

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1935

The Christmas Spirit

Christmas is that joyful season of the year when "people can feel it in their bones" ahead of time.

The holiday season is fast approaching, in fact there are only 16 shopping days until Christmas. Already Uncle Sam has placed signs in postoffices throughout the land urging people to mail early.

In order to remind people that Christmas is just around the corner it is necessary to create a Yuletide spirit and impression.

All of this leads us to the heart of the question — decorations for Christmas. There are certain things that remind one of Christmas; decorations that are traditionally linked with the holiday season. Streets, business houses and homes should present a holiday appearance that lets one know that the anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace is near.

Death By Gas

The electric chair has been a symbol of capital punishment in North Carolina and many other states for several decades.

The chair that has burned condemned prisoners to death will soon be no more. Lethal gas will hereafter snuff out the lives of those who must pay the supreme penalty for their crimes.

Not being so well versed along this line of science, we do not know which is the better. Gas is called the more humane way of taking a life. However, the test made at Raleigh recently with a hapless dog did not pan out so well because the dog howled twice before the spark of life was gone. There is quite a difference of opinion as to whether or not the canine suffered pain or was merely howling because it was lonesome and tied in a strange place.

As a crime deterrent there should be little to choose between gas or electricity as a means of taking the prisoner's life. Both mean sure and instant death and a would-be criminal will not find it more enticing, we venture to assert, to be killed by gas than in the electric chair that has been so busy during late years.

Schools' Safety Program

The Institute Of Government, that North Carolina organization now endeavoring to make government more efficient, is responding to a crying need by promoting a program of safety, especially on highways.

It is a deplorable fact that automobile deaths and accidents are very much on the increase and that public opinion has not yet been raised against highway slaughter to the point where even a slight reduction can be noticed.

The Institute of Government plans to go into the question from a different angle and has launched an educational program in the schools dealing with highway safety. Its object is to instill the idea of safety in the minds of those of today who will be tomorrow's drivers.

This, we consider, is a good undertaking and will be of great benefit. But necessarily its scope will be limited due to the fact that many of the most reckless drivers quit school before they reach the age of understanding and responsibility.

A large metropolitan newspaper has adopted the policy of painting gruesome word picture of auto accident victims. Commenting on this a writer said: "It's time we faced the gory facts—time we all realized that the scene of an automobile accident can be as horrible as a battlefield. And it's time we remembered that automobiles have killed many more Americans than have all the wars of our history."

By teaching these facts to the school children and by pointing out how law observance and care can help lower the toll a great service can be rendered.

Shop In North Wilkesboro

The Christmas shopping season is here and this is an invitation from this newspaper to the people of Wilkes and adjoining counties to do your Christmas shopping in North Wilkesboro.

This invitation is extended not only because North Wilkesboro is our home city but because in doing so we feel that we are rendering a public service to the readers we serve as well as to the city as a shopping center. We say trade in North Wilkesboro to mutual advantage.

North Wilkesboro mercantile firms are prepared as never before to accommodate the Christmas demand and inducements never before offered shoppers here are before the people.

We can frankly say that it will mean a saving for shoppers to come many miles to North Wilkesboro instead of going many more miles to other places to do their trading. Due to the large trading territory that is continually expanding North Wilkesboro is equal in trade opportunities to many cities twice its size. You can readily see the advantages offered in trading at a commercial center where merchants are prepared to fill varied demands.

Knowing that their growth and progress depend upon the type and fullness of service rendered, the stores in North Wilkesboro are more fully stocked this year than at any time in their history. They have bought heavily for the holiday trade and in quantity buying have affected savings to be passed on to the people of the trading area.

Come to North Wilkesboro for Christmas shopping and shop early in order to have more time to select the merchandise you want.

Borrowed Comment

FIVE LUCKY LITTLE LADIES
(Concord Herald-Observer)

The Dionne quintuplets are getting along in life, with an income of \$10,000 a month, their own hospital worth \$25,000, and a bank account said to amount to \$150,000.

Yvonne, Annette, Cecile, Emilie and Marie can be thankful that human beings place value upon the freakish, the unusual and the exceptional. Had these charming little girls arrived in the world a year apart their lives would have meant very little, if anything, to a world, amazingly callous to the welfare of little boys and girls.

The depression cost the United States \$26,000,000, and we are all agreed it wasn't worth it.—Norfolk Ledger.

"It's the sign of a healthy mental attitude to doubt anything which hasn't been proved," says a psychologist. We doubt this.—Washington Post.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

NEHEMIAH REBUILDING THE WALL OF JERUSALEM

Lesson for December 8th, Nehemiah 4:6-9; Golden Text, Nehemiah 4:5

The character of Nehemiah is attractive to the highest degree. To be sure, he is not a colossal figure. He does not loom so large as do the patriarchs and prophets. But none the less he is an engaging person, manly, courageous, resourceful, devout, a true leader.

