THE FRANKLIN TIMES

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EDITORIAL

Things are taking shape in Franklin County for an interesting campaign this spring. At present the contest creating the most interest in the County is that for Governorship and it seems that McDonald has the lead.

Congress has passed and sent to the President's desk the soldiers bonus bill providing for immediate payment of adjusted compensation certificates. It is expected the President will affix his signature right away.

Efforts at curbing the power of the Supreme Court have begun in both houses, according to reports coming from Washington. Any action along this line will be exceedingly dangerous to our Democratic form of government.

Governor O. K. Allen of Louisiana will fill the unexpired term in the United States Senate of the late Huey Long, whose every wish he once was willing to answer, as a result of Tuesday's Democratic primary vote. With Allen swept to victory the entire pro-Long ticket of Louisiana, which admirers claim is a direct slap at the New Deal.

UNEMPLOYMENT

It is quite clear that nobody has any exact information of the number of employable persons still unemployed in the United States. That is, the number who would take jobs if they were available. To the claim that there are still eleven million industrial workers unemployed, the reply has lately been made, based upon Government statistics, that at no time, even at the peak of prosperity, did industry ever employ more than nine million persons, and as there are now more than seven million on industrial payrolls, the unemployment in that field cannot amount to more than two million.

In one sense, of course, all of the persons on relief are unemployed. But it does not follow that all of them were employed before they went on relief. In the best of times there have always been five or six million persons without jobs, either because they preferred not to work or were unable, for various reasons, to attach themselves to payrolls. A large proportion of these have always been recipients of charitable relief, and it is impossible to imagine a situation in which there will not be a very large number of people who will depend for subsistence upon the generosity of public or private relief organizations.

In the meantime, however, more people are going back to work every day and the outlook is hopeful for a job within a year or so for everybody who is willing and able to work.

PROPAGANDA

We hear more and more about "propaganda." The word has come to have a sinister implication. It is loosely applied to any effort of any kind to influence public opinion. To those who don't agree with the point of view of the propagandist, his efforts are vicious and should be suppressed. To those who do agree with his opinion, he is a praiseworthy apostle of a highly laudable doctrine.

There never has been a time and there never will be a time when individuals, groups and organizations holding certain things to be true will not attempt to convince others of their truth. The very word "propaganda" was first used to describe the efforts of the Christian church to spread—that is to propagate—the doctrines of Christianity. Doubtless there are atheists and others who consider even that noble purpose an entirely vicious one. And beyond doubt, a great deal of propaganda has been carried on in recent years for entirely selfish and often sordid purposes.

Propaganda in the real sense is an effort to educate. There can be no honest quarrel with the desire of anyone to convert others to his way of thinking. The real quarrel with propaganda arises from the subtle and underhand methods which are too often used. Propaganda conducted in the open, with the motives and purposes behind it clearly disclosed, is a sound and legitimate method. It is only when the identity and motives of the propagandists are concealed that it becomes dangerous.

Advertise in The Franklin Times

SOIL CONSERVATION WORK IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Congress has appropriated a definite sum of money for soil conservation work throughout the United States. Fortunately through the efforts of some of the leading farmers and business men extension workers and teachers of agriculture of Franklin County, a branch of the Soil Conservation Service has been established in this county with headquarters at Franklinton.

Through the activities of this unit there is available for erosion control and soil conservation work on farms of the area, 300 local men whose work is confined to the Buffalo and Cedar Creek water sheds, and 175 CCC enrollees who are working on farms outside of the above water sheds.

This work is directed by a trained personnel consisting of experts in soils, agronomy, engineering, forestry, wild life, and farm agreement men who have a farm background and a sympathetic understanding of the farmer's problems. The service of these men with the work of more than 475 foremen and laborers is available without cost to the farmers of this area who are willing to undertake a definite soil conservation and proper land use program.

Reliable sources of information indicate that more than 20 times as much soil fertility is lost each year from washing away than is used in crop production on our farms.

In addition to the great quantity of labor certain materials may be contributed through this service where the farmers willingness to cooperate in a complete soil conservation and land use program justifies.

The farmer will, of course, be expected to contribute such materials as may be available on the farm for erosion control, such as forest litter, wheat straw, cane stalks, and farm manure, or perhaps fertilizer so as to insure vegetable cover and a satisfactory growth on severely eroded areas of the farm.

Where the farm has been, or is being, properly terraced, terrace outlets and outlet ditches with the necessary structures for erosion control will be provided.

Where the land is very steep and the farmer is willing to seed a field to permanent pasture, labor may be provided for building fences provided the farmer furnishes wire and posts.

