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Anti-Fireworks Law

A state law prohibiting the manufacture, sale or use of fireworks is among needed legislation at the forthcoming session at Raleigh.

Although some cities and counties have such statutes they are rendered ineffective because the sale is not prohibited in adjoining counties or rural areas beyond some cities.

Able to buy firecrackers and other noise-making devices within a few miles, for example, Wilmingtonians, ignoring local ordinances, make the Christmas holiday season a period of torture to invalids and to burned children, as well as an occasion for the destruction of property, which is costly even if it is not intentional but the result of accident or carelessness.

It is only by the adoption of a state-wide prohibitive law that the fireworks nuisance can be abated. Let the law be passed without more ado during the approaching legislative session.

Case of The Railroads

Employees of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company have received a special message monthly for ten years from their president through the Employees' Magazine. Many messages have dealt with line problems—operation, service, etc. Occasionally they have been of as much significance to investors in the company's securities as to its workers.

Among the latter is one recently distributed. In it J. B. Hill, L. & N. president, cites certain observations by President Truman. As a nation, the President is quoted, "We must continue to depend on them (the railroads) for transportation that is all essential to military success. . . . Undeniable conclusions, therefore are that railroads will remain essential in peace and war, that private ownership and operation are more efficient and effective than government ownership or operation and consequently private operation remains desirable, that establishment and administration of a fair and impartial national transportation policy are essential. . . ."

On this premise, a national policy reasonably should provide that each agency of transportation be required to pay its own way, and each pay its proper share of taxes for support of the government.

On our own behalf we add that while in its early days American railroading was the beneficiary of tremendous government assistance, including land grants, it is practically the only means of public transportation now wholly paying its way and carrying its full share of taxation, and that at no other time has it faced such stiff competition. It is these facts that give investors in railroad securities their chief reason for complaint that an adequate national railroad policy has not been put into effect.

That the situation may be better understood, Mr. Hill writes: "We wish every railroad investor could assist management in presenting these mat-

ters to friends and business associates, to clubs, to publishers of newspapers and periodicals, to public officials, to local and national lawmakers, to executives and others. They are not propaganda in the sole interest of a minority group—they are matters affecting essential public service over which law and custom have assumed substantial public control and to which public responsibility should be awakened for the individual betterment of every citizen."

If this were done, it is at least possible that public sentiment might be so aroused that the needed sound transportation policy would come into existence.

South Needs Faith

The eyes of the nation are on the South. The Southern States Industrial Council lists some of the reasons. In a bulletin by Thurman Sensing, the council's research director, the position of southern cotton and timber is emphasized as a result of the application of chemistry and mechanization. "With courage to forego the palliative of subsidization," writes Mr. Sensing, "the South can produce cotton on a basis that will compete with any other fibre. At the same time, Southern timber is being transformed by chemistry into the South's greatest crop, even exceeding cotton. Naval stores have become chemicals that enter into all sorts of commodities from soap to cement, that take part in all kinds of processes from cleaning hogs in the packing house to compounding rubber in the factory. . . . Paper, pulp, plastics, and many chemical by-products. . . . locked up under the bark (of trees) are bringing realization of the great asset the South has in its forests."

Mr. Sensing also writes glowingly of the cultivation of tung trees from which some five million pounds of oil are extracted annually, and of silk worm cultivation in Texas. He shows that the South's mineral resources produce annually one-third of the nation's mineral wealth. "Verily," he concludes, "the South needs nothing in the way of natural resources to have the broad path of prosperity beating a way to its door."

We like Mr. Sensing's enthusiasm, but we wonder if perhaps his conclusion is properly inclusive. It is true the South has the natural resources, but has the South sufficient faith in itself to have the "broad path of prosperity beating a way to its door?"

This question arises from the fact that the South sends to many of its young men elsewhere to complete their education and technical training, sends elsewhere for specialists to organize and operate its industries, and finds investment for its money all too often in other regions.

It Would Work

It would be wonderful to pay 20 per cent less income taxes. But it might also be disastrous.

With a tremendous national debt and the immense carrying charges thereon it is to be questioned if such a reduction might not lead to financial difficulties the United States could not dispose of with credit to itself and its creditors, even though much of the debt is owed to ourselves.