Nehemiah's task was the rebuilding of the broken walls of Jerusalem. The city had been destroyed, its inhabitants carried into exile, and upon the shoulders of this gallant cup-bearer was placed the heavy responsibility of building anew the shattered ramparts. How well he succeeded the record makes clear.

Note first that the walls of old were rebuilt as a response to the call of duty. When the cup-bearer, far from Jerusalem, heard of the plight of the city, he not only wept, fasted, and prayed, but he went to the stricken metropolis. He might have remained where he was, in selfish ease and affluence. But he gave up his position of privilege at the call of duty and patriotism.

Then we observe that the Jerusalem walls were constructed by the united effort of a devoted group. Nehemiah was a very capable organizer. An ideal executive, a model of efficiency, he was that practical type of leader who knows how to secure the whole-hearted, effective co-operation of his companions. Chapter 3 tells us that almost everyone was at work in this famous enterprise of rebuilding, even the daughters. And chapter 4 gives a vivid picture of Nehemiah's strategy of defense, with each workman wielding a tool with one hand, and holding a weapon with the other. And there was a trumpeter to sound a general summons.

Finally, we see at work here the hidden energies of faith and prayer. A real man of God, Nehemiah had a sturdy faith and a prayerful spirit. Consider that beautiful prayer at the close of the book, "Remember me, O my God, for good."

This Week In Washington

Washington, December 3. (Autocaster)—Official Washington is displaying great interest in Presidential polls these days. The one that has attracted the most attention is the polls recently completed by newspapers served by Publishers Autocaster Service, which, reflecting as it does rural and small-town opinion exclusively, is regarded as highly significant. If there were a wide variation between the results shown by the different efforts to get at a cross-section of national political views at this time, Washington might not be so interested. But when the Autocaster poll, the Literary Digest poll, so far as its preliminary results have been disclosed, the Gallup poll, and the poll taken a short time ago by Robert J. Lucas, all agree within a fraction of one per cent, and every one of them shows a marked decline in the strength of President Roosevelt's support, the total effect is impressive.

All the polls agree in giving Mr. Roosevelt still the best of it, by approximately 53 per cent to 47 per cent. Even the most optimistic of the Administration's political soothsayers are now conceding more or less openly that it looks as if it would be a close election in 1936. However, a lot of things can happen in a year.

From Here On

Some of the things which the President's friends are hoping will happen are a strong upswing in business conditions, the failure of the Opposition to develop real leadership and a subsidence of the third party agitation. The latter contingency, as things look now, can probably be dismissed as unlikely to be strongly enough concentrated anywhere to affect the electoral vote.

As to leadership in the Republican Party, something may develop at the annual meeting of the Republican National Committee to be held here this month, which will clarify the issues upon which the Opposition will make its stand. The man who succeeds in putting forward a program on which all Republicans can unite will certainly show evidence of leadership. How to overcome the political effect of the AAA without losing great blocks of farm votes is a puzzle to which no Republican political leader has so far given the answer.

The strongest element in Mr. Roosevelt's favor, as matters now stand, is that business is definitely improving and that all the signs point to further improvement. The stock market boom is not regarded here as dangerous. Governor Eccles of the Federal Reserve Board pointed out the other day that it would not become dangerous until stock market speculation reached the point where it was being done on borrowed money. At present, he pointed out, transactions on the

SCHOOL DAYS

By DWIG



stock exchange are on a cash basis, and the Federal Reserve has ample power to check any inflation of credit such as caused the market collapse in 1929.

Retrenchment Forecast

The Administration is very clearly determined to begin a policy of retrenchment of governmental expenditures. The statement by Representative James P. Buchanan, of Texas, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriation, after his conferences last week with the President at Warm Springs, that he was preparing to make the strongest fight of his life for economy, and that there was reason to believe that the deficit could be reduced to not more than \$500,000,000 for the next fiscal year, is accepted here as a genuine expression of intention, on the part of a man who wields great power in Congress.

Yet there is never any telling what any Congress may do. The reasonable certainty that a veterans' bonus bill will be enacted is a matter of some concern. If a plan for settling the veterans' claims with reasonably long-term bonds can be put through, it will not materially affect the annual budget, but many returning members are bringing back reports of demands for cash instead of bonds, and that may be one of the big issues to be fought out on the floor of Congress. It is more than whispered that

he would like to have Secretary Lickes out of the Administration. Also very strong pressure is being put upon the President to get rid of Dr. Tugwell, who no longer functions as Under Secretary of Agriculture, although he retains the title.

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