

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

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, NOV. 30, 1936

Machinery and Unemployment

It was only three or four years ago that the whole country was talking about something called "technocracy." That was a new economic philosophy based upon the theory that the causes of all of our unemployment and other troubles was that machines were replacing man power in industry, and that if that tendency kept on it would not be long before there would be no work for anybody to do.

The technocracy idea was an echo of the outcry which has been raised whenever a new invention has been brought out to do work which was formerly done by hand. When the first cotton spinning machinery was invented, the first power looms set up, there was a tremendous outcry about the bread being taken out of the mouths of the working class. That was more than 150 years ago, and it is only necessary to look back into history to realize how foolish the opposition to those early machines was. For, instead of making less work, they made more work. By producing cotton cloth more cheaply and more speedily than it had ever been made by hand, the machine production multiplied the demand and the market for cotton cloth, so that within a few years ten persons were employed on the spinning and weaving machines for every one who had been employed at hand labor in the same industry.

To a generation which knows nothing of industrial history the revival of this outcry against the machines seemed convincing. The evidence to the contrary, however, is right in front of the eyes of anybody who will look for it. The best example is in the automobile industry. More automobiles have been made and sold in the past year than in any one of the previous five years. Very much more of the work of building automobiles is done by machinery than at any time in the past. It is no uncommon thing for an automobile manufacturer to scrap \$10,000,000 worth of heavy machinery to replace it with new and more efficient equipment. But has the machine thrown automobile workers out of their jobs? Quite the opposite is true. In one great factory alone, which formerly employed 60,000 workers to produce a million and a half of automobiles in a year, last year 90,000 workers were employed to produce a smaller number of cars. There was no reduction in wages; on the contrary, wages went up. Yet the price of the car came down.

Precisely the same experience has followed the introduction of modern machinery in every line of industry. There are temporary readjustments and shifts of employment, but in the long run the enlarged market created by offering better goods at lower prices results in the employment of more people than could find jobs before the new machines were put in.

On Wage Boosts

The voluntary actions on the part of many corporations, large and small in all parts of the country, in raising wages of employes is one of the most healthful signs of a returning prosperity to be placed before the public eye since this nation started emerging from the depression.

If this practice is widespread and generally followed there will be less talk of revival of the NRA, the purpose of which was to increase employment and buying power through higher wages. As an emergency measure the NRA worked quite well and many favored it as such who would be opposed to making the NRA a part of the permanent laws of the country.

If industry, generally speaking from a

national standpoint, has as little love for the NRA as one would gather from daily perusal of newspapers, industrial leaders will make every reasonable effort to show that such a measure is not necessary. They can go about this in no better or more effective way than raising wages.

And the wage increases will return in the form of profits. More buying power means more goods consumed and greater ability to pay prices that will allow manufacturers a profit on their endeavors.

The underlying cause of economic stagnation is not a surplus problem but a problem of distribution. The average person will buy if he has the wherewithal and the big spenders in the nation are the wage and salary earners and the farmers.

The big lesson that the NRA should have taught was cooperation and the necessity of eliminating cut-throat competition. To lower wages is an attempt to sell at lower costs always acts as a boomerang in the long run.

A neighbor who seeded a new lawn and sat up nights sprinkling the same is afraid he got hold of some of that Hoover grass.—Albany Knickerbocker Press.

Most men have a secret hope that they will look the same in their new fall suit as the advertisements in the Saturday Evening Post.

BRUCE BARTON SAYS

THE FARMER HAS IT

Waking up in a sleeping car, I discovered that we had got stalled behind a derailed train during the night and were four hours late. There was no diner, no newspaper, nothing to do but wait until we reached Buffalo at one o'clock. So I settled myself philosophically in the smoking compartment and gazed out on the landscape where farmers were busy with their plowing.

My mind went back to the summer I worked on a farm in Michigan. And partly because of the memories, partly because of the lack of breakfast, I began to feel envious of the sturdy tillers of the soil. "You have many troubles," I said to myself. "You have long hours; you are at war with the winds and the sun and the storms; you are afflicted by every imaginable kind of pest. But one great and glorious gift you do enjoy. You have an appetite."

On that Michigan farm the boss and I and another hired hand used to rise at four o'clock in the summer mornings. By half past six we had tended to the horses and milked the cows, and were ready for breakfast. What a breakfast! Then out to the fields. By about ten-thirty we were beginning to be hungry again, and for an hour and a half we would live in the contemplation of dinner. Again a tremendous meal. Then more hard work until sun-down—with again a couple of hours of eager anticipation.

In New York high-priced chefs buy the finest foods for their hotels and clubs and dress them up with all sorts of fancy sauces and trick ornaments. But I am never really hungry. My house is warmer than the farm house, and the beds are softer; I am better paid for a much shorter working day. But I wish that just once more in my life I could smell that cooking across the fields and know that appetite again.

LET'S DRESS THE PART

On Park Avenue during a recent elevator strike a young fellow hailed me by name and I stopped for a chat wondering all the time just where I had seen him before. Then it dawned on me that he runs an elevator in a building where I do a good deal of business. Now he looked rougher, unkempt, less attractive, and I realized why: I never had seen him without his uniform.

Perhaps you have happened to pass a big city hospital at the hour when the nurses are going off duty. They come trooping out of the side door, a nice enough lot of women, but no different from the other thousands on the city streets. Are these the alert Angels of Mercy who, with their starched whiteness, their cocky little caps, and their brisk movements, make such an alluring picture in the wards?

