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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1935

One member of Congress, a poll discloses, used to be a radio announcer. He not only came to no good end, but he also picked a terrible way of getting there.—Boston Evening Transcript.

The Government's Proposal

Probably the most interesting news in years appeared Thursday when the government's proposal to buy vast areas of Wilkes lands was explained.

Although we were able to give only a brief sketch of the plan, we believe that we told enough to excite the interest of the people to the point where they will investigate the possibilities of the government's proposal to buy a vast area of land between highways 60 and 16. Some of the possibilities of the proposed forest reserve were outlined and further study will show that the possibilities are indeed far-reaching.

This is the first time the federal government has proposed anything on a large scale in Wilkes county and we should look into it closely and see just what it contains.

Wilkes is a timber growing county and great parts of the county are on steep slopes that are not suitable for cultivation. Many of these slopes were cleared when they should have been left for forest. This practice resulted in a great loss of natural resources through erosion. Now the government plans to buy and take over a great part of this type of land for reforestation work. In addition, an opportunity is given for a part of our people to buy homes and farms from the government and develop their newly acquired property under supervision of government officials who should know how best to handle a small farm.

At this stage of the game we are suggesting that the property owners in the area suggested for government buying get in touch with J. M. Pleasants, the field agent here, and learn more fully just what is proposed.

Shortage of Livestock

One of the most imperative needs of North Carolina farms is more and better horses and mules with which to do farm work. In order to impress this need we quote the following from the University of North Carolina News Letter:

"North Carolina continues to rank near the bottom among the states in livestock. She probably was last in 1934 in per cent of total farm income derived from livestock and livestock products. There are never more than two or three states that rank below North Carolina in this particular.

"According to information recently released by the United States department of agriculture, North Carolina ranks 19th among the states in total value of all major forms of livestock on farms in 1935. This covers horses, mules, cattle, hogs, and sheep. Remember that North Carolina ranks third in number of farms, so that when reduced to a per farm basis this state ranks near the bottom in all livestock per farm. North Carolina ranks 12th in total value of horses and mules in 1935, the amount being \$45,000,000. It is interesting to note that from 1933 to 1935 the value of horses and mules in North Carolina increased from \$29,000,000 to \$45,000,000. In only four states were there larger per cent increase in the value of mules and horses. On the other hand, the value of all cattle, hogs and sheep increased from \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

"There are only four states in the union in which the per farm values of all cattle, hogs and sheep are below North Carolina. Our per farm value of these animals in 1935 is estimated as \$71. The only states below North Carolina are South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. We are tied with Georgia."

Not only are we short in number of horses and mules, but we find that the number of cattle is badly off and we are buying from other states. Every farm home in North Carolina needs enough milk cows to keep the family well supplied with milk and butter. Dairy products are the first essentials toward making the farm self-sustaining and the improvement to the farm caused by keeping livestock is a valuable by-product.

Sensible Argument

The liquor question has been cussed and discussed for decades in North Carolina and in the nation. Practically everything that has been done has left the status of liquor just about where it was a quarter of a century ago. Truly the question of liquor control and temperance is one of the biggest and most important that faces society and civilization, regardless of how one thinks about liquor laws and prohibition.

The State, Raleigh publication edited by Carl Goerch, says in an editorial, that what is needed is a change in attitude toward liquor and drinking. The editorial is well worth reproducing in full:

"What North Carolina needs much more than a change in liquor laws is a change in the present attitude toward liquor.

"To be perfectly frank about it—we're never going to get rid of whiskey. It has been here since time immemorial, and it's going to be here when Gabriel unhitches his trumpet and blows his Judgment-day blast thereon. A lot of folks won't admit that fact, but it's true, nevertheless.

This being so, the problem which confronts us is not whether we shall have liquor or not have liquor: it consists in the main of how best to handle liquor.

"There used to be a time when no self-respecting young man would permit himself to get drunk. To be seen in public in an intoxicated condition was considered a lasting disgrace. Nowadays, it is considered smart.

"There also used to be a time when people were able to entertain themselves without the assistance of liquor. It is very seldom you go visiting today, however, that you aren't offered a drink.

"Twenty or twenty-five years ago there was a lot of drinking going on, but nobody considered it smart to take a drink. And therein lies the big problem which confronts us today in dealing with the liquor situation. Whenever you can bring about a change in attitude and sentiment so that a person won't think he is doing something cute, clever and smart when he or she is taking a drink of liquor, then you will have solved the major difficulty with respect to dealing with liquor."

Solving of the liquor problem will lie in the attitude people assume toward drinking liquor. Just as long as drinking is considered smart will be just as long as drinking continues on the increase."

THE BOOK

the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains four great treasures.

By BRUCE BARTON

PAUL'S SPIRIT MARCHES ON

What sort of man was Paul who endured so much and triumphed so abundantly? He was nervous, aggressive, self-assertive, proud—a little man apparently, with weak eyes or some other physical infirmity.

Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I peached the gospel unto you at the first.

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected, but received me as an angel of God, even as Jesus Christ.

... if it had been possible ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and given them to me.

Less eloquent than Apollon, he admits frankly that his bodily presence was unimpressive and testifies to some "thorn in the flesh" that was a constant source of suffering and humiliation. He delighted in words of power, which recur in his letters again and again. Like Oliver Wendell Holmes, also a small man, he admired athletics, and his writings abound with references to games and contests. To fighting the good fight, and to winning the prize.

What would the message of Jesus have become without Paul's missionary journeys and organizing ability? (We can only guess the answer, but this much we know—that after about 150 A. D., Christianity nearly ceased to convert Jews and has made no notable progress in that direction since.)

