

The Daily Tar Heel

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Tuesday, March 14, 1933

Spotlight on the Forgotten Man

Speaking plainly and simply, President Roosevelt explained his plans for relieving the banking crisis to the people of the United States Sunday night, delivering his message over both the nation's broadcasting systems. He asked for the cooperation, confidence, and help of all the people. In some measure, the methods which our new president is employing are unprecedented in our history; he has taken the citizenry of the nation into his confidence at every step in his week-old career as chief executive. It is for a good reason that he has done so: For once, at least, in the history of the United States, the man in the street is all-important. The economic fate of the nation depends upon what he will do. If he becomes fear-stricken and panicky, the whole financial structure of the country, founded on his resources, will be undermined.

President Roosevelt's message emphasized this responsibility of the common man. He urged him to retain his faith in the ability of the government to solve the problems of the banks. According to the president's schedule, sound banks are to be opened in the following order: Monday, Federal Reserve member banks; Tuesday, banks which are members of clearing house associations in 250 American cities; Wednesday, state banks in isolated areas. Federal examiners will determine the soundness of national banks and state examiners will perform the same functions for state banks. Where reorganization and consolidation of banks is found necessary, government experts will assist both state and national banks. In order that the supply of currency may be increased to meet withdrawal demands, new notes are to be issued on the basis of sound, but for the present uncashable, securities and commercial paper.

In his Sunday night message, President Roosevelt emphasized his plea for national sanity and faith, saying that banks would be opened as fast as the machinery for doing so could be put into operation, that no one should be alarmed if his bank did not open immediately. It will take many days, perhaps weeks and months, to open some banks and there is a possibility that others will never open. But the situation can be only aggravated if depositors become frantic and too insistent upon receiving their money at once. The situation is bad but it can be made worse if a national panic impedes the work of the competent hands in which the situation now rests. The rapidity or slowness of the nation's recovery depends largely upon whether or not the people or the United States keep cool heads during the next few weeks, whether or not they meet President Roosevelt's confidence with confidence.—E.C.D.

London Bridge Is Falling Down

Probably the most striking feature of Norman Thomas's Open Forum lecture was his repeated insistence on the downfall of capitalism. The Socialist candidate for President especially stressed this prophetic tenet in his talk in assembly, though it must be admitted in all fairness to him that the time was too limited then to permit any constructive presentation of his ideas. Nevertheless, such a prediction seems strikingly antiquated and out-of-place in so modern a type of socialism as Mr. Thomas advocates.

It recalls the turbulent days of '48 when Marxian socialism, with its dire prophecy of "increasing misery," sprang into pre-eminence in the world of political economy. But in this respect Marxian doctrines have been generally discredited; the prediction of capitalism's final overthrow has been looked upon as unsound in the light of critical economic thought, if for no other reason than that it is merely a prediction. Science may attempt to forecast future phenomena on the basis of past fact; but economics, we must remember, is a social science, and predictions in this field are at best hazardous, for they cannot take into consideration the unforeseeable turns of a dynamic society.

Perhaps it is entirely plausible to suppose that Mr. Thomas has adopted this method of approach for the purpose of stirring the American people from their apathy of indifference with regard to economic questions. But so negative a means, even if effective to this desirable end, may work to both advantage and disadvantage. It may gain an audience; it may prejudice one.—A.T.D.

An Old Proverb

A mere bank holiday can not terrify the town of Chapel Hill, nor those who compose the University of North Carolina. The truth of this assertion has just been demonstrated during the past week. When other places and other institutions were thrown into chaos and disorder by the closing of banks and the accompanying disruption of credit, the merchants of the town and officials of the University kept their heads, and, in a cool, deliberative manner, set themselves to the task of providing a temporary remedy for the situation.

As a result of cooperation and team work, credit has been maintained, hunger and violence have been averted, and business has gone on in much the usual manner. Not for a long time has there been so much credit and leniency granted the student. A spirit of good will not usually found, even on this campus, has been evident among both students and faculty; both have seen themselves brought to a common level, economically speaking, for a time at least, without having to suffer from lack of the ordinary comforts of life.

It would not be reasonable to say that there has been no suffering in this town as a result of strained financial conditions, but certainly conditions here have not reached the sad state reported elsewhere. The infinitely more satisfactory solution of its financial worries than its sister towns, reached by Chapel Hill, are perhaps not due alone to her lack of industrialization, but more to the fact that she has learned the lesson of intelligent cooperation. She recognized the truth in the old proverb: "united we stand; divided we fall."—W.A.S.

Worm Turn?

