

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.

THURSDAY, AUG. 26, 1937

Keep The Good Work Going

One of the most significant news stories The Journal-Patriot has carried recently was a summary of rural electrification in Wilkes county, being promoted by the Duke Power company.

Great progress has been made in the past two years and we understand the company has plans for still other lines to communities where only a few years ago electric lines would have been considered a wild daydream. Today the workmen are clearing right of way and erecting lines.

Electricity is worth much on the farm home. It not only relieves the burdened housewife of many loathsome duties and furnishes light for the home but it will mean that the farmer will have ample power to operate machinery and to perform various tasks difficult or practically impossible without electricity.

Rural electrification also means that the once considered luxuries of the city are available on the farm. No more is adequate lighting, refrigeration, radio, washing machines, electric fans, water in the home, bathrooms, etc., confined to the city. Electricity has made it possible that the farm be a desirable place on which to live.

This subject has a deeper meaning. It means that children will no longer be lured away from the farm home, by city life because of its conveniences not available on the farm. Our leaders in the past were born and reared in rural areas. To keep in step with civilization rural areas must be such desirable places in which to live that the better people will not long for the "greener grass across the fence."

This Musical World

The piano makers report the biggest business in many years. Not long ago piano sales had fallen off so that many thought the industry was on its last legs. The radio was killing it, they said.

Now it turns out that radio has stimulated interest in music so that Young America is feeling the urge, as never before, to produce its own music. The whole musical instrument market is experiencing a boom. Nobody knows how many aspiring boys and girls are learning to toot trumpets and saxophones, play the fiddle or the steel guitar, or do musical tricks with strange instruments, but the total must run into the millions. And that doesn't take in the budding crooners, torch singers and tap-dancers. Among the most popular programs on the air are the amateur hours, when ambitious musical youngsters strut their stuff. The volume and quality of the talent and near-talent which these affairs bring into the open is an index of the current enthusiasm for self-made music.

There isn't much wrong with a world that is full of music.

4-H Membership Grows

One of the most hopeful signs for the future of agriculture is that the enrollment in 4-H clubs passed the million mark for the first time, in 1936. Membership continues to increase.

The young men and women who join the 4-H clubs will be the producers of tomorrow. In their club work, they are instructed in new methods and techniques that make it possible for the farmer to raise larger crops and earn a greater return. They are given an opportunity to develop qualities of leadership that will prove invaluable to them in the future—for example, in the agricultural movement which is constantly growing in size and economic and social significance. In brief, they are wisely making careers of farming.

South's Opportunity

A generation ago farms were still largely thought of as mines from which farmers extracted the soil fertility and then moved on to new areas. Now they are rightly regarded as factories in which plant food is manufactured into plant and animal products. There is great hope for the South in this new conception, as The Progressive Farmer points out in the following editorial:—

"We have much labor not yet fully utilized. We have the climate for a quick turn-over of crops. We have soils that can be easily cultivated. We can grow legumes easily and so stuff our land with cheaply produced nitrogen and humus. Furthermore, fertilizers have not advanced in price so much as prices of farm products generally.

"For all these reasons it will pay us to continue spending as much for fertilizers as now but double our acreages of soil improving crops. Our warm climate is an asset but this warm climate in a k e s moisture disappear rapidly. Hence we need more legumes (1) to get cheap nitrogen and (2) to fill our soils with spongy humus that will hold moisture in the soil and so enable us to keep right on converting plant food into the plants just as fast as we can find profitable markets for them. And we need to market them both directly in the form of cotton, tobacco, truck crops, etc., and indirectly in the form of milk, butter, eggs, pork, beef, etc.

"The farm is not a mine but a factory. Let's treat it as such."

