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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Forgery

A news item in our favorite family newspaper tells about two young men being charged with forging checks in various amounts.

Forgery is one crime that it is almost impossible to get by with.

In the first place, it is almost invariably discovered; and in the second place, the guilty parties do not have a chance of escaping apprehension once in 100 tries.

Forgery is just about as difficult as counterfeiting. Ever since money has been made by the government there have been hairbrained individuals who sought an easy way of possessing money by printing imitations. They look at a \$10 piece of currency, think of its value and then devise a scheme to print some.

The average length of time that the most shrewd counterfeiters get by with their trade is only a few months. They may think that they are getting rich easy and fast but the disaster at the end of the road is inevitable.

"Be sure your sins will find you out" is more strikingly evidenced in production of imitations than in anything else. There is no getting by with anything wrong because the day of reckoning is just as sure to arrive as sunrise in the morning.

Prettier Homes

Drive over any highway in North Carolina and you can see pretty homes.

There has been a very noticeable improvement in the appearance of homes during the past ten years.

New houses are more handsomely constructed, landscaping is neater, lawns are well kept and paint almost invariably touches up the good appearance.

People in North Carolina are showing deep respect for their own places of abode, a fact that speaks well for the citizenship. The home is the underlying basis for all endeavor. Before we can have good communities, villages, counties and states we must first have good homes occupied by home loving people.

The next requisite is a community spirit. Our interest should go farther than the boundary of the lawn. This means co-operation on the part of the people in the homes toward building community institutions.

It means that home owners must stick together to hold up the moral standards of their respective communities.

The person who winks at places of ill repute because they do not bother him is badly mistaken.

You may have an extraordinarily good house and it may be pretty as the prettiest picture but its value falls disastrously if the environment is not good. A good house in a good community will bring what it is worth when sold, but a good home in a bad community lacks much of having the same cash value.

Thus it is seen that a person must support community interests in order to protect his own.

Good churches and good schools working with a close community spirit are of great value. Even an infidel does not want to live in a community where there is no church.

Autumn For Accidents

October, November and December brings the highest number of fatalities on American highways, the National Conservation Bureau, accident prevention division of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives, points out in offering hints to motorists for avoiding hazards during those months.

With the amount of travel during the last quarter of the year no greater than during March, April and May, the automobile death total for the last three months of the year is about 25 per cent higher, averages for the last three years show. January, too, shows a higher accident rate per mile driven than the Spring months.

The major reason for this is the increase in hours of darkness, the Bureau's safety specialists point out. Drivers who during the Spring and Summer go from office to home in daylight often fail to realize that it gets dark earlier with the approach of Winter, and that with more night driving the danger from lessened visibility increases.

To make things worse, the Bureau says, most of the additional night driving during the Autumn and Winter months is done between 5 to 7 P. M., when traffic is at a peak and motorists are impatient to reach home.

Borrowed Comment

SOUND AMERICA

(Orphans' Journal)

People young enough to resent being called old well remember the indignation with which the first billion dollar Congress was ushered in. The idea of adjusting taxes to raise half a million in taxes each year of a biennium was horrifying to the voting public and to them was the last lap in the direction of bankruptcy. The income tax was yet to be born and luxury taxes had not been discussed. Those now seem to have been piker days.

The announcement was made the other day that the British Government has appropriated \$8,000,000,000 for the first year's conduct of the war with Germany which on the per capita basis is \$1.40 out of each \$4.00 earned by the people of the United Kingdom. This is compared with the \$2,400,000,000 spent by the British in the first year of the World War.

The sums that all the nations are spending on the business of killing is appalling and is skyrocketing indebtedness. The germs of the present troubles were cultured long ago in the past and the people of the world are being checked up by Nemesis. There is an old saying that when Love flies out of the window, Hate flies in. With a little juggling of words another truism can be built up to stress the fact that when Peace abdicates, War takes charge and Liberty and normal living go into eclipse.

But the economic, financial and sociological set-ups are of the toughest kind. Those who think that they have the keys of their solution would not be very good hands into which to leave them. The truth is that every world citizen great or small is baffled. Who knows exactly where to stop spending and where to "call a halt?" Who can mark the line of demarcation between the imbecility of failing to take protective measures to meet situations all and sundry and the necessity for defense of life and liberty?

While the people of America should not try to parade their virtues and advantages after the Pharisaical manner, they should consider them carefully and see that they are never lost. Yet they should not bend backward with undue modesty. They are indeed the most fortunate of people and enjoy liberty in far greater measure than it is enjoyed in other countries. Most of the other countries are reacting to emergencies and "musts". America is free and sovereign in the conduct of its affairs and it is the soundness of its institutions that permits this advantage to remain with us.

LEAVE US OUR INITIATIVE

(Shelby Star)

We believe the federal government authorities who have placed tobacco quotas on an acreage basis rather than on the old poundage standard have taken a step in the right direction.