If Japan penetrates south of the Great Wall in her non-declared war with China, will she meet a different and far stiffer resistance? Owen Lattimore, in his *Manchuria, Cradle of Conflict*, thinks this would be the case, and explains the peculiar Chinese psychology which stamps a military campaign in the North as being doomed to defeat, but takes an entirely different attitude towards one in the South. Because of this (if Lattimore is correct) China would not have been able to send her best troops to Manchuria, but could use them to advantage in China proper.

The events of the next few days will prove interesting. Japan has announced that if the Chinese attempt to recapture Jehol, "it means war on a national scale, in which event there is no reason that Japanese operations should be restricted by the great wall." Will Nipon's expansion continue further south? Will the worm turn, and China's resistance become stiffer? Will the American soldiers and civilians near the war area become involved? Will Japan step on Russia's toes and cause a general flare-up? Manchuria is still a tremendous danger zone for the dove of world peace, and at the same time the horizon in Europe grows darker. The atmosphere is not a healthy one.—D.B.

College to Accept Script

Illinois Wesleyan College has taken another step in its effort to help students go through college without cash. It has agreed to accept from students coming from families of Chicago teachers, payment of tuition in script and tax anticipation warrants issued by the schools of Chicago.

Last fall the college took the lead in helping sons and daughters of farmers to attend college by agreeing to accept farm produce in exchange for tuition, room, and board.—*Purdue Exponent*.

Results of tests conducted by the medical school at Creighton University showed that smokers drew better grades than non-smokers. Fourteen per cent, classed as moderate smokers, averaged 85.4 per cent grades, and those who did not smoke had grades averaging 82.4 per cent.—*Crimson and White*.

Our Times

By Don Shoemaker

Human Goat

Because he is unemployed and hungry most of the time "Prince Omega" will eat most anything. The Prince, you will remember, was one of the headliners of the Depression Party floor show in the Tin Can Saturday night.

The Prince eats light bulbs, razor blades, carpet tacks, tin and everything. Says he hails from India, and speaks with a French-Spanish-Italian accent, which sometimes reverts to good old Harlem when he's in a hurry.

Omega has been around town for about a week. He goes through the dormitories and fraternity houses and eats things for the boys. Sometimes he puts on his fire swallowing act, which is pretty exciting. Can inhale a flame a foot long and then blow it out like a story book dragon, lighting a cigarette. He had several more tricks the other night but there wasn't enough time.

Likes wrist watches, too, though this new chromium plate stuff isn't particularly tasty. Gold watches are more easily digested. He has an X-Ray photo of himself with somebody's seventeen-jeweled Gruen stowed away midst an assortment of pictures wire, thumb tacks and dope bottle caps. The Prince ate a victrola record over at the Deke house several days ago. Said he doesn't care for records—too waxy.

Aria

For the information of our reader (note to printer: spell in singular), we have a report on *Come Fill the Cup*, a new University song to be printed soon. The words were written by Block Bryson, once a Winchellistic columnist of this newspaper back in the days when we were hammering out sports stuff. The music is by Wex Malone and is mighty pretty. In the spring of '31 a number of songs were turned in to THE DAILY TAR HEEL for publication. *Dear Mother Carolina* by Bert S. Drane sang about freedom, our fathers, old oaks, spirits, etc., and another, *We The Sons of Carolina* by W. M. Hayes, ran "Carolina, Carolina, we will be true etc.," if our memory doesn't fail us.

Come Fill the Cup fills the bill, particularly if the administration gives us beer with pretzels and dispatch. The lyric indicates eight "drinks" in two verses, which is a pretty good average these days.

Quake

The earthquake out in California, which can't exactly be blamed on Hoover, though we entertain private suspicions on that count, gave the New York Giants a good scare, so a correspondent to a New York newspaper writes. The Giants were right in the front line tremors, and when the quake came along, the first team rushed out of the hotel and huddled in a sort of phalanx in the street. They wouldn't budge all night.

The trainer, Willie Schafer, was in the middle of the whole business. He had remained at the ball park after afternoon practice to take a shower. Well lathered and singing away, he felt the shock come and then promptly drew a blank. A few minutes later he came to out on the diamond sitting on the second base bag in the nude. The grandstands were empty so everything was all right.

There are just as many men making their mark today as ever—but they're using red ink.—*Daily O'Collegian*.

THOSE NEW BOOKS

The book most in demand from the rental library of the Bulls Head right now is *Ann Vickers*. There are three copies in circulation, and still we have a waiting list. It deals with the whole of a woman's life, and because Ann was actively engaged in public affairs this novel offers much the same kind of appeal to the memory as do similar books of a non-fiction character such as *Only Yesterday* and the four volumes of Mark Sullivan's *The March of Democracy*.

