

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY JAMES M. HARPER, JR., Editor

Entered as second-class matter April 20, 1928, at the Post Office at Southport, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates ONE YEAR \$1.50 SIX MONTHS 1.00 THREE MONTHS .75

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1941 Active Member

Wednesday, February 26, 1941

Mussolini has bragged that he can dish it out—Now it looks like he should have had two or three other spoons.

When you go looking up your family tree, you're likely to find yourself out on a limb.

You admire a person who can take it on the chin—provided it doesn't happen to be eggs.

Some fellows claim that to see eye to eye with their girl, they must first lip to lip.

Good Suggestion

Laymen had charge of the morning service at Trinity Methodist Church Sunday and gave a very creditable account of themselves.

Briefly, his idea is to have every member of the board of stewards contact some non-attending member and ask him to go with him to church the following Sunday.

Mr. Frink spoke of the wonderful stimulus this would have upon the church as a whole, and earnestly hoped that some plan similar to this might be worked out.

Well, Mr. Frink, there's a challenge in that for you; an opportunity for you to head a movement that will be of everlasting benefit to you, your church and your community.

Will We Go To War?

Somewhere in the mind of every American citizen lurks this grim and disquieting question: "Will the United States enter the war?"

About every writer and speaker in the country has been attempting to satisfactorily answer that question for some time. You can find irresistibly logical arguments which make our entry into conflict seem inevitable as death and taxes—and you can find equally logical arguments which attempt to prove we are in small danger of being drawn in. And, as the debate rages on, a good many Americans who make no pretense to being experts find themselves sinking deeper into confusion.

The standard polls still indicate that the American people are opposed to war, even as they favor aid to England with "all steps short of war." At the same time, the American people, going by the same polls, are convinced that if England falls we may be next on Hitler's list of victims.

The arguments that support the theory that we cannot long keep out of war are obvious enough. We have dropped all pretense of neutrality—we are simply non-belligerents, committed to the hilt on England's side. We have damned the dictators in unequivocal terms. The leaders of both the political parties, the President and Mr. Polk, are aggressively pro-British and anti-Nazi. And we are about to embark on a new policy which will give England and her allies our utmost moral and material support—a policy which Hitler, if he is seeking a fight with this country, could logically construe as a declaration of war in effect.

On the other side of the fence, the arguments have been so well publicized. In a recent issue, the United States News

summed up five principal reasons for believing that this country is not going to war.

First, says the News the United States can aid Britain more by not fighting than by fighting. Britain, in other words, needs supplies, not men. If we entered the war it would be impossible to send much abroad, as our own under-supplied military establishments would need all our factories could produce.

Second, the U. S. can help her own defense more by staying out of the war. The arms we send England may be lost, but we won't lose men so long as we remain a non-belligerent. And we will find out if our arms and planes are adequate for modern war. England, in other words, will be the proving ground for the products of our factories.

Third, through the lend-lease policy, the U. S. can exert its major effort in the war. Actually taking up arms against the Axis would not permit us to do more.

Fourth, the fact that all-aid-for-England policy apparently has the support of a nation which is also committed to maintaining peace, is construed in Administration circles as proof of the fact that its plans and actions are sound.

Fifth, according to his intimates, the President really hates war, meant what he said during the campaign, and will do everything possible to prevent war. He believes that his policy offers the surest road to peace, and in that he is backed by large numbers of his political opponents.

All of this does not take into consideration the fact that the Axis might make war on us, thus plunging us into the conflict whether we want to fight or not. Military and political experts, for the most part, don't think that likely at this time. They point out that Hitler doesn't make a particular point of "saving face." As he has said himself, he will not be badgered into taking steps he believes dangerous. The experts argue that Hitler will not wage war against us until and unless it suits his time-table. And it is obvious that he has enough troubles on his hands now without asking for more.

Time, which heals all wounds and solves all arguments, will prove the soundness or weakness of these various contentions. In the meantime, there are many thoughtful observers who feel that we will be in war before the year ends—perhaps within six months. Joe Martin the Republican leader in the House, is said to feel that. All the people can do now is wait and see.

Shears And Paste

LONG TERM INVESTMENT

(Fayetteville Observer) Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, in his message to the members of the joint committee on appropriations of the General Assembly of North Carolina told them that never before had the near-term outlook for the State of North Carolina been brighter or the long term more obscure.

