

THE MOUNTAINEER

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1947 Active Member logo with a map of North Carolina.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1947

Our House To Your House

The issue of portal pay is getting into big figures and we believe it will not set so well with most Americans.

Current estimates of the total in back pay sought in the avalanche of the so-called portal-to-portal suits put the figure at close to \$5 billions.

It will be recalled, perhaps, that the pottery workers, through their attorney, alleged that each spent fifty-six minutes a day on the employer's premises for which they should have been paid at time-and-a-half rates.

The point the government has made in its brief, handed to Judge Picard in this city Thursday and to be argued at hearings before him in Detroit next week, is simply that the case, on which hinges the whole portal-to-portal offensive, should be thrown out of court unless new evidence adds more weight to the pottery workers' claims for overtime pay.

It is not for a layman to say, but the Supreme Court in dealing with the case said: "We do not, of course, preclude the application of the de minimis rule where the minimum walking time is such as to be negligible."

So there we have in a nutshell the issue on which depends a possible outlay of \$5 billions. What was it Mr. Bumble said about the law?

Winters

We read that New Englanders, not "basking in the sun" who are staying at home and are hovering over a bit of above zero weather are hearing from experts that "winters really are warmer now than they were in grandfather's day."

According to a General Electric Science Forum in Schenectady, N. Y., earth temperatures everywhere have been rising more emphatically since about 1920.

We relish the idea of warmer winters, but if it is "awakening of the giant in the North," and they become any more aggressive, we think we will take our same old weather.

So when we hear old-timers tell of the cold winters of days gone by, they are not telling us any tales of fantasy, but real facts, according to the scientists.

Welcome Back To Haywood

Bishop Paul Garber, who through his work for many years at Lake Junaluska is widely known throughout Haywood county, will speak here tomorrow night.

The congregations of all churches and the public in general have been invited by the pastor to attend the service at which Bishop Garber will speak.



HERE and THERE By HILDA WAY GWYN

We can read of a great battle which gives staggering statistics of the hundreds who lost their lives and we are depressed and impressed, but let us hear a buddy tell about another or write in simple words his last stand as he faced the enemy in his struggle for you and me and it trips our hearts.

Inside WASHINGTON

Lord Inverchapel Recalls His Early Days in U. S. Truman Pre-'48 Strategy May Put GOP on the Spot

WASHINGTON—Lord Inverchapel, the British ambassador, has no intention of returning to England before midsummer, at least.

But uppermost in his mind is the thought of spring and watching the flowers he personally planted come to bloom.

"I used to shoot whitetailed deer," he said. "I don't mind that, but I couldn't shoot a bear. It made my guide angry, for it was a beautiful bear. He was sitting there munching blueberries and I hadn't the heart."

He prefers, also, New England's hardwood trees as "far better than those eternal Christmas trees they have in the west."

The envoy's memory of good sport is to take a canoe to Harper's Ferry, toss it in the water and shoot the rapids down to Great Falls, just out of Washington.

"You can make it nicely in a weekend," he said. "Start Saturday afternoon and you are back in Washington Monday morning. But be sure to have at least an 18-foot canoe or you are liable to nose under in stiff rapids."

POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE WATCHING President Truman closely for signs that his pre-1948 strategy might take the form of putting the Republicans on the spot by forcing them to make important decisions which they may be reluctant to make.

They noted that his termination of hostilities had all the earmarks of forcing the GOP to commit itself on several essential points—farm support prices, excise taxes and the Smith-Conally act.

In his state of the union message, observers saw his references to demands for a balanced budget and debt-reduction in the face of Republican requests for lower income taxes.

Some observers think Mr. Truman will steer a middle course, waiting for the Republicans to make mistakes before he takes a stand for 1948.

FORMER REP. ROGER C. SLAUGHTER (D) of Missouri who was "purged" by President Truman last year, may accompany the House surplus property committee overseas as special counsel.

Sources close to the committee declared that Slaughter, who acted as committee chairman last year, would probably be asked to make the trip—after the adjournment of Congress this summer.

The Missourian, who aroused the president's ire by voting against administration legislation, has returned to his law practice in Kansas City. It was not known whether he would accept the committee's invitation.

The committee, which is being reconstituted under the chairmanship of Rep. Fess Ritzley (R) of Oklahoma, is expected to concentrate this year on the disposal of billions of dollars in surplus property overseas.

DIPLOMATS HOUSED in the State Department building just across a narrow tree-lined street from the White House should be emerged in the problems of international policy.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Do you approve the principle of limiting the number of years which any one man may serve as President of the United States?

L. Z. Messer: "I think a man should be allowed to run for President as many times as the people will support him. If the voters want a change, they have the chance to make one every four years."

Mrs. Frank Ferguson: "That would depend upon the times and condition of the country, and the type of man who was President."

Glenn McCracken: "I think the time should be limited, except during war or a similar emergency, to no more than two terms for one man."

W. Boyd Owen: "I sure do. I think there should be a four year limit and no chance to repeat. The President will do his job then, and won't be worried about being re-elected."

Mark M. Ferguson: "Under normal conditions, I think two terms is enough. However I don't believe there should be a law limiting the number of years a man may serve."

Ralph Crawford: "I think that two terms should be the limit, except in a necessity. I'd rather have the unwritten law, as it is now, than to have Congress set a limit. The people will tell a President how many times he can go in office."

not so much walking. We had a rest for two days and got paid. That was the end of August, 1944. Or maybe the first of September. I can't remember, but any how on Sunday night we moved out to attack on Monday morning, which was to cross the Moselle River. We crossed OK and did not meet much opposition, dug in that night on a Rocky Hill, nobody dug very deep because of the rocks. As McKinley and I started to dig our hole the squad leader took me and another man and put us on the outpost maybe 50 feet away from McKinley.

Next morning the 137th Regt. crossed the river and routed a bunch of Germans which came right behind us. We had taken care of them when out of the woods ahead came one German half truck loaded with their Infantry. It was just about half daylight and some American soldier called out to them, he was about a block away in the light machine gun section. Right away they opened up and got two Americans. Then another truck came. We were shooting, but our bullets did not penetrate.

Capital Letter

TELL THEM — Several highly controversial issues are now hanging before the Legislature—some of them of far-reaching importance. The solons want to work along with the "people back home" in arriving at their decisions on these matters.

There are scores of questions facing your legislator. He is looking to you for help in finding the solutions to them. In most cases he is home for the week-end. In

Washington Letter

By JANE EADS 'DEADLETTER' MAGAZINES LEFT BY ARMY SCORE HIT IN SIAM WASHINGTON—The people in Siam hadn't seen an American magazine in five years. Then State Department officials in Bangkok, the Siamese capital, learned that thousands of bags of U. S. mail, most of it magazines, some of it newspapers, had been dead-lettered in Calcutta, India, when U. S. Army forces moved out and that this mail was going to be destroyed.

They wangled 150 bags of the mail—five tons in all—and had it shipped to Siam. They set about to issue it, with the compliments

BROADWAY

By Jack O'Brian COOKING IN A KITCHEN SEEMS TO BE A TREAT IN GOTHAM NEW YORK—Manhattan has its heart-warming occasions, although I'll admit they do not happen with wholesale frequency. At the Henry Hudson Hotel Manager John Paul Stack saw a white-haired couple in the dining room to whom the waiters and captains had taken a particular fancy, in process of which they'd learned the pair were celebrating their golden wedding.

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