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Star Program

State ports with Wilmington favored in proportion with its resources, to include public terminals, tobacco storage warehouses, ship repair facilities, near by sites for heavy industry and 35-foot Cape Fear river channel.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1947

GOOD MORNING

Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.—Joseph Conrad.

River Dredging Starts

Wilmington has had no better news in many a long day than that the Cape Fear river channel dredging project, which has been so greatly needed and so long postponed, is actually under way.

The next and equally vital step is the creation of terminals, warehouses and other facilities indispensable in the successful operation of a port, as proposed by the State Ports Authority.

In the creation of an adequate port plant there will be benefits not only for the state's great industries, for the receipt of raw materials from abroad and the shipping of North Carolina products to the world's markets.

It is known that additional industries await only the establishment of an adequate port plant to move to Wilmington. If, in addition, it is possible to open direct rail communication to the west, it is certain that even more industries will make Wilmington their base of operations and tonnage through the port reach greater volume.

Surely the community can unite in no greater undertaking than the full development of the port along the lines approved by the Authority.

Debunking Quackery

Why do bull fighters wave red cloth before the bulls they propose to slaughter? As everybody knows, it is to make the bulls mad enough to fight.

But is this correct? According to Dr. Earle E. Emme, associate professor of psychology at Ohio State University, red is not nearly as effective as white for making bulls bullish. He waved banners of different colors before cows and a bull, and decided what disturbs

the cattle is the intensity of reflected light—not color.

This is not all Doctor Emme does to knock quacking into a cocked hat. He sent three pupils, for example, to a fortune teller. While one was being told his past and future the other two took down what the seer had to say in shorthand. They were behind a curtain, but could hear quite well. Only three of the fortune teller's guesses were right.

The estimable doctor is engaged in debunking quackery in general. "I have discovered," he says, "no evidence to uphold any of the six most popular forms of quackery—astrology, phrenology, physiognomy, rod divining, fortune telling and the belief that red angers cattle."

That's the way life is. We no sooner find solace in some superstition than somebody comes along to take our joy away. We'll never have the satisfaction again of making a wish on a wishbone and thinking that by some strange means it will come true. We'll never pick up a pin again, especially if the point is toward us, with the old satisfaction we took in the idea that we'd escape harm thereafter. We'll never pass a lamp post on the same side as our companion with the hope we once had that misfortune would pass us by.

Of course science is wonderful. But Doctor Emme ought at least to leave us our faith in four-leaf clovers.

Prompt Action Would Help

While Henniker ditch drainage is a Carolina Beach, and not a county-wide, undertaking, all New Hanover countians can join with residents of the resort in thankfulness that after so long a time the Board of County Commissioners is to perform its part in the project. At the same time all county residents will regret that it took a miniature flood during the recent un-lamented rains, and stiff protest from a beach delegation, to bring the question to a head.

The Board would have saved itself annoyance and justifiable criticism if it had completed the project promptly, in as much as the Carolina Beach people, by private subscription, raised a fund for a considerable part of the work. This at least is the opinion of the subscribing group. It is also in line with the general view that county projects calling for prompt board action often are delayed, to the disadvantage of the people and embarrassment of the board.

It may well be that conditions over which the commissioners have no control sometimes make it impossible to speed up undertakings—conditions the people may not understand but which they are quick to seize on to condemn the county's governing body. This was the case, for example, at the Legion Stadium, where new wood seat tops were needed for some years, but for which satisfactory lumber could not be obtained. Even here there was a delay, as the old seats had splintered before the war, when lumber was available. The public complaint would not have been heard if the commission had made this replacement when it acquired title to the Stadium.

The thought is that the county's business deserves to be conducted with the same promptness characteristic of successful private business, and that procrastination works against the county's best interests and the people's well being.

The Texas City Disaster

Difficult as it is to make accurate count of the Texas City blast victims, it must be a hard heart indeed that is indifferent to word that early estimates of the toll of human lives are probably exaggerated. But the final count, whatever it may be, does not lessen the fact that the Texas port community has suffered one of the country's worst disasters.

The little city itself is all but obliterated. Its nearby, and even some distant, industrial plants and oil concentration centers are wiped out or grievously damaged, with dead still undiscovered in the debris.

