

**THE ELKIN TRIBUNE**

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But what if the Unity that Mr. Roosevelt has ordered for this country, should arrive with a bullet in her neck?

Those Russian soldiers may be as puny as they are pictured, but we'll betcha some of our own crack regiments would be stopped cold if they skidded into Finland's snow.

From the apparent comfort of the comrades in Moscow, you'd never think that the Soviet soldiers in Finland would be ill clad or hungry.

"Has anyone in the British Admiralty thought of dropping propaganda leaflets over those magnetic mines?"—Norfolk Virginian Pilot.

It is hard to convince youngsters that there is anything bad wrong with flu or snow that brings them a holiday from school.

"To young men: Another danger in driving with one arm is that you're so likely to skid into a church."—Thomasston (Ga.) Times.

Of course it was never meant that your New Year's resolution to stay on the water wagon should include the toddy a fellow must have to fight off colds and cure snake bites.

**A Good Start—Keep It Up**

That first-page picture of Game Warden George Royall and the quail he and Harvey Godman recovered from an alleged bootlegger from Charlotte held significance far beyond the ordinary interest to the newspaper reader. For it indicates an alertness on the part of these officers that is commendable and encouraging. If it means a new determination to put a stop to this practice, well and good.

Assuming that the charges against the Charlotte man are justified, and that the reports of periodic collection schedules are true, this must have had the earmarks of a thriving business, until these two spunky wardens put a crimp in it.

But back of those hundred birds was somebody who provided them and at the other end was somebody who bought or would buy them, and the law holds the buyer equally guilty with the seller. It's a pity that justice can't follow through in both directions. So far in this case only one of the offenders is brought before the law.

This is a practice that should be condemned and stopped, not alone because it is a threat against the continuity of wildlife, and contrary to everything that is held high in sportsmanship, but because it is a manifestation of the rankest sort of law defiance.

The lovers of wildlife and those who have earned the name of sportsmen have tried earnestly to stock the fields and streams of Surry, Alleghany and Ashe with game that would, if handled considerably, not only provide pleasing recreation to the people, but which conceivably could be turned into cash through hunting privileges. But that is impossible when the fields are raped to satisfy the appetites of metropolitan night-lifers and bloated bondholders who don't mind paying a dollar per, for quail, a la something-or-other.

That cut and its caption, appearing on the front page of the last issue of this paper, should be given the fullest circulation, because it is calculated to discourage a form of law-breaking that is by no means confined to the bootlegger. For it is known of all men that in almost every city the refrigerators of otherwise law-abiding citizens are stuffed with quail that are not there legally. We prefer to think that it is this way because they do not stop to think, do not pause to weigh the enormity and far-reaching effect of their offense.

**Gravelly's Hat in the Ring**

Senator Lee Gravelly, of Rocky Mount, makes formal announcement of his candidacy for the governorship, and in a brief outline of his platform promises "an efficient administration in which one hundred cents worth of value shall be received for every dollar spent." That is the language business men will understand, and it will not be lost on others who do not claim to be in that category.

Incidentally they are the words of a business man who works at the job. For Senator Gravelly heads the independent tobacco firm his father organized decades ago, and which has weathered the storms of independent effort because of able management.

And we have Mr. Gravelly's word for it that he covets for North Carolina the same careful management that every successful business must employ if it would endure.

Senator Gravelly's legislative record shows that he has been a consistent and persistent foe of the sales tax, yet while he goes further than any other candidate in deploring it now, he would not wrench the State's finances by pitching it out the window. He is committed to a reduction of the toll to two per cent, instead of three, as the first step looking to its ultimate repeal.

He opposes any increase in taxes and is against the diversion of highway funds; pledges his best efforts in behalf of a balanced budget, diversified farming, reduction of the State debt, a "fair measure of taxation, and higher salaries for school teachers" as the revenues of the State will permit.

Senator Gravelly was the fourth to make formal announcement, although a number of others are running like nobody's business without declaring. He is popular in eastern North Carolina and the fact that he is a business man in a field of lawyers may weigh heavily in his favor.

Anyhow, Lee Gravelly's hat is in the ring, fondle it or kick it around, as you prefer. If you elect him Governor of North Carolina the State will have a good one—the which can be said of any of the others.

