

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

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EDITORIAL

Ask Merchants for Popular Baby Contest Coupons.

LOUD SPEAKERS IN CONGRESS

It is interesting, though perhaps not important, to learn that the House of Representatives in Washington has been equipped with loud speakers. The general idea has been that Congress had plenty of loud speakers already.

Careful re-reading of the news item about the new equipment of the House, however, discloses that it refers to devices to enable Congressmen to hear each other. That seems to be about right. If the new machines limit the range of members' voices to the ears of other members there is nothing for the rest of us to worry about.

We are pleased to learn that the loud-speaker system has no radio attachment. The proposal to broadcast the proceedings of Congress was voted down because of the impossibility of providing facilities for the 435 members who would all want to make speeches at the same time. So long as their only audience is within the four walls of the House of Representatives there is no particular incentive to oratory other than the inherent urge which inhabits every legislator's breast.

HIGHER ENTERTAINMENT

The steady improvement in the quality of entertainment offered to the American people by means of the movies and the radio is something to be grateful for.

The recent announcement by the head of one of the great broadcasting chains that even more pains will be taken to keep the level of entertainment up to the highest possible standards, by eliminating broadcasts which are likely to have a bad effect upon children's nerves and imaginations, is an example of the way in which the people responsible for the nation's amusement respond to the public demand for wholesome as well as enjoyable shows.

The motion picture industry has also made long strides in its effort to elevate the moral standards as well as the technical quality of the films.

It is an interesting commentary on public taste in entertainment that a little child, Shirley Temple, has again been acclaimed as the best drawing card of the year in pictures, and that an animated fairy tale, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," still draws audiences greater than those which most living actors can attract.

On the radio few characters have the wide appeal exerted by a wooden ventriloquist's dummy, "Charlie McCarthy," while the utterly imaginary character of "Betty Lou," speaking in the voice of a little girl, but emanating from the lips of a talented young man, has become almost a living reality to millions of listeners.

The greatest achievement of both these popular forms of entertainment, however, is the successful presentation of serious and vital drama and really great music to countless of millions who never before had the opportunity to enjoy the masterpieces of the great dramatists and composers. The nation's taste is definitely being elevated.

WE MUST DEFEND OUR OWN

There are few Americans, regardless of their personal political predilections, who will not agree with the main theme of President Roosevelt's first message to the new Congress.

That is that the United States must put its armed forces into such condition that this country will be able to resist any threat to our national rights or encroachments upon our liberties by any foreign power.

Most Americans, too, will agree with the President when he says that means other than the use of force must be tried first in any situation which might strain international relations.

But in a world where force seems to be the principal means of making other nations agree with the one which have the most powerful armaments, certainly the voice of America will be listened to with more respect if we put ourselves in a position where others will realize that we have the necessary force to back up our words, if it comes to a showdown.

There are other means of undermining the influence of the aggressive dictatorships, and those are already in our possession.

The suggestion will doubtless be made in Congress, and will receive much public support, that commerce of any kind with any unfriendly nation should be prohibited.

Japan is almost facing ruin now by reason of the threat to her silk exports, since a new artificial silk superior to the natural product is just being put on the

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market in this county. If Japan could not buy American cotton and other goods that nation would be in serious difficulties indeed.

And so with Germany, Italy and other nations which are making more or less threatening gestures toward the United States.

All of them can be brought to terms by economic pressure which is well within our ability. But before we begin to put on the pressure we should be ready to resist if they choose to fight about it.

THAT POST OFFICE DEFICIT

The Postmaster General, Mr. Farley, reports that his department spent \$3 million dollars more than it took in from the sale of postage stamps in the fiscal year just ended. We don't worry so much about the postal deficit as we do about the reasons for it.

Mr. Farley, a couple of years ago, blamed the losses of his department upon the second-class postage rates under which newspapers are distributed. He was met with such a blast of refutations, accompanied by figures which proved that most of the largest payers of second-class rates could deliver their papers cheaper by other means than the mails, that he has wisely refrained this year from renewing that ancient charge against the press.

Mr. Farley now puts the blame where it belongs—on the Federal Government itself. The excess cost is due to the handling free of postage of thousands upon thousands of tons of Government documents, reports and pamphlets, of the personal mailings of Congressmen and Senators, and of the free mailing privilege accorded to the blind.