The bill introduced in the House by Representative Knutson of Minnesota, chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, is therefore questionable legislation. The opposition to the bill, chiefly from democratic members, shows sounder judgment. It centers upon a demand for balancing the budget, economy in government spending and gradual tax reduction ahead of any slashing of the tax burden.

No business man nor careful individual would use a similar method to that proposed by the Knutson bill. They know that they must pay their bills if they expect to maintain their financial integrity. The United States cannot do less and hold its standing.

This proposed 20 per cent cut in income taxes would, in one way, be like pennies from heaven to most of us. From another viewpoint, that of possibly delinquent obligations, the pennies would show tarnish.

As Pegler Sees It

BY WESTBROOK PEGLER
(Copyright By King Features Syndicate, Inc.)
NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The severance of big business relations, long maintained under a pretext of sport, between West Point and Notre Dame, is a faint, flickering twitch of the rhinoceros hide of a mean and corrupt but attractive American industry. Successful collegiate football is corrupt because it is hypocritical, as all honest educators know and as the Carnegie Foundation solemnly reported about 15 years ago. This was not a discovery even then, for at the turn of the century, when old Skjarsen was rampaging for old Siwash, a toothsome scandal came out of Georgia, where it was discovered that Yankee veterans of the Spanish-American war had tarried over to play football as ringers for the university.

Just about then, too, a young coach named Fielding Yost had been imported from Lafayette and Bucknell, Pa., to Kansas to institute something which later came to be known as "a program" and had brought with him a fearsome yokel from Painted Post, Tenn., who laid low until the Nebraska and Missouri games and then fetched the backs through the line clinging to handles on his belt, to win them both. He disappeared after the Missouri game, which was played at Columbia, Mo., and never saw the bonfires or tasted the barbecue arranged in his honor at Lawrence by the jubilant undergraduates who, in those days, stayed at home and got the results by the miraculous electric telegraph. It was woefully reported that his dear old man had died in the Cumberland and he had cut short his larnin- to return home, tend the still and shoot revenooers.

Ten or a dozen years ago, by accident, I tweaked the memory of Judge Frank Parent, of Inglewood, Calif., who had played about a nickel's worth of quarterback at Rock-Chalk, Jay-Hawk that enormous year and he remembered the giant's name. This and some rough publicity written to twit old Fielding Yost, by then emeritus at Michigan and a man of towering ethics and piety, led to the rediscovery, after all this time, of the vanishing side-hill dodger, now a man of 60-odd and a person of local importance in lumber in West Virginia, Kansas invited him back to Lawrence for a homecoming day, and Mr. Yost, too. The old tackle accepted, and Mr. Yost, too. The old invitation as a ghoulish raid on a past buried long ago and covered with a beautiful growth of academic ivy. I read later that Gargantua himself had died, and I picture him a 'settin' on a cloud with Knute Rockne, who might be telling him of his youth at Notre Dame when he fought at stag nights in South Bend with Gus Dorais fetching his bucket and flapping his towel. Mr. Yost, he won't be a 'settin' on the same cloud but will be off there, somewhere, ignoring them furiously and whanging away on his harp to drown an old scandal.

About the time that Iowa was taken in the sin of subsidizing or proselytizing, 15 years ago, and Illinois was one of the schools to sit in solemn judgment on an erring sister, I enjoyed a visit with an Illinois savant named, I believe, Professor Goodenough, who spoke, with rather sinful relish, it seemed to me, of the days when, as he said, "We were all barbarians." Illinois had hired a huge Scandinavian — or blubber-eater, as our Norse neighbors and friends were called in my youth in those parts—who had a job as janitor. The football team was built around him—an awful mistake, as they learned when, in competition, he revealed an almost girlish aversion to any laying on of hands and to avoid being tackled, would run the wrong way or flop for a down even before a pass was made at him. He cost Illinois \$500, a dead loss.

