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Southport, N. C.

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Sometime we think we [illegible] Leland school board, whose tragic death last week has caused scher consideration to be given the school bus transportation problem in North Carolina. Death never appears more grim than when snatching away the life of a sweet and innocent child.

But sad though this accident was, we see in it no just cause for junking a transportation system that has worked with remarkable effectiveness in our state. A coroner's jury comprised of sober, mature men conducted a thorough investigation of the circumstances surrounding the child's death, and it was their judgment that the accident was unavoidable. Surely, then, this is no indictment of student-operated school buses.

Before we jump on our present system of school bus transportation, let's be perfectly fair about it. Let's sit down and compute the number of passenger miles compiled during one year in hauling students to and from our schools. Then, let's compare these figures with those of bus companies and railroad systems. The results will, we believe, argue well for the safety and efficiency of our student drivers.

We hope that no one will do us the injustice to say that we are callous to death and injury and that we are unmindful of the safety of our children. Nothing could be further removed from the truth. But we do believe that the type of school boy it is possible to employ at the existing wage scale for school bus drivers is much superior in intellect, dependability and responsibility to the mature man who can be hired for that price for this work.

Tobacco Situation

Alluring as the tobacco situation now [illegible] and South Africa and Canada are parts of the British Empire. The United States is in no alliance and not only so, we have a statute forbidding the extension of credit to Great Britain so long as she is indebted to us and is paying nothing on the debt. In addition to this, we have a gold policy under which practically all the free gold in the world is being drained into this country and every foreign nation is complaining that it cannot trade with us because debit balances in trade must be settled in gold and they cannot get the gold, or if they have some, they cannot spare it. Great Britain is peculiarly in this position. She is carrying on the most desperate war of her existence and she affirms that she needs her gold for the purchase of the means of warfare and of food necessary to sustain her people. She has two and one-half years' suply of our tobacco on hand. Moreover, the 140,000,000 pounds of tobacco purchased last year is still in this country. The British money is at a discount of about 20 per cent over here which means that Great Britain must pay 20 per cent more than our market price for any commodity she purchases. She must pay either in gold or cash and since the trade balances are against her, she must pay very largely cash in the form of gold and she has no god to spare.

What may be done? Well, that is a matter upon which we are incompetent to express an opinion just now. It may be that a new and more flexible trade agreement on other commodities is being sought by John Bull. It may be that he desires a different arrangement regarding purchase of war supplies and materials, and that this is one of the Big Sticks he is using to press his claim. Any of a dozen things can happen, and we have a feeling that something will.

But, in the meantime, the best advice we can give the farmer is to be prepared for the worst. Make this your banner year for live-at-home farming. Raise [illegible] foodstuffs and go in more for [illegible]

[illegible] Europe and Asia [illegible] seems wonderful by comparison.

Americans have, in this matter of dealing with [illegible] years across the sea, adopted the policy of crossing hands in the procedure— rather, never letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

When the gallant little Finnish nation, which has always paid its war debt to the United States, and supposedly gained the undying friendship of Uncle Sam thereby, the other day asked for help in warding off the invasion of the mighty Russian bear, there arose in the halls of Congress such a mighty uproar that it reverberated around the globe.

The hue and the cry that openly aiding the Finnish people against unprovoked agression would constitute an act of unneutrality and therefore create a delicate international situation, possibly bringing repercussions from the Soviets in the case of a general European war, could be heard from coast to coast.

Yet how the people of the United States can now recognize that Uncle Sam is now furnishing Japan 70 per cent of the war supplies with which to wage its equally unjustifiable and prolonged agression against China, and not consider it equally as much an act of unneutrality as it would be to aid the finns, we do not know.

It seems that even in America the question of the big stick has a lot to do with who aids who in time of stress.

Shorter Campaigns

The Democratic primary will be held [illegible] last Thursday in May, thanks to action [illegible] General Assembly, rather than [illegible] as heretofore.

