

The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at
North Wilkesboro, N. C.W. J. CARTER and JULIUS C. HUBBARD,
Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$1.50
Six Months75
Four Months50
Out of the State \$2.00 per Year

Entered at the post office at North Wilkesboro, N. C., as second class matter under Act of March 4, 1879.

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1935

Like the war, the new deal will long be remembered for the debt it leaves.—Detroit Free Press.

Best Opportunity

During the past two years the necessity of school buildings has been impressed upon us by county school authorities and most of us have become convinced that some school buildings are desperately needed while others are too small to house the larger consolidated schools.

At the same time the financial condition of the county is not so prosperous. However, we are going to have a balanced budget and with a tax rate of only one dollar, which is something to be thankful for.

But in getting back to the subject of school buildings it appears that the county is faced with the necessity of spending some money for school buildings and the first step is to work out something that will be as light on the taxpayers as possible and at the same time take care of the needs.

It looks as if the possibilities afforded by the public works administration offer the best opportunity. If the county can secure PWA funds for school buildings it simply means that we can get the buildings for only 55 per cent of their cost. The four per cent bonds which the PWA would accept for the money would be supplemented by a grant of 45 per cent of the total cost. The bonds would be payable over a period of twenty years.

County authorities, we understand, are working on this proposition and if architects' plans for buildings meet with the approval of the county boards application will be filed with the public works administration.

"We Miss You, Daddy"

The following editorial was printed in the Rockville, Connecticut, Journal, about a year ago. Thereafter, to the editor's surprise, it was reprinted by most of the other papers of the state, and was used by highway safety officials, insurance companies, accident prevention organizations, motorists' publications and by others who are fighting the great war against the toll of automobile deaths. Here it is—and any motorist will surely think twice about taking chances after reading it:

"Tuesday morning there was a fatal accident on the Minterburn Hill and when the medical examiner was going through the pockets of the dead man . . . a telegram was found. It was not very long, just the ordinary ten-word length, but it was a message that would make any father happy. It read: WE MISS YOU DADDY. WHEN ARE YOU COMING HOME?"

"That was all. It was a message sent by one of the children of the man who was killed. He had received the message and was homeward bound. The clothes were minus money but in his pocket he carried that message.

"Those who have little children, and those who were once little children, can think of the great blow to the child when the father did return home—DEAD."

"'Daddy' will be missed by those children in the long years ahead. No longer will they have his support, his earnings, and, more important, his companionship.

"If there was a reason for people driving more carefully on the road, it is that they might get in an accident and deprive their own child or some child of their 'Daddy.'

"It might be written, but just let these words: 'We miss you, When are you coming home?'"

For Public Use

The National Re-employment Service, which was instituted during the CWA regime, has been made a permanent organization with state and national governments cooperating in the expense and administration.

In making the temporary setup into a permanent organization the scope of the service to be rendered the people has been enlarged and the organization is supposed to serve individuals and industry seeking labor just the same as it serves the unemployed man hunting for a job.

People who want a man or woman for any kind of work can usually get results by placing a call at the re-employment office, which is located in the city hall here and serves five counties. We are advocating more widespread use of the service, not only by the unemployed but by the industries and individuals who want work done.

The unemployed should be to it that their registrations are kept renewed at periodic intervals by the office and full information should be given as to the kind of work the applicant is capable of doing.

Despite the prevailing situation of unemployment the office has on a number of occasions found it difficult to supply some calls for labor.

Not so long ago there was a call for garment workers for regular employment in factories. With a full registration it is possible to place a considerable number of men and women on jobs but if many who should register fail to do so the public in general will not reap the benefits to which it is entitled in the organization of the service. One thing that needs stressing is the fact that the NRS is not only for the purpose of selecting and placing men on public works projects but in private employment.

The French government's motto seems to be: "Not so fascist. . . ."—Louisville Times.

We RNA fix with NRA.—Birmingham News.
The Democrats ought to be able to hold a tall-corn conference.—Indianapolis News.

Hitler has learned nothing from either Bonaparte or Hohenzollern—but which would he prefer as a home, St. Helena or Doorn?—San Antonio Evening News.

THE BOOK

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

By BRUCE BARTON

STORY OF THE BIBLE

As these chapters have appeared in serial form a surgeon of national reputation sent this request:

"1. How were the books of the Bible gathered into a collection and distinguished as a group by themselves? Who selected them and how do we know that the right ones were selected?"

"2. By what means were these chosen books preserved and handed down? Who decided that they ought to be translated into modern languages and who did the translating?"

Let us deal first with the Old Testament. It would be very pleasant if we could say that some one group of men, meeting in Jerusalem about 400 B. C., selected the books which we now have and certified for all time that these and no others should be the Old Testament. But such is not the case. As the writing of these books was an evolution, so was their selection. Largely, they have been preserved to us by the process known as the survival of the fittest.

The ancient Hebrews held many of their books in high regard; of which nearly thirty are referred to in the Old Testament. Twenty-four of these are sunk beyond all knowledge. The story about the sun standing still for Joshua is quoted from an old book of war songs known as the Book of Jasher or the Book of the Just (Joshua 10:13). David's Song of the Bow" (II Samuel 1:18) is from the same book, but except for these fragments the Book of the Just has perished. So also has another old song book, The Book of the Wars of the Lord, of which we have a fragment in the 21st chapter of Numbers, 13th verse.