So the history of our football has gone, almost from the beginning when the team was a private group who elected their own captain, hired their own coach and fired him if he forgot his mental status. Football, in the pure and primitive stage, was only vaguely acknowledged by the college management. Journeys from New Haven to Princeton or New Brunswick, where Rutgers is, were organized by the young men themselves at their own expense. I cannot pretend to know the details of its quick evolution into an official activity with its own business and propaganda departments. But, looking back to the twenties, I appreciate the qualms of Harvard, Yale and Princeton as they weakened under temptation, but, for their consciences, refused to roof their press coops or even provide electric lights for us ink-stained and often drenched or frozen wretches of the Fourth Estate. They told themselves that if they did this they would be pandering to the base interest of an undesirable element, that is, the public, and yielding a measure of their privacy by encouraging general publicity.

Meanwhile, however, they were counting the money, turning the crank and grinding out mimeograph material and had set up a reasonable facsimile of Tex Richard's ticket reservation and box-office departments. They were swept along on something that I was tempted to call an irresistible tide and their last saving pretense of indifference to the press was an occasional show of nastiness to some journalist wanting 10 tickets on the 50-yard line for his publisher and party. Like as not, if not more so, the boonder intended to scalp them at \$25 each and the Carnegie Foundation claimed to have discovered that sometimes this was even too true.

Intercollegiate football today no more resembles the original game than grog resembles branch-water. It is dishonest from the president's office down and an immoral influence on all concerned and especially on the players, because young men are hired, one way or another, to play as amateurs, knowing they are pros and knowing that the men of prestige, some of them clergymen, are hypocrites and casual cheats. They and other undergrads lose respect for the honor and teaching of such, and make up their minds that the whole world is a racket, which, from the view of a practical cynic, is good spiritual preparation at that.

Returning the game to "the boys," a project often talked up 20 years ago but rarely tried with any sincerity, and always disastrously, is like trying to return the world to the womb of time. This big, sly, double-crossing faker got born an innocent baby, but he grew up fast and hasn't drawn an honest breath in 50 years.

QUOTATIONS

Those who operate our factories can reduce production at any time the market is glutted. The farmer can only reduce production by not planting at the beginning of a crop year. —Sen. Richard B. Russell (D) of Georgia.

The United Nations represents an attempt to proceed along the path of reason. Any other concept rests on a resort to force. —Arthur Coons, president Occidental College.

"PASSING OF 1946"?



Origin, Purposes, And Objectives Of Good Health Program Outlined

By HARRY B. CALDWELL, Executive Secretary, N. C. Good Health Association

Over three years of deliberations by many of North Carolina's outstanding leaders and volumes of reports by various committees of experts have gone into the Good Health Plan of the Medical Care Commission which the General Assembly will be asked to effectuate at the coming session.

The health program is one of the most carefully studied and widely approved recommendations ever to be presented to the legislature of the State of North Carolina. Names of the people who helped formulate it read like a "who's who" of North Carolina's medical, church, industry, labor, governmental, farm, and civic leaders.

The movement for "Good Health" in North Carolina began in 1943 when it was discovered that so many North Carolina boys were physically unfit for military service and that a tragic shortage of both doctors and hospital beds was especially serious in most all rural counties. At that time the President, President-Elect, and three past presidents of the Medical Society of North Carolina appealed to Governor J. Melville Broughton to inaugurate a plan for the general improvement of state health conditions.

Poe Commission Governor Broughton named a "State Hospital and Medical Care Commission" to study our health conditions and to develop a state-wide program or plan. Governor R.

Gregg Cherry, then a candidate for Governor, joined heartily in approving the idea. Dr. Clarence Poe, Editor of the Progressive Farmer, was appointed Chairman of this Commission, which included leaders from all sections, groups, occupations, and professions in the State. Special committees were named with chairmen and vice-chairmen, including such well known North Carolinians as Thomas J. Pearsall, Josephus Daniels, Bishop Clare Purcell, Dr. P. P. McCain, Dr. Paul F. Whitaker, Dr. C. Horace Hamilton, Dr. G. M. Cooper, Charles A. Cannon, C. A. Fink, Dr. J. W. Vernon, Dr. W. M. Coppridge, Dr. E. E. Blackman, C. C. Spauld-

ing and others. A careful investigation was made of conditions throughout the entire state. The conclusion was inescapable that our poor health conditions were due in large measure to a shortage of doctors, hospitals and medical personnel. Some of the major findings were —

That we are 6000 hospital beds below the national average of four beds per thousand population. That 42 per cent of our hospital beds are located in six large urban counties while 33 rural counties are without hospital facilities of any kind. That we need 1300 more doctors to provide one doctor for each 1,000 people. That while 73 per cent of our people live in rural communities they have only 31 per cent of the doctors and have one doctor for each 33600 people.

