

Harnett County News

Established Jan. 1, 1919
ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY
HENDERSON STEELE, Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year \$2.00
Six months \$1.00

Advertising rates upon application

CORRESPONDENCE
This paper desires correspondence from all reliable sources interesting to the people of this section.

Watch the date on the label on your paper. If your subscription has expired please send in your renewal at once.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Lillington, N. C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1946

WATCH YOUR STEP IN BUILDING

Perhaps never before in the history of this country, certainly in this part of it, has there been such an urge to build homes and business houses. Even though material and labor are both scarce and difficult to obtain to meet the demand in construction already underway, there is a host of prospective builders who seem to be in a hurry to get along with their wanted projects.

It is easy to understand why a family never having owned a home would want to get going in that direction since they now have the funds with which to buy and build. People have more money in hand now than ever before, we are told. But at no time within the memory of the present generation, or possibly farther back, have prices been so high. This is particularly true with regard to building projects.

And so, if you are one who is bent on erecting a building of any kind, and doing it right away, better watch your step. Better think twice before going into debt for a high-priced piece of real estate whose value can drop quicker than a ripe apple in a strong wind.

Better still, if you are not actually compelled to build now, wait. Recent rumblings have given rise to speculation over a possible tangle with Russia that might bring on war. There are those who have all along declared their belief that such a crisis would develop following the end of World War II. To be sure, they didn't have sufficient ground for such belief; they were only expressing fear.

The News cannot see that such unpleasantness between this country and Russia is necessary or even likely to occur. We have much in common with Russia, and Russia stands to benefit in great measure through friendship with us.

Bearing that in mind, we should consider also the fact that Russians are resentful of the manner in which they have been treated by the world at large since the fall of their monarchy. In their new freedom they have come to hold an outlook that is somewhat different from ours. It does not follow, however, that the Russians will be difficult to deal with, as so many people in this country have evidently come to believe.

When we say that establishing and maintaining world peace is to be one continuous battle, we mean that world statesmen are now on the battle line, and they must do the fighting in the spirit of world brotherhood, with a fellow-feeling for the peoples who have not in all their history even known what it is like to live in a country where is absolute freedom from fear and want.

gift, and The News feels sure that the people of Harnett county now realize more fully than ever that the county has in the Erwin Mills Company an asset of far greater value than one that might have only a material interest in the place of its location and the people who live here. The News wishes to extend thanks to the Erwin company on behalf of all good people of Harnett county.

IF NOT INFLATION, WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

We have listened to the fellows who've been telling us that the cost of living hasn't gone up more than such-and-such percent since the beginning of the war. We've also listened to those who've been telling us they're holding the line and want us to help hold it too. But we've come to believe that the line they're giving us to hold, or help hold, is not the line by which the cost of living is held down, but merely a line.

For, we want to know, if there's any line that's doing anything to hold down costs, where is that line anchored? And is it remaining in one place all the time? In other words, we rise to ask: if it's not inflation we now have, what is it we've got? The News confesses to a sense of shame in that we've had from numerous Authorities commendation for what we've helped to do in stabilizing things. The reason we feel shame is because we know full well we've done nothing of the kind. Everything and the thing next to it have been climbing in price till we see no lightning point except it be on the moon—with which the physicists claim they've had contact. Our candid opinion is that old Cost of Living beat the physicists to it!

Most terrible thing to think about in the whole matter is that "what-ever goes up must come down." The coming down is going to make a sad picture—if anyone wants to take a picture of it. No, we're not preaching pessimism—far from it. We're simply trying the best we know how to relate what we are sure everyone with a thimbleful of commonsense realizes to be a fact. But maybe we have not stated it as it ought to be stated. It's the other way around, come to think of it. Instead of having inflation, it got us—hasn't it?

WORLD PEACE TO BE CONTINUOUS BATTLE

While the war was going on, some thoughtful people had stored in their minds the idea that establishing and maintaining world peace would mean a long if not a continuous battle. The News was among those who held that opinion.

Events now transpiring are proving that, aside from the actual loss of life such as is sustained on the battlefield, the keeping of the peace for which so many lives were sacrificed, there can be little hope of continuous peace without constant bickering and squabbling between the nations. Recent rumblings have given rise to speculation over a possible tangle with Russia that might bring on war. There are those who have all along declared their belief that such a crisis would develop following the end of World War II. To be sure, they didn't have sufficient ground for such belief; they were only expressing fear.