Some will doubt the wisdom of quotas at all, but if they are to continue with us, acreage quotas seem far more advisable than poundage quotas. One factor alone, strongly supports this theory, and it is the element of farmers' initiative.

One of the things we have disliked about crop quotas has been the factor that seemed to destroy initiative and farming skill rather than build them up. Down in Eastern North Carolina, for instance, it has been a fairly common experience for good farmers to raise without much trouble the amounts of tobacco they could sell under their existing quotas.

With this situation prevailing, with the knowledge that a farmer doing a little better job than the average grower and turning his efforts into better yields couldn't sell the extra yield anywhere, where was the incentive to be a good farmer? Where was the wisdom of paying a great deal of attention to "per-acre yields? Where was the urge to improve farming skill or of improving the land? In many cases, the urges simply failed to exist.

Tobacco authorities of the AAA believe now, according to the 1940 quotas outlined for tobacco farmers, that production can be kept in line with demand by permitting a farmer to plant a certain number of acres, but then allowing him to grow just as much tobacco on that acreage as his skill will permit. We hope this marks the beginning of a new trend in crop control that will spread rapidly.

PETTICOAT RULE

(Asheville Citizen)

The little town of Dover, North Carolina, evidently does not agree with Kipling's famous estimate of the female of the species. According to an article in the Southern Municipal News eight of the eleven town offices are held by women. That includes a woman mayor, clerk, treasurer, tax collector and health officer. However there is a male chief of police and one lone man councilman.

Apparently the majority of these ladies are married for they mostly have the title "Mrs." before their names though the occupations of their husbands was not listed in the dry outlines of the 1939-40 Roster of North Carolina Municipal Officials. Which sets us to wondering. What do the warriors' husbands do with themselves while their spouses sit around the council table and debate affairs of state?

A federal survey just completed of the great state of Ohio reveals 8,000,000 acres of timber, not counting presidential.—Detroit News.

Two Sides To Every Question

(By LITTLE HULL)

The Communist is never consistent and the Socialist follows closely in his footsteps. The Communist squalls his head off about the dreadful abuses visited upon the heads of the people by those wicked propagators of evil—the Government, the Capitalist and the Church.

He maintains that this combination of villains is attempting to stop free expression of thought; to enslave the worker and to destroy the spirit of enterprise.

While he breathes anathema out of one side of his mouth, the other side is staging praises of that most successful of all experiments in the stoppage of free expression; the enslavement of the worker and the destruction of individual enterprise—the blood-red government of Russia.

Ask the next pink-tinted disciple of Lenin whom you meet to explain this inconsistency, and if you know any more about it after he explains than you did before, then you must be gifted with some sixth sense which other humans don't enjoy.

The Socialist is equally clear. He will rant by the hour upon the beauties of his Utopian theory as opposed to our insipid form of Democratic government, but if you advance the suggestion that Socialism, as practiced in Italy and Germany, illustrates the application of that political theory—he will inform you that you are "all wet."

It may be granted that the Horror in Russia is not that ideal form of Communism which the theorist contemplates, but if you can find a Pink who is broad-minded enough, he will admit that it is the only kind of Communism which the human being is capable of putting into practice in this modern day and time. He will admit that there is no man living (except himself) who is capable of using the powers necessary properly to conduct that form of government in a purely unselfish, self-effacing manner, and that regardless of a leader's original good intentions, he must eventually assume tyrannical powers or else go down under the inevitable attacks of political rivals.

If, by any conceivable chance, the advocate of Communism or Socialism should run out of arguments, his last defense is always—"Well, anything is better than that which we have here now: ten million unemployed," etc. etc.

Let us dissect that statement and see how much truth it contains.

Under our present form of government an American citizen lives in the conscious pride that he is a free man; that he can quit his job if and when he likes, and tell his boss where to go for good measure. He can vote for whom he lives and no man dares persecute him for so doing. He can get a soap box and go out in the

public square and tell the crowd just what he thinks about everybody in Washington, or in his State, County and City government, and if the cops don't run him in for creating a disturbance or blocking traffic—he can get away with it.

He can write a letter to his newspaper bawling out anyone who displeases him, and no one man can arrest him for it. But above all, he can cause the President of the United States, if his sense of patriotism doesn't dictate to him some respect for that great office. Just how many minutes of the President's time are taken by the kitchen clock would a citizen of Communist Russia or of Socialist Italy and Germany, if he did say one of the above things? It won't take a concentrated thinker more than four

hours to answer that question. So, after all, perhaps things can be worse than they are here today, and one will find that they have been worse, if he will read back over the economic and political history of our country. They have been worse, and at future times they will be worse again; but if we are able to cling to our much abused form of free-man's government, we will—as we have so often done before—be able to drag ourselves back into "the good old days" of prosperity, good will and abundance.

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