

THE STATE PORT PILOT
Southport, N. C.

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APRIL SHOWERS

"April showers bring May Flowers," but the May flowers this year had very little help from Jupiter Pluvius during the preceding month. With a rainfall of but 1.66 inches, this was the driest April in years.

In spite of the lack of favorable seasons, wild flowers are blooming in luxuriant profusion about the streets of Southport, particularly in the square by old Fort Johnson. Visitors here marvel at the beauty of the phlox, galardia, wild poppies and brown-eyed susans (creopsis) that are blooming everywhere.

These flowers are just an added touch to the natural beauty of Southport.

MORE HUMANE

Concurring in a Senate amendment, not a dissenting vote was cast Thursday as members of the House of Representatives voted to substitute lethal gas for the electric chair as a means for legal executions in North Carolina.

Thus North Carolina becomes the first state in the east to adopt the use of lethal gas as a means of disposing of criminals under sentence of death, and the third in the entire United States.

The bill providing for this change was introduced by Dr. C. A. Peterson, Republican, who has long been noted as a humanitarian. The enactment of this measure was one of the outstanding bits of legislation passed by the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

We are glad to see the bill pass. At best, the extraction of the death penalty is a horrible thing. Still the picture of a man drifting into a drowsy unconsciousness is far better than that of one bucking and writhing for nearly five minutes while an electric current sears his flesh and jolts out his life.

MOTHERS' DAY

The annual observance of the second Sunday in May as Mothers' Day is a custom that we are proud to see practiced by our people.

We have national celebrations in memory of outstanding historical events; annually we observe the birthdays of several of our leading statesmen. How fitting, then, to set aside one day each year in honor of our first friend—our mother.

For many, this day will be a sad reminder of days that are gone, for on next Sunday they must wear a white rose, the symbol of a mother who is dead.

As for those of us whose mother is yet living, there are many things that we can do to make the day happy for her. If you are fortunate enough to live at home, let some special thoughtfulness for her comfort be a reminder that Sunday is Mothers' Day.

Those who are away from home can make their mother happy next Sunday by spending the day with her. For those who are unable to go home to spend the day, a letter that she will get next Sunday morning will make her heart glad.

A mother's world is wrapped up in her children and reminders of their love are the sweetest reward that she ever hopes for.

THE HOPE OF PEACE

On Thursday night of last week Dr. Daniel A. Poling, of New York, familiar to thousands of radio listeners throughout the nation, spoke in Raleigh before the closing session of Congregational and Christian churches in the southeast.

In his address, Dr. Poling made a call for the youth of all nations to unite in a common agreement to preserve peace and combat the menace of war. "Peace must be won during peace," declared Dr. Poling, "for it is too late when the guns begin to rumble and belch death."

The news report of this address by Dr. Poling came as a welcomed relief from the daily score sheet of the race for

armaments now going on between the leading nations of the world. For weeks, the political atmosphere of Europe has been super-charged with threats of war as first one nation then another registered her complaint against the armament activities of her neighbor.

The possibility of another world conflict is horrible to contemplate, but that is exactly what the nations of the world are heading for unless there is an end to this mad race for army and naval supremacy.

We believe that the chief hope in avoiding such a catastrophe is in educating the youth of the world against war and its consequences. Dr. Poling is sponsoring a worthy cause and we hope the youth of the nation will give him their wholehearted support.

FOR ENFORCEMENT

Representative U. S. Page, of Bladen county, introduced in the lower house of the North Carolina General Assembly last Friday a bill which provides for the rigid enforcement of the state prohibition laws. The bill was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.

Briefly, the bill provides that two state enforcement officers be assigned each county; that persons who buy, drink or transport liquor are to be meted the same penalties as the manufacturer or retailer of bootleg liquor. There would be stated fines and terms of imprisonment for conviction on a liquor charge. The bill further provides that the fines collected be used to help defray the cost of such an enforcement program; additional costs would be shared equally by the state and county.

Representative Page has spent much of his time in the present session of the Legislature in battling for local bills that apparently were drawn with the object of increasing his political power in his home county of Bladen. He has taken the floor of the House upon several occasions for the purpose of directing personal attacks upon Bladen County officials and upon Senator S. Bunn Frink of Brunswick County, who also represents Bladen County and who has repeatedly blocked Page legislation which appeared to have been prompted by his own ambitious interest.

But this latest Page bill is one that promises to come in for considerable attention during this week's session of the Legislature. Questioned concerning his opinion of the bill, Senator Frink said that he considered it a good measure and that he would support it in the Senate. He suggested that two amendments be made, one to do away with the possibility of the counties having to pay one-half the cost of operation, the second that only persons who had a perfect record regarding the use of liquor be appointed as enforcement officers and that no officer be appointed to serve in his home county.