That an average person would have a better chance to get in a hospital in 41 other states and a better chance to get a doctor in 44 other states when needed than they would in North Carolina. That North Carolina is 41st in maternal mortality, 38th in infant mortality, and 38th in death rate per thousand population when adjusted to the age distribution of the total United States population. A recent state-wide examination of North Carolina school boys was cited as showing that 85 per cent had defective teeth; 16 per cent defective vision; 16 per cent were underweight; and 14 per cent had defective tonsils. About 100,000 school children fail their grade each year in North Carolina. Dr. Carl Reynolds, State Health Officer, estimates that one-half or 50,000 of these "repeaters" are due to physical defects that could be corrected. Our Tuberculosis and Mental Hospitals are also overcrowded.

In October of 1944, the Poe Commission made its report to the

McKENNEY On BRIDGE

BY WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

▲ K 52	▲ Q J 10
▲ 9 7 3	▲ 10 5
▲ A Q J	▲ K 9 6 3
▲ A J 9 8	▲ K 5 4 2
▲ 8 7 6 3	▲ Q J 10
▲ 6 4 2	▲ 10 5
▲ J 8 7 5	▲ K 9 6 3
▲ 2	▲ K 5 4 2
▲ 3	Dealer
▲ A 9 4	
▲ A K Q J 8	
▲ 4	
▲ Q 10 7 6	

Tournament—Both vul.
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
4♣ Pass 4♣ Pass
4♥ Pass 6♣ Pass
Opening—▲ Q 6

In the mixed pair event at the California-All Western tournament at Coronado I played with Maureen Bailey of San Francisco, and there was never a dull moment. Maureen writes a very interesting bridge column and is active in organized bridge.

Today's hand proved a stumbling block to many players in the tournament. They won the opening lead with the king of spades, cashed a diamond and ruffed a diamond in dummy, then led a queen of clubs. The finesse was taken and East made a smart play by refusing to win.

Then declarer led the ten of clubs from dummy. East won and made the killing defensive play, laying down the king of diamonds, and locking the declarer in dummy.

When Mrs. Bailey played the hand, she won the opening lead in dummy with the ace of spades, and being in no hurry to ruff diamonds, she led the queen of clubs. When East refused to win, she led the ten of clubs. Again East refused to win, and Mrs. Bailey won the third round of clubs with the ace.

Then she started to run the heart suit. East could trump whenever he was ready, and there was no way to prevent Mrs. Bailey from making her jack of clubs and six of clubs separately.

This hand, which several pairs tried to play at six hearts, shows the advisability of playing contracts with a four-four trump holding, so that you have the advantage of a long suit for discards.

The Doctor Says—ALCOHOLISM SAID NEUROTIC DISEASE

By WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, M. D.
Neurotics who drink excessively in an effort to escape their difficulties comprise about 1 per cent of the population. These unfortunate are not to be confused with those who drink to excess for business or social reasons.

In the past, attempts to help chronic alcoholics failed because the neurotic nature of the problem was not understood. Society's attitude toward alcoholics has changed constantly through the years, as one method after another has failed to reform them. Today alcoholics are considered sick men and women, and society is achieving some success in helping them.

Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization of formerly chronic alcoholics which fosters sobriety through individual and group action, has been successful in aiding those whose neurotic difficulties were arrested. The enthusiasm which these men and women display in helping others is directly proportionate to their ability to help themselves.

When the Alcoholics Anonymous movement started, I doubted that the program would succeed since it required of the members constant preoccupation with their own difficulty. But the leaders of Alcoholics Anonymous, instead of being made more neurotic by their long association with the group have actually become less so.