There is no suggestion in the Postmaster General's report that the country should return to the two-cent postage rate. We understand that the present three-cent postage law will expire by limitation on June 30th next, unless Congress in the meantime votes to renew it. We do not think it would do any harm and probably would do a good deal of good, to go back to the old standard postage.

Suppose it did increase the Post Office deficit. It is silly to look upon that or any other activity of the Government as if it were a business organized and operated for profit. Government has no business to run a business, and it wouldn't know how to if it tried. The Post Office is a public service for which taxpayers must pay.

It is probably true, as many have stated, that a private business enterprise could handle the mails at lower rates of postage and make a nice profit on the operation. Private business is so uniformly more efficient that public business that it is easy to believe. But under the present system, the Federal Post Office Department probably will produce a deficit every year.

spray paint on the building, saving much time. When this material is applied to wooden surface, it will last from seven to ten years and protect the timber and improve the appearance of the farm lot.

Terracing Unit

The Franklin County Terracing Unit will start operating Monday on the farm of Mr. Luther Pearce in Dunn Township. From there the machine is routed to Mr. Zolie Pearce's. When job is completed, the machine will go to any points in Dunn Township where terracing, road construction, or ditch construction is desired. This is the first time the terracing unit has operated in Dunn Township since being purchased in 1935. All persons desiring the services of the Unit should avail themselves of the opportunity while the unit is near them. Requests for services should be made at the County Agent's Office in Louisburg.

Water Systems

Mr. R. G. Broaddus, Extension Specialist in Agricultural Engineering from State College, will be in Franklin County Tuesday, January 24, to make surveys and discuss the approved systems of water supply on farms. Also sewage disposal. On Tuesday morning, we have planned to visit farmers in the county and make surveys to determine best method of installing running water in the home. Considerable interest in installation of hydraulic rains has been manifested by farmers of Franklin County recently. Farmers having a good spring near the home with a good flow of water should make request for a survey to be made to determine quantity of water that can be delivered to house and cost of installation of hydraulic ram, which is one of the most economical systems of water supply. Request for this service should be made at County Agent's Office by letter or visit.

A meeting is called at the County Agent's Office at 2 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, where Mr. Broaddus will demonstrate some simple appliances to be used to put water in the home. All interested farmers are invited to attend this meeting and observe the demonstration.

How quickly you can "put on the brakes" at the approach of danger, will be accurately measured at the 1939 California World's Fair by a reactometer as part of an auto driving test.

F.D.R. Addresses Nation



WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Roosevelt as he delivered his annual message on the state of the Union to a joint session of the Seventy-sixth Congress in the House of Representatives.

FRANKLIN COUNTY FARM ITEMS

By County Farm Agents

4-H Clubs

Thirteen 4-H Club meetings were conducted in Franklin County with an estimated attendance of 600 boys and girls. Miss Braxton, Home Agent, demonstrated to the girls and boys the use of patterns in making dresses, and showed the boys how they could secure patterns from magazines with directions for constructing certain useful home conveniences. To the Senior girls, directions were given and illustrations shown on finishing pine floors with boiled linseed oil and wax. The boys were given directions and shown illustrated results of painting buildings on the farm by using inexpensive paint. Club members indicated that approximately 20% of farmers in Franklin County lived in painted houses and that less than 3% had the gut buildings, including poultry houses, garages, smoke houses and barns, painted. It is observed in Franklin County that many buildings

constructed within the past few years have so weathered and decayed from the lack of paint that they appear to be of several years old.

Inexpensive Painting

The following practice or method of painting has been reported as giving satisfactory results when used on out buildings. Paint is made by mixing two to two and one-half pounds of mortar color to five gallons of used motor oil. After this mixture is prepared, it should be tried on small piece of lumber. If color given is too light, additional coloring should be added; if too dark, additional oil should be added. By experimenting in this manner, the desired shade can be obtained. The mortar color should be well mixed with the oil. Mortar color can be purchased from any store selling building materials. It sells at a cost of 2c and up per pound, depending on color. Brick red mortar color is least expensive. This mixture can be applied to either dressed or undressed lumber with white wash or paint brush. Where pressure sprayers are available, they may be used to

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