Bumper Crops Again

The largest cotton crop in six years, the largest wheat crop since 1931 and the largest corn crop in five years have combined to bring the agricultural situation to the fore again, and to revive interest in and discussion of crop control. In the case of wheat the estimate of nearly 900 million bushels will not create a surplus and cause a serious drop in the price the farmer gets, because there have been serious crop failures in several of the great wheat-growing countries. Wheat is a world crop whose price is fixed in the international markets according to the still un-repealed law of supply and demand.

The bumper crops of the feeding grains, corn, oats and barley, foreshadow an increase in live-stock production. The effect of that will not be felt this year, however.

The cotton crop is giving the greatest concern. This is another international crop, whose price is fixed in the world market, and the forecast of a large surplus production above domestic consumption caused a sudden drop on the New York Cotton Exchange to 10 cents a pound. That revived the demand for the continuance of Federal warehouse loans on cotton, and the President has agreed to that in return for a Congressional promise to take up crop control legislation at the next session.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

GOD CONDEMNS INTEMPERANCE

Lesson For August 29th. Leviticus 10:8-11. Golden Text: Proverbs 20:1.

What is the situation in our country today with respect to the liquor problem? The 21st amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th, was ratified by 36 states in 1933. Since then seven additional states have formally gone wet. Only five are now officially dry, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee, and these permit the sale of beer. In the three years from 1934 through 1936 the national consumption of hard liquor increased nearly 200 per cent, and the consumption of beer rose 20 per cent, not counting bootleg production.

The one bright spot in this dismal picture is the large number of dry counties and localities. About 500 of the 3,300 counties in the country are genuinely dry. Alabama, for instance, went wet last April, but more than two-thirds of its counties are still dry. The dry forces realize it is wiser to stress education in temperance than to champion prohibition.

One of the most deplorable features of the return of liquor to its former power and prestige is the appearance of the woman's saloon with its cocktail hour. Captivating with its neon lighted portals, modernistic tables, and high-priced orchestras, promoted by enticing publicity, and patronized by sophisticated young ladies seeking the glamour of artificial excitement, this new type of grill is worse than its squalid and inelegant predecessor.

Need we wonder that our crime record is the worst in the world? "90 per cent of crime," declared Judge Carroll, of Minneapolis, in a recent address, "is due directly or indirectly to liquor." And think of the ever-increasing slaughter on our highways! 1936 registered an 8 per cent increase over 1935 in the number of drinking drivers involved in fatal accidents. Truly, as our Golden Text warns us, "Wine means mockery, liquor means brawling; there is no sense in reeling under drink."

TODAY AND TOMORROW

WAR without declaration

There has never been a time when so many people, of all nations, have been so earnestly trying to prevent war. Yet as I write this there are two important wars now in progress, and the threat of war is far more menacing, all over the world, than it was on the very eve of the World War which started 23 years ago with Germany's invasion of Belgium.

In Spain the bloodiest, most bitter war of all time has been raging now for more than a year. Within the limited area of a single nation, more people have been killed, in proportion to the population and the number of troops engaged, than in any war in all history. When the whole, true story of the Spanish war is told it will shock the world.

Japan and China are at war. There has been no formal declaration of war, but when one nation invades another's territory and is met with armed resistance, that looks like a real war. And the other nations are trying to find ways to keep from being dragged into these wars.

SPAIN democracy

In Spain, the underlying cause of the war is a conflict of ideas. It has been breeding for years, since the Spanish people, led by part of the army, rose against the King and undertook to set up a republic. Then began a struggle for control of the government, between the Communists and the advocates of a less radical concept of democracy.

The Communists got control of the government, and the anti-Communists started a rebellion. They got sympathy and material aid from other nations which wanted, at any price, to keep Communism out of Western Europe. The Fascist government of Italy and the Hitler government of Germany, which is about the same sort of thing as Fascism, have lent soldiers and equipment to the revolutionists, while Communist Russia is giving similar aid to the Loyalists.

Each side claims to be fighting for democracy and the rights of man. I cannot see how any American can reconcile the claims of either to democracy as we understand it, yet many eager, adventurous young Americans are fighting on the Communist side, and many have been killed.