It is customary to designate certain types of catastrophes as "acts of God." This probably will be given the same classification. But the matter is not to be so easily dismissed. There must be searching investigation of what caused the fire aboard the nitrate-laden ship. The Grand Camp, moored at a Texas City dock.

It would be foolish to blame the Almighty for what obviously was somebody's carelessness. Fires do not start themselves. Explosions do not happen of their own accord. They are the result of a combination of chemical elements. Even so-called spontaneous combustion is due to chemical combina-

tions, and never happens when these combinations are avoided.

Something happened on the ship that could have been prevented. This is what makes the disaster so horrifying. This is what makes it indispensable that the cause of the fire be discovered, if possible. Not that any inquiry can restore the life of a single victim or replace a dollar of the many millions of dollars in property loss. The benefit would lodge in the institution of stiffer security regulation on ships carrying highly inflammable chemicals as well as in industrial plants where the flash of a match alone or concussion might cause an explosion.

The United States cannot afford another Texas City shambles.

Freedom Of Press

By ANNE O'HARE MCCORMICK
Prime Minister Stalin has now added his quota to the current discussion of freedom of the press. His answers to the questions of former Governor Stassen are characterized by a frankness and geniality that distinguish the interviews of the Soviet leader from those of Mr. Molotov or other official spokesmen of the Government. Every statesman who has dealt directly with Stalin, from Mr. Roosevelt down, tells the same story; they used to say, in the words of one top-level American negotiator: "The only way to get anywhere with Moscow is to talk to the boss."

These opinions, of course, are only guesses. Nobody except the members of the inner circle knows who decides what in the Kremlin or how responsibility is distributed among the thirteen men who exercise the greatest and most unlimited power in the world. It is this mystery that gives point to Stalin's comments on the press. It is interesting that Molotov was present during the conversation with Stassen and evidently agreed with his chief's rather engagingly candid statement that "it will be difficult in our country to dispense with censorship. Molotov tried to do it several times," the Marshal added. "We had to resume it and each time we repeated it."

He cited two illustrations of abuse of press freedom. On one occasion a false story was sent out from the Teheran conference about Marshal Timoshenko, who was reported to have been slapped by Stalin at a dinner at which the Soviet general was not even present. The report was promptly retracted and apologized for by the United Press. On another occasion, when Stalin spent several months in the Crimea, rumors were published concerning the reasons for his absence which "depicted the Soviet Government as a sort of zoological garden."

These reports made the Soviet people angry. Mr. Stalin remarked... so censorship had to be restored. He did not explain how the people heard of these fabrications, for it is clear that he referred in the interview only to censorship on outgoing news. Aside from the few who have short-wave receiving sets—estimated at less than 200,000—and can listen in on radio programs from abroad, the Russians hear nothing but what the Government permits them to hear.

This is the crux of the whole problem, for while the Soviet Government has several times listed the ban on out-going dispatches, and is allowing perfectly free reportage of the Moscow conference, it has apparently never occurred to anybody to consider lifting the government controls over the information filtered out to the home public.

It is taken for granted, as a practice beyond question, that all news for inside consumption, whether it is domestic or foreign, should be strictly controlled. The official spokesman quoted not long ago as saying that the Soviet press was perfectly free to print anything the Government approved was not speaking humorously, or even cynically. He was voicing the normal view of dictatorships toward the public.

The two examples of irresponsible journalism mentioned by Stalin are illuminating for several reasons. First, they concern himself, and show a personal sensitiveness to false report that makes one ponder on the effects of the immunity of Soviet officials to the misrepresentation and criticism that are the daily goal and spur of officeholders who are voted in and out.

Second, they do point up the abuses of freedom. As Mr. Stassen explained, a correspondent who sends incorrect reports does not last long with any reputable newspaper. There are reporters and publishers who take advantage of the freedom they enjoy to sensationalize, distort and slant the news, and they are worse saboteurs of democracy than their avowed enemies because they undermine the foundation on which a free society rests. They furnish excuses for censorship, and for those "great lies" imbedded in systems built on the theory that people are too dumb to be trusted with the truth. But the false note and the discords are the price we have to pay to enjoy a chorus of many voices instead of the loudspeaker that incessantly magnifies one voice.

