

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, JUNE 19, 1939

Library Services

The library services the WPA bookmobile is rendering the rural people of Wilkes county should be used and appropriately appreciated.

Reading is a tonic for minds and bodies and is often the means of raising one's standard of living and thinking. We sincerely hope that the people of the county take full advantage of the opportunities offered for free library services on the truck and within easy reach of their homes.

Imports Slipping

Harry Hopkins, secretary of commerce, said in an address Thursday that the export trade of this country during the past year was nothing to brag about.

The export balance—the difference between value of goods coming in and going out—was only one billion dollars. That is, the goods going out exceeded the value of goods coming in by only one billion.

A billion is a vast sum but is small in comparison with the export balance ten or 15 years ago.

Our foreign trade has been slipping badly and the decrease has had much to do with the increase in unemployed.

And the amount of imports, especially along some lines, has been growing.

The trade agreements which Secretary of State Hull has worked out with other countries have had many beneficial effects and have kept trade up with some countries and in some lines of business. The situation would perhaps be worse had it not been for some of the agreements.

But American people have a high standard of living, much higher than in many countries where some of our imported goods are made. To protect this high standard of living we must protect our markets as well as encourage other nations to buy here.

It is a situation calling for giving and taking and many precautions must be taken to see that it is not all giving on our part.

Public Demands Filled

With but few exceptions the public gets about what it demands.

This is remarkably true relative to law enforcement and those states of affairs we refer to as law and order.

Often a loosely formed public opinion will have a law written on the books and forget about the matter, the people lulling themselves into lethargy with a complacency that the problem is settled.

On the other hand, there are laws written because of a solidly formed and aroused public opinion. Such laws are enforced because the people demands it.

Peace officers appointed or elected to serve the public are going to do just about what the public demands. If there is no demand for strict or stringent law enforcement there will not be any special effort to enforce the laws.

The person who takes no interest in maintaining law and order in his home community as long as his own person, home or belongings are not molested is thereby adding to the downfall of his community and eventually his own home or life.

If you live in a community where there is little respect for law and morals, even though none of the violators injure you or your home, you are going to suffer because of the bad influence which spreads like a deadly virus from misbehavior.

The Hereford County Herald carried the following editorial comment along this line of thought:

"Making laws in North Carolina is one thing and enforcing them is an entirely different matter, the recent publicity over the return of slot machines in wholesale numbers has emphasized.

"The legislature passed a law permiss-

ing the State to license and tax "non-gambling" or amusement slots. It has kept on the books all its laws against gambling, including the Flannagan Act which makes it a crime to operate or own a gambling slot machine.

"The Revenue Department is a tax collecting agency and when it has collected the license taxes due on the machines its job is done. If the machines are used for gambling, the only agency for enforcing the State's laws against gambling in general or with slot machines in particular is in the hands of local sheriffs and police officers. If there is objection locally to the open use of the machines, licensed by the State as amusement machines and "non-gambling", as gambling devices it is up to local officers to enforce the criminal laws of the State against gambling. For North Carolina, as a state, has an effective agency for collecting the taxes levied by the State in its Revenue Department, but it does not maintain a police force to enforce its criminal laws.

"Responsibility for maintaining the peace and apprehending criminals is left entirely in the hands of the local police officers. Thus how well the criminal laws against gambling slot machines or against stealing or moonshining or what have you, are enforced depends upon how well the local police enforce the laws that the State entrusts to them. And, generally speaking, they enforce them just about as well as the public demands that they be enforced and in comparison with the cooperation given them by the public in abiding by the laws."

BLAME IT ON THE WOMEN

(The Sylvester (Ga.) Local)

It begins to look as though the blame will be placed on the women. An Oakland man charges that the women, in following health fads, are to blame for the huge pile of uneaten wheat in our country. Others blame the women for the big cotton surplus because of their preference for silk and rayon products. If there should come a time when there is a huge tobacco surplus they will probably blame it to the fact that women have almost discarded the snuff-dipping habit.

Sunday School Lesson

By REV. CHARLES E. DUNN

PAUL REVIEWS HIS LIFE

Lesson for June 25: Philippians 1:12-24
Golden Text: 2 Timothy 4:7

A very early tradition describes St. Paul as a man of forbidding appearance, for it tells us that he had scanty hair, crooked legs, and a long nose.

In addition, we know from his own writings that his health was frail. He speaks of a thorn in the flesh. He says that he "dies daily." And in the beautiful and tender letter to his Philippian friends, from which our lesson text is taken, he refers to his "humiliating body."

It seems clear that the apostle was very sensitive about his bodily weakness. It was indeed a sore trial. Yet by way of compensation his physical frame was uncommonly tough.

When we recall his amazing adventures, involving him in three shipwrecks, many beatings, imprisonment, hunger and thirst, danger from brigands, and endless worry, we can agree with a great scholar that his career "as a mere physical performance challenges our admiration."