CHINA outside aid

Japan's excuse for occupying China is the danger of the spread of Communism from Russia into China. Back of that, however, is Japan's desire to find room for its surplus population, and its need of the resources of Chinese territory.

This war, too, has been breeding for years. It is giving the rest of the world even more concern than the affair in Spain. The Chinese outnumber the Japanese more than five to one, but they are badly organized and have not the fighting resources of the Japs. Some European nations and our own country have been helping China reorganize her finances and obtain foreign credits. Their fear is that Russia may take a hand against Japan, which would give Germany a chance to attack Russia from the other side, and that would start another European war.

Germany wants to crush Communism, but she wants more to obtain land and resources for her excess population, and Russia has those.

AMERICA protector

We are probably physically safe from the present wars or any other which might develop from them. No enemy is likely to try to invade the United States. But we are under a pledge, first expressed in the Monroe Doctrine and reaffirmed as lately as 1936, to protect the nations of South America against conquest by a foreign power.

It has been proposed in Washington that we lend a few naval vessels to Brazil. Brazil wants them to train seamen for its new navy, which is being built in American shipyards; for Brazil is afraid of Germany. Germany has been planting settlers in Brazil for a long time. With an area larger than the United States and barely a third of our population, Brazil is an immense untapped reservoir of wealth. It would serve Germany's need for expansion better than did the African colonies she lost in the World War. It would be no trick at all for Germany to take Brazil, if . . .

But this country is obligated to prevent Germany from seizing Brazil.

SECURITY British Empire

What I have been trying to suggest is that no nation is jus-

Memories

by A. B. CHAPIN



- ... THE EATS ...
- HOMI-CURED BAKED HAM
 - FRIED CHICKEN
 - SALT 'N' PEPPER BREAD
 - HOT SOUP BISCUITS
 - HONEY MADE BUTTER
 - MARSH MALLOW
 - MILK GRAVY
 - SWEET 'N' SOUR
 - MURDERED SAUSAGE
 - SALSIFY
 - SOLE BEANS
 - SCREWED TOMATOES
 - LEED ONIONS
 - COLD FLAM
 - APPLESAUCE
 - HONEY
 - SKILLED BEEF
 - CHEESE JELL
 - PLUM BUTTER
 - PICKLED PRACHES
 - GRAPE CONDENSE
 - CURRANT JELL
 - PICKALILLY
 - SWEAR CASE
 - PICKLED WALNUTS
 - APPLE PIE
 - JEFF DAVIS PIE
 - BLACKBERRY PIE
 - JELLY CAKE
 - MARBLE CAKE
 - COFFEE
 - MILK
- AND IF WE HAVE OMITTED ANYTHING, PLEASE TELL US

ified in feeling itself secure against war, in the present stage of civilization. We have not succeeded very well in bringing up our boys to abhor war. Thousands have gone to Spain to fight for an idea which appeals to them, or for the excitement of fighting. I hear of hundreds of American boys going to China to get in on the war against Japan.

The League of Nations has proved ineffective in averting war. It did nothing to stop one of its members, Italy, from gobbling up another member, Ethiopia. What with Italy trying to rebuild the old Roman Empire, Germany and Japan trying to gain more territory, Russia seeking to impose its Communist philosophy on the rest of the world, and a dozen smaller nations ready to fly at each others' throats, I can't believe that America will be able to stand aloof when serious trouble starts.

My own personal notion is that the future of the world depends

upon the English speaking nations, and that the tighter we tie the bonds of friendship with the British Empire, the better off we and the world will be.

FIRST FROSTS ARE REPORTED IN WEST

Washington, Aug. 23.—First frosts of the year were reported from parts of eastern Washington and Oregon, while the country east of the Rockies sweltered in hundred-plus temperatures, the United States weather bureau reported after a study of the past week's weather summary. Continued drought, with added heat, made bad going for corn in much of the main crop section, with outright failure of the crop along

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