

The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1933

Economy

Economy is a word that contains sweet music for the ear of the public as long as it is used to denote nothing more than generalities. Used specifically it jars the ear something like the youngster does when he bangs away on the piano without any purpose of attaining melody.

When it means curtailment of service, those interested in the service about to be curtailed or the office about to be abolished find nothing approaching music in its sound. And so economy sounds musical until it actually means economy; then it is filled with discordant notes.

At any rate such has been our observations.

Our Pick

Eighty experts pick the Pittsburgh Pirates to win in the National League pennant race and the Yankees to cop the flag in the American League, according to a story in the daily press. Just to be different—we never did trail along with the experts much anyway—we are picking the Chicago Cubs in the National and the Washington Senators in the American.

Guesses don't amount to much anyway and we contend that our guess is as good as anybody's. Baseball fans may clip this prediction; paste it on the calendar and along about October write us a letter telling us what a bum guesser we turned out to be. Don't wager anything and expect us to pay up if we're wrong.

A Message To Farmers

After interviews with leading insurance men of North Wilkesboro, the editor of The Journal-Patriot was convinced that a real service may be rendered the farmers of North Carolina by calling their attention to the matter of fire insurance for rural and village property. We consider the matter of such importance that we are offering some facts that should awaken the rural citizen to the problem he now faces and will face if the present alarming fire ratio continues.

Unless there is a decrease in the number of fires in the rural section it will soon be impossible for the farmer to buy insurance and if he could buy it, the rate will be prohibitive. Many insurance companies with which the local agencies write their business will not take unprotected risks—that is, property which is not protected by an adequate fire department. None of them want it. But in order to serve the rural people and to give their agents a little extra business, some of the companies permit their agents to write from 15 to 20 per cent of the total volume of business on this unprotected property. The Journal-Patriot is assured, however, that this will not be permitted much longer if the number of fires do not decrease.

In North Carolina the loss to the companies on unprotected property has been \$147.02 for every \$100.00 in premiums. The fire insurance companies will not continue to lose at that rate. They will either increase the rate to a prohibitive figure or quit taking the risks.

Insurance rates are not made up in a haphazard manner. They are not based upon losses for any single year. But the different classes of property get the rate which their losses justify, just as the mortality experience table is used in making the life insurance rates. The rates are made up so that a fire in North Wilkesboro does not affect the rate in Traphill or visa versa. So when the insurance companies say that they have been losing \$1,470 every time they take in \$1,000 on rural and village property, they have the figures to prove it. Will they continue to do that? The answer is obvious.

If rural citizens wish to continue to be protected through fire insurance they must be more careful, exercise every precaution to lower the fire rate. They should do that anyway. A home with the familiar furnishings and intimate personal ef-

fects means much more than a check to rebuild the home.

This editorial is a warning. If the fire insurance rate on unprotected property mounts to such a figure that the farmer and rural home owner cannot afford to buy protection, the cause should be understood. A little extra care in handling fire and building chimneys would save thousands of dollars for the buyers of insurance and avert the impending boycott which the companies will be compelled to enforce should losses continue at the present rate.

Borrowed Comment

TREXLER, MAN AND OFFICIAL

By JOHNSON J. HAYES,

(Judge United States District Court)

Law is order and chaos is the only alternative to order. Civilization's great struggle has been to bring order out of chaos, and today the struggle seems as titanic as ever before. The present skeleton of order has been achieved and maintained by the unflinching courage and public-spiritedness of men who put public welfare above their selfish ends. Some noble souls have fought in the parliaments of men for their rights and bravely suffered the penalty of death for their deeds. Others have poured out their blood on the battlefield in order that mankind might have that happiness and enjoy that welfare which exists only where orderliness prevails.

But laws worked out in the parliaments of men, and rights wrought through the conflict of war have never been, nor can they ever be, perpetuated except through the patriotism and unselfish loyalty of men who also will give the full measure of devotion to their country's continued orderliness, and those who in time of peace give their lives to the maintenance of order are patriots and heroes no less in rank than those who die on the field of battle.

Levi G. Trexler was both a patriot and a hero, measured by either standard. As a private citizen he was clean and upright, respected the welfare and decent opinion of mankind. He was both moral and Christian.

When he was called from civilian life to bear arms in the world war, he faced the call with courage and placed his all on his country's altar.

