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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1936

You can't keep both your yourself and your business in a liquid condition.—St. Louis Star-Times.

Harry Hopkins declares the relief program will be met better this winter than ever before. For whom, Harry, the party or the unemployed? Chicago Daily News.

Feeding The Birds

At this season of the year lovers of wild life are given grounds for fear that birds, particularly partridges, will not find enough food for sustenance.

Birds depend upon seeds and such bits of grain as the farmer may have left in the fields for their food and during the severe cold weather and in snow the source of their food is covered up or frozen.

Cracked corn or smaller grain makes excellent food for birds.

1935 Dividend Year

Business was much better in 1935 than in 1934—but did profits follow the trend? Answer to that depends on what business you are interested in.

A tabulation shows that some industries made remarkable profit records, measured by the dividends they paid. Steel dividends rose 100 per cent; mail order houses, 165 per cent; coppers, 148 per cent. Only two industries showed drops, tobaccos and railroad equipment, which went back 3 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

Utilities dividends rose 1 per cent; banks and insurance, 7 per cent; railroads, 3 per cent; foods, 2 per cent; chain stores, 1 per cent; motors, 42 per cent; oils, 2 per cent. Average increase in industrial dividends was 10 per cent.

Breakdown Of Laws

We still have hopes that the drivers' license law in North Carolina may help to curb the appalling toll of automobile accidents, but the information contained in the following editorial from the Greensboro Daily News does not carry an optimistic feeling:

The wholesale dehorsemen—or is it de-wheeling?—of the drunken drivers on North Carolina highways as a result of the enforcement of the new drivers' license law recounted in stories in most of the state's newspapers and accompanied by a great fanfare of judges' charges to grand juries and lectures to courtroom audiences was due for a fly in the ointment somewhere. And the newspaper boys at Raleigh seemed to have found it.

They have learned from the highway safety division that a number of revocations of licenses for drunken driving have had to be rescinded because the warrants have been changed—by permission of the judges of course—to charge crimes of lesser degree, crimes that do not carry with them mandatory loss of license.

The Daily News holds that with proper enforcement the drivers' license law may be a great force for good in promoting highway safety. But if it is to be allowed to cover drunken driving in some instances and not in others, then in addition to the failure to administer justice in particular cases a general disrespect for the whole law will be engendered.

There is no attempt here to say that in a few cases there might not be evidence sufficient to reduce the charge from drunken driving in the warrant. But if it is just another way of permitting the extension of the leniency of the court to "good fellows", then the judges are all wet in their grand jury castigations of a mere oratorical menace to life and limb on the highways.

If a person is driving drunk, then that is what he should be charged with in black and white.

If a law is to accomplish results equal justice must be meted out in its enforcement or it begins to disintegrate and break down. One reason why prohibition was a failure was the lax and lethargic manner in which its enforcement was approached and no doubt because some of the so-called "good fellows" were allowed to get by.

If the license law is not enforced indiscriminately and impartially it will become a mere football on the statute books to be kicked about and disregarded.

County Farm Planning

Many farmers from various sections of Wilkes county gathered at the courthouse in Wilkesboro last week to discuss county farm planning. In other words, to ascertain what the county has been doing in the way of farming and help to mould sentiment for correcting whatever faults there may have been.

Records show that about 37,000 acres of corn produced an average of 24 bushels of grain per acre. Although this is more than twice the average yield of a quarter century ago, it is still too low for a county like Wilkes where the climate is ideal and where there are good soils that respond wonderfully to efforts for improvement.

The county does not grow enough corn to supply its own needs. We do not need to grow more acres but to increase the average yield. There is already too much land cleared and only the choice fields should be cultivated, allowing the steeper slopes to be reforested or sodded for grazing.

It is possible, after all, to give Mr. Hoover credit for business recovery. If he hadn't made so poor a campaign in 1932 Mr. Roosevelt might not have won.—Louisville Times.

Marriage license clerks complain that the girls aren't availing themselves of leap year. Perhaps they're waiting to make sure 1936 is constitutional.—Kansas City Star.

BRUCE BARTON Says

LIBERALS, PAIN IN NECK

All my life I have been hoping to meet some one who would give a satisfactory definition of a "liberal." I read regularly the two most influential "liberal" magazines in the country, and in every issue they tell me everything that has been done wrong that week, both at home and abroad.

Far from "liberal" in their characterization of those of whom they happen to disapprove, they make very clear all the things they are against, but I have been trying for years to find out what they are for. What sort of social set-up do they think would work? Aside from venting their jealousy and wrath on all who have happened to get along in the world, what other program do they have? By what rule or circumstance do people happen to get themselves classified as "liberal" or "reactionary"?

A certain famous senator, whose gymnastics I have watched for thirty years, has been on all sides of most questions except those which involve votes in his home state. On those questions—silver juggling, potato control, Townsend plan, or whatever, you always know where to find him. Yet he is a "statesman" and a great "liberal."

I sometimes wonder if professional liberalism is so much a matter of thought as of torpid livers and unfortunate financial experience. People whose livers are active, and whose affairs progress, believe in the country and want to see it go ahead.

This is an exaggeration, of course; not a fair statement. But the mental snootiness of professional "liberals" has long given me a pain. I wish I knew why they are, what they want, and what evidence they have that things would be better if they were given what they want.

