

The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1936

TOO LATE?

"It is too late!" Ah, nothing is too late—Cato learned Greek at eighty; Sophocles wrote his grand "Aedipus," and Simonides bore off the prize of verse from his compeers when each had numbered more than fourscore years.

And Theophrastus at fourscore and ten had begun his "Characters of Men." Chaucer at Woodstock, with the nightingales. At sixty wrote the "Canterbury Tales." Goethe at Weimar, toiling to the last, completed "Faust" when eighty years were past. What then, shall we sit idly down and say, The night hath come; it is no longer day? For age is opportunity no less Than youth itself, though in another dress. And as the evening twilight fades away The sky is filled with stars invisible by day. —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Conception of Enormity

Leave it to the statisticians to figure out something for you. It has been calculated that the annual tax bill of the American people is 12 billion dollars, counting all taxes paid the federal, state, county and municipal governments.

The Los Angeles Times figures it out that it would take a week of steady counting to count a million and at the same rate 19 years and three months to count a billion one at a time. To count 12 billion, the amount of the tax bill, would consume around 218 years.

These figures and statistics merely go to impress the awful total that taxes have risen to in the past 20 years.

Field For Work

The Wilkes County Council of Social Agencies, made up of representatives of civic organizations and institutions dealing with public life, has a great field of labor—Wilkes county.

In what might be termed the initial meeting held last week a glimpse of what the council may amount to could be foreseen. If a survey of social and civic problems is made it will be quite an achievement in that it should educate the public on just what points of civic activity and social behavior our people are lacking.

Some of the things suggested that the council can lend its influence and efforts to are a municipal playground, a public library, helping to correct juvenile delinquency, and many other activities of like nature.

Thirty organizations working together could easily work up and carry out projects of major interest, while it would be quite difficult for one organization to make such rapid headway.

Carelessness Kills

A hundred thousand lives in this country were lost last year on account of carelessness, according to recent statistics given out. Of this number 36,000 were killed some way or other by automobiles.

That leaves 64,000 who were killed in other kinds of accidents caused by carelessness on someone's part. Accidents, regardless of whether they are classed as unavoidable, can be attributed to someone's carelessness at some time or other.

Perhaps a person loses his life because of negligence on the part of someone months ago in that they failed to do their duty in construction of some building or product. It is not in every case that the cause or negligence is open for accidents. A person neglects a scratch and in a few days he is planted beneath so many feet of earth, he slips on a piece of soap and cracks his head on the bath tub, he searches for medicine in the dark and gets hold of the wrong bottle, a disinfectant solution is left can be traced but in every instance there is a cause.

Accidents occur on the highways, in the home, in the office, in fact any place carelessly in reach and a baby is poisoned. These are only a few short stories from the uncertainty of life. The toll of 100,000 lives by carelessness should be a reminder to be careful.

Second Primary

With the Democrats of North Carolina looking toward a second primary which has been called for Saturday, July 4th, the thoughts of many people, who, no doubt, are greatly interested in the outcome of same, must naturally go back to the proposal made by Ralph McDonald, one of the gubernatorial aspirants, only a few days prior to the first primary which took place on June 6th.

At that time Mr. McDonald made the proposition to both Mr. Hoey and Mr. Graham that the high man in the first primary take the plum. Notwithstanding the fact that headquarters of both Mr. Hoey and Mr. Graham claimed its candidate would be high man in the first primary, the proposal was refused. And then came the vote showing Mr. Hoey topping Mr. McDonald by only about 4,000 votes. Had the proposition been accepted by Hoey leaders, it would have all been over and the first victory won, all of which would have resulted in no second primary as the candidates for lieutenant governor and secretary of state would hardly have put the state to the expense of holding the second primary.

Mr. McDonald's proposition was clear-cut. He would have stood by his statement. Had it been accepted, Mr. Hoey would have been the nominee today. Now it must all be done over, and even the most partisan followers of either candidate looks fearfully to the vote of July 4th, as politics is so uncertain and treacherous.

BRUCE BARTON Soap

CHANGE SCENES, SUCKER-SORE

These few lines are written in the quiet of an office from which every one but the janitor has departed. Presently I shall take a train to a certain secret destination where I am to be joined by one of my partners. Our destination is Canada. We are going to eat and sleep and play golf for five days—nothing else.

Years ago a noted circus press agent introduced me to the crude phrase, "sucker-sore." He said that the freaks in the side show lead a highly nervous life. The fat woman, for instance, sits all day on her platform while the customers (suckers) parade by and emit comments like this: "Say, Joe, look at that doll baby. How'd you like to have a stomach like that?" and "Jim, dear, just look at that fat woman. Isn't she terrible?"

The sword swallower, the midgets, the snake charmer, and the Siamese Twins all must sit silent under a barrage of similar jocosity. Theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why; they just have to sit and take it.

About once a month they explode. If something isn't done about it they jump off their stands and begin to bite the customers. Their nerves are shot; they are sucker-sore. The management sends them away for a few days' rest, and they're ready then for another ordeal.

Every once in a while every man gets so tired that he begins to be a nuisance even to those he loves most. He annoys his wife and children; he is in danger of alienating the very people who have favored him with their business and are responsible for his living. He is sucker-sore. That is the time to pack the old bag and sneak off for a few days.