The church in Jerusalem began to dwindle and finally faded out. But the churches which Paul planted, and the enormous momentum which his tireless energy provoked, carried forward until even the Imperial City itself was compelled to bow its proud head. Those who affirm that Paul created Christianity do him poor service, for we know how indignantly he would have denied it.

Was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

Least any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

Paul did not create Christianity, but he was the one man whose vision extended it far beyond the borders of its original home and who interpreted it in terms of world conquest. He would not be satisfied until he had seen Rome, and after that he would take the journey which he was forever talking about, "my journey into Spain." He never did make that journey. Nero blotted out the life that had achieved so mightily and that still had its unwearied spirit the desire for so much.

But the soul of Paul went marching on. It carried into Spain and beyond Spain; it leaped the Atlantic and encircled the globe.

Any doubts as to whether the New York State Athletic commission could be louder and funnier have been removed by its naming James J. Braddock as No. 1 heavyweight contender. That's colossal.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

POET national asset

America's greatest modern poet died the other day. His name was Edwin Arlington Robinson. When I call him 'greatest' I mean just that. His poetry was not cheap jingles to appeal to the uncultured ear, but the expression of the deepest emotions of the human soul couched in the highest literary form. Most folk never heard of him. He shunned publicity. But a new volume of Robinson's poetry was sure to sell from 50,000 copies upward.

Robinson had a hard struggle in his younger days. At best, his poetry never brought him any important income. But he had the good luck to attract the attention of Theodore Roosevelt, when "Teddy" was President, and Col. Roosevelt saw to it that the young poet was given a job in the New York Custom House, that paid him enough to live on while he was writing his poetry.

Somehow, this country is not doing as much to aid able poets and authors as we used to do. England has always seen to it that men who could produce real literature did not starve. Macaulay, the great poet and historian, was given a five-year job in India at \$50,000 a year. Our own Washington Irving was saved from poverty by being appointed Minister to Spain. Bret Harte, pioneer of western verse, was consul-general at Glasgow for many years.

I think the New Deal would do well to round up all the young, struggling poets, painters and authors who show promise and provide for their economic security while they are proving their talent.

GOLD old mines

News from the Philippines is that the new high price of gold has started a mining boom there, and this year's production is likely to be greater than that of Alaska. The Denver mint reports that more than \$15,000,000 of newly-mined gold has been turned in there out of old workings in the first three months of this year, more than double last year's figures. On the southeastern slopes of the Appalachian range, I hear, some of the old gold mines are being worked again.

I think that gold is going to go higher. Belgium has already put the price up, France, Holland, Switzerland and Italy, I believe, will soon follow. The best way to get rich quick these days is to go and find yourself a gold mine.

TIDES and power

Up in the Bay of Fundy, where the tide rises and falls twice in twenty-four hours to a height of 27 feet or more, engineers have long looked longingly at this great source of power. For a couple of hundred years or more millers on the innumerable tidal inlets along the coast of Maine have made the moon turn their millwheels, and for several years

NEWS REEL, Easter Releases — by A. B. Chapin



Wash., D.C. Dept. of Interior.—An undersecretary says that the bumper crop of candy eggs will cause larger demands for RELIEF!!! (Relief of tummy ache)



Middletown, U.S.A. The Year's first parade, taken yesterday P.M. at the corner of Main and State Sts. It will be followed by a truly gorgeous one on next Sunday. Get out early, don't miss it!



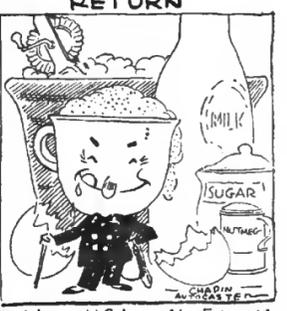
Wash., D.C. Dept. of Poultry! Fourth Asst. announces the development of colored-egg-laying hens, thus saving thousands of mothers who dye* each year.



Somewhere, U.S.A., Mr. John Q. Citizen says that Easter Lilly blossoms are amplifiers that broadcast the beautiful spirit of the Easter Season.



Mr. & Mrs. Seldomgo, have again announced their intention of attending Church on Easter Day.



Goodcheer, U.S.A., Mr. Eggmoose, who disappeared immediately after Christmas, is reported to have been seen back in his old haunts.

a number of capitalists have been exploring the possibilities of a huge tide-power development in Passamaquoddy Bay, which branches off Fundy.

I hear from Washington that there is a good chance that some of the President's new work-relief fund will be devoted to hooking up the tides of 'Quoddy to electrical generators. I hope the thing works; I see no reason why it shouldn't.

The 'Quoddy power development will be one more step in Man's unceasing effort to conquer Nature and harness the forces of the universe. By and by we may succeed in making this earth a perfect place to live in.

FISHING let's go

The trout season is open. Before you read this I shall be getting out my wading boots to look for leaks, oiling my reel, over-

hauling my fly-book—I still have trout flies that were tied by my father more than sixty years ago and some that, I think, his father tied—and preparing to wade into the river that runs through my farm to try my luck. The old split-bamboo rod that was my father's came to grief a couple of seasons ago, but I have a silk-wrapped steel rod that has done me good service for twenty years.

I own both sides of the Williams River for about three-quarters of a mile, but my neighbors get more fish out of it than I ever do. I don't care; they're welcome. I have it posted, but that doesn't keep poachers off. I get just as much fun and fresh air if I never get a trout. It does aggravate me sometimes, though, after wading all the way from Rockdale millpond up to Freedlyville bridge, to discover that a couple of grinning farm boys

fishing with worms off the bridge have got big strings of trout while I haven't had a strike!

W. S. Patterson of Stony Point, Alexander county, has some pine woods where 5,000 trees stand on the acre. He plans to thin part of this acreage to 500 trees per acre. The trees are about 40 years old.

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