"Clothes do not make the man," says the proverb. But clothes do make the soldier, as every military man knows. It would be impossible to win a war without uniforms. And clothes do help to make the public official.

David Lamson, in his dramatic book "We Who Are About to Die," describes the court scene when sentence of death was passed upon him, and records his feeling of surprise that the whole tragic action seemed so remote, so impressive. He discovered the reason. "We have abandoned the fuss and furbelows; we force the unfortunate Law to play its scenes in the barest of settings, in street clothes, without the makeup or costumes or lighting necessary to the illusion. . . . The British, with a better feeling for art forms, dress their judges in silken robes and impressive wigs and insist upon the observance of formalities."

We ought to dress our public officials with more dignity. A mayor should look like a mayor, as the Lord Mayor of London does. Our mayors look just like ordinary men.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

CYCLING still popular

One of the most interesting developments of the past few years has been the revival of popular interest in bicycling. More bicycles are in use now than ever before, people in the trade report.

In America, bicycling is still much more a sport than a means of transportation. In Europe the ordinary working man can by no possibility afford to own a car. He uses a bicycle to go back and forth to his day's work. I have seen in European cities bicycles carrying loads of tools and building materials which we would consider a fair load for a Ford. It takes an expert to carry a 16-foot ladder on a bicycle through the traffic of the Paris boulevard, but that is not an uncommon sight.

Just now cycling is a popular fad in America, but I doubt if it will ever come back in this country to the proportions of 40 years ago, when everybody rode bicycles.

SNAPSHOTS educational

I saw a statistic the other day to the effect that three families out of every five in America own cameras. There are more than 16 million amateur photographers in this country and last year they took more than 300,000,000 snapshots.

We are certainly living in a pictorial era. I was interested to look over a large number of amateur photographs which had been submitted for prizes in a nationwide newspaper photography contest, and I was amazed and delighted at the artistic effects achieved by many amateurs and the apparent widespread appreciation of beauty and symbolism among the contestants.

In my younger days, when I was one of the few amateur photographers, we were well satisfied if we got any kind of a picture at all. I think the influence of artistic photography upon the generation now growing up is going to be tremendous.

PROGRESS in camera art

Thinking back, I don't know of any art in which the changes have been so great in my time as in photography. Rumaging through a box of family souvenirs the other day I found several daguerreotypes of my grandparents and an amusing tintype of my father, as a college student, wearing a silk hat, as was the custom of college seniors in the 1860's.

I can well remember when having one's picture taken was a slow and not altogether pleasant process. The victim's head was held from behind in an iron clamp and he was supposed to look pleasant for from one to three minutes without changing his expression. That accounts for the wooden and fish-faced effect of most of the early photographs.

Photographers had to have a big overhead skylight, and could not make any pictures at all on a cloudy day, when I was a boy. Then, too, it was the custom to "retouch" every negative until all signs of human expression had been rubbed out.

PRIMITIVE home-made

I was reminded of my own first camera. I was an inventive and inquisitive boy when an enthusiastic amateur named George Eastman invented the photographic dry plate and laid the foundations for modern photography—and a great fortune for himself. I saw one of the new dry plate cameras and wanted one.

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My father said that if I would make a camera that would work he would make me a present of the necessary lens.

I managed to make a camera when I was about 14 and my father gave me the lens out of a stereopticon, or magic lantern, which he had used in giving illustrated lectures on the Philadelphia Centennial.

Among my souvenirs I found some of my early efforts at photography with that primitive camera, which served me for a number of years until I began to earn money enough to buy a better one.

PICTURES the old "stills"

Before the movies, the only way in which most people learned what the rest of the world looked like was by stereopticon lectures, in which "still" pictures were projected on the screen by what we used to call a magic lantern. My father eked out his ministerial income by giving these illustrated lectures in small New England towns, and I was sometimes privileged to accompany him on his horse-and-wagon lecture tours.

Before the electric light, the most brilliant light obtainable was the oxyhydrogen limelight. A stream of oxygen and one of hydrogen were focussed upon a block of calcium carbonate, which became brilliantly incandescent under the flame of the mingled gases. We carried the gas supply in two huge rubber bags; my father made the oxygen and hydrogen at home and filled the bags before we started out. One of my jobs was to sit on the oxygen bag to force the gas to flow fast enough.

Best results from the use of triple superphosphate in Mitchell county have been secured where the soil is alkaline, indicating that it pays to use limestone along with the phosphate, reports the assistant county agent.

Refreshing Relief When You Need a Laxative

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ACID INDIGESTION

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Alka-Seltzer has a pleasant, refreshing, tangy taste. It contains an analgesic (Acetyl-Salicylate, a Sodium Salt of Aspirin) which relieves pain and discomfort, while its vegetable and mineral alkalis help to correct the cause of those minor ailments associated with hyperacidity of the stomach.

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BE WISE—ALKALIZE!

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MONTVIEW DAIRY BOOMER, N.C. GRADE A MILK

Big Plants Expand New York, Nov. 24.—Plant expansion expenditures drew attention in business circles today as an indicator of increasing need in some industries for new facilities to meet recovery demand. Republic Steel corporation joined other big units of the industry in a program calling for outlay of many millions of dollars in coming months for modernization and extension of mills.

DR. CHAS. W. MOSELEY

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