

Rowan County Herald

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POPULATION DATA (1930 Census)

Table with 2 columns: Location and Population. Includes Salisbury (16,951), Spencer (3,128), E. Spencer (2,098), China Grove (1,258), Landis (1,388), Rockwell (696), Granite Quarry (507), Cleveland (435), Faith (431), Gold Hill (156).

The influence of weekly newspapers on public opinion exceeds that of all other publications in the country.—Arthur Brisbane.

Rowan Co. Herald's 1937 Platform For Salisbury

- 1. A Library Building. 2. Municipal Auditorium. 3. A Y. W. C. A. Building. 4. A Large City Playground.

A NATIONAL LABOR POLICY

The interest which Congress has begun to display in the latest development of the organized labor situation, the "sit-down" strike, is a good omen, for it suggests that a national Labor policy in which the interests of employers and the general public will be given equal weight with those of the workers may be in process of development.

No one seriously wants to deprive Labor of its right to organize, to negotiate collectively for better working conditions, shorter hours and higher wages. But the feeling that the recognition of those rights ought to go hand in hand with the acceptance by organized Labor of responsibility to the public for the actions of its members, and to employers for living up to its contract agreements, has been increasing for a long time, and has been accentuated by the conditions arising from the automobile strikes.

It is intimated in some quarters that Mr. Lewis's organization, the Committee for Industrial Organization, has got out of control, and that its leaders are not able to prevent the recurrence of "sit-down" strikes. If that is so, it furnishes another reason for making the organization responsible. One chief reason why business men have been opposed to unionism in the past is the uncertainty whether the union will live up to its agreements, and the difficulty or impossibility of calling it to account if it fails to do so.

The chief concern of Congress is, or should be, the welfare of all the people. When a condition exists which threatens that welfare, either by slowing down the productive activities of industry or by increasing the price of products to the consumer, it is a large enough to supply everybody's needs, and at prices everybody can pay. And that is, or ought to be, the main objective of a well-ordered social system.

THE COST OF WAR

Twenty years ago the United States declared war on Germany.

Our actual participation in the World War lasted only a year and a half—from the declaration of war on April 6, 1917, to the Armistice on November 11, 1918. That brief activity on our part, however, turned the tide, which had been running against the French and British and their allies since August, 1914.

The human cost to America of the war was a toll of 50,475 soldiers and sailors killed and 234,300 wounded. The dollar cost has not yet been estimated. We are still paying for the war and will be for another generation. Calvin Coolidge once remarked that before we get through paying it will have cost the people of the United States a hundred thousand million dollars. It has cost us nearly two-thirds of that sum already.

Our actual war expenditures before the peace treaty was signed were \$26,250,000,000. Since the end of the war this country has spent another \$34,048,000,000 for expenses growing out of the war. Twelve billion dollars were loaned to the Allied nations. Most of this debt has not been repaid, and little of it is likely to be paid. Accumulated interest on these loans already amounts to ten billions.

Peace-time payments to American soldiers and sailors who survived have amounted to nearly 12 billion dollars in sixteen years. No one can estimate how much higher they may mount. These payments are continuing. They include disability benefits, death benefits, military and naval insurance payments, hospitalization, vocational training, and bonus.

Only a small proportion of these post-war costs has been paid out of tax revenues. Most of them have been paid with borrowed money, the interest on which comes out of taxes. Eventually the bonds which were sold by the Government to raise money for these purposes will have to be retired out of tax revenues. But even if the principal on these loans is never repaid, it will cost the people of the United States a billion dollars a year forever merely to pay the interest.

War is an expensive luxury, any way one looks at it. But if the liberties of a nation and its people are threatened, is any price too high to preserve them? That is the test by which the cost of war must be measured.

