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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Practice Sanity This Christmas

This is a reminder that all should practice safety and sanity this Christmas season.

It has long been a custom for some people with a misconception of Christmas to celebrate the joyous season by shooting firecrackers, shotguns and pistols, drinking, reckless driving, fighting, etc.

This is a wonderful time to quit such practices. Let us leave off the use of explosives and firearms and not fight among ourselves during the holidays. Let us leave the explosives, firearms and fighting to the men who fight the enemy.

It is nothing short of criminal to waste things here which our soldiers, sailors and marines need to use against the enemy. We cannot properly conduct ourselves on the home front and support the war effort if we waste things which are needed in prosecution of the war.

It is not necessary to waste something in order to enjoy Christmas.

Where Manpower Is

It is not our desire to criticize just to have something to say, but it does appear that it is time to put in a word about the manpower situation.

The government is seeking allocation of manpower in order to prosecute the war to the fullest possible extent.

We are informed that the government has 2,600,000 civilian employees.

Is it not possible that any surplus of manpower which may exist now, if there be any surplus in the nation, is in the ranks of government employees not in uniform?

News commentators tell us that in some bureaus in Washington hundreds of employees loaf all day while in other bureaus the employees work almost day and night.

Every one of the multiple branches of multiple bureaus seek to "hog" the labor available, whether they need it or not.

Meanwhile industry and agriculture, as well as the branches of the armed services, need more manpower.

It seems that some central agency could put an end to piracy of labor for the government, as well as for industry.

The new manpower setup could very well start on a big job right in Washington, before sending out to the individuals in thousands of communities.

There are three government agencies whose purpose it is to loan money to farmers. They are: Farm Security Administration, Farm Credit Administration and Emergency Crop Loan. One could do the work and thousands of employees could be released for essential war work.

The same comment can be made relative to the U. S. Department of Education and the National Youth administration.

It is high time for Washington to clean house of surplus manpower, consolidate a few hundred bureaus and agencies and release some labor and manpower.

Please, Washington, cut out some overlapping before trying to regulate everybody else.

Drastic Measures

The first of war time drastic measures to come suddenly and affect many people was the order Friday morning suspending gasoline sales temporarily to the average motorist.

Generally speaking, the people accepted the suspension without much complaint, because they felt there was reason for drastic action. The shortage in the east developed because of the increased need of gasoline to our fighting men in Africa and other points.

Perhaps there will be other drastic measures. In such event, the people

should be well informed of the reason for the action, and if the reason is good there will be little complaint.

However, the people in this part of the country cannot help but feel that the gasoline matter has been bungled frequently. But there is a much better feeling now that all the people are in the same rationing boat.

We never could get in through our heads that we should do without gasoline just because we lived in the 17 eastern seaboard states while the big interior of the country and the west had plenty.

Much of the country which was not rationed before December 1 depended on railway tank cars. It so happened that the eastern states before the war depended mainly on sea transportation for gasoline.

Instead of using some of the tank cars which had been furnished the west and midwest, they rationed us for months and let the remainder of the country alone. It took the rubber crisis to beat the politicians and put rationing on nationally as it should be.

Now, we have nothing along that line to complain of, and we feel that all are in the same boat.

A recent survey of 10 Rochester war plants revealed that nine have kept their promise to integrate Negroes into production jobs.

When three men in Passaic, N. J., living within a radius of three blocks of each other, pooled their cars on a 36-mile daily round trip to work, each man began to save 1,200 miles of driving a year.

Although only about 4 percent of Eastern householders with fuel oil furnaces have switched to coal, about 2,850,000 barrels of light fuel oil will be saved. Conversion by 50 percent of fuel oil users would save 36 million barrels.

In New York State, Navy engineers have authorized erection of 2,500,000 square feet of roof deck built of poured gypsum in order to save metal and lumber, scarce strategic materials. Tongued and grooved flooring board of gypsum has also been developed, saving wood.

LIFE'S BETTER WAY

WALTER E. ISENHOUR,
Hiddenite, N. C.

EVENLY BALANCED

It means much in life to be evenly balanced and not lopsided. Perhaps the majority of people are, in some respect, out of balance. If it is not one thing, it is something else.

Many are out of balance politically. They are extremists, or lean too heavy to one side. The same is true of lovers of money, pleasure, and the things of this world which are material and temporal.

