

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

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A wide open town and a lawless town mean the same thing.

Charity covers, our grand juries uncover, a multitude of sins.

The strike situation in California has been settled. Thanks to the prevalence of better judgment.

It is noticed that T.V.A. is to extend sales of cheap electrical units. What the public is more interested in is cheaper electricity without so many "side charges."

Franz Holzweber and Otto Planetta were hanged in Austria Tuesday for the assassination of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfus. The execution came almost six days to the hour from the time of the crime.

A news report says Von Hindenburg is very ill. His death would be a great loss to Germany and Europe. Many believe he has wielded a great influence for peace in Europe since his rise to the Presidency of Germany.

The voice of the people isn't often heard but a good many ambitious fellows have heard the voice that the people sent out, much to their disgust and chagrin. We are referring to those who are willing to suffer, for the salary, on the altar of their country.

For real pleasure, for live news of folks who think more of you than any friends you've ever had, for honest, unbiased opinions, for shrewd comments of the day's news, and of politics and politicians, for interesting stories of the lives, and events in the lives of the people you know best, read your Hometown Newspaper.

We were right much amused and surprised Tuesday to learn from the argument of attorneys in the trial of a case in Recorder's Court that an officer should not interfere until a crime was actually committed. We had always understood that it was the duty of an officer to prevent a crime if within his power. Our impression may be wrong, but we don't think so. Any way we like it best, and think it wisest.

Press reports show that U. B. Blalock, former General Manager of the Cotton Co-operative Association of North Carolina, has been appointed a director in the American Cotton Growers Co-operative Association in Washington City. Mr. M. G. Mann, former Director of Field Service, has been promoted to General Manager. This represents promotions to both of these gentlemen. It is to be hoped that with the change will come some new and real constructive plans that will make the Association of more value to its members in the State.

The one great thing that breaks down the confidence of good citizens in the law enforcement and influence, and that lends encouragement to crime, is the fact that after the crime is committed the criminal caught, tried and sentenced he is pardoned or paroled. The good citizens don't see the necessity of going to the expense and trouble to catch and convict a criminal, when he is to be pardoned or paroled soon after entering upon his sentence, and the criminal takes the position, what difference does it make if they do catch and convict him, he will get a pardon. The other angle is it brings about a great injustice between prisoners. Possibly the one who should be turned loose has to serve his term, because of lack of influence or interest in his case, while the one who should serve his term is thrown back upon society. The system breaks down respect and confidence in law and should be remedied in some manner.

It was the pleasure of the Editor of **The Franklin Times** to attend a meeting of the Business Men in Franklinton the past week, at which time he observed the formation of what seems to him to be the most ideal organization of business, professional men and farmers of a town and community. The organization is built largely upon the plans used by Kiwanis, Rotary Clubs and other such organizations, without the heavy cost of membership and set programs of work. The plan calls for only one meeting a month at which time all "break bread" together and then go into a regular business meeting with a round table discussion feature. It is conducive of a wide influence, which the Times is sure will be of great benefit and value to the people of Franklinton and community. The organizers of this splendid plan and each member of it is to be congratulated for their forethought and cooperation in this method of building up their community.

The Cotton Resolutions

It is with much satisfaction that the Times can join the Business Men's Association of Franklinton in making claim for a more equal and just allotment for the cotton farmers of eastern North Carolina and particularly Franklin County. These resolutions are published in another column in this issue. It is our opinion the author of these resolutions was extra conservative in his estimate that the crop for 1934 under the reduction contracts represent a cut of 56 per cent instead of the intended 27 per cent. It is our opinion that it represents a reduction of around 65 per cent. In the first place Franklin County had already reduced its acreage voluntarily, or as a matter of financial necessity, approximately fifty per cent before the reduction move was made by the government. To bear this out in 1923 Franklin County produced 32,000 bales of cotton, while in 1932 it produced only 12,000. To cut this to 8,594, the present allotment, means starvation to the little fellow, regardless of the pride he can hope to get. If the reduction had been apportioned from Franklin's normal average of 20,000 to 24,000 bales it would have been more equal and just to Franklin and like counties, whose farm population is made up very largely of small farmers. Of course we hope, and believe, the activity of the government in bringing about the contract reduction will be of great benefit to Franklin County, as a whole, but what we are wondering about is how the little fellow, whose crop is cut so short in acreage, because of these conditions, will not make enough to pay for his fertilizer, his taxes, and his land obligations to say nothing about furnishing food and clothing for his family and paying his doctor and preacher. Familiarity with these conditions, no doubt, furnished the force behind Senator Bailey's opposition to the Bankhead bill, and would cause the Adjustment Board of the Agricultural Department to reconsider and adjust them, if they will only become enough interested to become informed.