Dr. Graham, of course, was speaking specifically of the income of North Carolina in relation to education. Here in Fayetteville we find the same condition exists and we can appreciate what Dr. Graham means. The average income from work and rentals in Fayetteville has been advanced materially by the war boom but there is so much uncertainty as to the duration of this boom that private interests fear to make long term investments, which investments would prove highly profitable should the boom continue over the long term.

There will be those citizens who will make the long term investment. It may prove highly profitable. It may break them. But it will be a gamble.

The long term investment which Dr. Graham is asking the State of North Carolina to make in the matter of education, however, is not a gamble. The substance which is purchased with the investment Dr. Graham desires the State to make is something which will be ingrained in the minds and lives of hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, and which will help them make a better State in good times or in bad.

The General Assembly doesn't have to gamble on this proposition. Its course is charted for it by such leaders as Charles B. Aycock and the generation of educational spirits which he launched on the program of scholastic achievement which this century has made North Carolina stand head and shoulders above the other States in this section of the country.

Obscure conjecture on short term and long term is not what the people of North Carolina need from the Legislature as regards their institutions of higher education. They need all the appropriation the traffic will bear and then some. Even deficits acquired in the cause of education are better than assets piled up in the cause of ignorance.

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—While the Lenten season has cast a shadow over social functions, there is little or no abstaining from political and international affairs. Final voting of the lend-lease bill is expected shortly. It will clear the way for other vital legislation now blocked on Senate and House calendars. With emphasis suddenly switched to the Japanese situation the prevailing questions around the cloakrooms at Capitol Hill center upon which door will be used to enter the war—the Atlantic or Pacific. The jittery condition of the people's spokesmen is illustrated by their frank display of curiosity rather than the ordinary mood of attempting to provide information. The President's signature on the aid to Britain bill will probably release their pent-up emotions again.

Typical of the current attitudes is the Congressional investigation into the personalities at the Defense Commission. Unfortunately for the development of defense, an odor of politics permeates this probe. The reputations of noted industrial leaders, who were summoned into special service for defense, will be smirched because Congressional committees seldom endeavor to conduct their hearings in a judicial atmosphere. The recent addition of Harry Hopkins to the commission also provokes concern as to his exact duties. Ostensibly he will function as a direct representative of the President and will utilize the data he obtained in his recent study of English war experiences. The quiz and Mr. Hopkins have the defense boys in a whirl.

The debate has disclosed that many legislators were convinced the enactment of the lend-lease bill would hasten our entrance into actual warfare. Another factor was the unwillingness to authorize unlimited loans to the English in view of their apparent reluctance to utilize hidden financial resources.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau's estimate of four billions of British investments in Latin America which will eventually be used in post-war competition with Americans for this export market provided another sore spot. Reports of Army and Navy officials that Britishers forced additional expenditures for lands leased in exchange for the destroyers irked Congressional commentators. Eight bases were authorized, but work has begun only on four owing to dilatory tactics of the islanders.

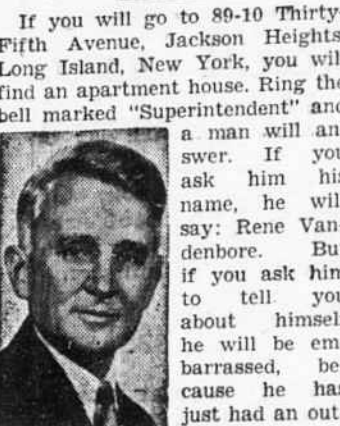
Another angle which rankled even the proponents of the bill was the secrecy as to how the Administration intended to proceed when the authority was granted. Indication of the resentment of Congress in being kept in the dark on vital matters of policy is the ironic comment of Senator Bone, Democrat of Washington, "Possibly Congress is becoming more useless every day as an appendage to our tripartite system of government; but, even so, we might properly insist upon a little more knowledge".

Surveys of manpower in connection with national defense are becoming increasingly important. A population analysis by the Bureau of the Census a day or two ago reveals that there is a preponderance of males in rural villages as against those in towns and cities having a population of 2,500 or more where the female population is higher. Of particular interest at a time when Congress is about to extend the benefits of the Social Security Act is the government tabulation showing a marked increase in the number of persons 65 years of age or over in all regions and a sharp decline in persons under 20 years of age. Tracing the pattern of population changes the Census Bureau shows that the number of persons living in small communities adjacent to farm areas increased by 14.5 percent in the 10 years preceding April 1, 1940. During this same period the population of folks living on farms remained practically stationary.

