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 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, JULY 18, 1938

Why Abolish Primary?

Many allegations of fraud in primaries throughout the state have given momentum to the movement to abolish the primary method of nominating delegates. Many, who perhaps are sickened at abuses of the primary law, want to return to the old convention system.

The way it appears now and after both methods have been tried it narrows down to a choice of two evils and that neither system could be held up as examples of honesty. In the convention system, candidates are often hand-picked by politicians. In the primary, candidates are often hand-picked but are put over by different methods. Some of the methods most frequently mentioned are voting members of the other party, voting absentees without their knowledge or consent or by other unlawful methods, by the use of coercion and bribery and by the shameful practice of buying votes, which has become as much a part of primaries and elections as ballots themselves. In discussing a candidate's chances to win, the first things mentioned are how much money does he have with which to buy votes and who among his supporters and workers can "control" votes.

It is true that elections laws in North Carolina need a sweeping revision and that the late Attorney General Brummit once said that North Carolina has the worst election laws in the country. Perhaps the election laws need making over but as a matter of fact laws as they now stand have never been strictly observed or enforced. Some are of the opinion that the laws, including the primary system, should be observed and enforced once before being discarded in favor of untried measures. Practically every newspaper in the state has published editorial comment literally blasting the election laws and the manner in which primaries and elections are carried out. Here is an example of conclusions of editors as expressed in an editorial from The Mecklenburg Times relative to alleged fraud in the second primary in that county on July 2:

"Looking back into the last primary held in this county, and reading of other primaries over the state, every honest-minded man and woman must admit that under our present system there is no such thing as free and untrammelled choice of public officials by the people. Even when the election is properly handled the whole procedure smacks of bought votes or votes cast under pressure for this or that candidate—and in either case no honest expression of the will of the people is possible."

There is no need for an absentee ballot law in North Carolina. People who are able to get to the polls can select officers and the absence of absentee votes will not interfere in expression of the will of the people.

Prominent Man Coming

On Tuesday night the Wilkes Pomona Grange will bring to Wilkes as guest speaker at the annual picnic of the organization Harry A. Caton, of Coshocton, Ohio, secretary of the National Grange for 10 years, former lecturer and master of the Ohio state Grange and chairman of the board of trustees of the Ohio state university. He is recognized as one of the outstanding authorities on rural affairs. The picnic will be an open meeting and all interested in promoting a more abundant life for rural people are invited. In this connection we recall the last visit of a nationally known Granger to Wilkes. The lecturer of the National Grange, one of the outstanding speakers in the country and one whose influence reached far in problems of the age,

spoke at an open meeting of the Grange at Wilkesboro and the courthouse was not half filled. Wilkes people should show a greater interest in organizations devoted to the welfare and well being of the rural population.

Borrowed Comment
DON'T SLIP THE POOR INTO UNIFORM
 (Reidsville Review)

"More and more, as 'preparedness' agitation begins to gain force, eyes turn to the Civilian Conservation Corps. Those who believe in increased military preparedness are drawn, like flies toward sugar, to the hundreds of thousands of young men passing through the CCC.

Here, they reflect, is the raw material of armies, ready at hand. Here are young, eager fellows, receiving outdoor physical training under the supervision of army officers, learning the rudiments of the discipline in the necessities of living together. Why not use this material, ready at hand, as the nucleus of a military trained reserve? All it would take would be a little close-order and small-arms drill to convert this great body of youth into a valuable military reserve.

It sounds, superficially, attractive. But it ought to be resisted with the last ounce of strength.

The key to the reason why this plan won't do was unwittingly uttered by Maj.-Gen. Hugh Drum in a message to CCC boys in the Chicago area. General Drum said:

"Enrollees come from all walks of American life . . ."

No, general, enrollees come from only one walk in American life. That is the all-too-great stratum which has been unable to find a place in the "regular" economy of the country. The CCC enrollees are the children of need, and the sons of necessity.

That, general, is not the basis on which to build an army reserve. Quite apart from the question of whether increased military training is necessary is the question of how it ought to be provided if it is necessary. Thousands of boys have found no better school than the streets. No better occupation than idle wasting. For the government to give them an opportunity to go to the woods, live in a healthy manner, learn a trade and earn some money meanwhile—that is all to the good. But to go on from there and say: "Now we will also train you as soldiers, to be first if military need arises"—that would be a gross betrayal.

It would be a grave denial of democracy, and mockery, in that even the European systems of universal service are more democratic, for they make all men subject to military training, not merely those for whom the economic machine has not been able to find a use.

If we are to have mass military training, or universal service, let us have it as such, so we will know where we are going, and not slide it in under cover of a civilian works program made necessary by other failures. If young men must train for war, let it be all young men—not a group made helpless by forces beyond them.

The name, general, is CIVILIAN Conservation Corps.

PERILS OF KISSING

Every so often some learned doctor—whose best friends, we suspect, won't tell him what his trouble is—has his fling at taking the joy out of life by issuing solemn warnings against the perils of kissing.

Now comes one Dr. O'Leary of Minnesota, who declares, as many have done before him, that kissing is likely to spread a wide variety of disease germs, ranging from tuberculosis to housemaid's knee. Says he: "Even the healthiest are liable to diseases from germ infection through careless osculation."

But, like others of the killjoy tribe, the doctor doesn't know just what can be done about it. In spite of all warnings the ancient art of kissing still flourishes. It is even suspected that in certain quarters it is on the increase.

Yet few will deny that kissing has its dangers. One of which, in certain cases, is that of getting caught.—Exchange.

