

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

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Man is the only animal who can be skinned more than once.

Cars may come and cars may go but the time payments seem to go on forever.

A dollar is a delusion, and all of us are chasing a delusion.

The merchant who succeeds is the one who has what people want, and lets them know about it.

Christmas Trees

The annual Christmas tree decoration contest sponsored by members of the Southport Woman's Club did much to add to the holiday appearance of Southport. We are only sorry that there were not more trees entered in the contest.

To us an outdoor Christmas tree is the finest expression of the holiday spirit. There is something cheerful and unselfish in having a tree out in the open, where it may be seen by all who pass.

Congratulations to the winners; better luck next year to the losers. May the contest be continued.

Small Loss

From October 15 through December 1 of the past year seventeen forest fires in this county burned over only 106 acres. These figures present a striking example of the value of forest fire protection as is being rendered by Fire Warden Dawson Jones and his assistants.

Large areas of land in Brunswick county are impractical for cultivation, either because of the type of soil or because of drainage problems. Timber which once grew on this land has been cut, and after the timber men moved out forest fires made it impossible for the young growth to get a start. Forest fire protection has put a stop to this condition, and the once barren areas now are covered with young trees that will, in a few years, pay big dividends to the owners.

Good Work

At least three serious fires have been prevented during the past few days by the prompt and efficient action of members of the Southport volunteer fire department.

During the recent bitter cold weather it is a wonder that fires have not been more frequent. Fireplaces flaming high to throw out greater heat, stoves stoked full to become red hot have taxed flues and chimneys to the danger point. Latent fire hazards have become real.

The loss of a home and all household furnishings, not to mention possible death or injury to members of your family, is a dreadful thing to contemplate. Don't take unnecessary chances. Follow the advice of men in charge of the local fire department and help reduce the possibility of loss by fire.

Meanwhile, citizens of Southport should miss no opportunity to express their appreciation to members of the local fire department for their fine work.

Cold Weather

Residents of this section have been shivering for nearly two weeks from the most severe cold spell since the winter of 1917, and some visitors have been unkind enough to ask about the near-tropical weather we are supposed to have down here in Brunswick county.

While the weather has been uncomfortable, little actual damage has been reported locally. Most of the residents of this county have been fortunate enough to have warm clothes, and an unlimited supply of firewood has reduced human suffering to a minimum.

Further up-state the thermometer dropped to even lower levels and a blanket of snow added to the discomforts of those who were too improvident to have enough wood cut to tide them over a cold spell of this duration. Comparatively speaking, our climate down here has a big advantage over that in any other section of North Carolina.

Those of you who live on a farm probably envy the city-dwellers who may sit around fires all day with no stock to care for and no chores to complete. But think of the hundreds of poor people in the city, whose very existence is from hand to mouth. Bad weather has, in many instances, cut off their earning capacity. To secure fuel sufficient to keep fires to warm all the members of a large family is a major problem, and bad weather has caused wood and coal prices to advance sharply.

Truly this is but another reminder that those who live in the country enjoy an advantage over their city cousins.

War Situation

Outstanding news affecting all nations comes from an office in the Qui d'Orsay, Paris, where Premier Laval of France and Foreign Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare of Great Britain authored a proposal that has set the world on its ears.

Great Britain and France have led the League of Nations in seeking a solution to the Italian-Ethiopian trouble. In the past, these two nations have taken the praiseworthy position of great powers seeking to protect little ones. They have talked much about high principles, about fair-dealing, about justice. They have done a great deal to enlist world sympathy in favor of Ethiopia, and to comment it against Italy. It has been the common belief that they would go to any ends to protect Ethiopian sovereignty.

It is for that reason that the "deal" announced by Laval and Hoare caused so great a disturbance. Briefly and simply described, it would give Italy either outright or virtual control of two-thirds of Selassie's rich empire. Ethiopia would be given certain things in exchange, notably a new seaport, but most commentators say they really would amount to little, inasmuch as Italy would be in a position to dominate Ethiopian affairs 100 per cent. So far as Ethiopian independence is concerned, the deal would seem to eliminate it entirely.

