

The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1935

In case of a war, why not have all the Kentucky colonels take the field first?—Cincinnati Times Star.

The expression "bribery within the law" comes out of Sacramento. Murder and arson remain on the outside of the law so far.—Pasadena (Calif.) Post.

In spite of the late humiliation and brow-beating that gold has suffered in this country, it is discernible that the discovery of a rich vein around Albemarle has scattered no little animation in that territory.—Charlotte Observer.

Babson's Proposal

Roger Babson, world famous economist, is advocating paying senators for life instead of just the term of office. In other words he is suggesting that senators could and would render a more impartial and sincere service if they were not faced with the necessity of playing politics in order to get re-elected.

He would propose the same terms of office and necessity for reelection in order to hold office but the ex-senator would draw his salary and the desire to be re-elected would not be the same as if his salary stopped when his term expired.

Although the cost to the government would be quite heavy there are many good features to the plan.

A federal judge is appointed for life and when he once gets the appointment he has a free and open mind for dispensing justice. Babson takes the position that a senator with a life time salary assured would be in a similar position in dealing with the affairs of the nation.

Social Security

The national house of representatives has passed the administration's social security bill, which provides a means of unemployment insurance and old age pensions. This measure has not yet become law because its fate rests in the hands of a somewhat doubtful senate. Yet every indication points to passage by the senate in its present form or without many material changes.

In keeping with our promise to let the public know what is going on in Washington we published Monday a brief sketch of the provisions of the measure. It will be noticed that the security plan is cooperative between the states and the federal government and state and federal funds will be matched for paying old age pensions.

In order that none may be misled by propagandists, let us reiterate that the measure approved in the lower house by such a tremendous majority under the leadership of "Farmer Bob" Doughton is not the fantastic Townsend measure that proposed old age pensions of \$200 per month. Under the measure that is likely to become law the federal government will match state funds up to \$15 per month for pensions to NEEDY people over 65 years of age. In other words if North Carolina should supply \$10 per month the old age pension would be \$20 per month when state and federal funds were combined. In unemployment insurance the measure provides it through the states by means of a payroll tax starting at one per cent next year and reaching three per cent in 1938.

The social security bill was sponsored by the Roosevelt administration but was almost universally supported in the house of representatives, there being 77 Republicans favoring it.

Social security means just what it says and is considered an answer to depressions. The measure, "noble in motive and far reaching in purpose" is designed to dispel the fear of a destitute old age and to keep up purchasing power during slack times when employment reaches a low ebb.

Traffic and Accidents

The spring season is rapidly passing and soon the hot rays of a summer sun will cause us to seek the fresh air of the country to escape the scorching heat. As a means of travel most of us will use our automobiles.

As traffic increases the danger of accident will likewise grow more prevalent. Each day lives are snuffed out in automobile accidents throughout the country and still people rush on without much thought of who will be the next victims and at whose hands.

Those who have an interest in compiling statistics on automobile accidents tell us that most of the accidents occur on the broad ribbons of hardsurfaced highways instead of on the narrow country dirt roads. They will also tell us that the best of automobiles are often involved in the fatal wrecks.

It is not the fault of the roads or the vehicles. The modern roads have a minimum of curves and engineers planned them for safety as well as rapid travel. It is not the fault of automobiles, which manufacturers are building better every year. The automobile of today has better brakes, better lights and more safety features than the cars of a decade ago. On the other hand the automobiles of today have more power, more speed and more dashing pickup. No one blames the manufacturers for making more powerful and faster cars. All of us want that excess power there that can take us somewhere in a hurry and seemingly without much effort. The power is a good thing to have in reserve.

But it is foolish to use that power in a dangerous way. If every driver could realize the tremendous power an automobile traveling more than a mile a minute wields he would be more careful. To drive along a highway and see a ten-inch pole cut in two as with an axe is to know the power of a modern automobile.

We may advocate inspection of cars and compulsory adjustments, which truly are helps toward safety, but the principal fault of motor travel is drivers. Some wrecks are caused by faults in the machines but the great majority is because of carelessness and failure to use the proper care in driving. A man who makes excessive speeds to shorten his time of travel by two minutes is gambling two minutes against the remainder of his natural life and the odds are tremendous.

The Red Cross, the great humanitarian, is mobilizing throughout the nation to render first aid in motor accidents but what we need is prevention. This can be brought about in an effective manner only by educating the driving public to its sense of responsibility.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Lesson for April 28th. Psalm 119:7-14. Golden Text: Psalm 119:97.

The Bible is necessary for three reasons. First of all, our religion is a historical faith. It is based on certain facts in history, and the documents that witness to these facts must obviously be given a central place in the thought of the Christian Church. Harnack, the great scholar, once said: "If you would know Jesus, you must read your Gospels. There is no other way." Exactly!

Secondly, the Holy Scriptures constitute an authoritative standard of both faith and practice. A serious defect of modern religion is its lack of authority. The result often is a confused church, apparently without an anchor. Now no sane person wants to continually drift about, with nothing upon which to lay hold. You and I need a sure rock for a place of standing. The Bible is such. Freely and reverently interpreted, it is a most reliable foundation.

