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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Borrowed Comment

Plenty of Lumber

(The Charlotte Observer.)

The final removal of WPB controls on production due October 1 will release immediately for civilian purposes 138,000,000 board feet already sawed, cut, and ready for use.

That amount of lumber has been held in reserve by the Army to provide for military emergencies, with the provision that it was to be returned at once to civilian use when it became apparent that the Army would not need it.

In addition, the Navy will probably release all or a large part of its reserve of 70,000,000 board feet; the National Housing agency, with 64,000,000 board feet set aside for housing units scheduled to be started late this summer, will no doubt find a surplus on its hands, as will large industrial consumers, who have a wartime allotment for building prefabricated houses for England has already been reduced by 22,000,000 board feet.

All of this adds up to a lot of lumber that will be immediately available to civilians. In fact, it will probably be as much as the construction industry can use during the period of readjustment from military to civilian building.

By that time, the mills will be turning out nearly their full capacity to civilian work.

WB, therefore, was not overoptimistic in predicting that within thirty days the construction industry will have all the lumber it needs for civilian work of all kinds.

Japanese envoy Kuruu says that he didn't know a thing about any plan to attack Pearl Harbor. We doubt that any Japs can be found who will acknowledge knowledge of it. They would have us believe that the whole thing was just an inexplicable coincidence.—Greensboro Daily News.

● LIFE'S BETTER WAY ●

WALTER E. ISENHOUR
Hiddenite, N. C.

A DOWN HILL PULL.

When we see anyone who doesn't read nor study the Bible in order to know how to live right, and doesn't pray nor trust God to lead, guide and direct him, shield and protect him, and who doesn't assemble with the people of God, nor keep their company, but lives entirely indifferent to God and His people, we know the devil has a mighty down-hill pull on his life and soul. There is nothing but defeat for time and eternity for one in such a condition, unless he absolutely and fully turns unto God. We fear for those who are completely in the hands of the devil, for we know he will curse, blight and destroy them, sooner or later, soul and spirit. He even destroys multitudes physically before they live out their days on earth. This is seen by the many who die in early life because of bad and ruinous habits formed, evil and destructive indulgence engaged in, which hurt their bodies and destroy their health. We see so many precious young people today whom the devil has in his grip, and is fast pulling them down grade to defeat, ruin and damnation. How sad and deplorable! O if they would only turn to God and let Him lead them in the upward and beautiful way heavenward!

Sin and wickedness always pull down grade, never up. The devil's business, plans and purposes are that of pulling down, down, down. He pulls down in health, in character in manhood and womanhood, in heart, mind, soul and spirit. He pulls down all that is noble, good, great, sublime and worth while in one's life that is surrendered unto him. He pulls down in honesty, principle, plan and purpose—down to the lowest depths possible in this life, and down to the lowest hell in the eternal world. He is the world's greatest down-puller. No hill of righteousness, godliness and holiness is climbed by anyone except it be against the devil. However, on the other hand, God always pulls up grade. He enables His people to climb life's hills and mountains of godliness, success, peace and happiness when they pray much, obey His holy Word, love, worship and serve Him in the beauty of holiness. Amen, and hallelujah!

O sinner, backslider, ungodly, worldly and wicked, why not break ranks with the devil, who is fast pulling you down hill to defeat, wreck and damnation, and to hell, and turn unto the living and true God and let Him save you, sanctify you, and then lead up to the narrow and beautiful way heavenward?

ABNORMAL ABSURDITIES

By DWIGHT NICHOLS et al



THE CIRCUS TRIP—

The weather was a little damp on one side, but not too damp to go to the circus Thursday night. There is something about a circus that brings back boyhood days in all their joy.

Because we did not have enough passes, we had to crawl under the tent Thursday night. Here's to mud in your eye!

Name of the circus here reminds us of the first time we ever saw a really big show. It was in Winston-Salem that we first saw the Tingling Sisters, Blarney and Erley combined shows. They had a big tent full of all kinds of animals, and that proved our downfall.

We always did like animals, but on this particular occasion we got too close to the wrong place.

How could we have known that their prize monkey had escaped and that all the show hands were looking for him?

Anyway, first thing we knew we had been crammed into a cage with a lot of monkeys. That's what a fellow gets for not shaving in a week.

Well, we went in that manner with the circus all the way to Sarasota, Florida, winter quarters, where they turn the animals out for some sunshine.

