

**The News-Journal**

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DOUGALD COXE, Editor-Manager

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**Soldier Vote**

During the meeting of the last Legislature action was taken to provide machinery for the voting of soldiers from North Carolina.

Governor J. M. Broughton seems to be of mind that the laws then passed are adequate and sufficient. However, at this time it would be well for the State Board of Elections and the Attorney General to study, exhaustively, these laws and determine if they are adequate. Then should they be lacking necessary provisions to handle the soldier vote easily and adequately, a special session of the General Assembly should be called to pass such measures as would extend the right and the opportunity to every voter in the armed forces to cast his or her ballot in the elections of 1944.

We sincerely hope that this extension of the absentee ballot law, long a disgrace to North Carolina, will not be permitted to become the filthy tool of greedy politicians such as it was before reform measures were enacted several years ago, and we trust that in performing this duty to our men in service the Governor, General Assembly and the Election Board will see that the scandals of former years are not allowed to be practiced with soldiers' ballots.

These men and women are fighting for decency and honesty in government. To deprive them of the right to ballot for it now will bear hard on present office holders when the soldiers return if they are not permitted to vote their convictions in the coming elections. While these men are not fully cognizant of the happenings back home, Ernie Pyle's columns in the past few days shows that many are not satisfied with the manner in which things are going.

**The Rail Strike -- An Aftermath**

No doubt but officials of Secretary Ickes Department of Interior felt somewhat contented over their settlement of the strike difficulties between the miners of John L. Lewis and the nine operators. They succeeded in getting the men back to producing coal and the public is paying the additional costs.

But, we doubt that Mr. Ickes will be given charge of the battle now raging between leaders of the railway brotherhoods and their employers. Mr. Ickes was given the right to break down the bars held in place by the "Little Steel" formula, and to prepare the pathway for inflation's economy-destroying armored force. His giving in to the coal workers could only have set another, and this time dangerous precedent, by which the price set-up was to be governed. For nearly two years labor had been controlled by the terms of the "Little Steel" agreement, and strikers had tough going in their appeals to the War Labor Board. Nor would John L. Lewis have found it any easier. But when the matter was taken from the board's hands and given over to Mr. Ickes, who knew little and evidently cared less about the "hold the line" policies, Lewis had an easy victim for his bullying tactics.

Few believe that the grave threat to our whole system of railroad transportation would now be facing this nation if Mr. Ickes had held the line upon the coal miners. As it is, hardly any conference or series of conferences between the railroad brotherhood leaders and government officials will lead to any other satisfactory settlement of the difficulties than an increase in wages for this already highly paid group of workmen.

The handling of the proposed settlements are discussed by the Charlotte Observer thusly:

While the American public will continue to hope and to believe that there will be no railroad strike, it is rather disconcerting that nothing in the way of a possible settlement has come out of White House conferences.

Time was when Mr. Roosevelt had the power, the prestige and the personal as well as the political influence to step into a breach of this magnitude and to bring order out of chaos.

But he seems to have lost that magic touch—and lost it especially with labor which has been the peculiar beneficiary of his sympathetic and partisan views and policies.

And the New York Herald-Tribune comments on the piecemeal manners of administrative action:

"Mr. Roosevelt is now paying," it says, "for the errors, the wastes, the frictions and mistrusts engendered throughout his precedent-breaking career in office. He is paying for the group rivalries fostered by the New Deal and the grave doubts set in motion by the breach of the American tradition as to Presidential tenure. He is paying now because the framework of national duty and sacrifice was not erected squarely and honestly in the days when the national danger was apparent to all, but was run up in bits and pieces, so that the structure is still incomplete, still unsymmetrical, when the peril seems less urgent."

By immediate past performances of government officials we cannot expect a satisfactory solution to the railway worker's difficulties from administrative sources, nor has Congress shown any willingness to legislate any domestic economy program that will help stem the tide of labor's dissatisfaction.

Perhaps some Congressional action on subsidies would take away the chief argument the railmen have for their strike. Otherwise the potential inflationary power of a 30 per cent increase in wages for 1,300,000 rail workers will be loosed upon this nation with its full destructive power to upset the price control system. And if this second large group of workers is allowed to bludgeon its way into greatly increased earnings, then other unions in other vital industries can be expected to add further trouble to those of the wage adjustment bodies.

This strike and the others to come are but an aftermath to the unwise and unjust increases allowed the recalcitrant Lewis, and other unorthodox "adjustments" made by the administration.

**OPINIONS and SENTIMENTS**

**From Other Editors**

**Over The Moon.**

(Charlotte Observer)

With half the world hungry and the other half fearing it may have to tighten its belt still further, the cow becomes more valuable than ever. One blue ribbon animal brought a bid of \$10,000 at an auction in Wisconsin. That's a far cry from the bouncing heifer sold in the old days for six dollars so the family might continue to exist until the first bale of cotton was taken to town.