[illegible] will have, [illegible] will doubtless welcome any [illegible] from the sort of baloney which many candidates try to hand them as a steady diet during the campaign.

Maybe the voters won't know much difference, but statisticians may. The latter class may assemble figures to prove that whereas, 10,000 tons of mud was thrown back and forth in the pre-primary campaigns of longer duration as heretofore, this year and henceforth the tonnage may be reduced to 9,000.

And, whereas before there were 7,584,893 harsh words exchanged during the campaigns, under the abbreviated campaign there might be only 7,000,000.

So even though the unsensitive voter may be unable to detect the difference, he will be benefitting from the shorter campaign unawares.

Girls now-a-days don't have ladies-in-waiting, but their boy-friends spend quite a while at it.

The only way some people will ever be conspicuous is by their absence or a bright red dress.

Just Among The Fishermen

By W. B. KEZIAH

BIG MOUTH BITING

Extraordionary as it may sound to up-state sportsmen who have recently been passing through periods of unusually bad weather, big mouth bass are biting in the freshwater streams of Brunswick. While the worst of the cold spell was on last week Supt. Churchill Bragaw of the Orton Plantation reported that he and Earnest Swain, the fire warden, had caught four of the big mouths in twelve minutes of fishing.

The fish weighed about two-pounds each, according to Mr. Bragaw. His report of the catch was so exciting to postmaster L. T. Yaskell, in bed ill with [illegible]

[illegible] woman's husband has having at one time been rated one of the very best gunners at Fort Caswell. No great and sudden misfortune has ever befallen the family. There was just no ambition or spirit. The husband, wife and children have all just slid backward. In this case the backsliding has been unaccountable to us for neither the husband or wife are intemperate.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

White far from being a fantic on the subject of temperance, the moment often comes when we find ourselves looking backward and recalling at least a dozen Southport men of fifteen years ago. We came to town, met and liked them. We even envied some of them; they had health, ability, energy and youth.

And now when we look back and recall them it is to remember that some of them are dead. Others are living, but are apparenty entirely out of any picture of being worth anything to themselves or society. They just surrendered to weakness, believing that just another glass would not hurt them.

WATER TURKEYS

We understand that collectors from Smithsonian Institute will be in Brunswick county this spring for the purpose of getting specimens of the water turkeys, or snakebirds. While the birds are not uncommon here, the quest promises to be attended with some difficulty and to require patience.

The bird is of European origin, or rather it is native to England and other countries in Europe. It is found infrequently in states to the South of us. Brunswick county has the distinction of being the only county in North Carolina where the bird is ever seen. It generally swims under water with only its long, snakelike bill protuding.

BOLIVIA

[illegible] more than fifty feet long. It is expected that the new roof will be put on this week if the temperature rises enough to make it possible to work the material. If a new roof is not put on this week school will not reopen next Monday, unless the weather forecast indicates definitely that there will be no rain or snow. It is not only unsafe, but almost impossible to find dry seats for all of the children, when it rains. At least five rooms get wet all over.

At first it was thought that the leaks could be stopped by patching, consequently four rolls of tar paper and about 3½ gallons of tar and Asphalt were used. Just at the time this work was completed another sudden drop in temperature caused more fissures than ever to appear. Then it was definitely decided that the best thing to do is to use a completely new roof. In the meantime several contractors have looked at the job and have bid for it; but they say the work must wait until it is warmer.

Ie is hoped that the colds or flu will have disappeared by the time the school reconvenes. Thus avoiding an epidemic at school such as has been suffered by some of our neighbors.

Junior Play

The junior play: "The Man In A Green Shirt," which was scheduled for Friday night, February 2, is postponed and the new date will be announced. The juniors, determined to present the best play of the season, have continued practices while school is closed.

Games Postponed

Basketball is at a standstill. The game with Waccamaw was postponed first by Waccamaw and then by Bolivia. It is our wish that no other games will be delayed.

Teachers Away

Some of the teachers went home Saturday when it was finally decided not to reopen last Monday. Those going home are Miss Anne Brower, Wadesboro; Norman Chadwick, Straits; and N. Albert Rosser, Broadway.

