

The ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina
 HALIFAX COUNTY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER
 North Carolina's Only TABloid NEWSpaper



CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

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EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT'S PLEA FOR TEMPERANCE

It should be gratifying to drys and sensible wets to read President Roosevelt's plea for temperance made in his proclamation repealing the 18th amendment on December 5, 1933.

Urging that no state permit the return of the saloon, the President warned the people against excessive drinking and called for a national policy of education towards greater temperance.

He asked for a restoration of greater respect for law and order by refusal on the part of citizens to deal with any other than licensed and regulated dealers.

Of course, this last request can not be followed by citizens in dry states, who will continue to break the law by dealing with bootleggers and will probably do so with more vengeance than before when their neighbors in an adjoining state are purchasing their liquor legally. The law against bringing liquor into dry states will also be broken, both by rumrunners and by citizens who will bring in their own stock.

But the nation as a whole will be far more temperate. In our heavily populated states, there will be no more need for persons to make hogs of themselves and drink up all the liquor at one sitting.

Perhaps at first there will be some celebration, but after the first flush, the business will settle down to normalcy as it did when beer became legal.

In wet states, juries are going to be harsher on liquor violations with a subsequent decrease due to laws backed by public sentiment.

INFLATION

All of the discussion over the money question, as far as we understand it—and that isn't very far—seems to come down to this.

There are a great many sincere persons who believe that the only economic salvation of the nation lies in increasing the volume of money in circulation. That, broadly, is called "inflation." And there is another group of persons, most of them doubtless equally sincere, who think that "inflation" can end only when the entire nation has been plunged into bankruptcy, once it is begun.

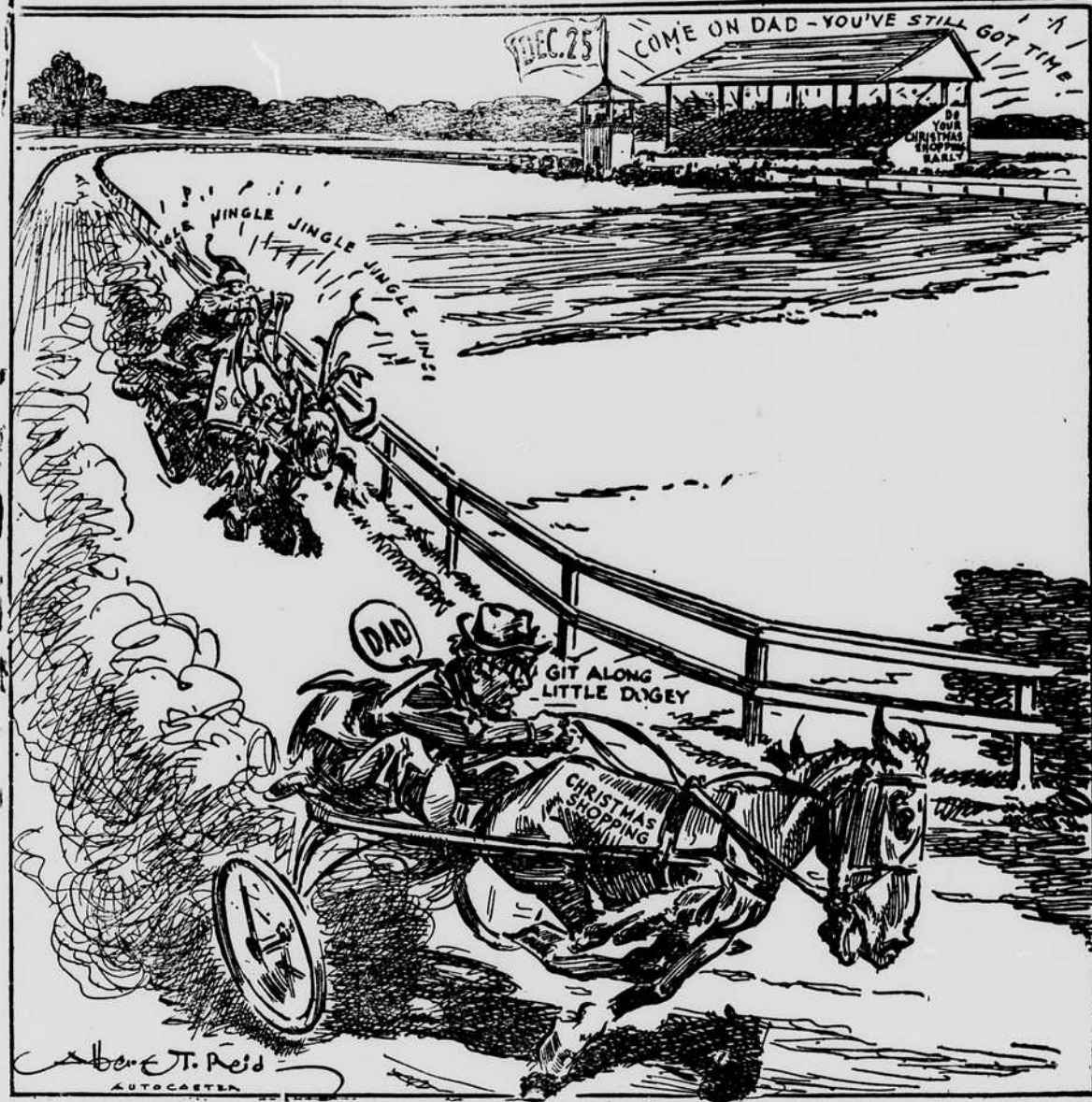
These two groups probably are both wrong. It does not seem to us that what is needed is more actual currency, but a more rapid circulation of the currency already available. If we read the reports of the Treasury correctly, there is enough gold reserve in the hands of the Government and the Federal Reserve Banks, to warrant the issuing of practically twice as much currency as is now in circulation and still remain well within the limits of what has always been regarded as the most conservative finance. Against our four and a half billion gold reserve there is little more than five billion of currency outstanding; yet a forty percent gold reserve is considered extremely high.