**Stomp It Out**

The capture of an alleged quail bootlegger was not the only wholesome, encouraging news that went out from this hill country last week. For another item had to do with the arrest and conviction of those responsible for forest fires that did considerable damage in Wilkes.

If there is a meaner thing than deliberate incendiarism we don't know what it is, and particularly when this offense is directed against the trees that God in his wisdom provided for all their various ministrations to man: the beauty of their green, the pleasure of their shade, their convertibility into shelter for the human family and the assurance that our streams will be fed. That kind of hellishness can come only from a diseased brain that should either be atomized or cooped up somewhere to prevent further destruction.

The handling of the Wilkes county case was swift and certain. Would that we could record as much for other cases in which it has been freely talked that even greater damage has been done via the torch. From dependable sources come all but the accusation that damaging fires have resulted from personal grudges among neighbors and resentment against outsiders who had paid for control of streams and woodlands for recreational purposes, and probably stemming partly from general cussedness and the craving to see something in the process of destruction.

Such offending involves not only the landowner, whose property happens to be in the path of the fire. For every mother's son of us has an equity in those forests—in one way or another, and we should be pleased when there is something to indicate that they will have protection.

The reluctance of sincere and well-meaning mountaineers to give voice to their suspicions, even their knowledge, is understandable. The men of the hills have their codes and bold indeed are those who would brave the anger of one so debased as to apply the torch.

But blessed be, here are two instances in which the law takes a hand—determinedly, more strength to it.

**Our Library**

It is pleasing to note the public's interest in the local library. Miss Price's report indicates that this interest not only is maintained, but that during the past years it has increased, an increased interest that is reflected in additional circulation and in the added facilities provided by those interested in its progress.

Those who use the library regularly need not be told of the wealth of information and entertainment they find there, but those who don't take advantage of it are standing in their own light.

It is to be assumed, of course, that much of the reading is purely for the personal entertainment it affords. On the other hand much of it is to gain information that may be applied in a practical way in the everyday lives of the readers. But no matter what the objective, we submit that an afternoon spent at the library, or a book under the arm for home-reading, is prima facie evidence of a wholesome purpose—a healthy sign for any community.

Particularly should the young people be encouraged to take advantage of the service the public library affords. A face buried in a book is not one that will be caved in when the flivver crashes on its way to a favorite roadhouse—and that in itself is something to think about, even if all the benefits of reading are overlooked.

Doubtless booklovers have in their homes interesting volumes that are idle, books that could be put to good use and which would be appreciated as valuable additions to the library book list. It would be a fine thing if these were offered. In twos and threes or by the dozens these would serve to increase the service and consequently increase the interest.

Charlotte will have to live down the fact that the citizens did the unthinkable in refusing to support their public library, and closed its doors. It was only then that the patrons learned its worth. Thank goodness, here we have the privilege of a library service that may be limited in its scope, but which we hope will never be limited in its interest and patronage.

**This Week IN WASHINGTON**

Washington, Jan. 16 — The members of the 76th Congress had not got their chairs well warmed after reconvening for their second and last regular session before it began to appear that there is stormy weather ahead.

Neither the Republican opposition nor a considerable proportion of the President's own party showed an inclination to be guided by the implications of the President's annual message and the recommendations in his budget message which followed it.

The annual message on "the state of the nation" dealt almost entirely with the European war and the possible repercussions of international affairs upon our own domestic economy. The President's budget proposals included recommendations for reductions in appropriations for many governmental purposes, particularly in work relief and farm relief, but advocated greatly increased expenditures for the army, navy and air forces.

Out of a total estimated expenditure of \$8,400,000,000 the President asked Congress to provide an additional \$1,800,000,000 for national defense, the largest single year's expenditure for that purpose in our peacetime history and the largest single item in the budget. To provide that amount and do all the other things which the Administration thinks should be carried on would run the cost of government for the next fiscal year up \$2,176,000,000 above the estimate tax revenues.

The President proposed, however, that Congress find ways of raising \$46,000,000 in new taxes, which would still leave a deficit of \$1,716,000,000 for the year. That would necessitate borrowing more money, and if the program worked out exactly as planned the national debt at the end of the year would be within a very few million dollars of the statutory limit of 45 billions.

