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\section*{| C. S. FOSTER |
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| H. F. LAFFOON. | SUBSCRIPTION RATES, PER YEAR \\ }

But at that, "diversion" is about the
To legislators looking for something $t$ tax we respee
slide trombone.

Can you remember back there when in-
stead of referring to it as b.o. they simply stead of referring to it as b.o.
told you that you were smelly.

## Legislative Headaches

 Members elected to the General As-sembly for the honor of the thing find, so
far as the present session is concerned that far as the present session is concerned, that
they have also drawn a headache that is more enduring than the proverbial morning
after" ailment. Particularly is this so or
those who have been assigned to the importhose who have been assigned to the impor
tant Finance and Appropriations commit Fees. to these groups is given the re-
sponsibility of making a stab at budget balsponsing. There may be some good reason for
ancur
causing them to work separately, but inascausing them to work separately, butter of
much as there is the important mate cutting the garment of one to fit the form
of the other, it would seem advisable to make it a joint effort as well as joint re sponsibility.
Faced wit reductions, the Finance Committee is com pelled to slash the budget commission estipossible to balance income and outgo. tax re
is the proposed return of intangibl tan
ceints to the local governments; the rail roads are presenting convincing evidence that they should have a 15 cent reduction in
the franchise levy, and there are other reductions looked upon favoraby by red cen-
eral assenbly, which will work a retur
of a million and a half dollars in the budgetary estimate. hand the Appropriations
On the other
committee isn't making any corresponding slamm in estimated expenditures, and for the
very simple reason that it is being pressed for more and more funds from almost every State department and agency.
In other words budget estimates of revenv for the coming biennium are coming ger gap between income and outgo. about the diversion of highway funds. He
probably regrets breaking faith with the leave his office with finances out of kilter is not that he loves Caesar less but Rome
is And it is no wonder that Paul Leonard is
emboldened to ask the legislature to stop, look and listen: To think of North Carolina
as a lean State, and to cut the garment to fit. But the poopple are demanding more and
more from their governments, State and National, and these things cost money. Assembly, but things do get in one's hair in Assemigh.

## A Dark Picture

The tangled skein of world politics would not be so tragic in human misery were not
so involved, If it could be made only a mat-
ter of diplomatic scheming and planning, a ter of diplomatic scheming and planning, a
sort of game that somehow could be played according to rules, even if sensible men
could not sense the advantage of sitting could not sense the advantage of sitting
down to the council table in a give-and-take
frame of mind then mavbe international adjustments could be made in a way that na-
tions would find it more profitable to buy than figh
the sun.
But
pain and misery and desolation in Spain and in China, all brought about by the inhumanity of man's greed for power-the greed of
only a couple of them, to be specific only a couple of them, to be, specific.
General Franco's march into Barcelona last week spells ultimate victory for the
rebel army which is more Italo-German than Spainis. Intead of the stabilization of
Spain it means her dismemberment. Mussoini and Hitler have not been fighting
Franco's battle for nothing. He already knows their price, knows that they mear to
collect and in the collecting France will be
the red-headed stepchild that obviously will be left out in the cold, if actually she is not made to ante the pot. For Britain will
come in for something out of the spoils.
Spain, war-torn and despoiled, will be a liability until that nation is rehabilitated. Italy
and Germany have not the money and the
means; Britain has, and Britain will be the
feeling between France and Italy can be
bridged. If it can't there is the barest posbridged. if it can there is the barest pos-
sibility that Britain will keep her word to
France and together call the hand of the two braggarts. Surely both of them must
remember with a pain, how much easier it would have been to set themselves in the
path of Mussolini in Ethiopia. Then there would have been no Munich; Franco would
not be marching into Barcelona, and Japan would not be riding high, wide and handinevitable task will be the harder because of could be appeased.
And what is more Rome and Berlin, enrenched in Spain, become a threat to the Americas. There is the shadow of two in-
satiable hyenas, shading their eyes toward the Western hemisphere, and soon we will
be paying the price of our failure to sell munitions to a as patriotic a people as ever
mor strove
ists.
It
It is well that we are thinking in terms
preparedness-for we will need to be preof prep.


All Momixed Up
J. Paul Leonard has at last succeeded in getting his sales tax issue started through the courts. In a test case he is fighting to
recover \$3.13 paid by him under protest last
year on the ground that the levy is disyear on the ground that the
criminatory and unconstitutional.
In a hearing before a Superior Court
judge in Wiston last week, the State's de-
murrer was upheld, and Leonard appealed to tight it out to a finish. The result of the Winston hearing was
not surprising, even to Mr. Leonard, but not of of the arguments of the State's attor-
some
neys a a Leonard's attorneys' contention that one in
stance of discrimination may be found in the collection of sales tax on gasoline, As
sistant-General Gregory explained additional sales tax was imposed on gaso-
line, yet Governor Hoey has persistently line, yet Governor Hooy has persistentiy
been pointing out that the State is entitled o divert the equal of three per cent.
tax from the highway fund for other pur poses. There is no sales tax on gasoline, ac
cording to these theories, but the State re corring to these theories, but
And there is Gregory's defense of the
constitutionality of the sales tax on the ground that it is not a tax on the consumer,
but a tax on the merchant. And all the time
we we had been thinking that the privilege of buy-
man who buys, and
ing. It is written into the law that it must not be made a part of the purchase price
but plainly separated so the eustomer will
know what he is paying. And isn't it funny that if this is a tax on the merchant, bhat
the State requires the merchant to be his
Nothing was said at the Winston-Salem
hearing about an unconstitutionally composed legislature whose representation had
not been reapportioned according to the conpoint, then every law passed by the last and wouldn't that be a mess
Looks like they've got this business

## Two Results

In significant contrast is the attitude of
two Congressional committes as they make
their report on the activities assigned to
them. One is willing to quit and call it a
ond
the other begs for $\$ 150,000$ to continue its
work which better could be called devilment.
For the Senate Civil Liberties Commit-
ce, headed by Senator LaFollette, Progres
sive-Republican, has done a good job; its ins
vestigations have been conducted intell
gently, aggressively and constructively, and
from its report the Sen
for helpful legislation.
The House committee on un-American
ism, eeaded by Martin Dies, Democrat, has
floundered from Dan to Beersheba and for its chairman and the smearing of those that revealed Shirley Temple as Communistic Russia; the committee that
heard any voice that would raise itself heard any voice that would raise itself
against the same objects of Dies hatreds or cast a shadow of doubt upon the administra
tion. It is this committee that wants an other summer with $\$ 150,000$ to spend.
And Congressman Dies stands a good
chance of getting the funds to carry-on. His fellows, no matter though they may discount the honesty of his efforts and deplore
his tactics, , will not want to be put in the
light of oposing any effort to Americanism. Dies has had the political
shrewdness to build a fire under their feet, by going to the people with a plausible tale
of what have not taken to accompish. The voters the Dies cause. And so there is the proba-
bility that the Texan will have another plea sant su
spend.
There is much that is un-American in
this nation today; much that is amenable this nation today; much that is amenable
the law as it already is writ the law as it arready is writ. Why not
the low attend to its work at least until it
catches up, $0^{\circ}$ until an investieatiny calches up, ot until an investigating group
is wiiling to divorce itseif from sielish po
litical purpose and really and truly-invest