The increase in the population of small villages distant from metropolitan areas is explained by the theory that many farmers moved into villages and many city dwellers established homes in the suburbs. The proportion of aged persons grew more rapidly during the decade in urban areas or in towns having over 2,500 population. As in 1930, however, the urban population in 1940 was predominantly made up of persons in this age group in 1940 comprised 62.9 percent of the total in urban areas.

Census officials believe the progressive aging of the population in each of the three areas reflects a decline in birth and death rates and, to some extent, although the influence is most marked in urban areas, the virtual cessation of foreign immigration during the past decade. It is predicted that the population of towns and cities will decline about 24 percent per generation if present birth and death rates continue and if there is no migration from rural areas. The government also looks for an increase in the farm regions of about 36 percent per generation if present fertility and mortality conditions continue. Likewise, they

DALE CARNEGIE Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



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If you will go to 80-10 Thirty-Fifth Avenue, Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York, you will find an apartment house. Ring the bell marked "Superintendent" and a man will answer. If you ask him his name, he will say: Rene Vandenberg. But if you ask him to tell you about himself he will be embarrassed, because he has just had an outstanding success, and he is on the way to becoming a rich man. And all because he got a single idea and followed it through.

Rene Vandenberg is a Frenchman and when the World War began in 1914, he joined the French army, was taken prisoner later and sent to a concentration camp. Time hung heavy on his hands; he began to play games; finally he invented them. These games amused other prisoners; he invented more. Next he took old games and tried to make improvements on them.

At last he escaped from prison and got back to France. In the meantime, he thought nothing more about his skill at originating games. In 1920, he came to this country, settled in Providence, Rhode Island, and opened a delicatessen store. Business was poor so he played games while waiting for customers. The delicatessen failed. He got a job in a hotel in Providence as chef; here he showed the other employees how to play games and to put now twists in old games. He got a job in a country club in Rumford Rhode Island, where he soon had all the help breathless over games.

At last he found a job with the old Knickerbocker Whist Club in New York City, as a steward. This club represented the very Himalayas of New York clubmen. After dinner, the members played backgammon, an intricate game which only two can play at a time.

He saw the players go off into corners, two by two, and play. He devised a way by which three or four could play. Still keeping his place as steward, he explained how more than two could play at once. It was not long until every backgammon board had three or four players around it.

One evening as he was watching a game, the idea came to him that maybe he could cash in on his knowledge of games, especially on the improvement of backgammon. So he invented an improvement in backgammon—the first since Cleopatra played it with Mark Antony. It is called "circle gammon". It has become fashionable in several smart New York restaurants. It is now making him rich. But he intends to remain a building superintendent until he is secure for life.

Sunday School Lesson

(By Grover C. Phillips, Bennett, N. C.)

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(Lesson for Sunday March 2, 1941. Text: Luke 19: 41-48; 20: 1-8).

Present-day human beings are in quest of authority that is dependable and permanent. Some serious minds have looked to science for the authoritative message, but the masters have told them that science destroys tradition, under-mines authority and, at best, speaks only with temporary authority, awaiting revision or the discard in the light of tomorrow's discovery.

We must have something that will give insight into life's meaning. Something that will restore confidence, release energy and assure fullness of life. Some of us have found that "something" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, we have come to know a Master we can trust and follow, who teaches "as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt. 7: 29). "Never man spoke like this Man" (John 7: 46). We are thankful that He is able to speak healing to our bodies and our souls. He has spoken peace to multitudes who will one day hear His "Well-done, good and faithful servant". He is able to heal and cleanse to the uttermost. He has never lost a case, and yours is not too hard for Him, brother, no matter what your condition feel that the population of the smaller villages will increase about 16 percent.

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

Best story we've heard lately had to do with a prominent Southport business man, who, having grown tired of a barbershop tirade by a young Wilmington up-start against Southport and her citizens, arose from his chair and walked over to that still occupied by the speech-maker. "Listen, young fellow," he said very quietly. "I'm from Southport. I've lived there all my life. Every cent I have in the world I made in Southport. Now, I'll tell you what I'll do. When you get out of that chair we'll go down to the bank (in Wilmington) and every time you put down ten cents I'll cover it with ten dollars." . . . P.S.: He didn't go.

