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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, MAY 19, 1941



To Graduates

About this time each year we try to write something we sincerely hope will be beneficial to the many who have recently or will soon complete the high school course of study.

Each girl and boy who earns a high school diploma deserves congratulations and whatever commendation we can offer in the way of favorable comment. The number who reach that point in education is small compared with the number who enter school in the first grade.

If the high school days have accomplished their purpose they have given the student an insight into ways of procuring knowledge and the use of education as well as stuffed their intellects with certain facts.

With few exceptions, high school graduates, however commendable their present achievement may be, are not ready to take their places in the world scramble without additional training. Therefore, it is advisable that those who can, continue their education in institutions of higher learning. But in so doing, there should be a decision as to what use the knowledge gained will be put to and what training should be acquired. This knowledge in advance will prevent lost time and encourage greater efficiency.

But all the education and all the training will never substitute for hard work, whether it be physical, mental or a combination of the two. Many boys and girls have already met that character called "Hard Work" and are not daunted at the prospects of meeting him daily. Others, reared in an environment and under circumstances where work was not essential on their part to filling their physical wants, will find "Hard Work" a stranger. The acquaintance in that case will not be pleasant but, like a dose of medicine, is essential sometimes for the well being of the patient.

To each and every graduate we extend congratulations and best wishes for the future, which, at best, is uncertain.

One Form of Sabotage

The Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Record recently published a letter written home by a young man who had been taken into the army under the selective service act. He said: "We give up a year of our lives, the comforts of homes, and countless other things for barracks, hard work and duty from sun-up to sun-down. We do our part and do it harder than anyone at home, and yet it's the people at home who are doing the kicking and squawking."

"They kick about wages and squeal about hours, strikes, threaten to strike, tie up machinery, and there you are . . . The people want soldiers—millions of them. Yet every day it's becoming apparent that many of these same people think more of a few cents an hour than they do of their own children and relatives."

It is interesting to know what young men who are serving their country in the army for less than a dollar a day think of the highest paid workmen in the world who threaten to block defense production unless they are paid still more. How much longer will the American people stand for this form of sabotage?

Barber's bill found in Deerfield, Mass. shows shaves cost 50 cents in 1756. Let's quit laughing at the beards in our family albums.—St. Louis Star-Times.

The Nazi education is so debasing the German character and blunting the intelligence of the German youth that in our own interest it would be a pity to interfere with the continuance of that process.—London Times.

Borrowed Comment

HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN

(N. C. School Bulletin)

During the past few weeks there have been several accidents fatal to school children. Two of these accidents happened in Wake county; another took place in Chatham county; and still another one occurred in Rowan county. The former two were in connection with the operation of the school transportation system, whereas the latter occurred on the public highway.

It is not our purpose to establish the causes of the various accidents. Nothing can bring the children who were killed back to life. But in each of these cases it can be truthfully said that some person or persons acted in a way that a life was taken, and in each instance the school must assume some responsibility for the safety of other children now riding the school busses or traveling the highways of the state.

In the case of the ten-year old who was killed in Rowan county, the officer who made the investigation of the accident stated that:

"Child playing in road on way home from school, with a home-made scooter made from skates, rode his scooter in front of car from left side of road to the extreme right side of the road. Operator of car blew horn when first saw child, then when child scooted in front of him, applied brakes. Child kept coming and when impact occurred car was completely off the highway and child jumped off the scooter directly in front of car."

This is a case where a child was not warned sufficiently about the dangers of the highway—that highways should not be used as a playground. Or perhaps the driver of the car was at fault in not reducing the speed of his car until the children were passed. Certainly someone somewhere was at fault; and if everyone concerned—teachers, principals, bus drivers, car drivers, and pupils—would be always on the alert to teach safety habits, to warn of dangers on the highway, to practice safe driving habits, and to take precaution where children are involved, the accidents on the highways would be reduced to a minimum. We all have a part in the preservation of lives on the highway. Let's all do our part at all times.

TEST FOR PEPPER

(Greensboro Daily News)

Florida's Senator Pepper is among those who profess to be most concerned over the defense of democracy. The tenor of his remarks leaves little, if any, doubt of his willingness to make off "short of war" in the aid which he would give to Great Britain as the most effective means of preserving our own liberties and institutions.

But, while the Florida flame thrower is waxing eloquent on this theme, an incident which can hardly be classified as the acme of democracy or the operation of those rights and privileges which he would assure to Americans by further British aid has occurred down in his own bailiwick. At Quincy, Fla., a negro was taken from the sheriff and lynched. From all accounts it was an exaggerated case of mobbery as two lynching efforts were required before the purpose was attained. The hapless negro, charged with attempted assault, was first taken from jail, pummeled and shot by the mob and left for dead. In some manner, however, he survived and made his way to a nearby house where he was again taken in tow by officers and dispatched in an unguarded ambulance to Tallahassee hospital 25 miles away. He never reached that destination, as another or the same mob halted the ambulance, made off with its half-dead occupant and this time finished the heinous crime which it set out to accomplish. And so far professed investigators are up against a blank wall; officers in two direct brushes with the mobsters positively recognized nobody in the band.