Everybody in sin and wickedness are unevenly balanced. Sin swings men hellward, and this is always the wrong direction to lean and travel. What God said to King Belshazzar when he wrote his doom upon the wall of the banquet hall can be said of every sinner today: "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." (Daniel 5:27). It is a sad and deplorable thing to be found wanting before God as men travel through life, and more especially when they come down to die. However, the sinner can repent before God, obtain forgiveness, then walk uprightly and righteously before God and man and have an even balance.

Many people are unbalanced religiously. They lean too heavy and too one-sided to some false doctrine, or some creed, type, shadow and form. They take the shadow for the substance, the non-essential for the real. They have a formal worship they observe and go through, but they fail to realize that God is a Spirit, and seeks such to worship Him as worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24). Mere formal worship is but empty and void. It never brings the soul into fellowship with God, neither will it bring the soul to "the haven of rest" when this life is ended.

It is good to be evenly balanced educationally, politically, and in our plans, aims and purposes, and in our opinions and views, and in our undertakings; but they may not always be in every particular with the best of people, as we are all subject to mistakes, weaknesses and blunders; but to be unevenly balanced religiously is the most serious. It is so easy to go to some extreme in religion, or to be extremely cold, or formal, or lukewarm, or fanatical. Only by a life consecrated unreservedly unto God, and by much prayer and a close walk with him, can we say evenly balanced.

Abnormal Absurdities

By DWIGHT NICHOLS, et al.

NORTH CAROLINA
(From Desert Dust)

(Old faithful Nat White, the fellow who fell off the bicycle last month, was called to the mountain section of North Carolina recently, on account of his sister being sick. He brings back the following item—which most certainly is worthy of re-publication—and we appreciate permission from Bryson City Times to use it.—Ed.)

"If North Carolina really is the 'Land of Opportunity,' said an out-of-state friend of mine, 'why don't you Tar Heels do more boosting?'"

"Why," I said, "every true Tar Heel can tell you that the Old North State stretches for nearly 800 paved miles from Manteo to the famous quarries at Murphy, whose unique marble courthouse is near the capitals of seven other States than to its own Capitol building in Raleigh, which since 1933 has been regarded as one of the most perfect architectural types in America and which stands in the very center of a State whose wonderful mountain ranges include the highest peak in eastern America; whose wonderful lakes include the bluest, the greenest, the clearest, and the largest inland waters in the entire nation; whose eastern shores are washed by hundreds of miles of the great Atlantic Ocean and whose wonderful climate, fertile soil, and abundant flora and fauna in mountains, sandhills, and seashore make it the playground of the Nation, a variety vacation-land whose myriad charms are rivaled only by its industrial development—which includes the world's largest hosiery mill, world's largest denim mill, world's largest demask mill, world's largest towel mill, world's largest tobacco and berry markets not to mention the oldest State University, the birthplace of aviation and sundry other wonders of present and historical interest, and—"

"That's all very fine," he interrupted, "but what about Job Opportunities in North Carolina? I know a young fellow who heard so much about job opportunities elsewhere that he left North Carolina and moved to another State."

"That's true," I admitted. "I

know him well. He and more to another State, but this is what he said he found:

"In the morning I would arise from a Statesville-made bed and a Mebane mattress, throw off Forest City sheets, flannel blankets, and a Leesville bedspread, step out on a Tryon rug, open Laurinburg curtains to let in light enough to shave before a North Wilkesboro mirror, using a Cliffside wash cloth and a Kannapolis towel. I would open a High Point bureau to get out a set of Winston-Salem underwear, a Kinston shirt and a Taylorsville tie; sit down on a Thomasville chair with a Roanoke Ropids slip cover to pull on Durham socks and tie Hickory shot laces. I would then arise to don a Biltmore homespun suit with a Greensboro made belt, light up a cigarette made in Reidsville with tobacco grown in Wilson and rolled in paper made in Brevard.

"After breakfast, smoking a cigar made in Greensboro, I would meet a farmer dressed in Charlotte overalls, wearing Newton gloves, driving a Wilson-made wagon filled with paints made in Wilmington, fertilizer in New Bern, and brooms made at Liberty—who was taking home to his wife a Lexington dress in an Elizabeth City box wrapped in paper made in Canton and tied with twine made in Hickory.

"Of course I wouldn't have you think everything there was made in North Carolina. For instance, later in the day after a pot of English tea, Russian vodka, or Scotch whiskey, I would cross a yard covered by an Ohio mortgage to get in a Detroit Ford filled with Texas gasoline, ask an Irish cop the way to a Greek restaurant to watch a Mexican girl do a Cuban rumba by a Harlem swing band. For dinner, I would

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