

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1939

Interesting Figures

North Carolina has the sixth highest birth rate among the states of the Union and the tenth lowest death rate, according to last week's News Letter publication from the University of North Carolina.

But the report carries another table which is not favorable to the state. North Carolina has the fourth highest infant death rate in the country.

Thus it would seem that a baby born in North Carolina who is able to live through the first year has a good chance of a long life.

The infant mortality rate in North Carolina is disgracefully high. For several years it was lowered, until 1938, when it took a jump upward. With the constant efforts of the public health service to educate people to ways and means of getting children through the first year, it is hard to understand the reversal.

With the death rate in North Carolina far below the national average and with the high birth rate, it stands to reason that if the infant mortality rate could be cut down that North Carolina could have the lowest total death rate in the nation—and that would be a good advertisement for the state.

Commenting on the infant death rate, the News Letter said:

"The infant death rate in North Carolina should be materially reduced. It is now approximately seventeen points above the national average of 50.9. Someone has made the remark that the measure of a civilization is its infant death rate. There possibly is a good deal to this observation. Whether true or not, North Carolina should bend every effort to bring down its infant death rate. We have always made a poor showing in this particular. Our ranks of sixth from highest in birth rate and tenth from the lowest in death rate are highly favorable, but our rank of forty-fifth in infant death rate is disgracefully low. North Carolina has 2.7 per cent of the nation's population, but in 1938, 5.8 percent of the total number of infant deaths occurred in North Carolina. This difference is partly due to the high birth rate in the state but it is also due in considerable measure to the unnecessarily large number of infant deaths in the state."

For Fallen Defenders

We Americans are thinking more about democracy and valuing it more highly these days because its destruction in other countries has made us consider what life here would be like without it. We are determined that its institutions of freedom shall be kept secure for America, no matter what the cost.

In 1917 and 1918, likewise, Americans did not count the cost of defending democracy. The cost for some was their lives. They gave their all in answer to the nation's appeal for protection from autocratic force, then embodied in the might of the Kaiser.

On Poppy Day, Saturday, May 27, we will have opportunity to pay special tribute to the men who died for the cause of democracy. We will be asked to wear their flower, the poppy from the fields where they fell, to show that we still remember and honor their sacrifice.

We will have opportunity, too, to help those who sacrificed health and strength in the conflict, their families and the families of those who have died. Our contributions for our poppies will help lighten the burden for those still paying the cost of democracy's victory in suffering and privation.

A poppy on our coat on Poppy Day will mean that we honor the dead who fell for democracy and that we are aiding the living who gave health and strength in patriotic service to America.

The man who advocates a dictator figures on him dictating to somebody else.

Barriers To Progress

America grew to its present position as the nation with the highest standard of living the world has ever known because it consisted of 48 separate states which yet at the same time succeeded in working together for the good of the whole country. Like the Three Musketeers, the United States was always "all for one, one for all."

Today a perilous shadow seems to be cast upon this successful formula. It is the shadow of state trade barriers—"tariffs" discriminating against the products of outside states so that home products may reap a temporary benefit.

These discriminatory taxes take many forms, but are all deadly in effect. Their inevitable result is to produce retaliatory measures in the other states; and, if this trend continues, we may some day see 48 states with high trade barriers raised against one another, hindering the free flow of commerce that has been a main reason for our national progress.

There's something distinctly un-American about that picture!

Editing Is Not Easy

Some appear to think that running a newspaper is easy, but from experience we can say that it is no picnic, because readers are hard to please.

If we print jokes, people say we are silly.

If we don't they say we are too serious. If we clip things from other papers, we are too lazy to write them ourselves.

If we don't, we are stuck on our own stuff.

If we stick to the job all day, we ought to be out hunting news.

If we do get out and try to hustle, we ought to be on the job in the office.

If we don't print contributions we do not appreciate true genius; and if we print them, the paper is filled with junk.

If we make a change in the other fellow's copy, we are too critical.

If we don't we are asleep.

Now, like as not, some guys will say we swiped this from some other paper. And we did.

They've been trying to perfect a painless alarm clock. We suggest that they make one which instead of ringing, releases the aroma of frying buckwheat cakes.—Columbus (Ohio) State Journal.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

LIQUOR AND THE HOME

Lesson for May 21: Jeremiah 35:5-10
Golden Text: Leviticus 19:9

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Frances E. Willard, in whose honor the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which she helped to organize, is raising a fund of a million dollars with which to advertise temperance.

Having inherited from her sturdy parents a remarkable degree of self-reliance, she was fond of saying that the name Willard means "one who wills." The urge to organize for reform, and to pledge herself and others not to touch liquor, manifested itself early. An impetuous, red-haired, likeable girl, study, travel, and many human contacts enriched her mind and heart.

