

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1942
(One Day Nearer Victory)

Problems To Come

We were deeply impressed by an article we read in The New York Times during the week in which it was brought out that some of our peace problems have a bearing on the kind of war we wage, and some of the proposals we draft may prove potent weapons against our adversaries.

The article stated that when "the last shot has been fired and the last war bird has skimmed gently to earth, our statesmen will face problems rivaling, indeed surpassing, those now besetting our captains. The time to put the solutions into operation is after the war is ended, but the devising of the solutions naturally must come first."

It was likewise pointed out the fact that there are many who would say "Let's win the war first," and while that is true, the winning of the war is paramount on our claim at present, it is also true that the plans for peace have their own place in the strategy of victory.

Some of the problems cited will be of a passing nature and will automatically take care of themselves, while others will be of a permanent nature that will involve not only the making of peace, but the keeping of peace.

When we consider the tremendous swing of industry and production into war effort, and that after peace it must swing back, we are overcome with the problems that will await us. Those old enough to remember the first World War, can in some measure anticipate the problems that will arise. Yet on the other hand the magnitude of the present situation is so far greater that it cannot be compared to what will take place this time.

We were interested to note that in the long list of peace problems that food was first mentioned. Europe will not be able to feed herself, while we will not have as many food producers here, as formerly, with so many men in the service.

Eighteen

Maybe we are wrong in our reasoning, but as we have commented before, we regret that the draft is to be lowered to include the 18-year olds. We feel that they have not yet had time to prepare themselves for their life work.

A visit to the local high school during the hour of the physical education period will leave no doubt as to the fact that the youth can be trained at an early age. No one doubts either their ability to serve or the courage and daring patriotism of these boys.

We have the feeling that they have not had even a chance at life, and need no preparation to take on the responsibilities of the adult. They have no such feelings, however, as is evidenced in the number who are leaving school and trying to get in before they are drafted.

We admire their enthusiasm and their patriotic ardor, but we would like to hold them back until they acquire a few more years, but it now looks as if the great emergency would have to call them to the colors.

While the government is making a search for new taxes, most of us are still looking for the old ones.

If anybody thinks that talk is cheap, just let them look at the financial report of the telephone company.

Farm Labor

Every member of Congress from North Carolina and every member of the local selective draft boards of the state are scheduled to receive a copy of the farm resolution which has recently been adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Agriculture.

The resolutions are being mailed out bearing the signature of W. Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture, and chairman of the board. Also supporting the resolutions are members of the state board.

Membership on the board includes the following: L. Y. Ballentine, Wake County; W. L. Bissette, Pitt County; L. L. Burgin, Henderson; Charles F. Cates, Alamance; Claude T. Hall, Granville; D. R. Noland, Haywood; Miss Ethel Parker, Gates, and Lionel Weill, Wayne.

The preamble to the resolution sets out the fact that the farmers, at the direct request of the government invested large amounts of money and much labor in producing bountiful crops of food-for-victory and other essential produce, and that now for lack of labor, much of the production is ruining in the fields.

While there is no lack at present of food, it is pointed out that unless some provision is made for labor to take care of the situation, by next year and the year after there will be an acute shortage.

The resolutions call upon "the state and federal authorities having to do with the distribution and allocation of manpower to take the necessary steps immediately to assure retention of trained and essential farm workers on the farm."

Another First

The Raleigh News and Observer ever mindful of giving the state full credit for its accomplishments adds another first to the state in the following which recently appeared in the paper:

"Before Pearl Harbor North Carolina led every state east of the Mississippi river in voluntary enlistments in the armed forces.

"And now Collector Robertson tells us that for September North Carolina in percentage of the quota of War Bonds stands first in the sisterhood of states. With a quota of \$9,750,000 North Carolina forged ahead with sales totaling \$14,195,000.

"First at Mecklenburg; First at Bethel; North Carolina now adds another to its many other Firsts.

"We must continue to lead."

Control Of Purchasing Power

The new "economic czar," as former Senator and former Associate Justice Byrnes is being popularly titled, has been given quarters in the White House, will be surrounded by a large train of assistants and office staffs and plentifully provided with all degrees of economic experts, but one may still doubt if he has more than limited authority in approaching his vast and difficult task of controlling inflation trends.

He has authority to sit in judgment over wages, salaries, incomes, rents, farm prices and such, but he has no power to control the tremendous increase in purchasing power, estimated to be anywhere from \$15,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000, which is running loose through the national economy.

And it is this wild horse of much to spend and little to spend it for that, per se, contains the poison germs of price inflation. —The Charlotte Observer.

Stop Saving Pennies

Now, isn't that strange advice? Yet that is what Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, director of the United States mint, is saying, maybe not in the exact words, but with about the same meaning.

Last week she made some serious statements about "penny hoarders." She said because of lack of copper the mint in September had produced only 59,000,000 one-cent pieces, about half the production level of the summer months.