The News cannot see that such unpleasantness between this country and Russia is necessary or even likely to occur. We have much in common with Russia, and Russia stands to benefit in great measure through friendship with us. Bearing that in mind, we should consider also the fact that Russians are resentful of the manner in which they have been treated by the world at large since the fall of their monarchy. In their new freedom they have come to hold an outlook that is somewhat different from ours. It does not follow, however, that the Russians will be difficult to deal with, as so many people in this country have evidently come to believe.

When we say that establishing and maintaining world peace is to be one continuous battle, we mean that world statesmen are now on the battle line, and they must do the fighting in the spirit of world brotherhood, with a fellow-feeling for the peoples who have not in all their history even known what it is like to live in a country where is absolute freedom from fear and want. To establish and maintain world peace our statesmen must learn the lesson laid down by the great Teacher who gave His life that the world's people might be saved from worse fate than more earthly death.

Truth is the gravitation principal of the universe, by which it is supported, an din which it inheres.—Evaris. Love rules the court, the camp, the grove, For love is heaven, and heaven is love.—Sir Walter Scott.

OBSERVATIONS

BY A COUNTRY SCRIBE

OUR LANGUAGE.—Says the Wall Street Journal: Too many words in the English language are spelled differently from the way they are pronounced. There has been a faint-hearted attempt to improve the situation but they don't get very far. It isn't only the spelling; it's also the way words are used. If you say "freeze" and "froz," why shouldn't you say "skweez" and "skwoz"? And if it's "mowse" and "misse," why not "hows" and "hise"? A word such as "enough" recely ort to be spelled "kuff," and if there's anything to the idea that usage gives authority, then "government" should long have become "gouvernment." Speaking in general terms, we are in favor of a spelling system that matches the fonetic elements of our mother tongue. This column respectfully refers this important matter of Mrs. Lou, who ginnerly manigees to use the language in a wa to put her message across.

WORMS TURN.—You've heard of the worm—they say that worms have a way of turning. They do. They have. And they're doing it now. In the multitudinous marriages that ensued with the parting of sweethearts by the draft, there followed a deluge of divorces for one cause or another, mostly perhaps on account of quickly-married brides trying to rid themselves of husbands too far away. In an instance to come up in Harnett court soon, however, a bride is asking divorce from a soldier who, she alleges, had another wife before he married her; maybe Judge Nimocks suggested "cooling off period" might work, one way or another, depending on which way the worm will turn.

PRODUCTION NEAR THE CONSUMER.—Farmers who have seen in the price of fertilizer an added cost for freight will hail with delight the announcement of the Smith-Douglas company of the establishment of a factory at Wilmington. Inasmuch as farmers in this area use a whole of a lot of fertilizer, it stands to reason a whole of a lot of it should be manufactured close by so as to save the additional cost of hauling. For one thing, too, the Douglas company will make its product more popular because it is made in North Carolina. Cost of hauling is high. It should be eliminated as much as possible.

TRY OPA.—A prominent citizen of Harnett county was complaining about shortages, and related that he had been trying to find this and that and the other. "I'll tell you, I simply can't find anything I want; nobody seems to have anything." A friend quietly suggested: "Have you tried Chester Bowles?"

FISHING IN SNOWSTORM.—From Banner Elk comes the story of four Lees-McRae students who last week went on a June fishing trip—in a snowstorm. The four boys ostensibly fished a stream under Mt. Mitchell for the benefit of Loomis Deane, who was doing a story for Pageant magazine. Since the story is to appear in a hot-weather issue, the boys were clad in summer garments. A gale howled out of Mitchell, and toward the end of the day snow began to sift down. "The goose pimples won't show in the pictures," Deane said confidently. The photographer also is doing four stories in North Carolina for American magazine. He is being guided on his trip by Bill Sharpe of the State Advertising Division.

DESERVES SYMPATHY.—One of this State's commissions deserving a lot of sympathy, but won't get it, is the Highway Commission. Ever since the end of the war gave the Commission what seemed an opportunity to get right down to the job of rehabilitating the worn-out roads, Jupiter Pluvius has been doing his very worst in bogging things down, and up. Bogging down the works, and bogging up the roads. Meanwhile, in every corner of the State arose complaints that didn't bog, up or down. The complaints kept pouring in, and are still. No one seems to have a bit of sympathy for the Highway Commission or the fix it's in. Why can't it do the impossible? Is the way the folks seem to be thinking. Then, too, there's the matter, not a laughing matter either, if anyone should ask you—the matter of getting equipment, supplies and labor. Equipment and material to work with, and men to do the work—that's a headache which will keep the Highway Commission with a bad case of blues for sometime, maybe. But it has been suggested that contracts be let to private concerns for building the roads, including the rural driveways. It's a good suggestion, and it should be helpful. But again, there's the matter of labor, equipment and materials. Sandy Graham is unfortunate in that Governor picked a bad time to sentence him to the roads!