But we are most of all interested in Paul's magnificent qualities of mind and heart. This same tradition which speaks of his unprepossessing body, goes on to add that "he was full of the grace and pity of the Lord." We are impressed by his extraordinary gift of winning and holding friends.

Everywhere he went people were held spellbound by the charm of his personality. Consider the long lists in his letters of men and women to whom he sends greetings. Or take such an appealing personal word as this: "God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus."

To be sure, Paul had a quick temper. It has been pointed out that, like Luther, he was a paradoxical mixture of tenderness and fierceness. Yet he was anything but quarrelsome.

While firm in an issue involving a sacred principle, he was patient and tolerant, even suffering fools gladly. In his eagerness to help the stupid he became the embodiment of that love he describes so eloquently, the love that "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."



ROYALTY

I was in Washington when King George and Queen Elizabeth paid their royal visit to our National Capital. I was one of the comparatively few for whom standing room had been reserved when the visiting monarchs held a reception for the Senators and Representatives in the rotunda of the Capitol Building.

I can report that King George VI is a pleasant-faced, intelligent-looking, slender gentleman of 41 who looked and acted as if he were having a good time, and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, is much prettier than her pictures show. She is a little woman, about five feet two I should say, decidedly in contrast to Mrs. Roosevelt's six feet.

Washington has never been so gaily decorated, nor its inhabitants so enthusiastic, over the visits of any other celebrities. That is quite natural, since no celebrities of such world importance have ever visited Washington before. The titular head of the world's greatest empire paying a call on the head of the world's greatest republic was an occasion to celebrate.

I have seen, at more or less close range, many heads of nations in the past sixty years, but few who made as good an impression.

MONARCHY

It is a good deal of a joke to call the British Empire a monarchy. The word means government by the rule of a single individual, as contrasted with anarchy, which means no government at all, and democracy, which means rule by the people.

Britain is so far from being a monarchy that the present King has about as much authority or control over the government of the Empire as the lowliest of his subjects. Not really quite as much when you consider that he cannot belong to any political party and cannot vote, even for a town councilor, let alone a member of Parliament.

He is a symbol, comparable to the American Flag or the Great Seal of the United States. He cannot give advice to his Government, but must take the advice of the Cabinet and sign where he is told on the dotted line.

All this is expected of the King of England, and the Dominions, Emperor of India, etc., etc., is that he shall behave like an English gentleman and uphold the dignity of the Empire. He does that extremely well.

DEMOCRACY

When you stop to think of it, the British Government is a great deal more democratic than our own. All of the power is in the hands of the common people, who elect the House of Commons. The Commons selects the Cabinet,

which the King must appoint, from its own membership, and the Cabinet so appointed is called and actually is "the Government."

When Charles I tried to dictate to Parliament the people rose in wrath and cut off his head. English kings have been pretty careful ever since about meddling with Government.

Queen Victoria got away with a good deal of interference in public affairs, but the only one of her successors who tried it, Edward VIII, King George's older brother, was forced to resign the throne less than three years ago.

The King cannot veto and act of Parliament. Since 1910 the House of Lords has been deprived of all power to override any act of the House of Commons.

There is one way the King can get rid of a member of Parliament whom he dislikes. That is to elevate him to the Peerage, by making him a Baron, Earl, Viscount, Marquis or Duke. That makes him ineligible to sit in the House of Commons and shunts him into the House of Lords, where he can talk but not vote.

PRESIDENT

By comparison with the King of England, the President of the United States occupies a position of enormous power. He is the sole executor of the nation, charged with administering the laws enacted by Congress. If he disapproves an Act of Congress he can veto it. He can and does recommend legislation to Congress.

The President, like the King, has a Cabinet, but the members of the American Cabinet are appointed solely by the President and are in effect merely his personal clerks or executive assistants. And he can do many things, without consulting Congress, which no English King would dare to attempt.

Our Government, too, is less democratic than England's. Besides the House of Representatives we have a Senate, which is supposed to represent the interest of the several states.

CANADA

King George visited this country not in his official capacity of head of the whole British Empire, but as king of one of the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations, which is now the official title of most of the domain over which the British flag flies. He came to call on us as King of our next-door neighbor, Canada.

By the Act of Westminster the British Government relinquishes all authority over Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa, but provided that the King of England should also be King of those independent nations, who are members in their own rights of the League of Nations, send their own ambassadors to other countries, and make treaties in their own names.

The King of England is represented in each of the nations of the Commonwealth by a Governor-General, who has about as much to say about public affairs as the King does, which is almost nothing. So the pleasant young man and his beautiful wife who called on us lately were merely the King and Queen of Canada.

Persons convicted of larceny, assault, and drunkenness, in that order, make up the larger percentage of North Carolina prisoners placed in disciplinary grades.

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DODGE LUXURY LINER

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