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EDITORIAL

WONDER what the British will do about the Japanese blockade at Tientsin?

SUNDAY is Father's Day. It's a day that should be remembered next to Mother's Day.

THE latest suggestion for member or chairman for the A. B. C. Board is John O. Wilson, of near Mapleville. John is a fine fellow and would make a splendid official.

AND now the churches have gone to Court. The Methodist Church is to test the ownership of church property where its members do not wish to join the merger.

WHY is it the tobacco market cannot be opened earlier to give the farmer the advantage of the earlier sales at home rather than have to haul it away. The market used to open in Louisburg by July 1st.

MUCH complaint is being made about the racket and rowdyism kept up on Bull Run Alley and the breaking of lights in buildings adjoining. Unless some relief is given there may have to be a house cleaning.

IT is reported Hitler has seen the "handwriting on the Wall" and gives himself from six months to two years more in power. Either is too long for the best interests in Germany, and the peace and quiet of the rest of the World.

MAJ. E. F. Griffin informed the TIMES that he greatly appreciates the good wishes of his many friends, but that he is not yet ready to enter the whiskey business and is therefore not a candidate for any place connected with the A. B. C. Board.

WHAT Louisburg needs most is a pay roll. At present business is at a standstill during the summer months. The Chamber of Commerce should give its efforts to the establishment of almost any movement that will tend to building up a pay roll the year round.

QUITE a bit is being said about the defeat of the Townsend plan in Congress. We would be interested in knowing how the semi-Townsend plan in California is working out. At first it appears to be impossible, but upon study, it reveals one of those endless chain affairs that may work successfully, and to advantage.

PECULIAR things happen. Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte are supposed to be "Dry," at least the prohibition law prevails there. Yet the Police Commission setting up rules to govern the police officers says they must not drink whiskey while in uniform nor drink at any time to the extent that they cannot answer an emergency call.

A BIG influence is gathering for the establishment of telephone service throughout the rural districts similar to the electric service. Almost half the membership of the House in the recent Legislature signed a bill to this effect, but there was not sufficient time to work out the details and it failed to pass. It will be begun earlier next time and with the growing influence, will no doubt, pass.

LET'S all join in the observance of "Friendly Carolinas Week" which has been proclaimed for June 18th to 25th, by the Governors of North and South Carolina. The motto of this movement, "Be more friendly to your neighbors, and be more neighborly to your friends" is a most worthy one. If this spirit is properly carried out as intended it will be a blessing to all of us and we will be glad of "Friendly Carolinas Week."

WORK is progressing very satisfactory and with much speed on the Raleigh to Louisburg highway, according to reports the past week. This work is under direction of Mr. C. A. Ragland, who, we understand, says he is going to push it on to an early completion. Mr. Ragland is one of the best road builders in the State and we feel sure he will not only give us an excellent road but complete it in as short a time as possible.

A CHARLOTTE News item states: "Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn today sharply criticized methods of police in obtaining evidence and said that 'what are generally understood as unfair practices' are prevalent through the state." Judge Burgwyn is to be congratulated for this stand. Just such acts of force and inhumanity, added to the use of technicalities that allow guilty persons to evade the clutches of the law, is what is bringing about a disregard for our Courts.

THE City Commissioners of Louisburg should instruct its police force, or provide the necessary authority, to keep traffic moving on Court and Market Streets. There is a good portion of almost every day that these streets are blocked, largely by trucks who park double and remain so parker for hours at a time. If this congestion continues to increase as it has in the past few years these two streets would be best closed for all other traffic. We see no good reason why any truck or car should remain parked double, more than ten minutes.

IT is more necessary to the growth of the town to bring dollars to town than it is to send dollars away to other towns or cities. Most all businesses in Louisburg could add to their employment if all the money sent away from Louisburg was spent in Louisburg. The question of buying cheaper is nothing compared with getting a job. This would be interesting information for the Chamber of Commerce to compile and give to the citizens not only of Louisburg but Franklin County, showing along with it its influence towards giving work to unemployed and towards reducing taxes.

YOU ARE RIGHT, GUY

UNDER the above heading the Wilson Times publishes a timely article about the Cotton situation in the South, to which might be added the United States Government and many manufacturing plants could help a lot by using Cotton material for wrapping and tying. The article follows:

"It will take more than one week out of the year to make any considerable impression on the buying habits of our people; particularly the feminine portion of the population—therefore it seems to me that those of us interested in improving the economic condition of the South by bringing about a heavier demand for cotton should consistently talk and work throughout the year to encourage greater interest on the part of our own people in using cotton and cotton goods of all kinds.

"Gradually, over the years, rayon, silk and other substitutes have taken the place of cotton in a great many ways, and the new uses to which cotton is adapted have not been sufficient to offset the losses caused by the use of these substitutes.

"It is going to be a real job to get the women and men of the South to revise their ideas and to buy cotton goods in place of silk and wood-fiber rayon goods. If this job should prove impossible of accomplishment, it is to be feared that cotton, as a crop, will pass from Virginia and the Carolinas and be no longer a familiar sight throughout these states.

