

ELECTRIC CHAIR WANTED AT ONCE

South Dakota Requests Loan Of Lethal Seat From Nebraska

LINCOLN, June 26.—(AP)—South Dakota State's Attorney Frank S. Tait asked Attorney General Walter R. Johnson today if South Dakota might borrow Nebraska's electric chair during the week of August 9.

Tait informed Johnson that two South Dakota prisoners were under death sentence and that the war priorities board could not approve releasing materials for a new chair needed in South Dakota.

PEANUT GROWERS FLAY HENDERSON

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Senator Josiah W. Bailey, representative J. Bayard Clark and several other members of Congress present, four Tide Water area peanut cleaners presented figures to show that ceiling prices on products processed from peanuts reflect a price of \$5.75 per hundred pounds on the raw product.

M. F. Bond, Edenton buyer, declared that Mr. Henderson had thus created a situation "in direct violation" of section 3-C of the price control act which prohibits price ceilings on farm products below basis, that would reflect a return to the farmers of 110 per cent of parity. The parity price on peanuts today, he added, is \$7.30 per hundred pounds which means that under the price control law the growers should receive \$8.03.

North Carolina buyers present in addition to Mr. Bond were T. C. Byrum, Edenton; J. N. Vann, Choskee, and J. O. Askeew, Harrellsville.

A large group of interested growers and buyers from Virginia, Georgia, Alabama and other peanut-producing states joined in the protest.

KING AND QUEEN SEE U. S. FORCES

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moving target and ate roast beef in the enlisted men's messhall. At the beginning of their day, their Majesties reviewed part of the armored force, watched the infantry swing past, and rode in bounding tanks through pits and over bunkers while sirens wailed over the din of make-believe battle.

Then the King and Queen were taken to a display of armored forces equipment, including medium and light tanks, armored cars, field hospitals, kitchens and still more secret weapons and other material.

Queen Elizabeth asked weather-browed Sergeant Reuben Krage, of Elyria, O., half a dozen sharp questions about his Howitzer.

"It is a beautiful weapon," he replied.

Later, he said "she was a 'swell girl.' She talked like she knew something about guns. You would not have known she was a Queen."

The Queen also questioned Lieut. Jewett A. Dix, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., about his gas mask and how it compared to the British model.

Of mess Sergeant Irvin S. Dawson, of Benton, Ark., she inquired whether he carried a complete set of butcher knives into the field.

"Yes, ma'am," he answered, unknowingly using the form of address direct to the Queen.

He asked private Harry Kirby of Lenior, N. C., how long it took to share a meal in field stoves.

"About an hour and a half for fifty men on each range," he said.

3 Weeks Old Chicks

Use a s. a. h. At small expense, will produce 2-lb. fryers in 6 weeks. Large and heavy easily raised; no brooding or special care needed. Red, Rocks, White. Have 2,400 of them. Complete stocks poultry supplies, glass cloth feeders, waterers.

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31 South Front Dial 6030

TODAY and TOMORROW

BY WALTER LIPPMANN

The Cult Of Incompetence

OF THE many lessons of the Libyan defeat the most important one we have to learn here in America is, as the Greek poet said long ago, that "it often happens that less depends upon the skill of the leader." No doubt it is hard to judge the skill of the leader until he has been put to the test. Nevertheless this is just what we have to learn to do: the duration of the war certainly, the outcome of the war perhaps, will be determined by our ability to advance from thinking about quantity to thinking about quality.

In fact it may be said that the last and most dangerous stronghold of our complacency is in the notion that this war is going to be won by sheer weight of metal and manpower. We can learn this from our successes as well as from our failures. The Battle of Britain was won by the qualitative superiority of the Royal Air Force in fighter planes, pilots, and tactics for the special business of protecting Britain. The Battle of Midway was won because our forces were disposed and directed by staff work which was superior to that of the Japanese. Thus the enemy has no monopoly of military brains. Yet it is the fact that again and again it has been demonstrated that we are short of brains at the point where they are imperatively needed. It is the fact that we have not learned to take blunders seriously, or to insist that our leaders set anything like a sufficiently high and stern standard of competence.

If we ask how we are to detect mediocrity before it produces some whopping failure, the answer is that there are often, not always but often, warnings. There have been storm signals flying for well over a year in Washington which raised the questions about the tanks and about artillery which have just been answered so unpleasantly in Libya. The layman, even if he is a high official, could not answer the questions. But the fact that they were asked by the kind of men who asked them should, if we were not so easy-going in these affairs of life and death, have provoked relentless inquiry and the resolute insistence upon reinforcing the responsible experts.

