

The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In the State \$1.00 per Year
Out of the State \$1.50 per Year

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1935

A politician's life is no bed of roses. By the time he finds out what the people want, they want something else.—Mobile Register.

Needing A Curb Market

The congested condition of the streets here, especially on Saturdays and other days when there are a large number of visitors and shoppers in the city moves us to bring up a subject that was discussed with the local police department several months ago.

At that time it was suggested that a vacant lot near the business center be set aside as a curb market and that all trucks and vehicles engaged in the sale of produce, etc. to consumers be directed to that locality.

The seller has a perfect right to sell his wares from his truck, car or wagon and we are mentioning this because we believe that it would be to his benefit and for the good of the people of the town and its visitors, in other words—better for all concerned.

It would relieve the streets of a number of vehicles and provide more room for parking cars and a glance at the streets on any Saturday will convince anyone that there is urgent need for more parking space.

A place designated as a market would enable people to know where to go when they want something that is from trucks. We believe that it would be a good thing to revive the subject still more and see if some arrangements cannot be made before the height of the harvest and selling season is reached.

World Armaments

Regardless of what it may mean, nations of the world are arming rapidly.

It may mean that they are merely building up armies for defense or that they are thinking strongly about war. We believe that no nation is contemplating starting a war but with international relations in Europe and Asia as they now stand one should not be surprised at anything that may break loose.

In a survey of armaments released by the League of Nations the following pertinent facts were given:

Outstanding in the publication was the fact that soviet Russia has an army of nearly a million strong, far larger than those of other powers.

At the end of 1934 the strength of the red army was 940,000 men, but this figure does not include reserve and non-territorial forces. In 1933 the soviet had 504,000 men and 30,800 officers in uniform.

The United States army, the book said, on June 30, 1934 comprised 137,479 men. National guard and reserve forces brought the number up to 439,240.

American naval effectives including the marine corps, totalled 109,255.

Japan's army in 1934 was estimated at 299,834 men and 19,399 officers. Navy effectives of the empire were 139,688.

The army of France last year was given as 360,496 in home territory with a total, including overseas forces, of 550,678.

The year book gives Germany's old armament figures, placing the army at 102,000 as of January 1, 1934, and says nothing about the new army and navy which the reich is now creating.

Italy's average conscript army was given as 890,000.

Britain's land forces, exclusive of India but including general colonial and naval troops, were placed at 460,620.

Total world warship tonnage in 1934 was estimated at 5,830,000 tons as against 6,900,000 in 1913, on the eve of the outbreak of the world war.

The book said world expenditure for national defense last year was \$4,900,000,000, compared with \$4,400,000,000 in 1933.

The United States army will be enlarged this year and in view of the above figures it certainly looks as if we should prepare for war in time of peace. In this case it looks as if the best preventative might be preparation.

How Things Stack Up

Although we generally feel that this world is a big place and that our own nation is comparatively big, we can realize that with rapid communication and distribution what happens in one section will affect all sections if it is of sufficient consequence.

With this in mind we are reproducing an editorial from the Greensboro Daily News that should give a kind of index to business conditions, generally speaking.

While Big Business is r'aring about uncertainties and administration antics which keep it down, testimony of the federal reserve board, which has heretofore been anything but a Pollyanna in reporting the adversities which it noted, must have a pertinent place in the record.

Generally, the board's review finds that the country's business is in a healthier state than at any time since 1930. Such a generalization is based upon several specific developments:

1. The national income has been larger this spring than in any spring of the three preceding years.

2. The profits of large industrial concerns during the first quarter of 1935 exceeded those of any similar period since 1930.

3. For the first four months of the year as a whole industrial output was 7 per cent larger than a year ago and substantially larger than in either 1932 or 1933.

4. There has been a larger volume of domestic trade in such durable goods as automobiles, household equipment and agricultural implements and the export trade in these commodities has also increased. Production, employment and pay rolls in the industries, manufacturing these goods have shown marked advances.