THAT 35TH MILE-STONE

A gentleman with whom I had a luncheon engagement was a few minutes late. "You will have to excuse me," he said, "this is my thirty-fifth birthday. I have always said that when I was thirty-five I would have a complete physical examination. I have been at it more than two hours."

Thirty-five is one of the big mile-stones. I remember a series of articles our old friend John Siddall published years ago. He had Irvin Cobb write on Looking Both Ways at Forty. I wrote on How It Feels to Be Thirty-two. Ring Lardner did the best piece in the series and called it "General Symptoms of Being Thirty-five. Though I cannot quote them verbatim, some of Ring's sentences linger in my memory. For example:

"The subject is awakened in the middle of the night by the ringing of a fire bell. Sniffs but does not smell smoke. Figures it is not his house and rolls over and goes to sleep again."

Also, "Our patient buys a copy of a national magazine and reads the first installment of an exciting new serial story. At the end of the installment the villain holds the beautiful heroine in his horrid grasp. Patient forgets to buy next month's issue."

Another big mile-stone comes at forty-five. No young person reads the obituary page of a newspaper. But along about forty-five a man suddenly discovers that page, and for the rest of his life is a regular consumer of it.

On my thirty-fifth birthday I took out some additional life insurance, and was pleased to have the doctors render such a good report. I cast up my accounts and found a bit of a balance in the bank. I said to myself: "Now I am pretty well fixed. I propose never to be worried or hurried again." All of my really serious worries have happened since that date.

Thank Goodness That One's Out!



NEWS ITEM: New York legislature reduces gasoline tax to per gallon. Beginning July 1, 1936, the state gasoline tax will be 30 per gallon, a saving to taxpayers of approximately \$15,000,000.

KNOX, LANDON GET TOGETHER

Candidates Meet in Topeka With Other GOP Kingpins To Map Campaign

Topeka, Kas., June 16.—Gov. Alf M. Landon and his Republican running mate, Col. Frank Knox, met under a blazing sun today, spoke confidently to a cheering crowd, and then got down to campaign details—from finessing to finance—with the key men of their party.

In 99-degree weather, the presidential and vice presidential nominees shook hands on the limestone steps of the Kansas capitol as they embarked on what Landon called "a real partnership."

"Well, Colonel, you look in good fighting trim. Welcome to the campaign," Landon told Knox with a nod of his head.

"I am happy to be here in this fight," answered Knox, "I'm going to let the truth be known about the vital issues of this campaign you have made a fine start with that telegram to the convention."

Finally, in the quiet of the buff-brick Kansas executive mansion, with their after-luncheon cigars lighted, Landon and Knox and their 17 conferees began to map the strategy which may spell victory or defeat in November.

Ranged around the two men were such kingpins as John D. M. Hamilton, the new Republican chairman, who will speed by plane tomorrow to New York to discuss fund raising. Henry P. Fletcher, the retiring chairman, was at hand to relate his own experience.

TRUCK DRIVER KILLED BY TRAIN

Hickory, June 16.—Injuries suffered when a truck he was driving was struck by Southern passenger Train No. 12 on a grade crossing here last evening proved fatal to Raleigh Rhinehardt of Hickory, who died last night in a local hospital.

Rhinehardt was hauling a load of gravel for a road construction company when the east-bound train demolished the truck as he was attempting to cross the tracks on Eighth street.

Witnesses said he apparently failed to see the approaching locomotive because of box cars on a side track.

SAY! This is NEWS!

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Pass Bill to Aid Vets' Widows

Washington.—A bill to give benefits to the families of war veterans and other persons killed or injured in Florida during the hurricanes of 1935 was passed by the Senate today. It now goes back to the House for consideration of minor amendments.

Veteran, 81, Gets His Bonus

Lowiston, Me., June 18.—Eighty-one-year-old George France of Farmington Falls, who went to France at 62 with General John J. Pershing, joined other World War veterans converting bonus bonds into cash today. Piper enlisted in 1892 and served until July, 1919.

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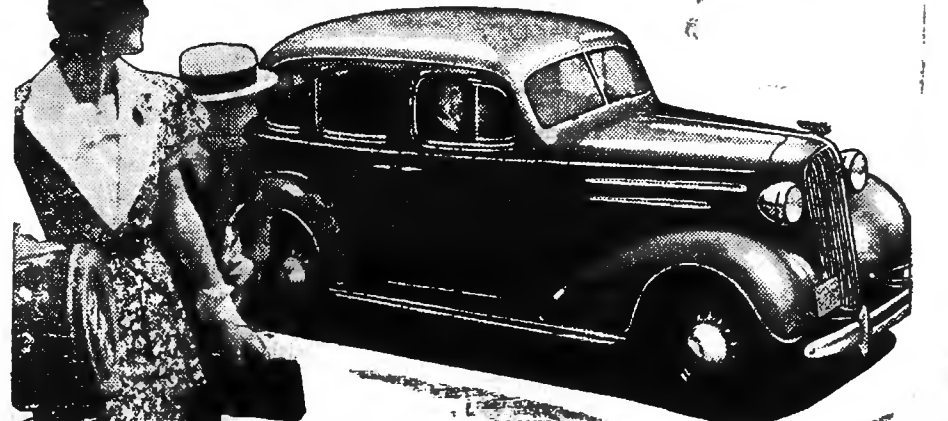
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