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that man should do unto you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.—Matthew 7:12. Sweeter than the balm of Gilead, richer than the diamonds of Golconda, dear as the friendship of those we love, are justice, fraternity, and Christian charity.—Mary Baker Eddy.

STATE SURPLUS GROWS

(We the People) The first seven months of the State's fiscal year indicates that possible collections for the general fund will reach 85 million dollars, as compared with the previous high of 81 million. The March income tax payments, of course, must be counted before the whole story for the present fiscal year, ending next June, will be clear. It is probable, however, that the income tax schedule, despite a tendency to level off, will not materially change prospects for a substantial increase over the past fiscal year.

As this magazine has repeatedly pointed out, North Carolina's financial barometer is more responsive to the national economy than is the case of those states which continue to levy a property tax. For that reason the present wave of strikes, which beset the nation, will be reflected in North Carolina tax collections for the next fiscal year. This will be true, although North Carolina industry, with the exception of the Erwin Cotton Mill strike, has been particularly free from misunderstanding, which caused work stoppage.

The increase in minimum pay announced by many textile mill will help the sales tax schedule hold its own hoisted position as the general fund revenue producer provided the workers stay on the job. Much of the total wages of this group of workers goes for the purchase of food and tax exempt articles, but the pay increase will put more money in circulation and some of it will go for goods on which the tax is levied.

This schedule mounts slowly, however, and increases can be offset many times over by business and economic conditions which cut the income tax materially. No one in an official position is likely to risk a prediction until after March 15, but the chances for continuation of the war bonus to state employees for the second year of the Cherry administration look very favorable.

THE FEPC FILIBUSTER

(We the People) The filibuster is not the most commendable method for conducting a legislative fight, but once again that seems to be the only way left for a minority to protect itself in the misguided efforts of the United States Senate to permit bureaucracy to still further invade the right of private business to conduct its own affairs. To begin with, the Fair Employment Practice Commission proposal is a misnomer. Many good people have endorsed the proposal without even having taken the trouble to read the act. These people approve fair employment practices just as they would approve any other good cause, and have assumed that the bill does what they assume any bill so named would do. It is always difficult to legislate sociological and moral change into the life of a people. The process requires time, and must be accompanied by education, which is always a slow process. Unfortunately, those who would make over the world to their liking are impatient of the slower process. Bringing the bill up at this time was unfortunate. The Senate could well devote its energies to more important legislation. The proponents are doubtless honest, but their object in forcing a filibuster at this time was not to get this bill passed, but to prevent the Senate from considering, and possibly passing, labor legislation that is opposed by labor leaders, who know how to get votes at election time.

Tax Deductions - Allowed Motorists

Motorists of North and South Carolina may deduct on their Federal Income Tax returns this year the money they paid out in state gasoline taxes in 1945, according to a statement issued by the Carolina Motor Club today. The state tax rate is a 6-cent per gallon for both states. "It must be added, however," said T. E. Pickard, Secretary of the Motor Club, "that any deductions, whether based on State gasoline tax or on other items, may be made only when the taxpayer reports his income in detail on Form 1040. In the main, no deductions may be claimed by those who file a Withholding Receipt, as a return, or who use Form 1040 and take advantage of the tax table or standard deduction. The blanket allowance granted in the latter cases is deemed to be sufficient to cover allowable personal deductions. Assuming that the car-owning taxpayer itemizes his income on the long-form Form 1040," he went on, "there are a number of deductions he may claim. These include registration fees, driver license fee, and personal property tax. The Federal Use Tax is not deductible except when the car is used in the operation of a trade or business or in the production of income from rents or royalties. The Federal gasoline tax and other Federal excise taxes are not deductible, since they are taxes imposed on the manufacturer."

Never, with the Bible in our hands, can we deny rights to another, which under the same circumstances we would claim for ourselves.—Gardner Spring. The crimes that are now being committed by man against man cry aloud not for vengeance, but for a complete change in our relationship with one another.—George Lansbury. Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.—William Penn.

