

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

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If the Siegfried and Maginot lines are not about the safest place for humans to be right now, somebody is putting up a good stiff bluff, or just plain lying about their impregnability.

A Significant Ruling

Last week in Alamance Superior Court Judge Leo Carr issued a ruling which, if upheld by the Supreme Court, will bring a lot of uneasiness if not a lot of grief to certain public servants who thought they were riding a gravy train for the next four years—county sheriffs, who, elected for two years, were handed another two years on a silver platter, just for good measure.

In Alamance, J. N. Freeman brought suit to compel the county board of elections to accept the usual notice, pledge and filing fee, as a candidate for sheriff, and place his name upon the ballots of the Democratic party in the primary to be held on May 25, 1940. Judge Carr ruled in favor of Freeman.

In case you are not already ahead of us, let us remind that at the last State election the voters approved the constitutional amendment providing for four-year terms for sheriffs. It was argued in the Alamance case that the new amendment did not become effective until November 30, twenty-two days after the election of the present sheriff of Alamance, and that the old two-year term was in effect on the day of the election; that the effective date was proclaimed as November 30 in the amendment itself, and known to the voters who thought at the time they were voting for a sheriff for a two-year term. Very few sheriffs, if any, took the trouble to correct this impression—and for obvious reasons.

Not all of them, of course, but a goodly number of sheriffs elected in November, 1938, had received the nomination from a none too enthusiastic public; some of them made the grade because of a sort of general understanding that they were entitled to another term as a "vote of confidence"—but the voters were not thinking of another term as four long years, else they might have bucked. Other sheriffs had gained political influence that assured their names on the ticket, through power politics, when deep down in their hearts the voters didn't want them. We know of one such case, at least.

Judge Carr has ruled in the Alamance case "That on the first Monday in December, 1940, there will be a vacancy in the office of sheriff for said county and is to be filled by the person elected in the general election to be held in November, 1940." If the Supreme Court backstands Judge Carr, and if there is a vacancy in Alamance on that date, and to be filled in that way, then the same will apply to every other county in North Carolina. Which is liable to give somebody a heart ache—some sheriff who thought he was secure for a full four years, and who may not make the grade again.

We wouldn't know whether or not Judge Carr is right under the technicalities of the law, but he is morally right anyhow. The voters as a whole did not know they were voting in a sheriff for four years, and the smart lads that engineered the four-year train through the battle of ballots, didn't see fit to explain.

A Splendid Edition

The Charlotte Observer's ten-section edition published last Thursday on the occasion of its 70th anniversary, was about the niftiest journalistic accomplishment ever pulled off in North Carolina and gives new evidence of leadership in the big daily field in this State.

For the paper is not only notable for its two hundred pages, nor yet its superb typographical get-up, but the text matter was of the kind that interests, not only today but tomorrow, because it spells progress with a capital "P"; progress not alone for a paper that has won its spurs, but the progress of community and State—a progress which The Observer has had no little part in helping to achieve. Even the paid spaces that must have contributed a tidy sum to the front office till, were in themselves inspiring, for they too told of progress, and demonstrated faith in the future of this section as well as giving evidence of something that borders suspiciously on prosperity for business and industry in a section that hasn't been willing to admit its affluence.

Not in his most enthusiastic moments did Joe Caldwell envision for his beloved Observer such an edition as this. Mr. Caldwell did not father the Charlotte paper—he simply took the torch in a relay that required blazing new trails in journalism in

North Carolina, and so well did he carry it that the present owner and publisher is still cashing in on the character and prestige that Caldwell gave it.

The Observer is a great news gatherer, and whether you are a devotee of the editorial page and policies or not, you will be admitting that its news columns measure up. And as for this anniversary edition, it compares favorably with any issue of any paper, anywhere—and if we were paid for writing this, what more could its publisher want us to say.

The Growth of an Idea

The new Institute of Government building was formally opened at Chapel Hill last week, when Speaker Bankhead and other notables were present for a very interesting program. It was right and proper that every one who spoke on that program gave full praise and credit to Professor Albert Coates for this significant and highly important activity at the University.

For the Institute of Government is no longer an experiment in the training of public officials to properly meet the responsibilities of their offices, and even coaching the public to a better understanding of its own obligations.

Back yonder when Albert Coates first envisioned the possibilities of such a service; when he took note of the faults of a system that made John Smith pay in full for his offense against the law, while John Brown committing the same offense was allowed to go free, that was only an idea from which grew a program that reaches back and strikes at the roots of the cause of this particular fault, as well as plans to correct other errors in administration. That was nearly ten years ago, but this paper voiced its approval of Coates and his efforts, and of course we are pleased to see this evidence of his success, although in that short time he has accomplished more than we had dreamed of.

And this building is only the beginning. It was announced at Chapel Hill last week that funds have been provided for other buildings and equipment that will place North Carolina out front in educating our people in better methods of government and in preparing our administrative officials to give better and more efficient service.

How has it happened that this has been made possible? Because Albert Coates has shown that he deserves the confidence that has been so definitely expressed. Without any blare of trumpets, but persistently and consistently, he has been plugging along, enlisting the support of forward-looking leaders, who, sensing the importance of what he was trying to do, joined with him enthusiastically, and now we have the solid foundation for a program, such as has not been undertaken by any other state.

It is sincerely to be hoped that Professor Coates will not be subjected to the same temptation that has come to some of our educational leaders in which other states have tried to toll them away from us with doubled salaries. The Institute of Government is his brain child. Here's hoping he will see it grow to his fullest expectations.