In 1921 he was appointed a federal prohibition agent, which position he held until death put an end to his earthly activities. No official position in state or nation has tested the mettle of man during the past 12 years more than that of prohibition agent. The shifting tides of public sentiment, the multitudinous storms of protest and criticism; the political and economic aspects and struggles over prohibition; the craftiness of the bootleggers and rum-runners have combined to make the duties of these officers difficult and hazardous without any adequate reward, either in compensation or in appreciation. But these consequences are worthless weight in the scales of a faithful and courageous public official. Duty leads a direct course—its path makes no turn to dodge an obstruction, nor to avoid difficulty. The official who properly conceives his duty easily discerns the difficulties on the way but carries on in spite of them because he realizes these tests call for the best manhood that is in him, and he gladly follows where it beckons, leaving consequences to take care of themselves. Such an official was Trexler. He was devoted to duty. He was conscious that it led a dangerous course for him—he had barely escaped death on many occasions. But he told me repeatedly that he would continue to do his duty and if it meant death he knew no better way to depart this life. He strove to live honorably with all men and in the supreme assurance that the Christ whom he served was abundantly able to preserve him.

His sensitive soul felt keenly the unjust attacks directed at all officials by a bewildered public, but he would smile and say, "these people do not understand our problems." He was as gentle as a woman and his heart overflowed with compassion. His uniform kindness to those whom he arrested invariably won their friendship. Not once have I heard a defendant on oath deny any fact which he stated. Last week Captain Merrick ordered him to eastern Carolina. He captured a car loaded with liquor and apprehended the driver. Unexpectedly the prisoner sprang on Trexler, inflicting a serious injury on his eye, and as he realized he was being overpowered he hit the prisoner with his flashlight; the prisoner escaped. While telling me about the incident he said, "Judge, I could have shot him but I did not want to hurt the man. I was sorry I had to hit him with the flashlight." This is typical of the man. He had no superior as an enforcement officer.

He provided for his own. He loved his fellow-man. He served God as faithfully as any man I know. The earthly end of all is inevitable, the time is the only element of uncertainty. If it was necessary to go now I am sure he departed as he desired, under the steering wheel, at the post of duty, without pain or suffering and without the burden on his loved ones of lingering illness. The warmth of his touch is missing; the friendly smile we shall not see, and that mellow voice we shall not hear, but his valiant deeds, his gentle spirit, and his noble life will remain green in our memories as long as we live.

Scientists say that New York will be under water in a million years. They probably assume that by then Wall street will be squeezing its stocks.—Wester Leader.

A health expert points out that people who have cold baths throughout the winter seldom have the flu.—No, but they have cold baths.—Punch.

"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

The question with the hoarder is whether to have the gold on his hands or Uncle Sam on his neck.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

If Roosevelt wanted a Roper in his cabinet, why didn't he choose Will Rogers?—Tampa Tribune.

PUBLIC PULSE

This is a column open to the public for free expression. The Journal does not assume any responsibility for articles printed under this heading, and neither endorses nor condemns them. Please be as brief as possible.

T. W. Ferguson Writes

Editor Journal-Patriot:

It is probably no sign of pessimism now for any one to admit we have had and are having a great economic depression. It would serve no purpose not to make a frank confession of it. Every one thinks of our predicament in terms of a financial crisis when as a matter of fact we have had and are now experiencing a tremendous moral depression also which in reality is more far reaching and important and it will no doubt take us much longer to emerge from the latter than from the former condition.

Some one has said when Adam was driven from the garden of Eden he remarked to his wife that the world was going through a mighty transition and so it was then and so it is now, but the thing that really counts is the mental and moral rehabilitation. I get a hundred subjects on which I might write (if I were so inclined and felt equal to the task) from an old colored friend in my home community, Will Ambrose Horton better known as "Dr. Horton" owing to his proclivity for doctoring and killing dogs. Will is a natural born philosopher and naturalist but he does not seem to know it and he thinks he is a better farmer than I am and possibly he is. Anyway Will remembers the earth quake of 1886 known as the Charleston earthquake which was a little before my day. In relating his experience and observations of that eventful and frightful occasion he says he was attending a molasses boiling. The furnace was covered with loose boards and when the mighty quake came the boards began to rattle fearfully and it was the general consensus of opinion with Will and his companions as well as of many people of the country-side that the end of time was at hand. Will said those who had been accustomed to doing shady tricks or using profanity, "Cussin" to use his expression, were weaned from such habits for some time to come. He said the earth quake did more in three minutes time than protracted meetings could do in ten years.