Think of Luther, wrestling in vain for peace. What saved him? It was his Bible. Opening the sacred pages he came to those great words, "The just shall live by faith."

In the third place, the Bible satisfies the deepest cravings of man's soul. Consider the craving for beauty. The Bible is wondrously beautiful in diction, imagery, and imaginative power. Who can measure the grandeur of the book of Job, the sublimity of the psalms, the simplicity of the gospel of John? Then there is the craving for guidance. "One beam in a dark place," said Cromwell, "hath exceeding much refreshments in it." The Scriptures shed many beams into this sad world where men stumble in the dark. Finally, there is the craving for comfort. Comfort, at bottom, is man's prime need. And we find it in such phrases as "Let not your heart be troubled." The Bible indeed is the most helpful volume in the world to those in trouble.

And speaking of limited production, there is the Congressional output in over two months.—St. Joseph News-Press.

PUBLIC PULSE

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

MISS RUTH LINNEY DISCUSSES RELIEF

To the Editor of The Journal-Patriot:

Two years ago recipients of relief and Red Cross beneficiaries firmly believed that anyone who dared criticize the obtaining of help by the well-to-do would be executed within 24 hours. Two years later we are of the same opinion still, and are still alive.

Two years ago we had confidence enough in people to believe that, when it was called to their attention that relief should probably be limited to the really needy, those comfortably fixed would desist in striving for a handout. Two years later we have a good deal less faith in people, whose honesty, pride, and independence are being hourly undermined by the senseless dole.

Two years later many relief cases condemn relief more bitterly than unbiased critics ever have. But they are no less eager to grab all the handout for themselves. And they have abated none of their hatred and persecution of those who, though poor and undefended, refuse to have relief and dare to say exactly what they think about the hordes of moderately prosperous families supported by the government.

When the commissioners of Mecklenburg voted \$15,000 for relief of the destitute, one of them, Baxter Hunter, said "It is not one federal dollar has been spent for relief in Mecklenburg, we would be 100 per cent better off, and no one would be starving." The same is likely true of Wilkes, which, according to many authorities, including some from Mecklenburg and Forsyth, weathered the depression better than any other county in the state.

If one does not ordinarily agree with W. O. Saunders, one is impressed with the truth when he says: "There are probably more than 4,000,000 single individuals or heads of families in the U. S. on relief of one kind or another. Every one of us knows that there are untold thousands of scheming, shiftless loafers, white and black, who are living on the government today, which is just another way of saying that they are living on the rest of us who are struggling to pay taxes."

"We taxpayers are not conscious of the way we are being imposed upon because we are not acquainted with the personnel of the mighty battalions of relief grabbers with whom we are surrounded." Then Mr. Saunders proposes that all recipients of relief be forced to wear a badge. "I can think of nothing," he continued, "that would have a more electrifying effect than to put a tag on all the chiselers and grafters on the relief rolls. It should have the immediate effect of driving off relief rolls heads of families who are drawing wages and drawing relief at the same time. Let's make the recipient of any form of relief wear a badge so we can spot him, extend him our sympathy and aid if he is deserving, and give him a kick in the pants if he is a chiseler or a grafter."

Relief has helped several people. It has degraded and brutalized a much larger majority, who had no earthly need for help, and who have lost their honesty, pride, and energy in exchange for a dole which has benefited them little, even financially. Relief, through inhuman cruelty and discrimination against the direly needy, has allowed some to starve to death, even in Wilkes.

"The American poor," says Robert Quillen, "have always differed from the poor of other lands. They have had pride, ambition, hope. Under a dole, they will soon develop the shameless traits of Asia's hopeless paupers. The only way in which people can support themselves without serving other people is to dig their living from the ground." Another writer in a Brooklyn paper says, "The ruggedly individualistic state of Vermont has just rejected a present of eighteen million dollars of Uncle Sam's money for a parkway along its mountains. They don't want their scenery embellished with filling stations and hot dog stands, and they don't want to deed any of their territory to the District of Columbia. Vermont is a backward commonwealth. It has not learned how to chisel the government. It confines its chiseling to its own granite."

Ever since before the War Between the States, the South has said a lot about "States' Rights." The South has fought for them. But too many portico-

of the South have shown an ungodly haste to trade them for such a sorry mess of pottage as a dole. (1). I hope that North Carolina and Wilkes county will not vote enough money to obtain continued Federal Relief May 1.

(2). I hope nobody will suffer—even as much as they have under the senseless and misdirected avalanche of relief. (3). I can't see that refusal to live off relief and a habit of giving away milk and other things is proof that a family is disgracefully stingy.

(4). I think that any kind of work—CWA, PWA, or ERE teaching—is infinitely preferable to direct relief; but I do not think anyone should accept any of these jobs if they are influenced by graft or nepotism, or if they can live without them. The vast army of administrators and case-workers, too often recruited from wealthy families and from other paying positions,

would not be needed if relief could be limited to the actually needy, and the spirit of independence, reawakened and preserved.

RUTH LINNEY.

WILMINGTON MAN TO HEAD MASONS

Raleigh, April 17.—Masons here for the 148th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina tonight elevated Charles B. Newcomb, Wilmington, to the position of grand master.