These four developments are quoted directly from the reserve board's review. They are not speculative but factual. Thus, for all the clamor which business is raising, things haven't gone so badly for it during the fiscal period immediately to the rear. If there are those, however, who wish to contend that the improvements occurred despite and that they would have been much greater save for retarding influences, there is patently no way of answering positively them and their views.

This report is indicative of big business and the condition of big business reflects in the same line all the way down to the man who works per diem for the smallest firm.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

LIBERTY UNDER LAW

Lesson for June 30th. Romans 14:13-21. Golden Text: Romans 14:21.

As this is a temperance lesson, it affords an opportunity to explore one of the most vital aspects of the liquor problem, the effect of moderate drinking on the muscular reactions of the motorist.

Last year 36,000 persons were killed, and nearly a million injured in automobile accidents. These appalling figures establish a new record for slaughter on our highways. What is the relation of alcohol to this dreadful blot on our national escutcheon? The figures on arrests for drunken driving give an illuminating answer. During the period from January through October 1934, as compared with the same months of 1933, such arrests increased 80 per cent in Duluth, 100 per cent in Rochester, N. Y., and 90 per cent in Erie, Pa., 15 per cent in Chicago, and 25 per cent in Milwaukee.

And what about accidents involving drunken drivers? For the same period Buffalo registered an increase of 55 per cent, and Chicago an increase of 330 per cent in the number of fatal automobile accidents in which intoxicated drivers figured. And these startling figures do not tell the whole story, for there is much evidence indicative of a decided under-reporting of alcohol cases.

Now we must bear in mind, in the analysis of this black showing, that the heavy drinker is not the real menace on the road, but the moderate imbibor. Not the drunken driver, but rather the drinking driver presents such a serious traffic problem. Elaborate tests demonstrate conclusively that even tiny quantities of alcohol have a measurable effect upon the human machine.

It is obvious, then, that booze and gasoline do not mix. A motor age like ours calls loudly for total abstinence. Drinking, even in slight amounts, is a reprehensible practice for all who drive cars. Our autos should be handled only by those who are 100 per cent sober.

General Goering's pet lion is said to be a practical joker. The laugh, however, will be on the lion some day if it mistakes Der Fuehrer for another visitor.—Buffalo Courier-Express.

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, June 24. (Associated Press)—A good many of the boys on Capitol Hill had the idea that after they had passed the bill extending what is left of N. R. A. until next April, and the necessary appropriation bills, they would have a chance to go back home and fix up their political fences. But the President wouldn't let them. He insisted that they must stay in session until they passed the Guffey Coal Regulation Bill, the Social Security Bill, the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, the Eccles Banking Bill, the Utility Holding Company Bill, the amendments to the A. A. A. and a few other of the Administration's pet measures.

As if it were not punishment enough for them to have had to listen to Huey Long talking nearly 16 hours at a stretch, in his effort to hold up the NRA Bill, now the Senators and Representatives have got to stick around in Washington's sticky sub-tropical summer climate for an indefinite period—perhaps all summer.

Perhaps it's the hot weather and perhaps it is worry over the political outlook for the 1936 elections, but it is a fact that throughout the Administration and in the halls of Congress tempers are being strained to the point of explosion, long smoldering jealousies and personal antagonisms are bursting into flame, and anything but peace and harmony prevails.

O'Neill Heads N. R. A. The new "skeleton" N. R. A. has the extremely difficult job of trying to show voluntary trade organizations how they can operate as a unit to enforce fair business practices without violating the Anti-Trust Laws. James L. O'Neill, a vice president of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, is the new administrator of N. R. A. Donald Richberg is completely out.

With the death of the old N. R. A. the Federal Alcohol Control Administration passed out of existence and what to set up in its place is puzzling both administration leaders and Congress. The old pre-prohibition laws were pretty effective. The Treasury was charged with collecting taxes on every barrel of beer and gallon of whiskey, the Coast Guard and the Border Patrol had a task in preventing the smuggling of illicit liquor, and the old Webb-Kenyon Act rather effectively controlled the shipment of intoxicants from wet states into dry states.