So far as we have noticed Senator Pepper, with all his concern for and undying interest in democracy and preservation of the American way, has uttered not a word of condemnation of the flagrant violation of just about all the constitutional guarantees there are in his home state from which he will presumably ask re-election. Our own idea—and we will most happily apologize in event we demonstrably do the Everglades honorable an injustice—is that the senator would not advocate passage of federal anti-lynching legislation, under which F. B. I. agents could be sent to ferret out mobsters who are never recognized, must less apprehended, by local officers, even in exchange for excavation of that trans-Florida canal in which he has been so profoundly interested.

Abnormal Absurdities

By DWIGHT NICHOLS, et al.

IN SAD PLIGHT

Herbert Hoover said in a radio address last week that America was not prepared to enter the war. With Dick Tracy badly wounded, Dagwood unable to do anything because of excitement over his new baby, Daddy Warbucks hopelessly crushed, The Lone Ranger dead and Captain Easy engaged with sabotage agents, things are in a bad way. (But Superman and Captain Marvel are still going strong).

HESS' SONG TO HITLER

You take the u-boat
And I'll take the parachute,
And I'll be in Scotland afore ye.

WELL, DO TELL!

During the Go To Church campaign here many window cards with bold letters invited people to attend church. In one window another poster was placed alongside the church window card and if you did not notice too closely you were likely to read from one card across to the other. In case you did the words were "Go To Church and Dance."

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE—LAUGH OF THE WEEK

One night this past winter, it seems, a Wilkes constable was getting ready for bed when he thought he heard a noise in the chicken house. He had disrobed clear down to his long underwear, but didn't want to take time to put his clothes on again, so he just slipped on his shoes, grabbed his trusty shotgun and the flashlight, and went out to investi-

gate. Reaching the hen house he threw open the door and sorta squatted down, pointing the gun and flashlight toward the roosts and peering into the void. Well, you know the seat construction of long drawers. About that time his old collie dog came to see what was going on, touched the rear of the chicken-raising constable with his cold nose, and he unintentionally killed 14 of his best pullets.

ANSWERING WAR QUESTIONS

All of us know so little about the European war and there is so much talk about it that it is difficult to get along in conversation. We have an answer for almost any of the questions about the war. It is "We don't know." However, we may qualify that answer with whatever impression we may have received from reading today's papers.

Fertilizer Leader Hits U. S. Charges

Winston-Salem, May 12.—"Our industry faces this court action, which promises to be on a larger scale than any other ever conducted in the State, just at a time when its energies are being taxed to meet the demands of the farmer and other production vital to national defense," Charles J. Brand, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of The National Fertilizer Association, said here today. His statement was made after a session of the Federal court here at which 78 fertilizer companies and officers pleaded not guilty to an antitrust indictment, 22 companies and individuals pleaded nolo contendere, with a possible consent decree to be entered, while the case against two defendants was dropped. "The Government's enlarged

program for more corn, hogs, and vegetables is making added demands upon the industry at this time," said Mr. Brand. "And not only that, but basic requirements for the manufacture of munitions, such as nitrogen carriers and sulphuric acid, are part of the industry's contribution to national defense."

"Fortunately, because of competition within the industry which has stimulated economies of manufacture and wide distribution, production of fertilizer for the past ten years has been at a higher level generally than total industrial production. This production," said Mr. Brand, "not only has brought the price of fertilizer to a level lower than the price paid by the farmer for any other essential commodity which he buys, except feed, but has also put us in a sound position to respond to the impact of emergency better than many other industries."

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLE CARRIER AND DATE OF HEARING THEREON

As required by Section 3, Chapter 136, Public Laws of 1927, notice is hereby given that application has been made by E. O. Woodie, for a Franchise Certificate, authorizing the operation of motor vehicles for transporting passengers from Junction of No. 18 with No. 89, via NC 18 to Spry and Laurel Springs, Over NC 88 to Junction with 16; thence to Jefferson via No. 16; thence over the public highways via the intervening towns of via 221 to West Jefferson; thence via US 421 to North Wilkesboro. From Traphill to Elkin, via County Highway, and that the Utilities Commission will hold a hearing on the said application in Supreme Court Bldg., at Raleigh, on Friday, May 30th, 1941 at 10:00 a. m. o'clock. N. C. UTILITIES COMMISSION. R. O. Self, Chief Clerk. 1-26-31

The dogwood (Cornus Florida) has been named the North Carolina State flower.

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