**Difference of Opinion**

The points at which the sharpest differences between the President's ideas and those of many Senators and Representatives of both parties occur are, first, the relative importance of the defense program and international affairs generally by comparison with our own internal economy; second, the political undesirability of increasing taxes in an election year, and third, the inexpediency, for the same reason, of reducing farm benefits.

The question of what the United States is going to defend, and against whom, is being asked by critics of the national defense program. More than four billion dollars for military preparedness has been appropriated in the past two years, and the enlargement of the navy, the army and the air forces is well under way. There is certain to be sharp debate on the new items in the President's defense program.

The present inclination is to defer any consideration of new taxes until after March 15, when the income tax returns for the last year will be available as a basis for calculation. So far the estimates of tax revenue are largely guess-work. The last thing most members of either House want to do, if it can be avoided, is to increase taxes. And the agricultural pressure block is prepared to make the political lives miserable of those who vote for any curtailment of existing farm benefits.

**Trade Agreement Controversy**

Another point in the President's message on which sharp controversy seems likely to develop on Capitol Hill, probably earlier than on the other items mentioned, is his request for the renewal of the law authorizing reciprocal trade agreements. This law, enacted in 1934, expires by limitation on June 12 this year. It has been bitterly attacked in the light of several trade agreements which are represented as injurious to the interests of American producers.

The party politics of a Presidential election year figure strongly in all the considerations which will govern this session's debates and acts. Part of the opposition to the reciprocal trade agreements, for example, has its foundation in the desire to put Secretary Hull "in bad" as a Presidential possibility. Washington now generally credits the statement attributed to the President that Mr. Hull is his personal choice as the Democratic nominee.

That presupposes Mr. Roosevelt's decision not to put himself forward for a third term, a deci-

**In Our Town**



sion which the shrewdest observers here now think he has reached. Mr. Hull is regarded by many Republican leaders as being perhaps the most difficult opponent for their candidate to beat, since he probably could hold in line the element of Southern Democrats who would not stand for an out-and-out New Dealer.

**Gov. Stryker Mentioned**

Careful observers now regard Paul McNutt as out of the running, and believe that the Democratic candidate will be somebody whom Vice-President Garner and Mr. Roosevelt can both stand for, possibly Governor Stryker, of Missouri.

Talk of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas has been revived, especially since the latest

polls of public opinion show Thomas E. Dewey to have gained greatly in popular favor among Republican voters. It would be good Democratic strategy, many believe, to pit a young man of 42 against a young man of 38, if Mr. Dewey is the nominee of the opposition.

Senator Vandenberg has gained in popular favor among Republicans lately, and Senator Taft lifted himself in the estimation of political leaders by accepting the President's challenge to show how the budget could be balanced in two years, in a speech which many consider the most statesmanlike utterance by any candidate so far.

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**Bone of Contention**

Small Boy—Dad, what is meant by "the bone of contention"?  
Dad—The jawbone, my boy.

**NOTICE!**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Elkin-Jonesville Building and Loan Association will be held in the City Hall on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, at 7:30 p. m. The purpose of the meeting is for the election of directors and the transaction of any other business that may come before the meeting.

This the 17th day of January, 1940.

PAUL GWYN, Secretary.

**NOTICE**  
**Tax Payers of**  
**Surry County**

AGAIN I WANT TO REMIND YOU TO

**Pay Your 1939 Tax**

Under the Present Law These Taxes Must Be Paid  
Before March 1st

ON THAT DATE, LAND—IF THERE BE ANY LAND  
TAXES LEFT ON BOOKS—WILL BE ADVERTISED  
FOR SALE APRIL 1st.

However, during the months of February and March we will have to enforce collection by making tax out of Personal Property and Wages Due. We cannot any longer depend on selling land to get taxes. Notwithstanding, a deed will be made to purchaser at Tax Sale not later than January 1, 1941.

It is unpleasant to enforce collection of taxes, but I know of no honorable way to get around it.

**PLEASE SEE AND PAY THE GENERAL  
TOWNSHIP COLLECTOR**

**B. F. FOLGER,**  
Tax Collector for Surry County.