BENEFACTORS OF HUMANITY

The first Chinese who discovered that thread could be spun and cloth woven from the fibers of an insect's cocoon had the quality of curiosity and imagination which lies behind all research. It took modern scientific knowledge to enable men to discover that silk, like all other vegetable fibers, is a form of cellulose, which is found in all growing things. Imagination plus science enabled men to reduce cotton waste and wood chips to cellulose and then mechanically to produce a fiber by almost the same process the silkworm uses. One of the most interesting recent scientific discoveries is an improved method of making rayon, by which the tendency to retain wrinkles is removed from that popular and inexpensive improvement on natural silk.

Cellulose is the basis of paper, of explosives, of the lacquers which are replacing varnish in so many uses, of a thousand products and compounds in daily use. Now a new method of reducing wood, cornstalks and almost anything else to pure cellulose in less time and at vastly less cost has been discovered.

That is something which holds promise of future profit for all the people. When a condition exists which threatens that welfare, either by slowing down the productive activities of industry or by increasing the price of products to the consumer, it is a large enough to supply everybody's needs, and at prices everybody can pay. And that is, or ought to be, the main objective of a well-ordered social system.

THE GREEN SPOTLIGHT

Read the big green section devoted to screen and radio. See what your favorite stars are doing in this interesting section which comes regularly with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN. On sale on all newstands.

Another Advocate of Disarmament — by A. B. CHAPIN



WORK

Justice Butler of the Supreme Court, in the course of an argument on the Constitutionality of the Social Security Act the other day, took occasion to remark from the bench that he had observed in the rural districts of America that there are always a large number of able-bodied men who cannot be induced to work. He might have included the cities, also.

Anyone who has been around much knows that a high proportion of the folk who are now being supported at public expense on the ground that they are unemployed are people who never have worked when they could dodge a job. They managed to "get by" before WPA and the rest of the relief agencies began to hand them money for not working.

I do not expect to see the day when relief, either direct or "work-relief," will be limited to those who really need it. Too strong political pressure is at the command of those who profit by indiscriminate public alms-giving.

POVERTY

Whenever I hear someone croaking that in the United States the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer, I go back and read history again. For the fact is that for the 150 years of our history, not only the rich but the poor have been getting richer. It may be true enough that a third of our people live below what we now regard as the "American Standard of living," but 150 years ago the vast majority of Americans lived under conditions which most of us would regard as intolerable today.

The romantic novelists are largely responsible for the impression that in Colonial days everybody lived in rather magnificent comfort, in beautiful mansions. The truth is that not one family in a hundred had anything we would call a comfortable home. Most of our ancestors lived in log cabins or slab-sided shacks. The men and women who settled the prairies began life in sod houses.

Our national history is the story of the rise of a people from dire poverty to the widest and largest distribution of wealth the world has ever known. And we're still on the way up.

COURAGE

As I go back over the records of our country's growth what

impresses me most is the courage of those who literally took their lives in their hands to make a place for themselves in a strange, raw country. They had the quality of courage implied in an ancient phrase I often heard in my New England boyhood. It was said of one who essayed a task with which he was unfamiliar that he would "either make a spoon or spoil a horn."

Every person who came to America in our early days had to have the courage to tackle the unfamiliar, and face the hazards of the unknown. They not only had to learn a new way of life—they had to invent it. If they failed, they died. They knew that. That is a sort of courage which, I sometimes think, we are in danger of losing.

Men who took such chances were gambling their own lives against heavy odds. The American willingness to take a chance derives from that spirit. We have got where we are because, as a people, we have not stopped to calculate the odds against us.

Out of my reading of history and sixty-old years of surveying the American scene, I have come to the conclusion that we are probably the most lawless people in the world. On the whole, I do not worry much about our national habit of calm disregard of laws which run contrary to our habits, customs and beliefs as to what is right and what is wrong. It is another way of saying that we are still individualists.

We have more laws on our statute books than any other people in the world. Most of them are pure surplusage. They represent the ideas of people who think that reforms can be accomplished by passing a law. It can't be done. It never has been done and never will be.

The only laws which are any good are those which reflect a preponderating public sentiment. Laws which seek to change established customs, or to make crimes out of acts which almost everybody regards as harmless, are bad laws. As a people, we pay little attention to them.