Thus while it is not possible for the general public or for the press to judge technical and professional problems, it is possible to take soundings which indicate reasonably well the quality of mind which is at work on these problems. The affair of the Sea Otter, about which some of us raised such a to-do some months ago, was a sounding of this kind. The history of that little affair was a warning which any layman could appreciate, that long after Pearl Harbor something less than the best brains were making crucial decisions in high places. For even if the Sea Otter had been no good at all, the muddled-headed manner in which it was disposed of was a profoundly disturbing revelation.

One of the surest signs of mediocrity is the use of soft publicity addressed to the people at home to cover hard facts that are quite well known to the enemy. The worst aspect of this publicity is that almost always it deceives the men who put it out, and thus it obstructs or puts off and discourages the first-rate men who take the hard facts seriously and are capable of rising to them.

This has been illustrated in the Navy Department "public relations" policy on the subject of the submarine campaign. There was one day for example when in order to fend off criticism, an official statement was issued showing that the number of ships sunk was an infinitesimal fraction of the number of voyages. This was like saying that if five men living in one street make 300 trips to work a year, and only two of them are run over and killed, the accident rate for that group is as two to 1,500—an infinitesimal fraction!

I have been told that the author of that piece of publicity has been transferred. But I am afraid that there was a time when his superior officers enjoyed being boozled by him, and thus helped to feel that the situation was not really so bad as people believed. For soft publicity softens those who let it be given out.

It has high symptomatic value that first-rate men are not in charge. For those who are genuinely in the know there are much surer tests. Perhaps the chief reason why they are not applied sternly is that we have gotten along quite well in this country without having to insist upon the very highest standards of excellence in the public service. Honestly, a fair amount of industry, some public spirit have seemed good enough: we have pursued excellence elsewhere where the rewards were greater than in public life.

Thus, when the fate of the nation and the lives of millions are at stake, we find that our standards of judgment are soft and complacent. A man, known by every one to be altogether inadequate to his task, can be indulgently tolerated just because he is where he is, and it is such an infernal nuisance to remove him and find some one better.

The cult of incompetence is one of the fatal diseases of modern life: it will be the ruin of us if we do not look out. What is more this will not be the centry of the

common man, or in any event it will be a ghastly century, if we do not sober up from being drunk with quantity and set up for ourselves standards of quality, where not the mass of things but excellence is the objective.

(Note: In my column of March 31 reference was made to a dispatch by David Lawrence on the synthetic rubber situation. It has been asserted that readers may have interpreted my comments as a reflection on the journalistic integrity of Mr. Lawrence. I challenged his story of why America is without synthetic rubber. But if Mr. Lawrence or any one else took this to be a reflection on his journalistic integrity, I may say that it was not, and that no reflection was intended. W. L.)

313 ALLIED SHIPS SUNK IN ATLANTIC

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port despite a great hole in her side. Twenty-three crewmen survived the sinking of the small American merchantman, but five others were reported missing. The vessel was sunk by a large German submarine in the Gulf of Mexico May 4. Survivors drifted for 55 hours on life rafts before they were rescued by a Panamanian ship.

With half her starboard side torn away by an Axis torpedo, the second American merchantman limped into a Gulf coast port after a 12-day voyage across the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Navy said the British ship was torpedoed and sunk off the east coast of South America about two weeks ago. Only two of a crew of 60 were reported lost.

In the Caribbean area, 58 crewmen from an Allied ship sunk June 12 still were missing after the arrival of 20 survivors yesterday at Monte Cristi, the newspaper La Nacion at Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic, reported. The paper said a Dominican coast guard cutter had picked up the survivors.

The 11th Japanese submarine attack on shipping off the North American west coast was disclosed by the Canadian navy with the safe arrival of a merchantman at a west coast Canadian port after a "determined attack" by a Japanese undersea craft. Some damage to the ship was reported, but no lives were lost.

RAF BLASTS BREMEN WITH 1,000 PLANES

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one German fighter were destroyed. It was the third of the great city-by-city annihilation raids, and indications were that the number of attackers exceeded the 1,130 which razed Cologne on May 30 and the 1,036 which devastated Essen two nights later.

The Air Ministry announced that a single force of "more than 1,000 bombers" chose Bremen for their main blows while a second force of bombers and fighters made intensive harassing attacks on German airdromes in the Low countries. This latter force was believed to have been in the hundreds.