In view of this shortage she is asking that we no longer hoard our pennies as we once did, as one of the finest means of saving. In other words, when we get five or ten pennies, we should get them changed to a five or ten-center.

Mrs. Ross states that if "every one of the 33,000,000 American families returned to circulation ten of the pennies now 'hoarded' away in children's banks, old purses, and stored away summer clothes and suits, America would have 1,000 more tons of copper for munitions.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

How time flies . . . Do you realize that for that boy in the service overseas . . . that there are only today, tomorrow and day after tomorrow . . . in which to shop and get his Christmas package off . . . we have been interested in the government suggestions of "No Food" . . . for we have made many inquiries . . . and we have yet to find a Christmas box that has left these parts without some candy . . . at least . . . There is something fascinating about the boxes that are leaving, % of the Postmaster, New York, or San Francisco . . . for they are going to bring Home and those left behind might close to the man in service . . . Christmas is going to be a kind of half and half affair this year . . . to the families who have a vacant place at their table . . . they may be at home but in spirit they will be with that boy on Christmas day . . . for we have to cheer 'em up . . . which reminds us if you have not as yet done up your package going overseas . . . you will find some very patriotic wrapping paper in red, white and blue . . . for the gifts for service men, here at The Mountaineer office.

While on the subject . . . have you noticed the cablegrams that can be sent anywhere overseas for the sum of 60 cents . . . We have asked Mrs. Payne at the local office how long ahead will one have to get their message in for a Christmas cablegram . . . she said that she had not yet received instructions, but she felt sure they would have to be in ahead of time . . . Messages go by numbers . . . and the numbers represent about every kind of message you might want to send.

By the way, some of us may have to change our opinion of James Roosevelt . . . who has dashed madly in Roosevelt fashion from one spectacular job to another . . . cashing in, apparently to the average citizen, on his family prominence . . . first it was insurance . . . which looked like a racket . . . then a flight into politics . . . next, secretary to his father . . . then "Hollywood here I come" . . . and last a commission without training . . . just handed over to him . . . which caused a little backfire . . . everything, all his life passed on a silver platter . . . through no effort of his own . . . but now he is really in a spot where neither Papa nor Mama can help him . . . he is in the thick of the fight in the Pacific . . . we would like to think of the President's son as a hero . . . and feel that this once he had earned his own glory . . . so we hope he wakes up and finds himself in the role of hero.

Which reminds us . . . we wish that the President had told his wife that she simply could not go on a trip . . . just like any other red blooded American husband might have done . . . but it looks like Mrs. Roosevelt can't keep out of things . . . even war, she's got to have a hand in it . . . we guess after Mr. Willkie had gone . . . she had to go and see what she could find . . . but even so, we wish she had stayed in America.

But then it looks like women are in everything . . . today . . . we have thought a great deal about women and their present place in public affairs recently . . . After the first World War . . . they were given the right to vote . . . we wonder if after this they will share equally with men on the nation's payrolls . . . recently we found them in many new places . . . we noticed that there are 4,000 in northwestern lumber camps on jobs . . . some were driving am-

balances for funeral homes . . . out in Oregon they were operating a highway steam roller . . . in another city they were driving garbage trucks . . . on one railroad they were employed as blacksmith's helpers . . . as engine cleaners and brakemen on another . . . to say nothing of the vast number now in industrial plants . . . but Time magazine comes out with the fact that for "every woman who puts on unaccustomed overalls . . . and takes up a new occupation . . . another takes up the oldest occupation . . . older than the oldest profession . . . that of motherhood . . . it sounds a bit confusing . . . yet we hope that such remains the case . . . regardless of how much women accomplish we would hate to see the new adventures mean more . . . than making a home . . . man's top job . . . at least for the majority.

We had occasion during the past week to sit in on a meeting of the Haywood County Council of the Home Demonstration Clubs . . . and we had a grand time . . . the group was small enough to be informal . . . and those women know what they want . . . and they do their own thinking . . . it made us realize more than ever why the homes in the rural sections have been improved in comfort and beauty . . . the women who live in them have initiative and they go after what they want . . . And we say, more power to them . . . and their efficient leader, Mary Margaret Smith.

Believe it or not . . . (if you don't, try for yourself) . . . if you stay long enough at the Waynesville Bakery . . . you will meet all your neighbors and friends you haven't seen in a long time . . . with sugar rationing . . . the delicious things baked by Mr. Pearce and so graciously dispensed by his wife and daughters . . . are filling the gap along the dessert line . . . that has kept local sweet teeth on regular rations . . . despite the restrictions of rationing.



THE OLD HOME TOWN



Rambling Around

By W. CURTIS RUSS

Bits of this, that and the other picked up here, there and yonder.

Business took me to Atlanta for the week-end, and other than contacts with the business world, the most startling things learned was the complete change that comes over people that travel by bus.