At thirty-five came the turning point in her spectacular career. In a sharp conflict of opinion over an administrative problem, she had resigned her position as Dean of Women and Professor of Aesthetics at Northwestern University. Thus she found herself out of a congenial job.

Then came her great opportunity. The Woman's Crusade was advancing by leaps and bounds. In November, 1874, she threw in her lot with the National Women's Christian Temperance Union in Cleveland, and was chosen its first secretary. Five years later she was elected president, holding the post for 19 exciting years until her death in 1898.

Her labors were prodigious in what she called her "Do Everything Policy." As an ardent temperance advocate she spoke in every city and town of the country with a population of more than 10,000, and in many smaller places as well. In a single year she answered 20,000 letters.

Such vast energy, coupled with complete sincerity and executive force, enabled her to gratify her ambition to become a celebrity. Indeed her fame was such that when Illinois might have chosen Grant or Logan or Douglas to represent the State in Statuary Hall in Washington, it selected Miss Willard, instead, the only woman so chosen by any state. We do well this year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of her birth, and to drink from the fountain of her wisdom and courage.



MEMORIES review
My earliest memories are of war. In my childhood practically every grown man I knew was a veteran of the Civil War. Our "hired man" on the farm was only one of many who still wore their old Army overcoats in winter.

Nobody got anywhere in politics who was not a veteran. The first newspaper I can remember reading was full of news about the war between Russia and Turkey. The year I was born Germany and France were at war, and Germany won.

There was a civil war in Spain when I was five years old. England was carrying on almost continual war against South African tribesmen and various Atlantic countries when I was a boy.

The war of England against Egypt and the conquest of the Sudan are vivid memories. France made war on China. China and Japan were at war in the early '90's. Japan defeated Russia in war in 1904.

The Boer War in which England conquered the Dutch colonists in South Africa, innumerable wars in South America and in the Balkan Peninsula, and our own constant warfare against the Indians of the West all contributed to my belief that war is a natural way for humans to act.

WAR pressure

Outside of our Indian battles my own country was not engaged in war until I was grown up and married. Look at our national record for the past forty years. We went to war with Spain to free Cuba. We took the Philippines as part of the loot. We had a long and pretty serious war with the Filipinos, who objected to being sold down the river. We sent armed forces into several Latin-American countries to collect debts owing to Americans.

When Mr. Taft was President we were so close to war with Mexico that we sent the largest army we had ever assembled since 1865 to the Mexican border, ready for action. Early in 1914, before Europe went to war, we sent a military and naval force into Mexico and captured the city of Vera Cruz.

A dozen times before we entered the World War our Navy and our Government threatened war against various South American nations. Long before we got into the great conflict public opinion was putting almost irresistible pressure upon our Government to participate. President Wilson resisted until he could resist no longer, and we entered the greatest war in all history.

IDEAS repeated

Wars are brought about by differences in ideas more than by any other single cause. The American people went into the World War because we were afraid that the German idea would dominate the world unless Germany were defeated.

The German idea was that the State is supreme and the individual the servant of Government. That had been bred into generations of Germans. It was so totally opposed to American ideas of individual liberty that we revolted at the thought that Germany might become able to impose that idea on the rest of the world.

Many think of the Hitler government of today as something new. It is ancient history in Germany, where the military power has always been supreme.

We hear more about the treatment of civilians by the military forces now than we used to, because we get more detailed news from Europe. There has been no change in German ideas in a thousand years.

PEACE superiority

I am convinced that there will never be peace among nations so long as one race or group of people regards itself as superior to all other peoples, and so considers it has the right to take whatever it wants that the inferior peoples have.

No nation has a perfect record in that respect. We Americans, because our skins are white, have assumed superior rights over the Indians from the beginning. We enforced them because we had better weapons. The history of the world is that of nations believing sincerely in their own superiority, exploiting peoples whom they regarded as inferior.

The followers of Mohammed believed and still believe that they are superior to all other peoples. They conquered Spain and held it for 700 years, and all but conquered the rest of Europe, nearly capturing Vienna in 1683.

The Japanese believe that they are the only people whose ruler is an actual Son of God, and therefore they are superior to all other peoples. Now can there

Fair Weather



be peace when there are great nations holding themselves to be better than others?

DEMOCRACY equality

It is the American idea that all men are equal, that there is and can be no governing class, that we, the people, are the Government and can and ought to overthrow Government when it attempts to infringe on our personal liberties.

Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries have the same philosophy, in varying degrees. So have the Chinese people.

The impending conflict is one between that concept of Government and that which makes Government supreme dictator over the lives of its subjects.

In the final analysis, democracy is the most complete human expression

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