Response to the announcement must have caused both Premier Laval and Foreign Secretary Hoare to suffer a severe attack of nerves. The proposal had hardly gone out on the wires before protests began to pour in. In the French Chamber of Deputies and the English House of Commons, members vigorously denounced it. Newspapers followed suit, saying the deal violated every dictate of justice. Public feeling ran high in both countries.

More important still is the attitude of the "little powers" toward the arrangement. These powers naturally make up the bulk of League membership. They have most at stake in making the League a success, it being obvious, for instance, that England is far better able to defend itself from aggression than are Finland, Sweden, etc. As one newspaper writer said, "To all practical purposes, the peace plan rewarded fascist Italy for its aggression against Ethiopia." Small nations realize that on some not-far-distant day they may be in the position Ethiopia is in now, with a big neighbor seeking to take over their territory. So, to these small nations, the Laval-Hoare proposal is as unsavory as anything could be.

Result is likely to be trouble inside the League, with small nations trying to wrest League leadership from England and France, vest it in other, less important nations. It is obvious that an internal battle of that sort would weaken the power of the League.

Interesting sidelight on Mussolini's attitude is that he finds the Laval-Hoare proposal unsatisfactory because, even though it would give Italy so much, it still falls below his "minimum demands." The only inference to be made is that he plans to go ahead, in the face of world opinion and sanctions and fight any or all the nations before giving in.

Thus, new complications arise in Europe—and every one of these complications, producing as they do hatred, misunderstandings and anger, augment the possibility of a major war. It is for this reason that the Italian-Ethiopian trouble is of great interest to America, which would be critically affected by any major war.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, Jan. 2.—Nine dignified men in black robes of their high office now stand out in bold relief as a vital part of our system of government. The executive and legislative branches accustomed to having their own sweet way in matters of nation interest find themselves at the beginning of the new calendar year and the political season in the unenviable position of a mischievous school boy. These mighty agencies must mark time as to their future conduct until the edicts of the Supreme Court of the United States definitely determine the constitutionality of the many New Deal laws enacted at the last session. The judiciary is now the dominant part of the three coordinated branches of the U. S. Government, which is not at all to the liking of those who must impress the public of their importance to remain in officialdom.

The decision of the highest tribunal in the Agricultural Adjustment Act appeal is expected to have a far-reaching effect on administrative policies. If the processing taxes and the adjustment of crops program is invalidated, then the Congress knows full well it must buckle down to a long siege of debate. A short session is the prospect if the court upholds the AAA either in whole or in part. A reversal will probably be the signal for rapid moderation of policies of liberalism and the discarding of the remnants of the notorious "Brains-Trust" which evolved many of the experiments submitted for legislative approval.

With the newer statutes under judicial scrutiny it is a difficult matter for President Roosevelt to draft his annual message which will be delivered the day following the court's pronouncement—about January 7. There is a chance that the entire annual report may be revised overnight in event the apple-catch is upset by the supreme bench. No person can with any degree of accuracy forecast a decision from the judiciary or know the decision day.

The first week of the new session will be devoted to short sessions and three-day recesses until a program is placed before the legislative body. The discordant factions will have a chance to size up the situation and re-shape their strategy during Presidential campaign year. Senate and House leaders on the Democratic side have been apprised of incipient revolts against White House domination. The pressure groups or local lobbies like the Townsendites are creating panic among the aspirants for re-election with the result that many may break with their own leaders in an effort to save their own precious political hides. The republican command is in a similar predicament as desertions are reported in their ranks. The organized peace and preparedness outfits are warring against various proposals for an American neutrality policy. The pacifist element would like to cloak the President with vast discretionary powers while sentiment in Congress indicates a desire of the solons to pull an oar in determining our policies in dealing with belligerent nations.