Inside a crowded bus is one of the best places to study human nature. You see personalities at their best and worst.

People who are kind and considerate on the streets sometime lose all this when they enter a bus. On the other hand, some people can retain their finer qualities in spite of some hardships brought on by war.

I shared a seat with a traveling man from here to Sylva, and he was disgruntled because his business was off. He knew exactly how to win the war, and how to lead the country out of chaos. I was glad when the seat across the aisle was emptied and I could move from his gloomy conversation.

A young woman, apparently selfish in nature, took up two seats and seemed to enjoy seeing others seeking a place to sit. She sprawled out and tried to sleep in a position that looked like it would take a sailor to untie her, but she alighted from the bus in Atlanta as fresh as a May daisy.

The passengers were entertained in Franklin during the 10-minute wait by a bleating goat tied to a post on Main street. The drizzling rain caused a pathetic wall from the animal, and after 10 minutes of it, all travelers were glad to get to move on.

As the bus stopped at Clayton, Ga., someone yelled: "All on board who are going to get married, get off." An old man about 70 and a young girl were the only ones to alight—they were not together, but circumstances caused no end of giggles.

A colored man with a bag got on somewhere in Georgia, just as most of the passengers were so drowsy they were not aware of what was going on, until a loud "me-ow" came from the bag the colored man was carrying. He scurried to his seat in the back, trying all the while to shake his yelling cat to quiet.

Since it was the week-end, it seemed that some towns were having an air raid by the way they evacuated from one place to another.

At one Georgia town, the chairman of the draft board got on and discussed some of his problems in dealing with selective service. He pointed out every farm for 40 miles telling how much cotton was grown per acre. A very interesting man, and ideal for secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of his home county. We drew him out and got his opinion of newspapers without telling him we were connected with one. His answers cheered us up a lot.

We passed away the time by trying to size people up that got on and off. One elderly woman, with a god face, impressed us, and we pictured her as a good mother and Sunday school teacher. After hearing her talk a few minutes we conclude we were right in our opinions.

One woman was disgusted with the news about scrap—"Why can't they print something besides all this scrap campaign?" she wanted to know. The woman sitting next to her, with a son in service, and the soldier on leave across the aisle, soon got her straight on the subject before we had a chance to chime in.

There is a definite shortage of chewing gum in Georgia. A num-

Voice OF THE People

Would you approve of drafting labor for agriculture and industry as is being done for the forces, through the creation of a board appointed by the President or created by legislation?

Mrs. Jimmie Boyd—"I would prove adequate labor being drafted farms and industry, for the best methods of supply such labor I would not know plan to suggest."

W. R. Francis—"I am in favor of drafting labor for both agriculture and industry, but I have not the matter enough thought to plan of how it should be done."

Miss Debrajda Fisher—"I am in favor of drafting labor, recruitment service and the U. S. boards, the problems of which should be settled, and without creation of another board."

O. R. Roberts—"I believe the necessity for drafting labor farms will come, but I am in favor of creating any more boards. We have enough now already handle the situation."

R. E. Sentelle—"Yes, I am in favor of creating another board and drafting labor, if the duties in Washington think that should be done. I am ready to follow them. They have all the facts and if the facts have in hand call for the creation of the board, I am heartily in of the plan."

Clifford E. Brown—"I would prove the drafting of labor both farms and industry, but agriculture and industry are equal to winning this war, as those in authority feel that should be done, I agree with them."

Rev. Frank Leatherwood—"I think the government has a right to draft the rest of us does the men in our armed forces for this great emergency."

Henry Davis—"Yes, I support the plan, if it is necessary, for anything that is needed to win this war."

E. L. Withers—"I approve of drafting of labor for agriculture and for industry and now it as if it will have to be done to meet this emergency."

Henry Lee, Commander, U. S. Navy, Retired—"Whether or not I approve of the drafting of labor for farms and industry, apparently it will have to be done to win the war."

ber of places were out—according to passengers who consisted tried to buy some.

The soda fountains in Georgia are not aware of the shortage of chocolate, however. They mix and chocolate in about even portions in making chocolate.

The general game on the bus seems to be continuous contest to see who can smoke the most and women participating. For who does not smoke, we have act as judge, or referee. Our decision was a stuffy head, filled with second-hand smoke, utter disgust.

The average bus driver is tedious and efficient. They obey every rule of the road, and a hard job. They were all obliging as far as they can. Pretty hard with some who to take advantage of them, ever.

The best traveler we saw the entire trip was a mother two small children. Not once she open her mouth in complaint of anything or anyone, although the bus was two hours late the hour 2 a. m. The average son would have been constant grumbling.

The easiest way to travel by bus is to relax, forget time and tances. You get there just as quick as the fellow who would about how far it is to the place, and is always asking "we on time?"

—the last question is always of place, and gets the same answer. No.

Travel by passenger auto in 1940 was about 7 times the age of all other means of transportation combined.