To be socially agreeable, you must talk entertainingly when you have nothing to say, and laugh heartily when you are not amused.—Omaha World-Herald.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

NAMES

To commonest family names in America is still Smith, according to the largest list of names yet compiled. That is the list of 89,600,000 workers to whom Social Security numbers have been assigned. More than 470,000 of them are named Smith. The Johnsons come next, with 350,000 names. Next in frequency are Brown, Williams, Miller, Jones.

A man's name is no sure indication of his ancestry, since in America one's name is whatever one chooses to call himself. Most people, however, keep the names of their fathers and grandfathers. The preponderance of the names I have listed indicates that the dominant racial strains in America are still British, German and Scandinavian.

Smith is a name almost as common in Scotland as in England, though many Smiths are of German stock, their names having once been Schmidt. The names of Williams and Jones are distinctly Welsh. Johnson may be either Scandinavian, English or Scottish. Miller is English or German, and so is Brown.

JOBS

Speaking of unemployment, a friend said to me the other day: "The greatest area of unemployment is above the ears." He was trying to emphasize the truth that most people do not use their heads when looking for jobs.

A day or two later I saw a newspaper paragraph about a young college graduate who used his head so well that he got four jobs when he only wanted one. One took competitive examinations for engineering posts in the Army and Marine Corps and applied for Army service on the strength of his college record in the Reserve Officers Training Corps. Then he went out and hustled for a job in private employment, and got one. After he had gone to work he received notice that he had been appointed to the Army post and that he had passed both of his engineering examinations.

That boy, of course, had special qualifications. But the point is that he didn't sit down and wait for a job to come his way. He used his head and got four jobs! Almost everybody has some special ability. Too few use their heads to find where those abilities are needed.

WORK

A young friend of mine started in business for himself as a plumbing contractor about three years ago. He had no capital, but a lot of intelligence and moral courage. He knew his trade and was willing to work hard. He told me the other day that he had jobs for a dozen good workmen if he could find them. The trouble with most workers, he said, was they tried to get by with poor work and take things easy.

A building contractor I know will not hire young workmen because, he says, they don't use their heads and don't take their work seriously enough to master their trades. I don't know how far that is true generally, but I have an idea that it is pretty general.

I think that the idea that boys should be kept in school until they are 16 or 18 has made white-collar loafers out of a great many young Americans who could have become first-class artisans if they had been allowed to work when they were young enough to learn a trade.

EDUCATION

There is a homely old proverb which says: "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." All the schooling in the world will not make a scholar out of a person who is not capable of learning. Those who are capable will acquire learning and often wisdom in spite of lack of educational "advantages."

I was re-reading the other night Rudyard Kipling's autobiography. What struck me most forcibly was his efforts at self-education. He was under 16 when he quit school to go to work on a small daily pa-

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per in India. Inside of ten years his name was well known all over the world. He was the greatest literary genius of modern times. No university could have given him the understanding of people and the which he learned at first hand from personal contacts and hard work.

CHARACTER

The older I grow, the more I realize that the qualities which we call "character" are more important than learning or technical skill. A man may know everything in the books, be a master of his craft, but if he lacks character he is heading for disaster, no matter how high a position he may reach.

The world thought highly of Richard Whitney. He thought well of himself. He had intelligence, ability and qualities of leadership far above the average. But he had, also, ambition and personal vanity which made him believe that he was not bound by the ethical codes which men of honor follow. He is in Sing Sing prison today because, when he came to the test, he did not have the essential quality of character.

New Wheat Afloatment

President Roosevelt has just signed the bill setting 55 million acres of wheat as an allotment figures over which the agricultural department may not go in fixing the 1939 acreage allotments for the nation.

Prior to signature of the bill the limitation was from 42 to 50 million acres.

Maxwell States Reports Reveal Better Business

Raleigh, July 14.—Reports to the state department of revenue show that North Carolina business is definitely on the upgrade, Bureau Commissioner A. J. Maxwell said today.

"North Carolina is really going forward," the commissioner told 80 electrical contractors attending a three-day short course at N. C. State College.

He reported that 48 new industries located in the state during the first four months of this year.

"Our growing population means more new homes and, of course, more people who want to turn a button and have electricity perform their household tasks," he said.

The short course will end tomorrow.

Reading the ads. get you more for less money; try it.

Future Farm Payments

Legislation providing for payments to farmers of bonuses offset losses occasioned by reduced exports of farm products is expected to be urged by farm organizations on Congress at the next session, according to reports from various leaders.

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- 1—A Standard Testing Lamp—filled with FONSE RED KEROSENE—burned 72 hours with very little more than slight incrustation of the wick (technically known as "TOADSTOOLS").
- 2—Twenty-four hours burning is the most severe test that any kerosene is usually called on to pass.
- 3—After thirty-six hours burning with FONSE RED KEROSENE the lamp wick seems only slightly charred. (NO TOADSTOOLS)
- 4—FONSE RED KEROSENE after 72 hours burning, left a chimney that the passage of a handkerchief could clean and leave the handkerchief unsoiled.
- 5—The unpleasant odor usually associated with kerosene is completely absent when FONSE RED KEROSENE is used.
- 6—The color of FONSE RED KEROSENE is a brilliant RED—so perfect that an expert would have to shake a sample bottle to distinguish it from HIGH GRADE GASOLINE.
- 7—This clean, long-time burning KEROSENE is of inestimable value as a labor-saver when used for lighting or heating.
- 8—The high temperature (flash point) at which FONSE RED KEROSENE flashes is a safety factor which will be highly commended by any fire department. We stress this point, because a number of users confuse maximum with minimum flash point. The higher the temperature is before the kerosene will flash, the less danger there is of accidental ignition and explosion.
- 9—Be thrifty and buy "FONSE RED KEROSENE" at 11c per gallon retail and save the difference. Wholesale price to customers bringing drums to be filled.

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