Get out your guns, saddle your horses, get set for a song. Gene Autry, favorite of millions of movie goers, is here this week at the Amuzu in "Melody Ranch," latest and best of his song series. . . . And speaking of movies, take a look at the folders pasted in the window of Bremen Furples' office. They're the best that have been made lately, and all of them are coming attractions.

Next week comes the Brunswick county basketball tournament at Shallotte, and we're sticking our neck out by predicting that Southport boys will be the surprise entry in that tourney. They'll have at least 10 busy lessons under Coach Lingle, who has brought them a long way this season, before they play their first tournament game. . . . Time was when they said "Put a fence about

Southport and you'll have the state's biggest kennel;" then the canine population dwindled. Once again its growing, and it looks like the saying might come into new usage. Jimmie Fratt, with two beautiful snow white setter puppies is the latest addition to the ranks of hunting fanciers. R. F. Plaxco has a pretty setter puppy that has received no previous recognition from our New Dog Dept.

Cherry McDonald, suffering several weeks with a shoulder lameness, is being slowly worked into condition again by Brother Christian, with an eye on this year's horse show in Wilmington. . . . Although it is a questionable yardstick of prosperity, we doubt if there is another town this size in the state with more cars in the over-the-hill and-dollar class. During the past week there have been two new Buicks (free adv.), a new Oldsmobile, a new Pontiac and a new Packard delivered.

Warren Wilson, Clemson College athlete who was last year's Southern Conference heavyweight boxing champ, will have a lot of support from Southport friends this week when he defends his title. So good this season that opponents have forfeited all bouts in which he was scheduled to appear, Wilson's chief threat will be Gates Kimball, North Carolina's finalist of last year. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Wilson, formerly lived in Southport and is the grandson of Mrs. Miriam Fisher, of this city.

(Pastors and others sharing the services of the author of this series as help in revival meetings or for a series of inspirational addresses, please communicate with him early, and make certain of his help. Address him: Rev. Grover C. Phillips, Box 52, Bennett, N. C.)

SOUTHPORT SCHOOL NEWS - CHAPEL PROGRAM

The tenth grade was in charge of the chapel program last Wednesday. The program began with a Biblical recitation by little Marvin Floyd. Mr. Brown then led the devotionals. The remainder of the program consisted of recitations by Helen Evans and Libby O'Brien, and piano selections by little Gloria Lee Hewitt, Mary Ann Mollycheck, Mary Lillian Potter and Gilda Arnold.

BASKETBALL GAME

We lost a Tuesday night game last Tuesday night when both the boys and girls teams were beaten by the Leland high school teams. The girls' score was 48-9; the boys' score was 20-12.

William Fellers and Egan Hubbard, of Fort Bragg, spent the week end here with relatives.

may be, nor how great your need, What is the authority of Jesus? The religious leaders of His day challenged that authority. Did they have justifiable grounds for so doing? The Master, Himself, in His last conversation with His disciples said: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28: 18) In his Pentecost sermon Simon Peter said: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2: 36) The literal meaning is that God, the Father, anointed Jesus to rule, clothing Him with all authority to rule both in heaven and in earth.

The members of the Sanhedrin were within their rights in challenging the right of Jesus to teach in the temple. Therefore Jesus simply called attention to His relationship with John the Baptist, who proclaimed Him as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1: 29). When He asked their opinion of John (Matt. 21: 23-27) they were silent.

Without official credentials, without prestige, having no political or religious "pull", but with

He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the birds hush their singing; And the melody that He gave to me, Within my heart is ringing.

"And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own; And the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known".

WITHOUT HYPODERMICS

The State Port Pilot Does Not Use Them To Bolster Circulation.

Without the artificial aid of contests, premiums, books, cut-price and other lure offered free with subscriptions, The State Port Pilot keeps a substantial, responsive circulation.

It has attracted its readers by the simple process of publishing a complete, interesting newspaper full of reliable news and informative features. The combination has attracted an audience of Brunswick County's active and intelligent families. They buy and read The State Port Pilot for what it is . . . THE complete reliable newspaper.

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