PITY OFTEN NOT WANTED

A cultivated young woman who holds a responsible business position in New York is a member of one of the old families. Her two sisters are Social Registerites in a conservative eastern city, and spend much time shaking their heads and pitying their younger sister. "Poor child," they murmur. "She must be at the office every morning at nine. Sometimes the company sends her out on long trips. She travels alone in trains; she even flies. We urge her to come back and live with us, but she is so stubborn that she can't bear to admit she had made a mistake."

On her side, the young lady says: "I have a thrilling time, but my poor sisters, what a dull life they lead—bridge and luncheons and more bridge and dinners and symphony concerts. It would drive me crazy. I pity them."

This land of ours is full of city people pitying country dwellers; country people pitying the hemmed-in residents of the city; bachelors pitying the fathers of big families, and fathers wondering how bachelors can think that they get anything out of life at all.

A rich old manufacturer went to pay a last call on the night-watchman of his factory. The two had started as boys on the bench together but while the one grew rich the other loved liquor and irresponsibility too well. The rich man cleared his throat to utter a few words of condolence. The dying man raised a warning hand: "None of your sympathy," he cried. "You mean all right, but I don't need it. I've had a hole lot more fun out of living than you ever will have."

Pity that expresses itself in helpful action is a noble thing. But too much so-called pity is nothing but an emotional cocktail wherewith a somewhat complacent individual drinks a toast to what he fancies is his own superior judgment or taste!

GAS WORKS EFFICIENTLY ON FIRST WHITE VICTIM

Central Prison, Raleigh, Friday.—Ed Jenkins, a powerfully built man weighing 250 pounds despite months of confinement in a penitentiary cell, died today, the second victim of North Carolina's new lethal gas execution, and in death refuted statements of many that the new form of death is inhumane.

The strong textile mill worker, convicted of shooting Paul Collins, a fellow mill employee at a plant at Bessemer, N. C., to death last July 4th, died seven minutes and thirty seconds after the poisonous vapors rushed upward from the acid container perched beneath the oak chair in which he was strapped.

He was unconscious approximately 20 seconds after the cyanide pellets were dropped into the container of sulphuric acid. Dr. George Coleman, prison physician, said Jenkins' heart action stopped 60 seconds after the releasing of the pellets.

A week ago Allen Foster, a Birmingham, Fla., negro died after 11 minutes in the gas chamber. The negro, less powerfully built than Jenkins, was conscious approximately four minutes. The execution caused state-wide comment because of the length of time the prisoner was conscious and caused many witnesses to say that electrocutions were less painful.

Jenkins marched into the death chamber, holding his head high and smiling at witnesses, at 10:37 a. m. The prisoner remained mute while death chamber attaches strapped his arms and legs.

J. Winder Bryan, assistant warden, asked the condemned man if he wished to be blindfolded. Jenkins shook his head. While prison authorities sealed the cell he eyed the witnesses as if looking for a familiar face.

As the deadly fumes swirled

up from beneath the death chair Jenkins leaned back against the chair, relaxed and half closed his eyes. Three seconds later he breathed the blue-grey fumes.

Nine seconds after he inhaled the lethal gas, respiration stopped and heart action stopped 50 seconds later.

He inhaled four times before he was unconscious. Jenkins apparently died peacefully.

Those who witnessed the execution last week and who saw Jenkins die today, agreed that death by lethal gas is more humane than by electricity.

Dr. W. C. Davison, dean of the Duke medical school, Durham, and Dr. F. M. Hanes, professor of practice of medicine of Duke University, said they "believe that this man died painlessly and that the method of execution was humane."

Oscar Pitts, acting director of the state penal division, who witnessed the execution, which was his first, said: "It was not a pleasant thing, but I think Jenkins died instantaneously. I don't think he suffered."

Jenkins wore a pair of white shorts. He had asked that his head not be shaved.

The body was taken by the undertaker 20 minutes after he was pronounced dead. It was sent to Jenkins' wife at Bessemer City who did not visit him while he was in prison.

Pilot Dies, Passengers Shaken In Plane Crash
Denton, Tex., Jan. 30.—A forced landing in a snowstorm fatally injured pilot Ted Kincannon of American Airlines today and shook up his five passengers. The plane, southbound from Chicago, struck a clump of trees in coming down southeast of here.

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WASTE HOLDING UP PROSPERITY, LANDON THINKS

Topeka, Kas., Jan. 29.—Governor Alf M. Landon, asserting new deal mismanagement and waste are "delaying the return of prosperity," said tonight that the country "really needs is better housekeeping."

Outlining his views on national problems for the first time since mention of his name as a Republican presidential possibility, the man hailed by his proponents as the "Kansas budget balancer," declared:

"The clinching proof of the new deal's failure is that almost as many persons are out of work today as there were when it first got up shop in 1933. . . . A nation will survive to correct its political mistakes. But if an un-sound financial program is coupled with them, the nation faces destruction."


Governor Landon addressed a banquet climaxing the annual Kansas Day celebration — this year the diamond anniversary of Kansas' admission to the Union. His prepared address confined itself strictly to national problems without reference to personal allies or candidates for 1936.

Governor Landon warned of "powerful forces trying to convince our people that the constitution is not their charter of human liberties" and charged the works progress administration was "organized so that relief might be handled in familiar 'pork barrel' fashion."

Note of Correction

In the obituary of Dr. S. L. Perkins published Thursday it was erroneously stated that Dr. Perkins was a son of Dr. David Perkins. He was the grandson of Dr. Daniel Perkins, well known practitioner of his day, and a son of Mr. David Perkins.

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