The books of Kings are largely compiled from more extended records, which sometimes are referred to by name. This is not the book of Chronicles that we have, which was written long after the book of Kings.

We see, then, that the Old Testament is the surviving portion of a much larger number of books. It does not comprise sacred as opposed to secular books, but is the whole body of ancient Hebrew literature now extant. Philo, an Alexandrian Jew who lived in the second century before the Christian era, gives a list of books nearly identical with those we have but omits seventeen that are in our list. Jesus, the son of Sirach, closely parallels our list but does not stop with it. He recognizes the work of a contemporary, Simon, as worthy to be included and, what is rather remarkable, he thinks his own book good enough to be a part of the Bible.

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, July 3. (Auto-caster)—As if Congress did not have enough to worry about already, President Roosevelt has given the boys on Capitol Hill something real to think about in his proposal that they ought to draw up and enact some new tax bills before they go home. Specifically, he proposes that, in addition to the present estate taxes, Congress should put a tax upon inheritances as well. The estate tax is taken out before anything goes to the heirs. It is the President's idea, in the case of large estates, to further redistribute wealth by taxing the heirs on whatever they get. And, for good measure, he suggested that it would be desirable to have some higher taxes on the incomes of big corporations. The Federal Corporation Tax now is 13 1-3 per cent; the President's idea is that this might run up to 16 1-2 per cent on corporate earnings above some unspecified but large annual figure.

Many people are professing to be surprised at what they regard as a swing toward the left on the part of Mr. Roosevelt. Anybody who has studied his political past and read his speeches during the Presidential campaign, including his inaugural address, has no real ground for surprise; for the idea that wealth is concentrated in a few hands and that the great pools of wealth ought to be broken up for the benefit of everybody, is one that he has frequently and emphatically expressed.

Capitol Hill Questions
Up on Capitol Hill the Senators and members of Congress are asking three questions. Can we or should we try to pass it at this session? What would be the practical effect upon the national income if we did enact such laws? And, third, but paramount in the minds of the members of both Houses, what will be the political effect?

The strong inclination of all but a few extremists in Congress is to let the matter lie until the next session, which will begin in January, 1936. The boys want to go home. The children are out of school now, and their wives want to get back to their home towns; besides, the Washington weather is getting hotter and hotter. They still have an awful lot of business to clean up before adjournment. To work out anything that will meet the President's idea of taxes seemingly will lead to endless debate and discussion and maybe keep them here until Fall. So, for that and other reasons, it does not seem likely that they will do much on tax plans except to talk about them.

The answer to the second question, as to what the practical effect of the new taxes will be, is generally that they will not go very far in making up the budget deficit. At all times the great bulk of taxation is carried by the middle class, and this middle class, the practical economists in Congress and Administration circles say, would still continue to carry that load. Very wealthy men who have accumulated large fortunes can afford to hire very expert lawyers to show them how to distribute their wealth where they want it to go, it is pointed out.

Good Political Move
The paramount question in the minds of everybody in Washington is, really, as to the political effect of the President's proposal. That, in the view of the smartest political observers, should be very good for Mr. Roosevelt and his chances for reelection. In effect, it cuts a good deal of the ground out from under the feet of Huey Long, the LaFollette Progressives, and other radical elements whose slogan is "soak the rich." These radical Democrats and Progressives seized upon the new proposal, and their threats to "show up" the President as insincere unless he demanded immediate action, are believed to have influenced him in his insistence upon tacking the new taxes to the bill extending the "nuisance taxes."

As a bit of political strategy, it does not make much difference whether the law to carry out the President's plan is adopted at this session or not.
G. O. P. Going Conservative
It is becoming more clear from day to day that the cleavage between the two parties in 1936 will be sharply defined, with the Republican Party distinctly on the Conservative side. Following the action of the "Grass Roots" convention in Springfield, Illinois, the recent meeting of the "Young Republicans" of New York went on record for a distinctively Conservative platform.
In the meantime, Congress has passed the biggest tax bill ever enacted in the United States, the Social Security Act, which taxes the payroll of every employer and the pay envelope of every wage earner, to provide a fund for unemployment insurance, and for old age pensions. Instead of the Townsend Plan of \$200 a month for everybody over 65, upon an old age pension plan for persons over 65 who have no resources of their own, beginning at \$30 a month, half to be paid by the Government and half by the respective states. States can contribute more if they want to.
Under pressure of the Labor Lobby the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill slips through in spite of the fact that nearly everyone in Washington believes it is unconstitutional. There is a suggestion that here again is good political strategy, as it may line up organized labor behind a movement to amend the Constitution, a movement which looms up stronger from week to week as a probable issue in the 1936 campaign.

The outlook for the Public Utilities Holding Companies Bill now is that while it will be generally drastic it will not contain the "death sentence" which President Roosevelt has asked for. This is one of the few instances in which the lower House has

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take the case and apparently first against the President. Likewise, material modifications are expected to be made in the Administration's Banking Bill before it is finally enacted, although its general purpose and effect will not be materially impaired.

Aluminum, which now sells for less than 25 cents a pound, was worth \$25 a pound in the year 1884, when the aluminum cap was placed on the Washington monument.

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