilege. Local pride is paramount. History is built around the name of a great county and it would be sacrilege to deprive it of its identity. We find inequalities of county indebtedness. And so when and if we ever get around to the point of voting on county mergers, the pros will have about as much chance as the Republicans have of carrying South Carolina.

"In the interest of economy and efficiency, county mergers justify the theory against any objection that may be raised against the movement," says the Charlotte Observer. True enough, true enough. But economy and efficiency are not the watchwords of practical politicians and a proud people whom Barnum described so accurately.

Grange For Sales Tax

The North Carolina Grange, speaking through its leader, E. S. Vanatta, master of the State Grange, has come out in open support of the general sales tax.

Mr. Vanatta's endorsement was given to the North Carolina Association of Real Estate Boards, which, according to its own news release, "is fighting for the retention of the sales tax until a substitute equally fair and workable is found."

As we understand it, Mr. Vanatta takes this position not because of any particular enthusiasm for the sales tax. Quite the contrary, the Grange is opposed to repeal of the sales tax because the farmers are opposed to burdensome taxes on real estate. This position is sound in that a substitute other than a return to the ad valorem tax should be offered before the sales tax is abolished.

The sales tax is fundamentally wrong. Its application in any state is unfortunate and burdensome. Yet one can hardly find fault with the Grange for taking a position calculated to prevent a return to the old system which was in such disrepute with the thousands of farmers who found it so difficult to meet their tax obligations prior to the removal of the ad valorem tax for school purposes.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

CHRIST'S STANDARD OF GREATNESS
Lesson for April 29th. Matthew 20. Golden Text: Matt. 20:28.

The Master's criterion of greatness, as revealed by this familiar story of Salome and her two famous sons, is service. He Himself was sent into the world "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." and He expects His disciples to abandon all thought of the self-sparing life, and to fling themselves into the adventure of self-giving.

What are the earmarks of service? First, lowliness. John and James wanted to occupy a place of supreme prominence. They had not mastered that difficult art of humility so nobly revealed by Jesus when He, at the Last Supper, fastened a towel about Him, and washed their feet.

The second token of service is brotherhood. It is possible that John and James were envious of Peter, the leader of the twelve. Perhaps they feared him as their chief rival, and were determined to usurp his prerogatives. At any rate, their conduct was so unfraternal that it aroused the resentment of their fellow-disciples, and Jesus had to pour oil on the troubled waters.

A third characteristic of service is dignity. We note that the sons of Salome imagined for themselves a position of great dignity. But this dignity was the dream of a swollen ambition. They had yet to learn the honour that goes both with honest toil and the daily gesture of neighborly kindness.

Finally service is marked by fruitfulness. Here it is pleasant to recall that James and John did release their energies in a productive ministry. James, while less distinguished than his brother, was a devoted soul who died a martyr. And John is universally beloved as the most Christ-like of the apostles whose long, full life unveiled unrivalled saintliness. Let us march behind their banner, fully recognizing, as Pasteur said that the future belongs to those who do most for suffering humanity.

Who are the truly great? Not those who win battles and wear crowns but who give a cup of water to a fellow-creature in distress.

A cartoonist, it appears, is under guard against kidnapers. Has anyone ever thought of kidnaping a radio crooner?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

If stocks will just boil a few more times, there'll be enough hot water to cook that "chicken in every pot"—Omaha World-Herald.

This Week in Washington

Washington, April 23. (Auto-caster)—Adjournment of Congress by May 15th is the definite program, agreed upon by House leaders and the President. But there is still a fair chance that the Senate may upset this, unless some of the things upon which a number of Senators have set their hearts are agreed on before that date.

Most important of the items which the President insisted upon in his conferences with Congressional leaders on his return from his fishing trip is an appropriation of a billion and half dollars to continue Federal relief work. More unemployed are now on the Government relief rolls than at any previous time; nearly twelve million persons in all. The expected new funds will be added to those already available for public works, direct Federal relief and aid to states and municipalities.

Next on the President's program of essential legislation is the Stock Exchange regulation bill. This had been amended so that it will not put the stock exchanges out of business, as the original measure was calculated to do. The vital importance of maintaining an open market in which anyone who wants to buy or sell stocks and bonds can always do so, at a price, is assured by the bill as it stands, and the drastic provisions which would compel the liquidation of billions in outstanding bank loans have plenty of teeth in the bill, however, to discourage wild speculation. There are still other provisions, which is its main purpose. Congress and the Administration still believe that all of our present troubles started in Wall Street.

The Security Act

The President also is insistent upon the passage of amendments to the Securities Act of last year. It has been learned, from nearly a year's experience, that it is impossible to get honest men to take the risk of offering new securities for sale, when under that law they might be sent to jail because some salesman of

whom they had never heard, long after the securities had passed out of their hands, did not tell the whole truth about them, and any time within ten years anyone who bought them and was sick of his bargain could claim his money back from the original issuers.

Since there is only one way whereby private capital can invest in business and industry, and that is by the purchase of bonds and shares of a business corporation, and nearly every industry is constantly in need of fresh capital, particularly so at the present time, the idea is to make it safe for the industries to float new bond and share issues, and so put private capital at work as well as Government funds.