Incidentally *Henry Adams* by James Truslow Adams is an excellent biography. It supplies additional information and completely fills out the man self-described in *The Education. The Adams Family*, to whom James Truslow Adams is only distantly related, may now be had in a reprint edition.

Other Women by Katherine Brush is a collection of twelve stories. Here the author of *Red Headed Woman* concerns herself with brief glimpses into the lives of the other characters mentioned in that novel. Each one of the sketches is a skillful comment on some aspect of American life in which women play a part. Some of the characters are so clearly drawn that a complete novel suggests itself.

Of the series, "Doctor's Wife" is the most adroitly handled from point of construction. One of them at least, the first, is as penetratingly done, and is as pungent with unexpressed social comment as *Night Club*. Louise comes from the urban center of Pittsburgh to Renwood as Johnny Bartlet's bride. She proceeds with the skill of a diplomat, and ardour of a crusader to "missionize" this small Ohio town. She remakes a carefully selected portion of its inhabitants according to her notions of "smart sophistication." As one catches at the undertones beneath the glittering surface of this talent, one asks again, with Mr. Beard, "Recovery? To What?"

We extend a cordial invitation to visit the Bulls Head Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. At that time Sam Selden will read *Dinner At Eight*. This successful play is still enjoying a sell-out run on Broadway—and if you can't go to Broadway—well, the Bulls Head is located in the Y building to the left of "The Book Ex," right on the campus.

Mary Dirnberger.

OUTSTANDING RADIO BROADCASTS

- Tuesday, March 14
- 5:00 Lee Sims, piano. WJZ—NBC.
 - 8:30 Wayne King orchestra, WEA—NBC.
 - 9:00 Ben Bernie orchestra, WEA.
 - 9:30 Ed Wynn, "The Perfect Fool," WEA.
 - 9:30 California Melodies; interview with Claudette Colbert, WABC—CBS.
 - 10:00 Lucky Strike hour with Ted Weems orchestra and police sketch, WEA.
 - 10:30 Edwin C. Hill, "The Human Side of the News."
 - 10:45 Professor Jack McLallen, Sara, and Sassafras, comedy sketch, WJZ.
 - 11:30 Isham Jones, WABC.
 - 12:00 Duke Ellington orchestra, WJZ.
 - 12:30 Mark Fisher orchestra,

With Contemporaries

Unjustified Materialism

The American system of higher education, despite the pronouncements of critics such as Dr. Flexner, is fundamentally sound, since it is an expression of the American temperament. Such at least is the thesis presented by Ben Belitt, undergraduate of the University of Virginia, in an article entitled "Machine Age Education" appearing in the current issue of the *New Outlook*.

Mr. Belitt's philosophy is apparently based on principles of complete democracy and materialistic pragmatism. He asserts, in the first place, that any institution is "primarily the servant of the many, and many must be given preference over the exceptional or the few"; hence any university reform must conform to the opinion of the majority of its students. Secondly, the writer contends that an institution is sound insofar as it reflects the character of the majority of the people it serves. The American mind, in his estimation, is "concerned less with theory than with application, less with causes . . . and values than with results." The average undergraduate, he feels, has no use for cultural pursuits, but, because of the exigencies of modern life, is interested solely in deriving from college what will insure immediate and tangible results; "his lodestar is bread and butter."

Since the university should reflect this attitude and cater to it, the fact that American colleges tend to give practical training rather than a more theoretical, cultural education is not, as many critics claim, a basis for condemnation but rather a justification and pragmatic validation. In short, Mr. Belitt's theory is that "so long as the American heart is after the ideal of the full purse, there shall his mind be also, and there, in fine, his university shall, and should follow."

This defense of practical training as against cultural education, which Mr. Belitt attempts to make persuasive by his apparent bravado in cleaving to what he considers realities no matter how bitter and selfish, is almost too obviously false and shallow to merit remark. The trend of thought is, however, typical of a certain element of undergraduates, and for that reason is worthy of appraisal.

In the first place, it is not at all self-evident that the university policy should be directed by the majority of its students, for the democratic dogma that the majority is always right is hardly defensible. It is at least a questionable matter of fact, in the second place, that the American temperament is such that the majority of students have no interests in any studies except those which will directly aid them to fill their pocketbooks. And third, and most important, is the fact that even if one hypothetically admits the writer's premises, admits that the American ideal is pure materialistic selfishness, and that the American university does reflect

(Continued on next page)

WEAF.

The comedy skit scheduled over WJZ at 10:45 on the NBC hook-up takes its place with the funniest humor programs on the air. "Professor" Jack McLallen glorifies the pun, while Sassafras supplies the black-face touch that reminds one of the gone-but-not-forgotten Moran and Mack, the "Two Black Crows."—D.C.S.