Labor and seed will be furnished to establish vegetative cover in outlet ditches and meadow strips for terrace outlets. The cost of terrace outlets and outlet ditches frequently exceeds the cost of terracing for a given field.

If you are interested in this program, call or communicate with some member of the Soil Conservation Service at Franklinton or see the county agent about the program.

P. H. Massey,
Project Manager.

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Farm Tenancy Increasing In North Carolina

A continued increase in the number of tenant farmers in North Carolina has been revealed by reports of the 1935 Census of Agriculture. From 1930 to 1935, while the total number of farms in the state was growing from 279,708 to 300,967, the number of farm tenants increased 3 per cent.

Numerically, the tenant group grew from 137,615 to 142,158 during the five-year period. Forty-nine per cent of all the farmers in North Carolina were tenants in 1935, the census figures further revealed. These figures were assembled in connection with the preparation of a report on farm tenancy by the Division of Land Utilization of the Resettlement Administration.

Final results of the Census of Agriculture have not been tabulated for all states. Figures for thirty-eight states indicate, however, an increase in the number of farm tenants in most sections of the country. Approximately 43 per cent of all farms in the United States are now operated by tenants. The trend of recent years is in accordance with the steady increase in the percentage of tenants since the first count was made in 1880. At that time, 25 per cent of the farmers were listed as tenants.

Attempts to check the growth of tenancy have been made chiefly because of the instability of residence associated with a farm tenant system. Although conditions vary greatly throughout the United States, studies show that the tenant farmer moves on an average of every four years.

Because of this change in residence, the functioning of schools churches and other community enterprises such as co-operative organizations is badly handicapped. The impermanent interest which many tenant farmers have in their land prevents their giving proper attention to soil conservation, the checking of erosion and the upkeep of farm buildings. The tenant hesitates to make improvements on the farm which would only benefit his successor.

In the past tenancy has been considered a stepping stone to farm ownership, and as a means whereby farmers lacking capital could obtain experience in farm management. The steady increase in the proportion of older tenants, however, indicates that fewer men are now being able to move up the last rung of the ladder to farm ownership.

FRESH, WARM WATER NEEDED BY LIVESTOCK

One of the most expensive ways a farmer can heat water for his livestock is to let the animals drink it cold and warm it with their bodies.

Giving the animals water at freezing temperature lowers their vitality, and seriously curtails the production of dairy cattle, said Prof. R. H. Ruffner, head of the State College animal husbandry department.

"Can you imagine a beef animal fattening, a calf growing, or a cow producing large quantities of milk after becoming thoroughly chilled and shivering for an hour in overcoming the effects of 10 to 20 gallons of ice cold water?" he asked.

He estimated that a cow producing 25 pounds of milk a day burns up more than a pound of corn in warming the water she drinks when it is taken into the body at freezing temperature.

At the State College dairy barn, where water is supplied at a moderate temperature, there are seven cows producing more than 50 pounds of milk a day.

The food burned to warm the water is needed to maintain the animal's vitality, promote growth, and to produce milk, Prof. Ruffner pointed out.

To attain her full milk-producing capacity, he added, a cow should be given all the fresh water she will drink at a temperature of 70 degrees.

If the water is too cold, she will not drink enough to maintain a full milk flow.

The resulting loss may be far more than the slight cost of providing animals with water from which the chill has been taken.

Running the Gauntlet — by A. B. Chapin

FORCE GARDEN PLANTS WITH COLD FRAME

A well constructed cold frame will help the home gardner get the vegetables off to a good start in the spring.

A cold frame, serving as an intermediate stage between the seed box and the garden, gives the plants a chance to harden before they are placed out in the open.

H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State College, recommends that such vegetables as cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, pepper, and egg plant be transplanted to a cold fram before being set out in the garden.

For the average home garden, he said, the cold frame should cover an area six feet wide and 24 feet long. The wooden frame enclosing the bed should be 15 to 18 inches high along the back and 8 to 10 inches high in front.

Locate the cold frame in a sunny place, facing the south. Place good garden loam, mixed with stable manure, in the bed to a depth of six inches.

Second-hand sash or unbleached muslin makes a good covering for the frame. Muslin saturated with hot linseed oil will retain the heat of the sun within the bed and also shed water. Or the cloth may be treated with a solution of one pound of paraffin dissolved in a gallon of gasoline.

Young plants are ready to be transferred to the cold frame when the first two true leaves have developed.

As warm weather approaches, the plant bed should be left open a little more each day to harden the plants. Ventilation is necessary, even on cold days.

Water the plants on sunny mornings when the temperature is rising. Thoroughly wet the soil, then do not water again until the surface appears dry.

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