HOME BREVITY

BY MRS. LOU

Well, since Jinnie come back from Florida, hit looks like nothin' suits her, our weather is too cold an' damp, our vegetables is too scarce, an' we don't have the happy-go-lucky crowd er tourists sho enjoyed there. When she was talkin' erbout the folks, I asked her often she learnt much from 'em, an' often they wug rollickous inclined or otherwise.

"Otherwise," sez she, "yo' knows Lou that them tourists, aint er carryin' their religion erlong with 'em, they travels light."

"That's what I thought, but I don't see how yo' enjoyed them but was so worly?"

"Oh, hits jest er diffent atmosphere yo' enjoys, hit rests yo' to git clean erway from everthing."

"I sees, Jinnie, but religion's er thing er the heart, not er garment to be shed off an' left at home."

"Befo' Jinnie could answer, Miss Worly Wise come up er showin' her gold teeth an' bangle bracelets. "I'm glad to see yo'," sez Jinnie, "I needs yo' insistence."

"What's the matter, Jinnie? Has Lou got yo' in er corner?"

"She's er crowdin' on me, er sayin' in' the folks cant leave their religion at home, an' I tole her that tourists has to travel light, an' so they has to leave hit."

"Sho' thing, often most folks took all the religion they've got with 'em, they wouldn't have no excess baggage," sez I.

They both laughed an' Jinnie sez, "Lou is hard on the light hearted."

"No," sez I, "I loves to see folks light hearted, but the Christians is the light heartedest er any."

Hit was gittin' too deep for 'em so Miss Worly Wise interjected er another subject. She got to talkin' erbout some books she'd been readin', an' bein' I aint interested in her kind er literature, I started home.

On the way, the first one I met was er eight year ole boy as happy as I ever seed, he sez, "Miss Lou, yo' remembers my ole doinick hen the dogs come so near killin'—well, she's er layin' er egg ever day, an' often the days was longer she'd lay two eggs."

"What does yo' do with yo' eggs, son?"

"Ever tenth one I puts er side for the Lord, an' when I gets er dozen, I'm goin' to sell 'em an' give the money into the collection plate at church."

"He jest beamed, he was thet happy."

Then I went on an' met ole John Walker, he began to shuffle an' say, "Praise the Lord" as soon as he seed me.

"I knowed somethin' was on his mind so I stops to ast him what hit was."

"My ole 'oman has done got well," he shouted, "de ole Marster has done answered ole John's prayer an' raised Dilsy up ergin'."

"I am sho glad, John, an' I hopes yo' an' Dilsy ken live on together fer er long time yit."

"Thank-ee, Missus," an' fiftin' his ole hat brim—there warn't no crown, he shuffled on.

When I got nigh to my gate I seed Little Jane er cooin' like er racin' pacer down the road. She stopped long enough to tell me that she'd done got 'ligon er week ergo, an' she was thet happy she couldn't stay on the ground."

"That night when I was er sayin' of my prayers I thought erbout them rich tourists, an' erbout the humble folks I had met on my way home, an' I sez, "Lord, deliver me from them tourists that leaves their religion at home, an' let me take my place ermost these humble ones that goes down the road with thetr, an' aint erashed of hit."

Advises Retaining War Ration Book 4

Housewives were advised today by the Office of Price Administration to retain in their possession War Ration Book 4, now used only to obtain sugar. Although the currently valid sugar stamp 39 is the last stamp in War Ration Book 4, that is specifically labeled for purchases of sugar, spare stamps in that book will be designated as sugar stamps from time to time. For this reason, War Ration Book 4 should be retained even after sugar stamp 39 has been used, OPA emphasized. Sugar stamp 40 was used for the 1944 home canning program, OPA explained.

Never, with the Bible in our hands, can we deny rights to another, which under the same circumstances we would claim for ourselves.—Gardner Spring. The crimes that are now being committed by man against man cry aloud not for vengeance, but for a complete change in our relationship with one another.—George Lansbury. Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.—William Penn.

A Father's Letter To His Sons

Dear Sons: We haven't heard from you in sometime now (a week or two seems awfully long time without hearing from you) and we have been wondering whether you are being "moved around" so much that you haven't found time to write, or can't be that you are holding a home-bound ticket? It would be fine indeed if the latter should prove to be true. Nevertheless, you can realize how anxious we are, and please don't forget to drop us a line, even if it is only just one line, to let us know that you are alright.