That cow is valued at exactly the same as a congressman for a year. It is doubtful if there is any person in the country who would pay from his private funds that amount for a congressman. That's more than a general gets. You could buy a high class executive for the price of that bovine or a nice house or a swimming pool in Hollywood.

Such a cow! Such a pedigree! She must be descended from the one that jumped over the moon. She's going up.

**Child Psychology Tale**

(Manchester Guardian)

An earnest student of child psychology, also a parent, firmly believed that children should be given everything they asked for, thinking that if the Id was early appeased the Ego would develop properly later. The poor man, faithful to his theory, tried it on his daughter, who refused her food at lunch one day. "Well, dear," he said, "what would you like to eat?" "A worm out of the garden, please Daddy." "Faithful Daddy brought a worm out of the garden." "But Daddy, I wanted it cooked!" The worm was cooked and served again. "Oh, but Daddy, I want you to eat half." Daddy, concealing his nausea, swallowed half a worm. "Daddy," said the child, "that's the half I wanted!"

**Leadership From Virginia**

(New York Herald-Tribune)

The Richmond Times-Dispatch advocates in an outspoken and calmly reasoned editorial the repeal of Jim Crow laws for streetcars and buses in Virginia as "the truly conservative course." The repeal would be, it says, "the greatest single step toward better race relationships taken in any Southern State for decades." The reason it is deemed conservative is that otherwise Southern Negro leaders, who earnestly desire that relationship problems be settled in the South itself by the people who live there, white and black, will be forced to surrender to racial spokesmen "demanding the complete abolition of all discrimination overnight."

The leadership of Virginia, one of the greatest of Southern States, which itself has nearly one-fourth Negro population, would weigh more in the South than all outside efforts from whatever source to force change. And who, cognizant of the unreal achievement resulting from post-Civil War attempts to abolish all discrimination by fiat, can believe that it would not result in more real achievement?

No critic from the North could state the case against white do-nothingism better than does the Times-Dispatch: "The time has come when the white South must do more than issue pious statements about loving and understanding the Negro if it wishes to build a firm foundation for amicable race relations in this region."

For Virginia to take the first great tradition-breaking step would, indeed, be a heartening thing.

**They Remember**

(Christian Science Monitor)

We went on a record flight to Poland . . . We ran out of gas just as we got back to England and succeeded in making a crash landing. No one was bruised, scratched, or even shaken up, but the plane was. The Lord was with us.

An American pilot, Lieut. Gustave S. Holmstrom of Brooklyn, wrote this to his mother after his twenty-first successful mission over the European Continent. On his twenty-second, his plane was shot down over Germany, but he is reported safe and a prisoner. "The Lord was with him again," said his mother, on hearing the news.

Many a daring fighting man who exposes himself to extreme dangers does so after trusting himself to the Almighty. Roy Davenport, skipper on an American submarine, prays daily, his shipmates say. His exploits are legendary around Pearl Harbor.

Laughing, rollicking fighters in uniform may maintain an outward devil-may-care attitude, but these same men in many instances are secretly strengthened because of their reliance on God. Hundreds of them remember those words of the Ninety-first Psalm, "Because thou hast made the Lord . . . thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee."

**NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS**  
By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

**ADDED EVIDENCE OF POLITICAL SWING**

WASHINGTON.—Most interesting and perhaps most significant change in the last election did not show itself until the detailed final returns came in. Now a month has passed and an intelligent analysis is possible:

The Democrats not only failed to get their usual strong labor majorities, but their city Negro majorities as well.

Symptoms of a changeover in the country at large were clearly suggested in the scattered sample voting of those two class groups to which the national administration has appealed so conspicuously with special leadership.

In Harlem, the Republicans actually won a plurality in the 21st assembly district (all Negro). In lower west Harlem (19th district), which is also Negro, the Democratic poll was only 700 votes more than the Republican, out of 8,500 cast.

Some attribute this almost even split in Harlem to the fact that a Negro candidate was running to be a city court justice (he won).

**PHILADELPHIA RACE**

But the same symptoms were evident also in Philadelphia where there is no counterpart of the Tammany Democratic machine which has run Harlem. There, the Republicans won the Negro 30th ward by 1,500 (during the New Deal, it has been Democratic by 1,500), the seventh ward by 2,500 (usually Democratic by 3,000), also the 44th, 20th, 22nd, and 47th wards—and this was against Bill Bullitt, the President's friend, for whom Mrs. Roosevelt appeared on the platform.

This changeover in the Negro vote was suggested in advance by some Negro educators and leaders and some Negro newspapers taking the position, at a religious convention and otherwise, that further support of the administration was not warranted.

Labor leaders, on the other hand, just could not hold their people Democratic, with CIO support, the AFL official, who ran for governor unsuccessfully in New Jersey, was able to pull the full labor vote only in Camden county (shippers, CIO).