CRIME

On what constitutes an actual crime there is little difference of public opinion. On the whole, I think Americans desire to see the criminal laws enforced against real criminals, although we are indifferent in the matter of law-made crimes which do not seem serious to our moral sense.

We are inclined, however, to be too tender with criminals, and we are reluctant to pay the cost of an adequate police organization to detect and arrest real criminals. And when a criminal is apprehended, he often has enough political influence behind him to escape punishment. I do not think we shall ever

have efficient administration of the criminal laws until the machinery of justice and law-enforcement is entirely detached from politics. That is a rosy dream which probably will never come true.



THIS ACTUALLY happened RIGHT HERE in the city, but IT WILL not do to mention NAMES, ESPECIALLY since ONE OF the characters has a REPUTATION OF being HANDY WITH his fists. "Hey, BILL," YELLED an electrician TO HIS helper, "catch hold of TWO OF those wires." Bill DID AS he was instructed. "FEEL ANYTHING?" asked THE ELECTRICIAN. "No," WAS BILL'S reply. "Well, it MUST BE the other two," said THE ELECTRICIAN. "Don't TOUCH THEM—there's two THOUSAND VOTES in them." I THANK YOU.

U. S. C. OF C. TO MEET Washington.—The Chamber of Commerce of the United States prepared for a new test of business sentiment upon a wide range of major economic and social questions. Officials said the annual chamber meeting here April 27-29 would crystallize policies toward government activities affecting business, labor relations, farm tenancy, credit expansion, and similar problems.

AIR FIGHT DROPS 7 PLANES

Zaragoza, Spain.—Seven of a squadron of 30 government planes were sent crashing to earth in a spectacular battle over the Aragon front, in surgents said. A crack squadron of 15 insurgent planes met the government flyers in the biggest air battle along the Aragon front for months.

BANK OPENS U. S. BRANCH

New York.—The coming to this country of a historic banking name was disclosed with the announcement of the formation of the new firm of S. Bleichroder, Inc. It will act as New York correspondent of the Berlin house of the same name, founded in 1813.

REFORMED CHURCHMAN DIES

Schenectady, N. Y.—Dr. John G. Meengs, 63, since 1907 pastor of the Second Reformed church of Schenectady and a past vice president of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, died in a hospital here Sunday.

Montevideo, Uruguay.—The ministry of relations and representatives of a German consortium signed a contract for construction of a \$33,000,000 hydroelectric plant on the Negro river. The project will be one of the largest in South America and will supply most of Uruguay with cheaper electricity.

COMIC OPERA TRAGEDY IN REAL LIFE

A fascinating story of a woman who decided to kill herself, but something happened to prevent it every time she tried. Read this story in the May 2 issue of the American Weekly, the big magazine which comes regularly with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN. Your favorite newsdealer has your copy.

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BIG GAINS REPORTED IN HOME FURNISHINGS

(Continued from page 1) This includes mortgages selected for appraisal, large scale housing projects approved and modernization and repair notes insured.

Mortgages accepted for insurance reached a total of \$712,347,117 on April 1.

"Along with this increase in our volume of business it is pleasing to note that there has been no corresponding rise in the foreclosure ratio," said Administrator McDonald. As of March 31st debentures issued and outstanding on 16 properties conveyed to the administrator amounted to \$59,426.53.

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STATEMENT APRIL 1, 1937. Table with columns for ASSETS and LIABILITIES. Assets include North Carolina Bond (\$5,000.00), Stocks in Federal Home Loan Bank (4,000.00), Cash in Banks (9,692.44), First Mortgage on Real Estate (544,661.00), Loans on Shares (12,655.00), Furniture and Fixtures (250.00), Real Estate (14,908.56). Total Assets: \$591,167.00. Liabilities include Serial Shares (\$241,448.98), Full Paid Shares (293,100.00), Surplus and Undivided Profits (56,618.02), Indebtedness (NONE). Total Liabilities: \$591,167.00.