We do not think that either the Administration or the Federal Reserve Board is so unpatriotic, so deaf to the distress of the people of the United States as to withhold its hand if there were any way untried of getting more currency into the hands of the public short of outright gifts. We think they are working toward getting money into the hands of the public, in a dozen different directions, and that they are making progress. Farmers and many other industries are getting more money for what they have to sell, more men are earning wages and immense sums are being spent for public works and other enterprises which put money into circulation. But we do not regard these normal processes as "inflation," at least not in any derogatory sense of the word.

As for the rabid anti-inflationists, who see in every move to make the dollar cheaper in terms of commodities and services a threat to the investments of the creditor class, we think they have very shaky ground to stand on. We hope to see it possible soon for debtors to pay their debts in dollars that are no dearer than were the dollars they borrowed.

THE ANNUAL RACE

By Albert T. Reid



RURALIZATION OF INDUSTRY

We were impressed by what Secretary Wallace said in a speech in Chicago not long ago. He remarked that the President's land policy "may in time be recognized as the most important since the Homestead Act."

As Mr. Wallace interprets the program of the Administration—and he ought to be in the best position to do so—the definite aim is to restore rural life to millions who have been herded into the cities. That does not mean setting many millions more people at work in the highly competitive business of farming, as Mr. Wallace explains it, but it means the establishment of local industries, utilizing local raw materials, in country districts where the farms and forests can supply the materials readily on the one hand, and where the local population will be the primary customers for the output of those industries.

As an ideal to be aimed at, this cannot be too highly praised. Taking the lumber industry as an example, and the goal of Mr. Wallace's program of reforesting all the less desirable agricultural land as having been achieved, what could be more natural, even inevitable, than the establishment of local woodworking plants in every reforested district, to say nothing of such other industries as depend upon wood products for their raw material, like certain kinds of rayon, methyl alcohol and other chemical processes.

Such a program as that will take time and a lot of it. It ought not to take so long to get industries established in agricultural regions where the raw materials are the product of annual crops, like cotton, corn and wheat.

We hope this general idea will be stimulated and encouraged. It seems at the moment doubtful whether many of the big industries will regard it as economical to manufacture their products in thousands of scattered plants; yet Henry Ford does just that, and does it successfully. It is time that the concentration of industry in big factories in big cities, which began when steam power was introduced, were done away with. With electric current universally distributed it is as easy to operate power machinery on the farm as in the city.

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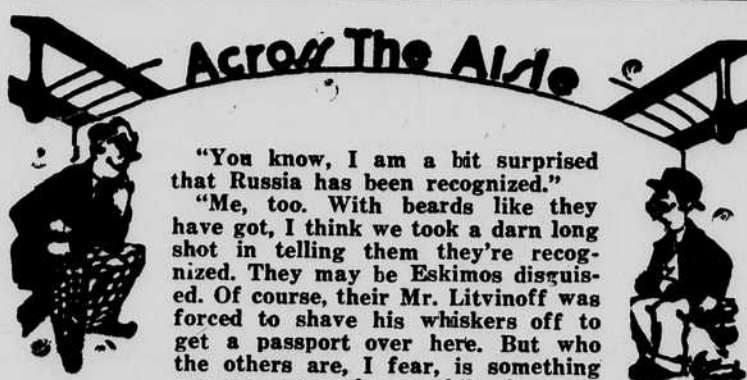
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