Something approaching a revival of these old laws is under consideration, but the Treasury balks at taking the responsibility for running down moonshiners, while the Department of Justice does not want to have to set up anything like the old Prohibition Enforcement Unit.

Farmers Heard From

Opposition to the Transportation Bill, which would have control of highway buses and trucks under the Interstate Commerce Commission, as well as providing for railroad reorganization, has developed from an unexpected source—the farmers.

Nobody knows how many farmers there are who deliver their own products by their own trucks across state lines, but apparently there are many of them. Members of Congress from the rural districts are beginning to hear from them, protesting against the proposal to impose special taxes and regulations upon them.

As was forecast in these dispatches, Harry Hopkins is the winner over Harold Ickes in the dispute over how the Work Relief money will be spent. Mr. Ickes, as administrator of the P. W. A., wanted the public money spent under his jurisdiction to go into permanent and useful public improvements, such as slum clearance, grade crossing elimination, highway work on main roads, and housing. But Mr. Hopkins, Relief Administrator, has orders from the President to use the \$4,000,000,000 fund in such a way as to put 3,500,000 men to work, taking them off the relief rolls.

Simple arithmetic division of \$4,000,000 by 3,500,000 gives a quotient of less than \$1,200. Mr. Ickes' projects would require the spending of much more than half of the available fund for materials, leaving only a small fraction for wages. So the Hopkins program will have to be confined to kinds of work that can be done without buying great quantities of costly materials.

Sidelights and Rumors

There is growing here a decided expectation that either Mr. Ickes will be forced out of the Administration or else that he will blow up and quit. The friction between the Secretary of the Interior and other high-ranking members of the Administration becomes more serious from day to day.

Donald Richberg, although

leaving office, is still close to the President. Mr. and Mrs. Frankfurter are legal advisers to the President. They have somewhat different points of view, and nobody is ever sure to which of them the President will listen. Neither of them is a particularly good politician; nor for that matter is any other high administration official except the President himself, now that Mr. Farley is reported about to leave the Cabinet.

Capitol Hill, on the other hand, fairly swarms with good politicians, which is one reason why every measure is being carefully considered with an eye to its probable political effect. The boys are beginning to suspect that they are going to have a fight on their hands in the 1936 elections, and it is more true than ever before that every move of any kind that is made in Washington these days is made with one eye upon the presidential contest next year.

Republicans, while not exactly jubilant, are talking more hopefully than at any time since 1932. The repercussions of the Springfield Grass Roots Convention are beginning to be heard, and they indicate more interest throughout the country in the future of the Republican Party, than had been anticipated.

Northern Alexander News

Mrs. Suma Deal Sloop is in the Watts-Price Clinic, Taylorsville, recovering from an operation for appendicitis. She is expected to come home soon.

Mrs. Bill Sherrill and daughter are spending some time with Mrs. Sherrill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Deal while her husband is taking treatment in the State Sanatorium.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Sherrill, of Granite Falls, visited their daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Mrs. Bill Sherrill, and Rachel, last Friday.

Mr. James Sowers, after spending some time in this section with relatives, returned to his daughter, Mrs. Joe Howe, Rock Hill, S. C., where he has made his home for several years.

Mr. Lee James will preach at Mt. Olive first Sunday in July at 11 o'clock. He preaches at Chance Bumgarner's shop on Taylorsville - Wilkesboro highway, the fifth Sunday at 2 o'clock.

Mrs. H. S. Deal spent the last week-end with Mrs. Edgar German, Boomer.

Mrs. Lois Bumgarner, daughter of Rev. E. V. Bumgarner, underwent an operation at the Watts-Price Clinic at Taylorsville last week. Also the small daughter, Vivian, had her tonsils removed. Both are now at home recovering nicely.

At least 17 species of frogs are native to the United States and Canada, but few are of commercial value.

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