The Times is very much in sympathy with the spirit of the movement to help put southern agriculture on its feet and in its proper sphere in the business world. It is also very much interested in seeing that the farmer is given a fair and just allotment that along with the recovery of the entire unit the individual also may recover and become the enthusiastic and co-operative citizen that we all want to see in everybody. We believe that the farmers of Franklin County and eastern North Carolina have a just cause and one that should be given an exhaustive and sympathetic hearing by the Agricultural Department at Washington.

The Weight of Taxation

It may be assumed that the whole question of taxation, local, state and national, will be thoroughly reviewed during the coming state and congressional campaigns. The vast sums of money being expended in various governmental activities must be taken eventually from the pocket of the taxpayer. It is not unlikely that he will become more and more interested in the process.

It was said long ago that the power to tax is the power to destroy and a good many authorities have warned that we are approaching the point where taxation will become confiscation. Present public expenditures give weight to the prediction.

It is estimated at the present time that the motorists of the state are paying a per capita of more than \$10 per year for every man, woman and child of the state in gasoline taxes which go into road building. What the per capita cost of all taxes is, it is impossible to estimate.

It therefore becomes evident that a great deal of interest in the coming campaigns will center in what the candidates propose to do about it. The single taxers will, as a matter of course, be on hand with a solution. It is understood that the old single tax, in a new dress, will appear on the November ballot. It is, however, not a question of how to raise more taxes but how to avoid raising more taxes that will interest the taxpayers. Those candidates with economy programs are going to have a respectful hearing this year.—Daily News, Orange, Cal.

As Industries Organize

Among other valuable fruits of the depression which could be listed should be mentioned the activities of the industries in eliminating many of the undesirable cut-throat competition practices and the causing of the business and industrial men who have been bitter enemies to get together and work out their mutual problems in a sane way.

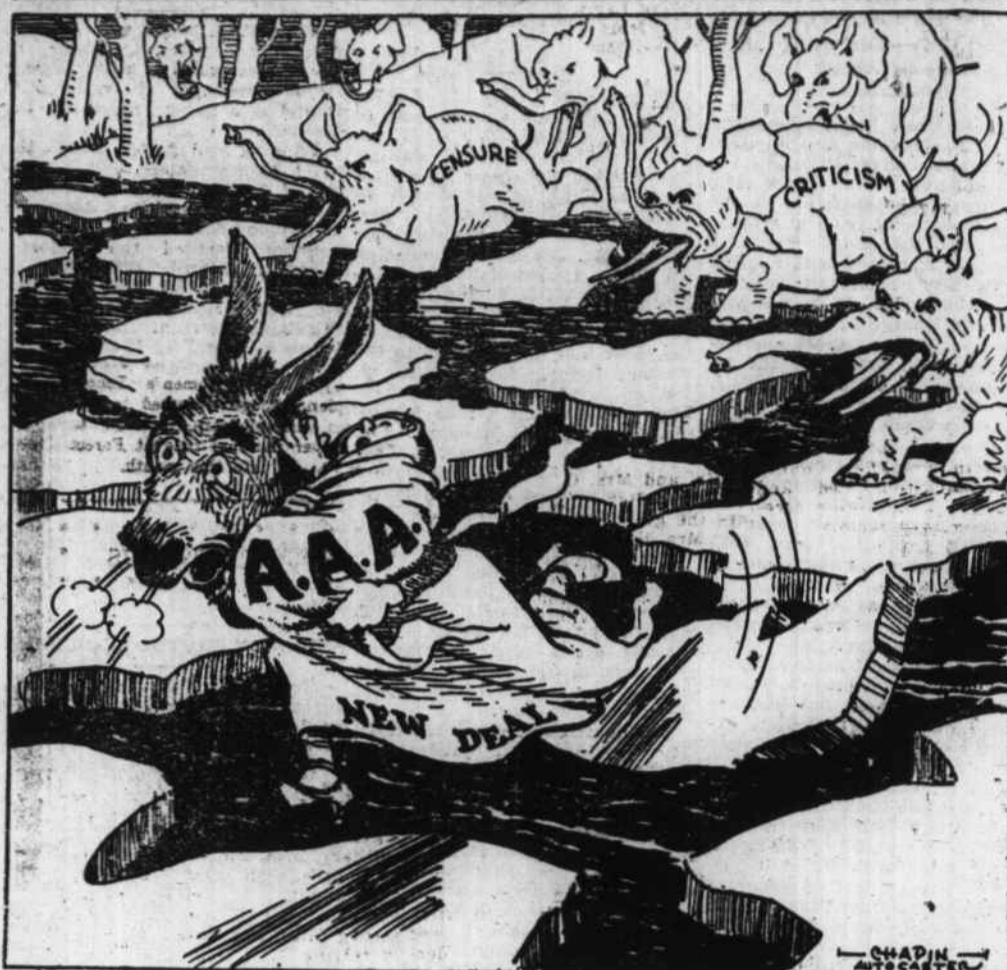
The other night the printers and publishers of Canadian county met to consider their problems. Several uneconomic practices will be eliminated as a result and in future meetings many steps will be taken to advance the standing of the industry in the county. And yet printers and publishers have had the name of being the most independent and tractable class of hombres on earth. The announcement that the president had signed the newspaper code regulating industry turned the trick.

