

The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES

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The News is glad to publish letters, not too long, on matters of general interest. But such communications must be accompanied by the real name of the writer, even when they are to be published under a nom de plume.

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

Our Biggest Investment

We can think of no greater or more important investment than education. Many parents believing this, make untold sacrifices that their children might have the best possible education. While education takes money, we believe, that if properly supervised and handled, money spent on the training of the youth pays the greatest of all dividends.

It is interesting to note that an average of \$68.91 per pupil in average daily attendance was spent in North Carolina during 1944-45, the latest year for which comparative state figures are available, whereas the national average was \$125.41. Only five states spent less than North Carolina during this year—Alabama \$56.93, Arkansas \$60.26, Georgia \$64.92, Mississippi \$44.80, and South Carolina \$65.17.

Highest per pupil expenditures were in the following states: New Jersey \$198.33, New York \$194.47, Illinois \$169.32, Massachusetts \$166.67, Wyoming \$164.84, Montana \$163.42, and California \$163.38, Virginia and Tennessee, states adjoining North Carolina, spent \$83.49 and \$69.70, respectively, for this purpose.

Five years prior to 1944-45 North Carolina's relation to the national average in this respect was poorer, the average expenditure being \$40.86 as compared to \$88.09 for the nation as a whole. During that year only four states spent less per pupil than did North Carolina. They were Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and South Carolina. During this five-year period, therefore, North Carolina has surpassed Georgia.

While North Carolina has a wonderfully well operated state-wide system of schools and, for the money spent, gets more education per dollar than any other state we know of, it is also interesting to note that only 1.91 per cent of its 1943-44 income was spent for schools.

Energy And Power

There has been some rather loose talk to the effect that coal may become obsolete as a source of industrial energy. Such opinions are based on the fact that other sources of heat and power have made remarkable strides in recent years, due in part, at least, to the policy of powerful mine labor unions to call strikes to enforce wage demands, thus largely destroying the price advantage of coal over competitive fuels.

However, this country has a great and growing need for all its fuels, and coal will continue to be one of the most important. A large part of the country depends on coal to manufacture electric power. Coal is a basic ingredient in the production of steel. The coal burning locomotive still hauls most of our trains, despite an increase in the number of diesels on the lines. Remarkable progress has been made in developing a coal-burner of greatly increased efficiency, economy, and cleanliness.

Of much greater importance, coal is the most abundant of our known energy resources. Our coal deposits are almost infinite in extent, and the geologists say they are sufficient to last thousands of years. Their potential importance has been enormously increased by recent discoveries of means by which gasoline may be made from coal. And experiments, whose ultimate success seems assured, are

now underway to use coal in powdered form.

It is always a mistake to say that one form of energy will turn out to be more important than another. The safest assumption is that every kind of energy we possess—coal, oil, water, and ultimately, atomic power—will play vital roles in the world of tomorrow.

Fire Prevention

American communities must bear much of the blame for our soaring toll of deaths and property destruction by fire.

According to A. Bruce Bielaski, executive director of the President's Conference on Fire Prevention, less than 2,000 of the more than 16,000 municipalities in the United States have building codes. Most of the existing laws are more than 15 years old. On top of that a great many fire departments are badly equipped and undermanned, and are not organized to give firemen adequate training.

Here are some of the reasons why the toll of fires has reached record proportions, and is still increasing. Last March, for example, losses reached a new monthly high of almost \$72,500,000—36 per cent above the same month in 1946. And fire's death toll is running in excess of 10,000 lives annually.

During the war, much substandard construction was necessary, and fire fighting equipment was extremely scarce and often completely unobtainable. That alibi is no longer valid. Communities can and must adopt building codes which will assure maximum protection against fire—even as they can and must modernize their fire departments and train members properly. The fact that the majority of our municipalities have no building codes at all is disgraceful and inexcusable.

Freedom Of The Press

Two years ago the Texas Corpus Christi Caller-Times went all the way out in criticizing the decision of a Texas Judge, and three newspapermen were sentenced to jail.