**UNION STRONGHOLD**

Elsewhere in union strongholds through the thickly industrialized sections of the state, Republican Walter Edge got the majorities (excepting only Boss Hague's district). Thus the changeover showed even in the case of a candidate who had CIO, AFL, the national administration and the Jersey City machine.

Such detailed evidence, on top of the already noticed decline in power of the American Labor party in New York, the San Francisco mayoralty result, Detroit and Kentucky, obviously confirm a national labor split-vote.

**LESS THAN NINETY DAYS?**

A man whom I believe is the best judge in the stock market does not believe the Nazis can last more than 60 to 90 days more, and I would not doubt but what his guess might prove correct. I know of a manager of a Fifth Avenue hotel who has been receiving letters from people asking reservations for a victory parade which has not even been scheduled or considered. That kind of guessing costs less money than the stock market and is more indefinite.

It is true that some officials will speak of a costly campaign of invasion to come in 1944, but they generally also mention "decisive events" which they say are at hand. They are likewise on sound military ground, even if events make them seem unreasonable. A general naturally must measure war prospects upon his own plans rather than in unexpected capitulation of an enemy.

**REPUBLICAN LINE-UP**

Mr. Wilkie said in Wisconsin that Governor Dewey could not run because he promised. This is true, yet practically all the ranking men of politics in both parties in the East currently consider Dewey as almost a certain nominee.

Their reasoning is not hard to follow. Ohio's Governor Bricker is now officially out seeking delegates, as predicted. The Favorite Son movement (of which Mr. Wilkie also complained) is spreading through the West from the eastern Republican centers previously cited in this column. The lion's share of the South (old Taft following) is generally attributed to Bricker.

If you count all the rest for Wilkie, it will be only enough to tie up the convention temporarily by preventing Bricker or a favorite son from getting a majority. The eastern leaders, that is, Wilkie certainly will be. Mr. Wilkie can upset this obvious trend by winning a majority of primaries or by tying up with the Favorite Sons whom he already recognizes as against him. He has everything a candidate needs, including financial and publishing support. But it can be readily seen that Dewey can win against him—without campaigning.

**There is Hope**

OUR OWN community, like the rest of the world, has been shaken by the thunder of guns. This thunder echoes in our ears as we once more celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Yet this newspaper sees no irony in the scars of war and the message of hope that is Christmas.

For it is the everlasting hope of Christmas that makes it such a vital force in our lives. That hope is one of a never ending period of "Peace on Earth."

While it is true that the columns of this paper since last Christmas have been dominated by the effects of the war lords on our normal way of living—we know that the peace-loving "little" men of goodwill far outnumber the evil.

These "little" people are the citizens of this community and other communities like it. And it was for these same "little" people that Christ came into this world 1943 years ago.

So Christmas belongs to them and not to those who plunge the world into darkness.

Let this true spirit of Christmas dominate your thinking and you can say to all your friends as we now say to you—

**A Merry Christmas**

of warfare.

Our country has never been a landgrabber. It was said Julius Caesar left every country he conquered under a better government than they had before. That might have been easy to say at that period of the World's history.

The Russians have a democracy without naming it that. They are said to have made wonderful progress during the past twenty-five years. Of course it will take them years to get over this war. That country has suffered awfully in every way, except in morale.

It looks now like the railroad brotherhoods will strike, or get the advance in pay they demand. I do not know conditions—the reasons for their attitude, but I for one, would not vote to strike at a time like this, no matter what their reasons for the course they are taking. Later these matters may be adjusted.

The world is prejudiced against capitalism, corporations, syndicates, all organizations under which capital does business. I see no reason why men cannot be brothers, whether employer or employee. This world's wealth is not particularly helpful to either class if the sordid world-wealth is the only measure of worth considered.

This should be a better world, a world purified by fire, after this holocaust ceases to explode. There is a (Continued on page eight)

**POOLE'S MEDLEY**

By J. SCOTT POOLE

Cold weather kills insects, and "fallows" the soil to a great extent, but cold increases the suffering of people in war torn countries, who have no fuel, and no food, or but little at best.

The Chinese with American airmen have driven the Japs out of the world's greatest rice bowl. Had the Japs been stopped at Hong Kong, and Luzon, the war would have been shortened. The Japs have had a good portion of the world's most productive lands. However, Japs will enjoy their riches but a short time.

The newspapers have criticized the train crews involved in that railroad wreck on the A. C. L. for not signaling and stopping the oncoming train that ran through the wrecked train. But trainmen say their signals were made, but were ineffective because of weather conditions.

Airmen desire six months to stop the German's and that would save the life of many men, if it can be done. The fighting now going on in Italy is very destructive of lives of the men on both sides. I would be glad to learn that the War Department is to give the airmen all the time they ask. That bombing process is destructive and not so expensive as other means

**OUR DEMOCRACY** — by Mat  
**THIS YEAR SAY IT WITH WAR BONDS.**



**—TO HELP CREATE A BETTER WORLD FOR THEM TO COME HOME TO.**  
**—TO HELP SECURE "PEACE ON EARTH."**