In most other lines a similar spirit of co-operation is being born and is doing much in the elimination of unfair practices. It is a slow process and there are usually a few outlaws in each industry who make the task more difficult. However, the day of rugged individualism is really passing and the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker are all learning that despite the fact that their competitors may have horns, cloven feet and spiked tails, there is much to be gained by congregating with them occasionally for the general good of the craft.

The fruits of adversity are not always bitter.—American, El Reno, Okla.

Liza Crossing The Ice

by A. B. Chapin



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, August 30.—This time of year used to be called the "silly season" in Washington, because nothing of importance ever happened in August and the news correspondents had to entertain their readers and earn their own wages by writing trifling gossip about nothing in particular. Times have changed in that respect. Nothing very new and startling is happening, with the President on his vacation and Congress back home mending its political fences, but we have got so used to discussing serious and important things that it seems to have become a habit. Even in the "silly season" we find it hard to be frivolous.

For example, somebody asked the ever-present question: "Who is going to pay off all this new debt the Government is piling up?" at the National Press Club the other day. The usual answer was given, "Our grandchildren, of course." But one inquisitive reporter wasn't satisfied with that answer. How many grandchildren are there going to be, thirty or forty years from now? He wanted to know. So he put in a lot of time studying the records of the Census Office and his conclusions are so startling and, in the long outlook, so important, that some Administration officials have begun to take notice of them and wonder whether in some ways there has not been too much banking upon a future that does not seem likely to be realized.

Facts About Population
The plain fact seems to be that the population of the United States is rapidly approaching the stationary point. By 1950, and probably sooner than that, there will no longer be an annual increase in the number of people in this country. Before the war we added about 1,800,000 people a year to the population, by birth and immigration. That was the average over a long period of years. Assuming that they earned and spent a thousand dollars a year each, which is about the right figure, that made nearly two billion dollars a year of new business for American industry and trade, to say nothing of the demand for half a million new homes every year to house this increase.

And, from the Government's point of view, that rate of population growth meant a corresponding increase in the number of persons who could be taxed, directly or indirectly, thus enabling the nation to increase its governmental expenditures every year and to pile up a growing load of interest-bearing debt without really bothering anybody very much.

But—this is what the Census figures show. About 1924 the rate of population increase began to decline sharply. In 1910 the experts estimated that the Census of 1930 would show a population of 150,000,000. Instead, the count was only 129,900,000. And in the past ten years it has dropped so rapidly that the estimates of the Census Bureau—among the most reliable of Government statistics—show a growth of only 800,000 in the past year.

annual growth of population, it will only be about 1945 when deaths will balance births, emigration balance immigration and, perhaps, from then on, there will be an actual decline in the number of inhabitants of this country. It is possible to imagine the Administration of whoever is elected President in 1944 demanding of Congress authority to offer prizes for larger families, as is done in France, Italy and some other European countries.

The reasons for the decline in the growth of population are twofold. First is the restriction of immigration, which began to take its present drastic form in 1924. Second is the decline in the domestic birth-rate. American parents are not reproducing their kind in numbers enough to replace the deaths. The figures here in Washington show that the average woman gives birth to less than one prospective future mother. And that condition is causing considerable concern among the socially-minded members of the Administration—of whom there are plenty. They see their vision of a brave new world of their own creation being shattered by the refusal of American parents to cooperate in providing future taxpayers.

Cause of Decline
The reason for the decline in the birthrate is figured by some

of the smart figurers here as a change in the social value of the child in the home. In a principally agricultural country, such as ours was in its earlier days, every child was an asset. In an industrial nation, however, with compulsory education and anti-child-labor laws in force, children are a liability to the average family.

Government economists and theorists look at these facts with mixed feelings. Some of them point to them as justification for the movement to curtail agricultural production; some say the remedy will be to get more people back to the land. All are agreed that the great markets of the future will be in goods for middle-aged and elderly people, for before long there will be more people over 40 years old than under twenty. In agriculture, for example, one result will be a steady decline in the demand for milk; in industry the demands of the future will be for a higher proportion of goods appealing to middle-aged tastes.

It used to be that you could tell the difference between Republicans and Democrats by the principles for which they stood, but that time has gone forever.

A family jar is never used in preserving peace.

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