Grand Secretary John H. Anderson, Raleigh, presented a summary of the past year's Masonic work, and Grand Master Roy F. Ebbs, Asheville, delivered his annual address.

In the closing session tomorrow, elective and appointive officers will be installed.

Child, 5, Is Killed

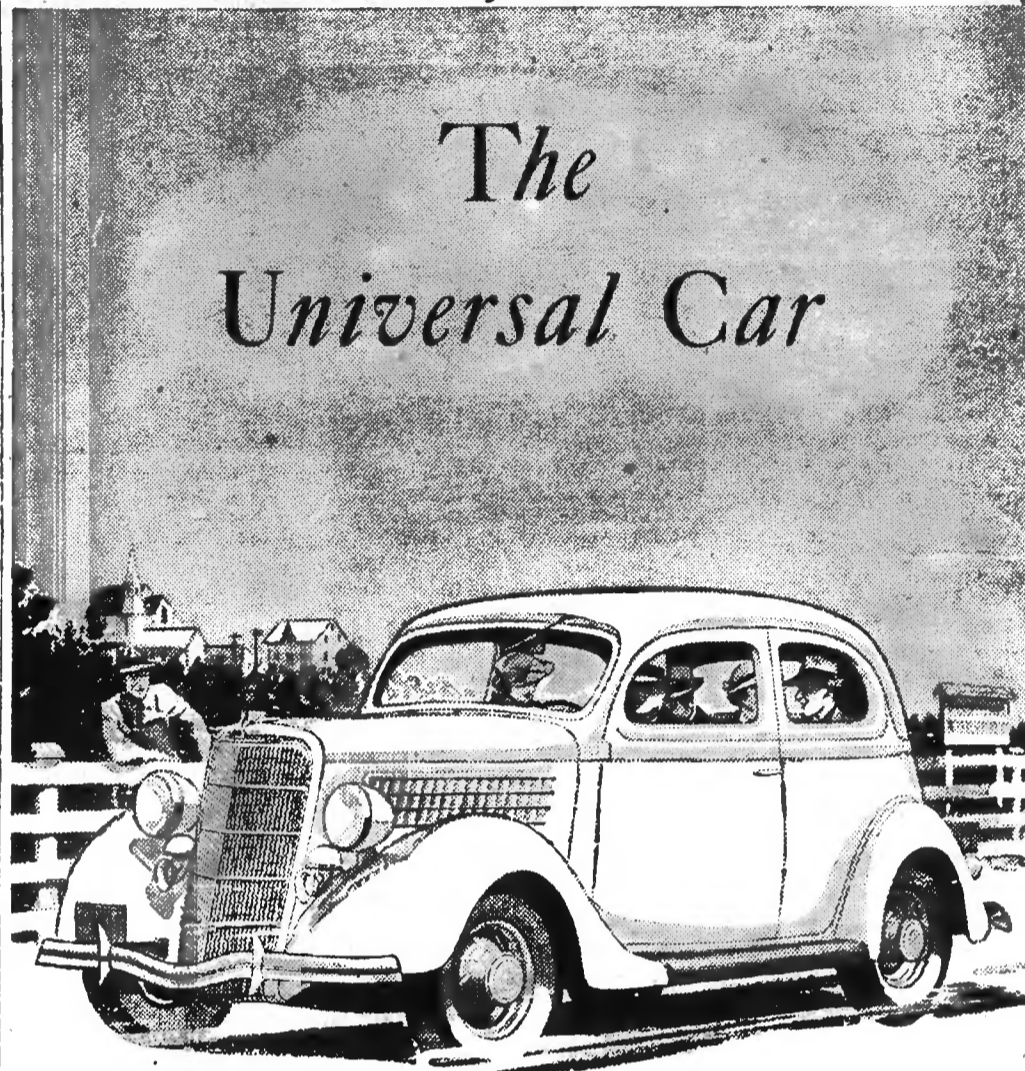
Wilmington, April 23.—Clinton Hewett, five, son of Alton Hewett, of Supply, Brunswick county, died this afternoon in a Southport hospital of injuries received this morning when struck by an automobile as he watched his playmates board a school bus at a point on the road near Shallotte.

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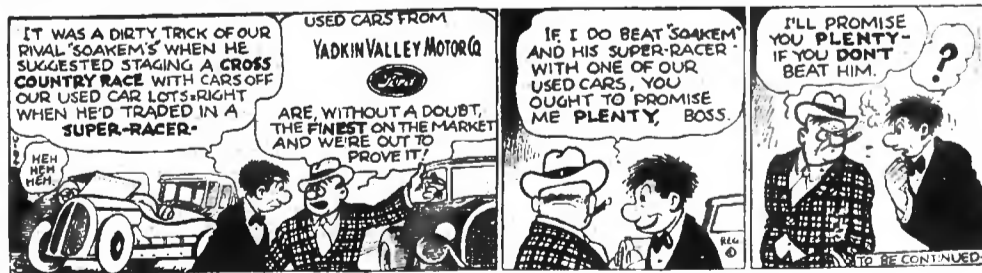
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