Upon being interrogated as to how long this experience lasted with the people Will said about twenty-four hours with some and two years with others. And so it goes in life, some learn lessons by going through drastic experiences that last them a life time and others soon forget. The earthquake was a physical phenomena that can only excite. What we are experiencing now in this great world struggle will be of more lasting benefit to humanity. If we have had habits of self-indulgence and speculative tendencies to take short cuts to success we will at least dismiss them from our minds for the present and when millions are going through the same mental transition it means the world will eventually get on a more substantial basis both financially and morally.

The back wash and the rebound from the great world war is just now being felt. When millions of lives and billions of wealth are destroyed the world is obliged to feel it and answer for the transgression sooner or later. True to all past history after each great war governments generally speaking fall into the hands of many officials who cared nothing for the welfare of the people but who used their privileges to prey upon the helplessness of their constituency. A certain amount of this seems to be unavoidable and after each experience of this kind there always comes that period of reconstruction which I should say we have been undergoing since that fatal crash in 1929. The larger the struggle the longer it takes to emerge from it. There is a gleam of light in the distance. European countries are undoubtedly getting on a more solid basis, our own country is having the water drained from its financial institutions, the banks, which means solidarity and our governmental leaders from local governments on up are choking loose those petty inefficient officials and teachers whose sole purpose has been to exploit the government for selfish purposes.

Very truly,
T. W. FERGUSON.
Ferguson, N. C.
April 3, 1933.

Meeting Boy Scout Troop No. 34 On Monday Evening
Mr. Bouknight, Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Wagoner, Mr. Armbrust and Mr. Hunt all attended this meeting.

There was a total of \$1.55 dues collected. There was \$7

tests past week last Monday night.

The Stag Patrol having a number of 30 tests passed was given a hike by the committeemen.

The committeemen and Mr. Reavis, the scoutmaster, decided to select a place for the troop to camp this coming summer. They invited the four patrol leaders and the scribe to go with them. There was only three absences out of the whole troop.

ROBERT LeFever,
Scribe.

Sunday School Lesson

By CHARLES E. DUNN

JESUS REQUIRES CONFES-SION AND LOYALTY

Lesson for April 9th. Mark 8: 27-38. Golden Text: Mark 8:34.

This Palm Sunday lesson deals with one of the most significant incidents in the ministry of Jesus, the famous interview with His disciples at Caesarea Philippi, a high, mountainous town in the Jordan valley far to the north. Here was a shrine to the Creek god Pan, and a temple built in honor of the emperor Augustus. To this spot where men worshipped the forces of nature typified by Pan, and the political power incarnated in Augustus, Jesus and the disciples came seeking, in this Gentile territory, a refuge from Jewish opposition.

In the light of this background, note how intensely significant is the confession of Peter. When, in answer to Jesus' momentous query, "Who do men say that I am?" the impulsive apostle, the leader of the twelve, cried, "Thou art the Christ," he paid tribute to a leader more attractive than Pan, and more compelling than Augustus. And the importance of this confession is heightened by the fact that, as far as we can tell from a study of the all too brief gospel records, Jesus spoke here to His disciples about His Messiahship for the first time, and they, on their side, acknowledged it for the first time.

Why did the Master delay so long in speaking of the secret of His Person? This incident comes late in His career, near the end of the Galilean ministry. The answer to this difficult question seems to be, first of all, that our Lord felt the Messianic title to be misleading. His people dreamed of a mighty ruler, who would

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MODEL A FORD SEDAN	295.00	195.00
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shatter the Roman world with the sword, and establish a victorious empire in Jerusalem. Obviously this conception did not at all express the meaning of His mission. Secondly, he knew that when He declared Himself openly as the Messiah, He would arouse volcanic hostility. Remember that the open announcement of His Messiahship at Caesarea Philippi meant a resolution on His part to return to the hostile Jews and the death their hate was preparing for Him. Here the Master set His face toward Jerusalem and the Cross.

"Aircastle" Wanted

Clay Pegram, of Canton and Asheville, is very anxious to obtain a copy of the "Aircastle," the newspaper edited at Dellaplane many years ago (probably 30-odd years ago) by his father, Dr. R. W. S. Pegram, now of Canton, and printed by Jim Majors, colored, who still lives at

Dellaplane. The paper consisted mainly of neighborhood news and editorials, it is said. If any reader of The Journal-Patriot happens to possess an "Aircastle" and is willing to part with it, he is requested to send it to Miss Mattie E. Sale, Ronda, Route 2, who is making an effort to secure a copy for Mr. Pegram, a former student of hers.

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