The understanding here is that the President would be satisfied to have Congress pass those three major pieces of legislation and then go home. But the indications are that Congress is going to take matters into its own hands and pass another inflation measure. This will be the Dies silver bill, as modified by amendments drafted by Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, and on which the "farm bloc" and the "silver bloc" are in agreement and are certain they can get enough votes to pass the bill. This would raise the price of silver, put \$50,000,000 a month of new silver certificates into circulation, and put a premium on silver used by foreign buyers for American agricultural products.

The Labor Legislation

There is less likelihood as time goes on of the passage of the Wagner bill to limit hours of labor to 30 a week. The proposals for unemployment insurance under Federal control will go over to the next session—that is to say, to the next Congress, for this is the final session of the 73rd Congress. For the first time since the latest amendment to the Constitution was adopted, the Congress elected next November will take office early in January and begin its work—without any "lame ducks" or members who have been defeated for re-election but still hold over, among them.

Another major piece of legislation, however, which probably will be law by the time this is

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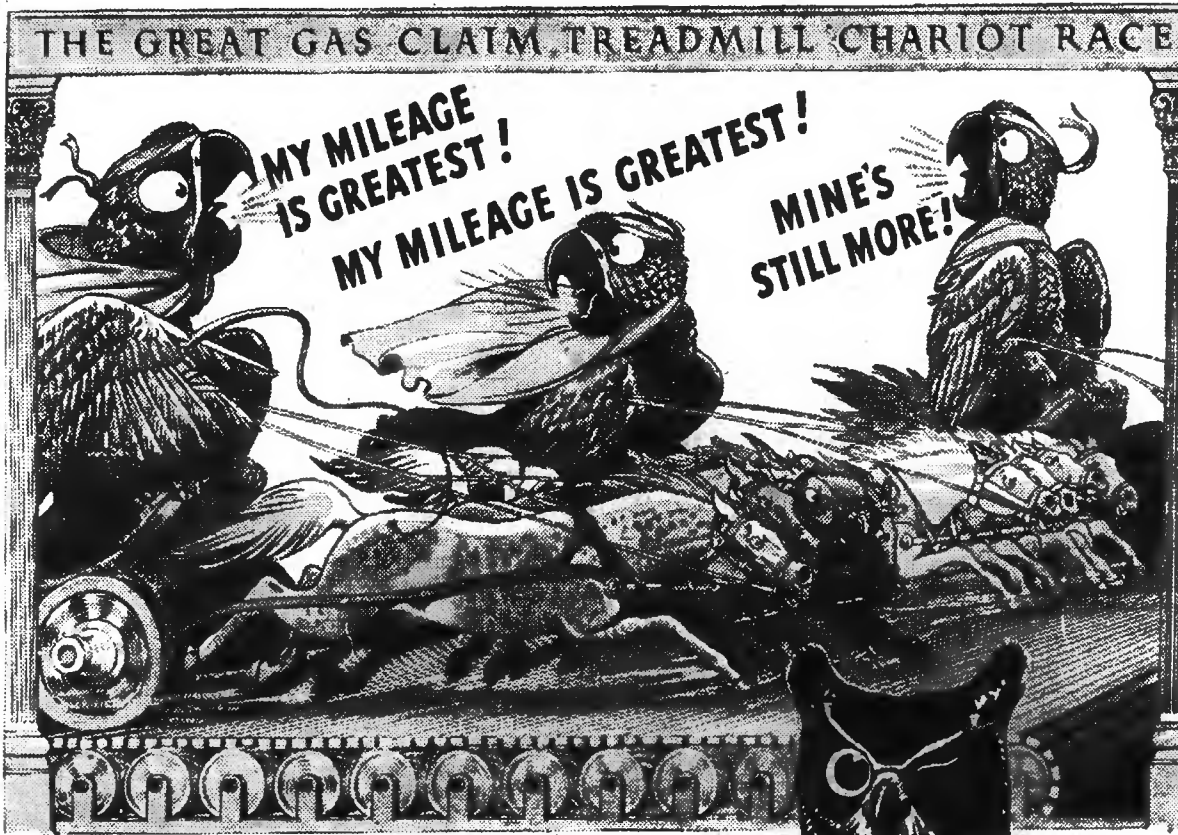
THE MOTOR SERVICE CO.

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printed, is the new income tax bill, which takes a good deal of the burden off the shoulders of the poorer class of taxpayers and piles more of it on the rich, especially upon inherited estates. As to other Administration plans which do not require additional legislation, chief interest centers upon the efforts to reorganize the NRA to make its provisions under the codes enforceable. There is a good deal of confusion inside the NRA offices, and a growing volume of protests from industry and business against some of the code interpretations. It is too soon to say that "NRA has broken down," as many business interests contend, but in practice it is not proving the benefit that it was expected to be.

Turn to Economic Stability
Much thought is being given to the effort to work out a satisfactory plan to encourage home building, but without any success so far. There is also cooking up some program for aiding the so-called "capital goods" industries, meaning the makers of machines and equipment which are not consumed but are used to make consumable goods.

Washington is more crowded than ever before. The past year has been a wonderful harvest-time for Washington hotel-keepers, and the climax came with the annual cherry-blossom festival, when there was not a single room in the city available for the late-arriving visitors.



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