Of course, we haven't been hearing so much from the other boys lately, but the big reason for that is that they have been coming home in such increasing numbers. We have only to look at our mailing list to realize we haven't near so many boys in foreign countries now. The list of overseas subscribers has dropped off so much that it is hard to realize we had about five hundred going overseas only a few months ago.

You can be sure, though, that we didn't mind seeing those overseas addresses dropped from our list. It is not one of the things a newspaper likes to do—lose subscribers—but in this particular case we are more than glad. In the first place, it didn't set well with us at all to send those papers to foreign addresses. It meant that our own boys were far away from home, and it meant also that they were on a dangerous mission. That was the big cause for our not wanting those subscriptions in the first place, though of course we were glad to be able to afford the boys a batch of news from home each week. It was a tedious job, you can be sure, keeping those addresses correct, and we had to print the inscription on each wrapper which was required by the Postal Department—but even after we had gone to all that trouble, many of the papers were not delivered. After coming back home, some of the boys have told us they knew the reason their papers were not delivered. They had seen enough, they said, to know that there has been carelessness and negligence on the part of a good many postal workers. It is a fact, as we can see right here

close of this warm spell some early shrubs, such as the yellow jasmine, were flowering, grasses had begun to grow again, and even the earthworms showed signs of activity. The coldest weather occurred in many localities on the morning of the 24th, with minimum temperatures between 10 and 20 degrees below the interior sections. Cold spells were from the 1st through the 3rd and from the 20th through the 24th.

Chicken feathers for combination with wool and synthetics soon will be in wide production as a fine new source of fiber for cloth and other materials. In the desolation of human understanding, divine Love hears and answers the human call for help; and the voice of Truth utters the divine verities of being which delivers mortals out of the depth of ignorance and folly.—Mary Baker Eddy. Of all duties, the love of truth, with faith and constancy in it, ranks first and highest. To love God and to love truth are one and the same.—Silvio Pellico. Religious truth, such what points of it you will, has always to do with the being, and government of God, and is, of course, inimitable in its reach.—Hitchcock. Truth and love are two of the most powerful things in the world; and when they both go together they cannot easily be withstood.—Cudworth.

Rainy Weather Retards Farming

The crops-weather report issued jointly by the U. S. Weather and the State Department of Agriculture says that weather conditions for the month of January, 1946, were close to the seasonal normal. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal, the excess caused largely by an unusually warm spell from the 6th through the 10th. Precipitation totals were slightly below the normal for the month in Eastern and Central sections, somewhat above normal in most mountain sections and much above normal in southwestern mountain section. Snowfall amounts were rather light, with 9 to 10 inches measured in Ashe and Watauga Counties, and smaller amounts in other counties in the Mountain and Piedmont sections. Due to the almost continuous wet weather during December and January, very little field plowing or harvesting has been possible. The exception is in the coastal area, but even there, very little was permitted. As a result much peanuts, corn, and cotton are still unpicked and unharvested. Farm roads have been almost impassable. Temperatures averaged one to two degrees above normal for January and about 5 degrees warmer than December. The week of January 5-12 was unusually warm, particularly the five-day period from the sixth through the tenth when the temperatures averaged 20 degrees or more above the seasonal normal. At the

close of this warm spell some early shrubs, such as the yellow jasmine, were flowering, grasses had begun to grow again, and even the earthworms showed signs of activity. The coldest weather occurred in many localities on the morning of the 24th, with minimum temperatures between 10 and 20 degrees below the interior sections. Cold spells were from the 1st through the 3rd and from the 20th through the 24th. Chicken feathers for combination with wool and synthetics soon will be in wide production as a fine new source of fiber for cloth and other materials. In the desolation of human understanding, divine Love hears and answers the human call for help; and the voice of Truth utters the divine verities of being which delivers mortals out of the depth of ignorance and folly.—Mary Baker Eddy. Of all duties, the love of truth, with faith and constancy in it, ranks first and highest. To love God and to love truth are one and the same.—Silvio Pellico. Religious truth, such what points of it you will, has always to do with the being, and government of God, and is, of course, inimitable in its reach.—Hitchcock. Truth and love are two of the most powerful things in the world; and when they both go together they cannot easily be withstood.—Cudworth.

Light Weight Paper For Air Mail. Come to The News Office and get some of our feather-weight writing paper for your air-mail. You can write more for less postage... Better than V-mail.