Third, they show that Stalin misses the whole point of the argument for freedom of information. His idea is that a false report, no matter how easily corrected or disproved, as it was in the insignificant cases he referred to, is a sufficient reason for shutting all the doors to truth. He cannot see that the very secrecy of the Soviet Government makes it the subject of all kinds of rumors and conjectures that nobody can check. He and his colleagues in the Politburo are probably better informed than any one in Russia, but even they are the prisoners of censorship, of the one-way, selected information their reporters send and their news-sifters print from abroad.

More important, he does not understand the great injustice done to Russia itself, and the Russian people, by cutting them off from the world and the world from any true knowledge of them. If there is distortion in the view from both sides of the Iron Curtain, what is to blame but the Iron Curtain? It is a truism that until American reporters can move about the Soviet Union as freely as Soviet reporters move about the United States, and report what they see as freely, there can be no real understanding between the two countries.—New York Times.

QUOTATIONS

The Moscow radio indicates that the Russian budget for national defense is some \$4,000,000,000 greater than our own. Clearly a large proportion of that budget is being spent for air power, because Russia does not have a large navy.—Sen. Owen Brewster (R) of Maine.

The Soviet Union will not dare to attack the United States until it has manufactured the atomic bomb in quantity and has an air force superior to the air force of the United States. That gives us a certain period of time in which we can say stop to Stalin, and mean it, and he will stop.—William C. Bullitt, former Ambassador to Russia.



The Book Of Knowledge

AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS

(7) The Iroquoian Tribes
In yesterday's article, we told you of the Algonkian-speaking Indians of eastern America — two large groups of tribes which were separated by the territory occupied by the group of Iroquoian-speaking tribes. Though the life of the latter in some respects was similar to that of the Algonkians, they had many distinctive customs of their own.

McKENNEY On Bridge

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY America's Card Authority

Table with columns: South, West, North, East. Rows for Pass, 2 N.T., 3 N.T., 3 N.T. Opening—5 18

Religion Day By Day

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS

Written for NEA Service
Many players tell me that they would be afraid to sit down and play with the experts. I will admit that I would hesitate to get into the ring with a champion fighter, but bridge is an intellectual pastime, and fear of the expert only makes it possible for him to get away with murder. That is what happened on today's hand.

league council. The strength of the league may be judged by the fact that it lived on after the coming of the whites, and indeed held the balance of power between French and English for some 200 years.



Iroquoian making pottery with "sausages" of clay.



Basket maker

them into ornamental pieces which were used as pendants. Clam shells were cut into circular discs which were strung as beads, or sewn in patterns. This type of worked shell became known as Wampum and was often used as money. To bring treaties between different tribes, it was customary to exchange belts of valuable wampum.

Another industry of the Iroquoians was pottery. It was made by the women, who rolled out "sausages" of clay and built up vessels which were baked in open hearths.

Clothing was of skins, generally similar to the dress of the Algonkians. Two or three feathers were worn in the hair for ornament.

The Iroquoians are best known for their political structure, which was more complicated than that of other tribes. Each village was part of a tribe, and sent representatives to a tribal council. The chiefs were elected, and in the choice the women had great influence.

In what is now New York state, the five nations (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Cayuga) combined into a league, each sending representatives to the

"What may I do to help save this imperiled world for peace and brotherhood?"
That is the unspoken sentiment of people everywhere. All of us have been warned of the dire possibilities that lie just over the horizon. We know that our destiny resides "either with one world or no world."

The five nations became famous as warriors, spreading fear among other Indians and white settlers alike. They adopted captives to replace their braves who fell in battle and thus maintained the traditions of their people. Few people have played as large a part in history with as small numbers; and even to-day the surviving Iroquoians maintain a shadow of their national life.

Iroquoian religion centered around three sisters, corn, squash and tobacco, supernatural beings who were believed to be responsible for these basic crops. Ceremonies included crop festivals associated with the changing seasons. Priests were those who had had particular experiences or who had special knowledge. In the council of the league, moreover, the priests had particular duties to perform; in fact, the league of the Iroquois was partly a religious institution.