Improves

We are glad that Betty Flo Reid is now fully recovered from the attack of pneumonia which kept her from school last week.

Take Care

All patrons are urged to take the best of care of their children during this severe weather and [illegible] pneumonia attacks of flu. It is [illegible] important that the children [illegible] school daily. First in order that the child's progress may be [illegible], and second, to [illegible] the teacher [illegible] of the entire school. However, more damage can be [illegible] by sending a sick child to school than by keeping him at home until the danger of complications has passed as well as the danger of infecting others, thus causing them to have to stay at home. Your careful consideration of this matter is solicited and will be appreciated by all of us at school.

GLENN TUCKER, Principal.

Seaside News

Guests at an oyster roast-dance given by the Brooks family Saturday evening at Seaside were: Mr. and Mrs. Roderick K. Houston, Mr. and Mrs. C. David Jones, Mr. and Mrs. W. Louis Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Liston Trulove, Mr. and Mrs. Peck Cheatam, Miss Ray Rhodes, Mrs. Lotte Bradley, Messers John Carter, J. B. Brinkley, and John Furlong, all of Wilmington and Arnold Edgerton of Goldsboro.

In a quiz given at W. U. recently, one of the questions was: "Name two ancient sports."

A freshman wrote "Anthony and Cleopatra."

-- NOT EXATLY NEWS --

One local horse owner said last week that he couldn't see where the idea got started that winter was the time for horse-back riding. We kinda catch on to what he meant, after seeing the weather of the past week, but from now on the afternoons will be longer and, we hope, milder. By the time the Cape Fear Horse Show date rolls around interest in horse flesh will again be at fever heat.

We'll wager that there are more active bridge clubs doing business in Southport than in any other town this size in North Carolina. Guest lists frequently reveal that one person has played at three parties during the week. . . . The Pinochle Club is one that holds over year after year.

Johnnie Simmons, Walter Jones and Billie Willis are expected to give a good account of themselves in the Star-News Golden Gloves fights next week. There are several good people who would [illegible] the service division [illegible] still looks like the farmers will do well to be able to haul their 1939 tobacco crop to market over an hard-surfaced No. 130 . . . And while on the subject of roads, we believe there has been more progress made in the maintenance and construction of secondary roads in Brunswick in the past two years than in the past ten years before that.

Banker Prince O'Brien says that there was a noticeable falling off of business activity last week while it was so cold. In the Register of Deeds office they caught up with their recording, an unheard of thing for the month of January . . . Most of the political fanfare we've heard so far has come from candidates for governor. There will surely be races in Brunswick this year for office of Register of Deeds and for Representative. So far, B. J. Holden is the only avowed candidate we have heard of. He'll seek the job now held by Harry L. Mintz, Jr. . . . . Republican plans still are a deep secret.

Judge W. M. Stanaland is a staunch supporter of the newly organized Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce, and if there was a man of the same ability in each rural community with the same enthusiasm for the organization, there's no stopping this group, once it set its mind to a program.

Rev. A. L. Brown formerly was a railroad man . . . Rev. R. S. Harrison finds a great pleasure in being a jack-leg carpenter . . . He just alternates the position of Bryan Dosher, who is an expert carpenter and also preaches occasionally.

We didn't know until our feet hit the floor Sunday morning just how the Finns and Russians feel . . . And though we probably aren't the first to say it, it looks like the war with Russia is going to be a fight to the Finnish.

PIGS TO OTHERS

Two Pasquotans 4-H club boys given pure bred pigs last year by the Elizabeth City Kiwanis Club have returned four pigs to be given to other deserving boys and thus the pig club chain is used to build the swine industry of the county.

MORE THAN NEEDED

Johnston County tobacco growers are preparing their plant beds and will seed more than normal requirements to be assured of a plentiful supply of plants. "We want to be able to set our crop early and have plants of the same size an dtnus make a better quality of tobacco," they say.

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