Neurotics are maladjusted people who find it impossible to cope with life's problems without becoming emotionally upset. Some escape through alcohol, others through drugs, or eating, or games and hobbies. Why neurotics adopt different routes in trying to escape conflicts is still unknown.

Chronic alcoholics differ from excessive users of alcohol in that when they start to drink they cannot stop until they become sick, run out of money, or are picked up by the police. In the past they were treated as people made sick by alcohol and not as drinking sick people.

By recognizing the neurotic nature of chronic alcoholism, the medical profession is helping alcoholics through the use of psychotherapy, and the Alcoholics Anonymous organization has proven one of the best ways of administering group psychotherapy.

QUESTION: Can you tell me how to get nicotine stains off the skin of my fingers?

ANSWER: You probably refer to the brown stains which develop from the tar in tobacco, for nicotine does not color the skin. Why not use a cigarette or cigar-holder? It will take some time for the stains to disappear.

Star Dust

Best Man?

Jasper acted as best man at his friend Horace's wedding, after which he rushed to his apartment, changed his clothes, and took a boat for South America. Eighteen months later he returned home, and again donned the dress suit he had worn at the wedding. In one of the pockets he discovered a hundred-dollar bill he pondered the discovery for a while, and was struck with a sudden, and terrible, suspicion.

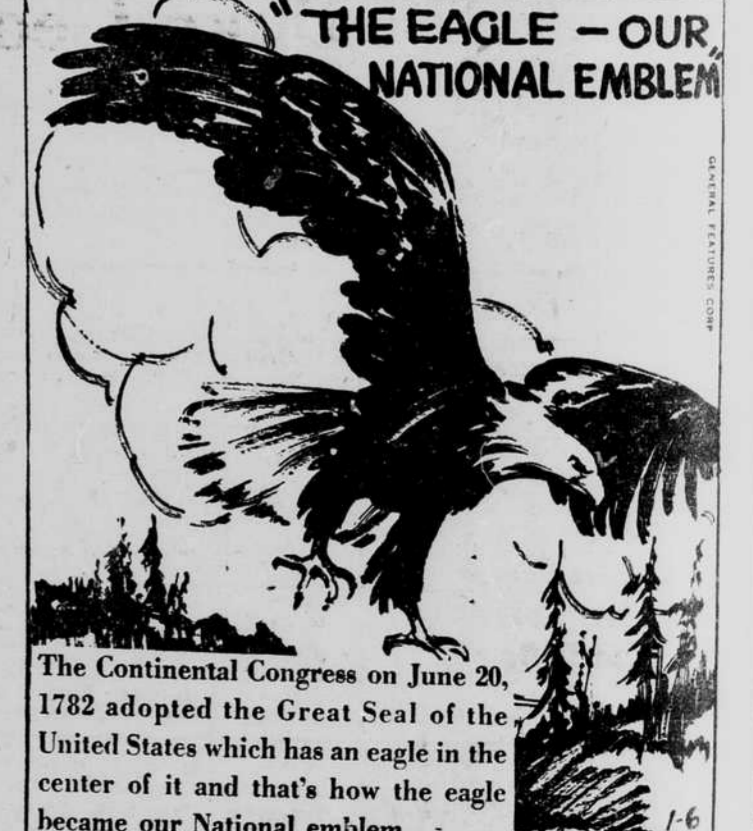
Hastening to the minister who had officiated at the wedding he inquired, "You remember marrying Horace Stuyvesant and Mildred Tennant eighteen months ago?"

"Oh, yes," replied the clergyman. "They are members of my church now."

"Tell me," said Jasper, "how much did you receive as your fee on that occasion?"

"Don't you remember?" he replied. "No," stammered Jasper. "Then I'll refresh your memory. It was the laughing rejoinder. 'You thanked me profusely for my services and then slipped into my hand a silver of plug tobacco wrapped in tinfoil.'"

WHY WE SAY "THE EAGLE—OUR NATIONAL EMBLEM"



The Continental Congress on June 20, 1782 adopted the Great Seal of the United States which has an eagle in the center of it and that's how the eagle became our National emblem.