The plan of Senator Wagner, Democrat, of New York for a gigantic Federal slum clearance project to cost a billion dollars may strike a snag of no mean size if the Supreme Court throws out the major farm benefits. As the project now stands it is proposed to clear out shacks and tenements and substitute government-built homes for the poor which is of direct benefit to dwellers in the larger cities.

Secretary of Commerce Roper has never carried much weight in Cabinet deliberations but he may yet serve as a peace-maker between industry and the open antagonism to the Roosevelt program. Roper is working for a middle ground as a basis for co-operation believing that neither the government nor business can afford to continue the fist-shaking stunts. Organized labor, now in the throes of a bitter family quarrel, may drop this hot iron in the lap of the President which is something Mr. Roosevelt wants to escape. Their split arises from the clash between advocates of vertical and craft unions and the failure of the National Labor Relations Board to provide a solution is expected to transfer the scrap to the White House.

Organizations of workers and trade unions, for instance, will not be pleased at the tactics adopted by government economists. These statisticians are giving wide publicity to their claims that processing taxes on food-stuffs are not handicapping the consumers. One of the chief objectives of union leaders is to obtain higher rates of pay for their particular clan on every occasion. It makes them invaluable and the dues are collected without much fuss. Now comes the Federal

Vol. 1935, A. D.



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bureaucrats with imposing statistics to show that the buying power of the workers has materially increased while food prices are reasonable. The employed railroad workers are told, "Earnings of the million employed railroad workers are at present, on the average, 93 percent as large as they were during the 1929 level. Consequently, the average railroad worker with a job is able to buy with his earnings 16 percent more food than in 1929."

EXUM

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Vereen and baby, of Baltimore, Md., are spending the holidays here with his mother, Mrs. Rosa Vereen.

Friends will regret to learn that little Louise Edwards has been ill for the past few days.

Mrs. J. T. Hickman and daughters, Hazel and Elizabeth, of Bolivia, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Esta Vereen.

B. D. Bennett, of Bolton, spent Saturday here with his sister, Mrs. Bessie Ray. He was accompanied by his nephew, Rex Bennett.

Newly Edwards is recovering from a severe attack of cold.

Miss Gladys Edwards, of Wilmington, spent Christmas day here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Edwards.

Jack Vereen and children, of Bolton, visited his mother, Mrs. Rosa Vereen, Saturday.

J. W. Bell, a native of South Carolina, who has been living at the home of D. J. Ray for the past year, became suddenly insane Friday of last week. Friends notified Sheriff J. A. Russ, who

carried him to Southport immediately for a mental examination and safe keeping.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Coleman announce the birth of a son on Monday, December 23.

(Too Late for Last Week)

Mrs. Fannie King died at her home at Freeland, Tuesday, December 17th. She was about 88 years of age, but she was unusually active until recently. Her death was caused by pneumonia. She is survived by one son, C. H. King, of Freeland.

Miss Leila B. Simmons, of Wilmington, is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. B. R. Bennett.

Miss Lois Brady of Campbell College, is spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Brady.

To Start The New Year

"The Inseparable Companion Of
Achievement"

Letterheads
Statements
Sales Bills
Cards
Blotters

Bookkeeping Forms
Circular Letters
Programs
Legal Forms
Checks

PRINTING

Of Every Kind and the Highest Quality
"PRINTING GETS THINGS DONE"

AFTER the Christmas rush there will come that lull in business when business men, farmers, and everyone settles down to inventorying the year just finished and getting into operation plans for the new year.

In your planning this year, remember that "PRINTING IS THE INSEPARABLE COMPANION OF ACHIEVEMENT." There is no equipment or force in business as useful and indispensable as the printed word—for keeping records or for creating business through advertising.

During the lull after Christmas, in the dull period, prepare and order the printed forms that will do so much to make your records easier to keep, speed up your business, and give more profits. Check over the many small items of office and bookkeeping items that save time and worry.

And, don't forget the power of the printed word in selling merchandise. Or the Want Ads to help you get in contact with people who have things to buy or sell. Think out and plan an advertising program for the year.

The State Port Pilot
Printing Of Every Description
Southport, N. C.