Last week the Senate killed the final hope of repeal of the state prohibition laws during the current session of the General Assembly. We should like now to see the wets join forces with the dries in the passage of the Page bill, with whatever amendments are deemed wise, and give North Carolina prohibitionists a real weapon with which to battle the evils of liquor.

Two years would tell the tale. If the enforcement of the prohibition laws of the state is possible, well and good. We are for them. But if they are not enforceable, we would favor the repeal of the Page bill and of the Turlington Act and have the people of the state vote as they drink.

SECURITY BILL

The old age securities bill introduced last week by Senators S. Bunn Frink of Brunswick county and V. A. Browning of Swain county may never see the light of day during the present session of the North Carolina Legislature, still it is a measure that has its merits.

The bill would provide for the payment to persons over 65-year-of-age a \$25-per-month pension, subject to the aged ones showing the need of it to a board appointed by the governor.

This measure fits in nicely with the national security program recently passed by the House of Representatives in Washington. That bill provided for the payment of \$15 per month to citizens over 65-years-of-age, with certain provisions attached. One of these provisions was

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Washington Letter

Washington, May 8.—Roosevelt leaders are gravely concerned over the possibility of the Senate running counter to White House warning signals. The Senate's action in turning its back squarely against Mr. Roosevelt's ideas relating to the revision of the National Recovery Act is considered a symptom of growing hostility at the Capitol. If the restive House joins the Senate in its open rebellion against Administration measures, it is likely that the White House may pull a few strings to force an early adjournment rather than have its program wrecked. The veteran legislators do not relish the picture of being sent home like mischievous school boys, especially with the prospect of having influential voters ask embarrassing questions as to their conduct.

Actually, the school boy analogy accounts in some degree for the action of the Senate in turning down Mr. Roosevelt's suggestions for alterations of the NRA. Private talks of the twelve senators who attended the White House conference last week show that they resented the "lectures" from Mr. Roosevelt and his assistant, Mr. Donald Richberg. At least, they have won considerable sympathy among their colleagues who did not attend the meeting by expressing their antipathy to Richberg, the actual head of NRA. The peeved solons claim that Richberg apparently took his cue from the President and lectured the bi-partisan group of Senators as to what legislation was needed for the Blue Eagle.

The Administration, through the President and Richberg, opposed the Senate resolution extending NRA for nine months because they were frankly fearful that this emergency agency might be wiped out in the meantime. Their concern is predicted on the probability that the U. S. Supreme Court may turn thumbs down on the constitutionality question raised by the government in the Schechter case, which was argued a few days ago. An adverse decision from the highest tribunal would wipe out the Blue Eagle's nest at one stroke. Many of these issues will crop out in the debate, which will undoubtedly occupy two weeks of the Senate's time, as soon as the bonus controversy is out of the way. However, it is probable that the Roosevelt camp will accept the Senate resolution rather than risk

the complete scuttling of the code agency.

Back of the apparent rupture between the Roosevelt Administration and organized business groups is a clash of philosophies. The New Deal critics say that it is a fallacy to restore prosperity by raising wages without raising prices. The advocates of Roosevelt policies insist that wages should be advanced as a means of increasing the purchasing power of the public, and hours should be shortened to put men and women back to work. It is privately conceded here that the people as a whole are badly muddled on economic theories. A variety of economic panaceas are ladled out by Radiocasters Coughlin and Long, which sound thinkers have difficulty in correcting. The average radio fan listens to these dramatic exponents of new and untried ideas because it is the popular thing to do for the moment. Hence, the real answer to all the Coughlin-Long harangues seldom finds the same ears receptive. Thus the confusion and prejudice continues to grow. Even the popularity of the President is

not proof against these influences for the followers of these radio entertainers are not open-minded.

Observers are betting even more that Senators will never dare repeat their real opinions expressed in the privacy of the cloakrooms about the trade union lobby when the labor issues reach the Senate floor. The bold solons who denounce lobby influences in one breath are stepping lively with the next at the behest of the forceful union leaders now encamped outside the legislative halls. The records of elections show that the ability of organizers to deliver the vote of the union membership at the polls is largely mythical. Assuming that every person holding a union card voted as his union dictated it would mean only one ballot out of every ten cast at the hustings. The percentage of reprisal votes among the organized bonus beneficiaries is even lower. Yet the Senators this week are nervous and jumping at shadows.