When Columbus discovered America, there were perhaps a million Red men north of Mexico. There are about half that number now, though not all are of pure Indian stock.

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TOMORROW: — How to Keep a Snapshot Album.

Star Dust

Campus Reds

The action of President Truman in ordering a Red purge in governmental agencies has stirred the Communists to even greater activity, particularly in the colleges throughout the country. A determined drive is under way to enlist students in the Red movement, and Communist pamphlets and papers are even distributed in classrooms. Why this open recruiting is allowed to continue is something for a college heads to explain.—Boston Post.

Labor Saving

Television replaces human eyes in Russian industry, the Soviets claim. They use radio images to guide remote control of pig iron and steel smelting. One engineer, aided by television, can run the whole process of automobile piston production, they claim.—Wall Street Journal.

WHY WE SAY

"THROWING THE HAT INTO THE RING"



This expression commonly used to indicate a politician is seeking election was popularized by Theodore Roosevelt. The custom originated in the Old West where a volunteer offered to enter a boxing or wrestling ring by throwing his hat into the ring.

The Doctor Says— SKIN CANCER TOLL PRICE OF NEGLIGENCE

By WILLIAM A. O'BRIEN, M.D.
Skin cancer, commonest form of the disease in man, is not difficult to cure in its early stages. Yet 4000 people died of it last year as the result of indifference and neglect.

Cancer rarely develops on a normal skin. Skin cancers are most common in middle-aged, advanced life in blond, thin-skinned, blue-eyed persons whose occupation exposes them to sun, dirt, wind, oil, tar, or arsenic. Before the growth occurs, there is a wart, thickening, irritated patch, or lump.

Cancer of the skin is suspected whenever a sore does not heal or when any type of growth occurs. In the beginning skin cancer is confined to its place of origin, but if it is neglected, it may spread and cause death.

Patients who suspect they have the disease should not use irritative forms of treatment to destroy the growth before its nature is determined. Usually the entire growth or a piece of it is removed and examined under the microscope. Cancer quacks assure their patients that many skin troubles are cancer without such examinations and then proceed to destroy the evidence and claim cures.

Skin cancers are treated by surgical removal or destruction with X-ray or radium. If there is a possibility that it may have spread to adjoining lymph nodes, they are also removed. Skin cancers which penetrate bones are more difficult to eradicate.

The disease is most common in the southern states because of greater skin exposure to the sun's rays but can be developed in the north.

It usually develops on the hands and face. Clothing protects the balance of the body, but any portion of the body which is uncovered on a year-round basis could become the site of skin cancer.

Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

CHRIST STOPPED AT EBOLI by Carlo Levi, translated from the Italian by Frances Freyre Farrar, Straus & Co.
Up in the mountains along the instep of the Italian boot, in the area just north of the gulf of Taranto, are little villages so wretched and barren that, according to local tradition, Christ never got that far. He stopped at Eboli. Levi was exiled to that region, to Gagliano, for several years before the war, and it was during the war that he wrote this account of his life among the peasants, a life among the peasants, able to speak but only of appalling ignorance and a debasing superstition.

In the mass they were human in sentiments and impulses, but they believed in gnomes friendly and hostile, they recited incantations to cure jaundice, erysipelas, malaria and toothache, they had the morals of the guinea pig, and on the walls of all their bedrooms hung two pictures: The Madonna of Veggiano and President Roosevelt.

Their Fascist mayor was a scamp who glibly mouthed patriotic platitudes. Their other officials and overseers and the few members of the middle class were cheap and tawdry characters; the priest hoarded food or begot children in his housekeeper; the pharmacist overcharged for life-saving remedies, the doctors were inexcessably incompetent, the censor read the mail... and commissioned Levi on his literary style.

In this we can endorse the censor's judgment. And we can add that Levi writes out of compassion and with the power of an unusually keen observer. While he can pause every now and then to entertain us, the over-all impression is somber and tragic. Those of us who think there's nothing beyond Eboli must read this earnest, graphic record; it's still our world, says Levi, and the individual is still at the core of it. KATIK, by Maria Molnar (Harcourt; \$2.75).

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