"Silk and rayon are very lovely and evidently the feel of these materials to the bodies of women is exceedingly comfortable, and certainly the appearance of the women dressed in these materials is most alluring. But the economic welfare of the South should receive first consideration, and men, women and children of the South should be clothed in cotton materials and surrounded by cotton goods in the homes whenever practicable.

"We have lost a considerable share of the former export market for American cotton (Southern cotton), and if we continue to prefer silk and rayon to cotton materials, will be guilty of aiding and abetting the exile of King Cotton, the grand old monarch who for many years brought prosperity to the South and to the nation.—Guy A. Cardwell, Agr. Agt. A. C. L."

THE RIGHTS OF A DOG

THE Legislature of the State of New York has refused to pass a law asked for by the post office authorities, providing that a postman if bitten by a dog in the course of his duties could collect damages from the dog's owner.

Postmen have to go into people's yards, at least as far as the door, unless there is an R.F.D. mailbox outside the gate. It is a well understood principle of law that a trespasser—someone who goes on another person's property without permission—must take his own risk of being bitten by a dog.

But it hardly seems fair to compel the servants of the people, going their rounds to deliver the mail, to assume that risk.

To be sure, there is a remedy against a dog known to be vicious. After he has bitten two or three people a postman or anyone else can bring an action for damages if a dog of known bad character bites him.

But the argument which prevailed in the New York Legislature was that under the old Common Law of England, which is more or less the fundamental law of every American state except Louisiana, "every dog is entitled to one bite." So the Legislature, with more sympathy for dogs than for mail carriers, voted down the proposed law.

We like dogs, as most folks like dogs. We don't like dogs that bite, especially when they bite the mail man.

If there were some way whereby a dog could be taught to discriminate between the postman and the tax collector, we would be in favor of giving the dog as many free bites as he wanted at the latter functionary. But not at postmen.

WE must keep a certain percentage of people illiterate so they may be eligible for jury duty.

IF parents would observe a spanking week it might get at the seat of some of their troubles.

SOME ladies will find heaven monotonous if they don't get a new-style pair of wings occasionally.

FOR those who can't afford to play golf, wielding a hoe yields equal physical results with less violent language.

THERE are no changes of weather on the moon, so there would be nothing to talk about even if it were inhabited.

PULLMANS have been introduced into Switzerland. Those hardy mountain climbers should have little difficulty in scaling the upper berth.

JOE GISH
 GAS

 THE ONE MAN WHO HOPES HE WON'T FIND OIL WHEN HE DRILLS FOR IT.

It's a wise comedian who knows his own wise crack.

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS MADE MANDATORY! RULES EFFECTIVE JULY 1st, 1939

Under the sponsorship of The North Carolina Merchants Association, the 1939 Legislature enacted a bill making it MANDATORY that merchants pass the sales tax on to their customers and directed the State Commissioner of Revenue to devise, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to effectuate that purpose.

Below find full text of mandatory law.

S. B. No. 394 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATIONS SO AS TO PROHIBIT UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GENERAL RETAIL SALES TAX LAW, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE TO MAKE REGULATIONS, GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF THE TAX.

Whereas, the General Assembly has enacted a general sales tax which is imposed as a license tax on retail merchants for the privilege of doing business in the State; and

Whereas, the need exists for the promulgation of uniform rules and regulations whereby the merchants may conduct successfully their business in the State while operating under this levy; Now, therefore

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA DO ENACT:

Section 1. That in order that fair trade practices may be encouraged and any deleterious effect of the retail sales tax levy be minimized, the Commissioner of Revenue is empowered and directed to devise, promulgate and enforce regulations under which retail merchants SHALL collect from the consumers, by rule uniform as to classes of business, the sales tax levied upon their business by the retail sales tax article; PROVIDED, that the Commissioner of Revenue shall have the power to change the regulations and methods under which the merchants SHALL collect the tax from the consumers, from time to time, as experience may prove expedient and available.

Methods for the passing on by merchants to their customers the retail sales tax on sales to said customers may include plans which require both more or less than the prescribed rate of the tax on the sale price, the purpose being to enable the merchants to collect approximately the amount of the tax imposed on their total sales volume.

The Commissioner of Revenue is hereby authorized and empowered to make and adopt rules and regulations requiring merchants to use tokens or stamps, or other means, if found to be practical, which may be determined by the Commissioner, to provide a method whereby the amount of the tax collected by the merchant from the customer shall be as nearly as possible the prescribed rate of the tax on each purchase.

Such regulations as herein authorized shall be promulgated by the Commissioner of Revenue to become effective after reasonable notice to the retail merchants, and when so promulgated they shall have the full force and effect of law.

Any merchant who violates such rules and regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or be both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that every such violation shall be a separate offense hereunder.

It shall be the duty of the solicitors of the several judicial districts of the State to prosecute violations of this act.

Section 2. That the provisions of this act shall not affect in any manner the character or validity of the sales tax levy as a merchants' license tax, and they may not be pleaded or considered in the event any provisions of the general revenue act is attacked as unconstitutional.

Section 3. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification. 6-19-39



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