The current Senate investigation into the FERA is nothing more than "putting on the heat"

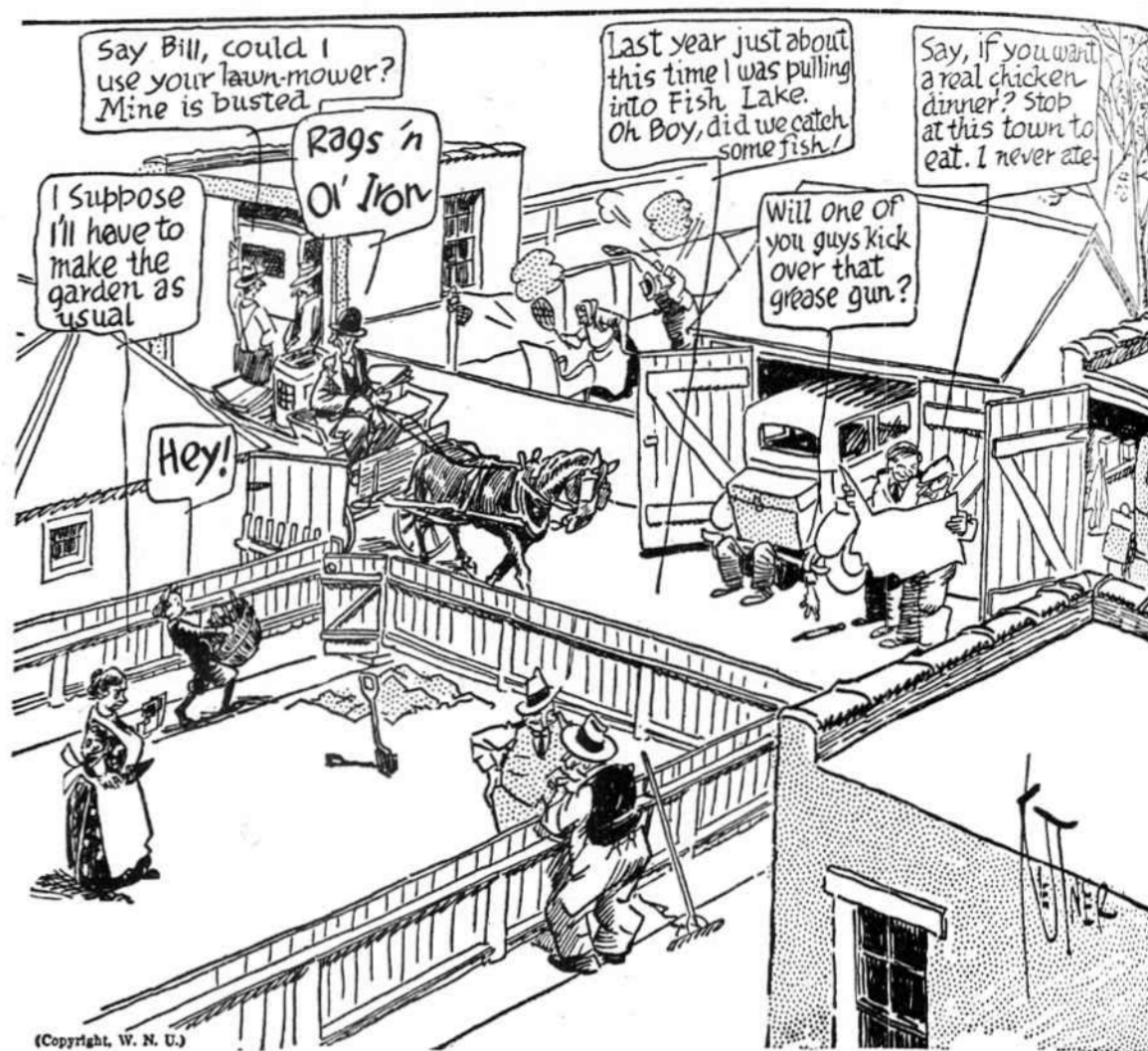
for liberal patronage and retaliation for the refusal of the Administration to recalcitrant help states on relief. The five billion dollar public work program now in the hands of the President continues to plague the law-makers who are under pressure from job-seekers in their home states. As the responsibility for the spending is with the Administration it is not likely that the President's agents will "be impressed by the Capitol probe at this time."

Is there anything more hopeless than those tiny pictures of columnists which appear inset in their columns daily?

The House has reversed its position so many times of late, it's hard to know one day what the next day will bring from that body.

Congressman Doughton will remain in Washington, dispatches say, and perhaps Clyde Hoey drew a sigh of relief.

Backyard Activities



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OFFICE SUPPLIES

Beginning this week, we are carrying a complete line of office supplies. We are also agents for L. C. Smith and Corona typewriters and for General Fireproofing office furniture. Before you buy elsewhere, come to see us.

We are also prepared to give you quick service and expert workmanship on job printing of all kinds.

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