Stands Convicted

While here in North Carolina and in half the nation our people were engaged in observing their Thanksgiving Day, some of them reverently pausing to thank God for blessings bestowed, and others happily enjoying their holiday, Russia was unloosing a hellish war against an all but helpless people, whose only offense was that they had something Russia wants, and if it is to be had it must be pilfered while decent nations are too busy to interfere.

When it comes to downright ruthlessness and indecent manhandling Poland with Hitler at her throat was not a circumstance, although the same technique was followed; the build-up followed a blue-print borrowed from Hitler: According to the Russian story, the Finns were the aggressors; there were atrocities against Russians; Soviet soldiers had been slain; bullets and shells had screamed across the border—and these things could be tolerated no longer. These lies were fed to the Russian people, always willingly gullible, until they were ready to pop. And so Finland was invaded.

Here it seems, is another example of militarists champing at their bits: Like in Germany a great, ponderous army was eager to try out its equipment, and like Germany, it chose a target that would not fly up and hit it in the face. Russian militarists wanted to show the world something new in a "lightning thrust," wanted to eclipse even Hitler's rape of Poland; wanted to taste blood and give their soldiers the feel of victory.

There are reasons to believe that the build-up against Finland got out of hand; that Stalin and Molotoff preferred a war of nerves to gain their greedy ends. But a government controlled press and radio had worked the Russians into a lather. And now Russia stands convicted before the world and in her own conscience, if she has any, of causing war against a mere baby among the nations.

This irrepressible greed may work Russia's own undoing. The German people may sense the real significance of this thrust, and hasten their repudiation of Hitler and his Russian alignment, and help the Allies set the stage for a defense of Central Europe against Communism.

Certainly now we here in America know where Russia stands, and if her spokesmen in our midst insist on spreading their poison they should be tramped upon, promptly and completely, even if for once we have to write a new version of our boasted "freedom of speech."

ELECT MOORE AS SECRETARY

Ray T. Moore to Serve As Secretary to Republican County Chairman

TAKES HARDING'S PLACE

Yadkinville, Dec. 6—(Special)—Ray T. Moore, prominent and well known citizen of Courtney and a good Republican, was elected Monday to serve as secretary to the county chairman and executive committee, in place of Boone Harding, who resigned last week, after serving less than a month.

The election of Mr. Moore by the executive committee was unanimous. Four members of the committee was absent, they being Boone and Tom Harding, H. C. Johnson and Millard Cook. Those present were W. T. Fletcher, Lon Vestal, Dan Vestal, T. H. Chamberlain, Fletcher Hoots, J. N. Davis, Hovey Norman, E. B. Vestal and W. A. Williams.

The meeting was held in the office of Chairman Walter Zachary, after a luncheon dinner given to the group by Solicitor A. E. Hall.

The only other business transacted by the committee was an agreement to meet in Yadkinville with the County Chairman on the first Monday in every month until after the next election.

For several years Mr. Moore was principal of the Courtney high school where he made an enviable record as a teacher and principal, but the steam roller got him when he refused to promise to vote a Democratic ticket and he was replaced. The Republican party is fortunate in having Mr. Moore as one of the guiding heads of the party.

Debtor Nations Get Their Bills for Post-War Debts

Washington, Dec. 4.—Semi-annual bills totaling \$2,430,730,897 have been sent by the state department to the diplomatic representatives of 12 of the 13 governments owing war and post-war debts to the United States.

A bill was sent as usual to the Polish government for \$71,134,330.6, although Poland has disappeared physically under invasions by Germany and Russia. The bill was handed the Polish ambassador here, Count Potocki.

"In view of the current governmental conditions in Czechoslovakia," the state department said, "No statement of the sums due and payable has been rendered to that country."

The state department takes the position that Czechoslovakia's elimination as an independent nation is temporary, and Germany consequently has not been asked to assume her debts.

The nations billed were Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

Finland, which has paid all previous installments, has indicated the December 15 installment of \$234,693 would be paid.

"Well, Willie, your sister has given herself to me for a Christmas present. What do you think of that?"

"That's what she done for Mr. Bunker last year, an' he give her back 'fore Easter. I bet you'll do the same."

There were 5408 ships sunk by German submarines during World War No. 1.

NOTICE!

City Auto License Plates Are Now on Sale at the City Tax Office. Every Car or Truck Owner Within the City of Elkin Is Required to Buy These License Plates. Price of License One Dollar Per Vehicle.

Yours truly,

DIXIE GRAHAM

City Tax Collector

Market Phone 309
We Deliver

MODERN FOOD STORE

Free! Free! Free!

To Be Given Away at Our Store Saturday Night, Dec. 9, at 8 o'clock: One Set of 26-Piece Silverware and One Nice Dripolator

You Must Be Here To Win

Santa Claus Is On His Way

Grocery Phone 89
We Deliver

CHOCOLATE DROPS lb.	10c
ORANGE SLICE lb.	10c
TANGERINES doz.	10c
Full Assortment of Nuts Will Meet Anybody's Price	
10 LB. BAG SUGAR	49c
GOOD BROOMS	19c
KING JOY COFFEE lb.	19c
ECONOMY MIX lb.	10c
CHRISTMAS MIX 2 lbs. for	25c
ORANGES doz.	10c
Full Assortment of Apples 65c Per Bu. and Up	
GUARANTEED FLOUR 24 lb.	55c
CRACKERS 2 lb. Box	15c
HUSKIES 2 for	15c

Visit Our Market and Be Convinced That You Can Buy Better Meats Here for Less Money