Although the night's total loss was 52 planes, highest in RAF history, informed persons said there was less than five per cent of the participating aircraft (thus indicating that more than 1,040 planes were used.)

Heavy clouds marred observation of the results, but the Red glare of large fires reassured the bombardiers that Bremen had been hit hard.

The city is the home of Deschimag Werke, which builds submarines, and a Focke-Wulf factory, making sea-raiding Condor planes. In addition it has large shipyards, warehouses and oil refineries.

An informed air source asserted the raid "dealt a very heavy blow" to German industry.

SMALL TRACTORS CARRIED BY AIR

(Continued from Page One)

control over every air transport activity of the nation, other than naval, within and without the United States, including priority rights for travel on commercial air liners.

George said everything would be done to preserve the integrity of the commercial system, both domestic and foreign, but added "we will militarize wherever militarization is essential."

He pictured a globe-circling military air transport system speeding medical supplies, war equipment and other needs vital to combat operations to the world battle fronts, and swiftly shifting key personnel.

Transport of air borne troops will not be undertaken by the command but will be handled by the carrier command of the army air force.

RE-ELECT DAVID SINCLAIR YOUR DISTRICT SOLICITOR

He Is Experienced, Able, Efficient

The Superior Court Judges and Lawyers with whom he comes in close personal contact while in the discharge of his official duties are the best judges of his capabilities.

He has been given the following endorsement by the members of the Bar of New Hanover County:

"We, the undersigned members of the Bar of New Hanover County, wish to take this means of giving our wholehearted endorsement to the candidacy of David Sinclair for re-election to the office of Solicitor of the Eighth Judicial District. During his term of office Mr. Sinclair has discharged the duties of this important position with great ability, zeal and energy. He is a fearless prosecutor, but in no sense a persecutor. He has always been fair to those whom he has been required to prosecute and at the same time he has always safeguarded the interest of the State.

On his behalf we earnestly solicit the support of the voters of this District in the coming Primary.

- E. K. Bryan**
- J. D. Carr**
- W. B. Campbell**
- George L. Peschau**
- Glenn J. McClelland**
- H. Winfield Smith**
- Edgar L. Yow**
- William M. Bellamy**
- George H. Howell**
- Louis Goodman**
- G. C. McIntire**
- J. H. Ferguson**
- Clayton C. Holmes**
- Jack Canady**
- L. M. B. Rodgers**
- R. M. Kermon**
- Herbert McClammy**
- Elbert A. Brown**
- Emmett H. Bellamy**

- John D. Bellamy**
- K. O. Burgwin**
- John A. Stevens**
- Marsden Bellamy**
- J. A. McNorton**
- H. Edmund Rodgers**
- W. L. Farmer**
- Harriss Newman**
- W. O. Green**
- J. C. Wessell, Jr.**
- Robert D. Cronly, Jr.**
- Aaron Goldberg**
- W. A. Simon, Jr.**
- W. K. Rhodes, Jr.**
- Alan A. Marshall**
- John T. Schiller**
- Solomon B. Sternberger**
- Chas. B. Newcomb**
- J. Frank Hackler**
- S. E. Loftin**

From the Bench at the adjournment of the June, 1942, criminal term of New Hanover County Superior Court, Judge C. E. Thompson, who has presided in this District for the past six months, had this to say to Solicitor Sinclair:

"I know of no Solicitor that can dispatch the Court's business as efficiently and promptly as you do."
"It has been a pleasure to work with you."

Judge J. Paul Frizzelle at a term of Court at which 116 cases were prosecuted, complimenting Solicitor Sinclair on his efficiency and the manner in which he dispatched business, stated in open Court:

"Solicitor Sinclair is probably the fastest I have worked with throughout the State."

Judge Luther T. Hamilton, while holding a criminal term of Court in New Hanover County, stated:

"I have been favorably impressed with the skill and ability with which Solicitor Sinclair dispatched the business of his office."

The Voters of This District are Urged To Go To The Polls Saturday June 27 and Re-Elect

DAVID SINCLAIR DISTRICT SOLICITOR
He Is A Capable Honest Public Official

(This advertisement paid for by friends of David Sinclair who are helping his re-election as your District Solicitor.)

Calotabs

Next time you need calomel take Calotabs, the improved calomel compound tablets that make calomel-taking pleasant. Sugar-coated, agreeable, prompt and effective. Not necessary to follow with salts or castor oil. Use only as directed on label.