We finally got hold of a razor and the mistake, which the show manager apologized for and termed it a "slight mistake," was discovered.

THIS AND THAT—

Two women went to a lonely mountain retreat for a rest. In a few days they wrote the editor of their paper, saying: "We are not exactly lonely out here. We have each other to talk to. But we need another woman to talk about."

Ever heard of the army chaplain who bowed his head to return thanks and when he raised his head someone was asking what he would have for dessert? . . . And the woman who wore her wedding ring on the wrong hand because she married the wrong man. . . . And we knew a farmer who had a vicious, kicking mule that he wouldn't sell because he thought the mule would feel that he had won a personal victory.

TRYING IT OVER—

We had this one in this column Thursday and we guess you wonder why. We'll try it again: COURTSHIP IN A GARDEN A pair in a hammock Attempter to kiss, And in less time than a jiffy

AS MAN TO MAN—

Buck Private—Sir, my wife is ill, and I feel that I should go to her.

Colonel—Private Smith, I doubt that you are being strictly honest with me. I've had a letter from your wife, requesting me not to give you leave, because you get drunk and become abusive. Private Smith (saluting, starting to leave, then pausing)—Sir, may we talk as man to man? Colonel—Indeed.

Private Smith—Well, then, sir, we are both liars, because I'm not even married.

Reports say that boll weevil losses in the Southeast may be heavier this year than for any season since 1941.

Foreign production of cotton is now double what it was in 1920 and the world carrying power is at an all-time high, says Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

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National Income Is Nearly Doubled

Washington, Aug. 30.—Per capita income in the United States practically doubled during the war. The commerce department said today in a survey of income payments to individuals during the years 1940 through 1944. The survey showed per capita income for individuals jumped from \$676 in 1940 to \$1,117 in 1944, or an increase of 64.3 per cent. The figures were reached by dividing total income by the civilian population.

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Learns the Hard Way

Will the atomic bomb with its unparalleled power deter nations from war or be the ultimate means of destruction of the human race?

Some take the view that the human race will never again be so crazy as to be plunged into global war. Others take the pessimistic view that as long as the world stands there will be international strife and bloodshed at intermittent periods.

Some interesting comment on the subject is contained in the following editorial from the Reidsville Review:

This sixth anniversary of the start of World War II finds it ended with a sickening record of death and destruction such as never was evidenced short of Armageddon, when "every island fled away and the mountains were not found."

Man can now make the islands flee into nothingness and the mountains disappear through the atomic bomb. With the revelation of this cosmic weapon, cynics immediately prophesized that with "the next war" mankind will destroy itself.

Must there be a next war? It is a sadening fact, but nonetheless a truth, that man learns only the "hard way"—by bitter experience. Only after epidemics decimate the population does he promulgate and enforce public health laws; only after disastrous conflagration does he consider safety regulations; only after unruly rivers have devastated the land for generations does he devise flood control measures.

But he does take these preventive steps—and therein lies the secret of man's progress toward safer living which makes him today the physical better of his forbears in every way.

So, though the pessimistic cynics may see, in modern weapons of war, only a means through which mankind ultimately will destroy itself, others, with more patience, look upon man's overall record with faith. They see him toiling painfully up through the centuries, ever making a safer life and a larger horizon, despite such temporary setbacks as the Dark Ages and the periodically recurring wars, each taking increasingly larger toll in ever more horrible ways. These men of faith know that as recently as the start of World War I, man saw war as a glamorous adventure. But they know that in the bloody muck of Flanders Field and the trenches of France he learned a lesson. With long-range weapons men killed other men whom they could not see. Death struck anonymously. Poison gas gave the coup de grace to the last illusion of martial glamor.

Man did learn that lesson from World War I. But he did not learn it well enough and on some the lesson was entirely lost. These spiritual laggards again sought glory in war, as did their brutish ancestors. And the good men—the men who had learned the lesson of World War I—met them in combat. They fought not in glamorous mood, but as strong men who face an ugly task and do not shirk it. And they won.

So once again was demonstrated the lesson that no one wins a war—some merely lose more than others. And those who have long-range faith in mankind may hope that this war—the hardest of the hard wars—may be the last lesson man will need on this subject. They hope that the future's history books will not call it World War II—but refer to it as "The Last War."

It looks as though the snakes are at long last determined to do something about these meetings at which they are handled by the brethren and sisters. Three of the "faith healers" have died of snake bites.—Greensboro Daily News.