Now the Supreme Court of the United States has handed down the final word in which it holds that newspapers have the right to print the news as they find it and comment as they choose, without being in contempt of court. Therefore the Texas paper was right in its news reports and in an editorial which put the finishing touches on Judge Browning because he decided the case without a hearing and argument. The editorial used such words as "high-handed" and "travesty of justice."

"Muzzling the press" by Judges on the bench is an old American custom which has quieted newspapermen through long, long years. The Supreme Court of the United States rules that Judges cannot punish the press even for false reports and unjust comment, unless the publications bring a clear and present danger to the administration of justice.

A Great Contribution

The contributions of medical science to the welfare of the American people have occurred gradually over many years. Some of them have been little-publicized, and are not known as widely as they should be.

The New York Times recently ran an editorial on the Centenary of the American Medical Association. It observed that it had disagreed with some of the association's policies. But, it pointed out, "during the long decades when the government was indifferent to the quality of food and drugs and the patent medicine man was in his heyday, the Association was a bulwark of protection. Quacks were pursued, educational standards were raised, drugs were appraised, hospitals and schools were approved or disapproved, a dozen first-class medical publications . . . were made indispensable purveyors of knowledge, nostrums were exposed as the frauds that they were, fads were riddled. For all these blessings the public has reason to be grateful."

The association, as the principal and oldest medical organization of its kind, has been the leader in this work. Many groups have aided. The result is the high standard of health enjoyed by the American people. Medicine has fully realized and accepted its grave responsibilities to the country. Its work is never-ending—and its achievements grow with the passing years.

Open Forum

FOR THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Car Speeding Still Continues

Excluding holidays, the death toll caused by careless drivers is appalling. In spite of all that is said through the press, and the new-made graves in the cemeteries; in spite of all the admonitions that are given by people whose judgment cannot be questioned, it seems that accidents increase rather than decrease. To one who observes carefully (and it does not take a microscope to see these things), it seems that a great number seem to want to "change worlds."

This surely cannot be charged to people's using good judgment. It would be nothing short of miraculous perhaps for no accidents to happen when traffic is so congested in thickly populated places especially, but we stand in perfect awe and astonishment when the death rate is so high especially on holidays. For instance, why should Christmas swell the death rate so much? What is there about this day to destroy people's wits? Why should the fourth of July do the same thing? How does this show patriotism? Why should Washington and Lincoln's birthdays run people crazy?

Mr. Editor, these questions are rather pointed, but they are asked, for the express purpose of getting many thoughtless drivers not to destroy themselves and forever destroy the happiness of their friends and relatives, as well as to fill an untimely grave. CAUTION: Use your head, Don't speed, stay on your own side of the road, "Keep your hand on the throttle and your eye on the rail."

By C. M. Dickson,
Silas Creek, N. C.

Stratford News

Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Bennette have moved to the home of Mrs. Mat Estep.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Lee of Washington, are spending sometime with her mother, Mrs. C. M. Sanders.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Mitchell and Mrs. Nancy Edwards visited Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Richardson, Sunday.

Mrs. Monroe Blevins and daughter Ruth of Galax, visited Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mabe, last week.

Mr. Walter Estep of Winston-Salem, spent the week end with his wife and baby here.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hines and daughter, Glona, recently visited Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Richardson.

Mrs. Homer Reeves and children also, Mrs. Claude Farmer and children recently visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cox.

Mrs. L. C. Tucker and children of Winston-Salem, have been spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Joines.

Mrs. Garfield Joines and Mrs. I. B. Richardson visited Mrs. Lester Irwin, Sunday.

Daynard Atwood spent a few days visiting relatives at Hanes and Winston-Salem. He was accompanied on the trip by Alton Atwood.

Christian Mabe returned home after visiting relatives in Galax.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Mabe, and son, Edwin; also, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Mabe visited Mr. and Mrs. Monroe and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mabe in Galax, Sunday.

To secure a good strong vigorous calf at birth the dam must be in good condition at calving time.

Early raking of hay will prevent bleaching of the green color from leaves and thereby reserve the food value that would be lost through long exposure to the sunshine.

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ending May 10 totaled 301 million pounds, according to the USDA.

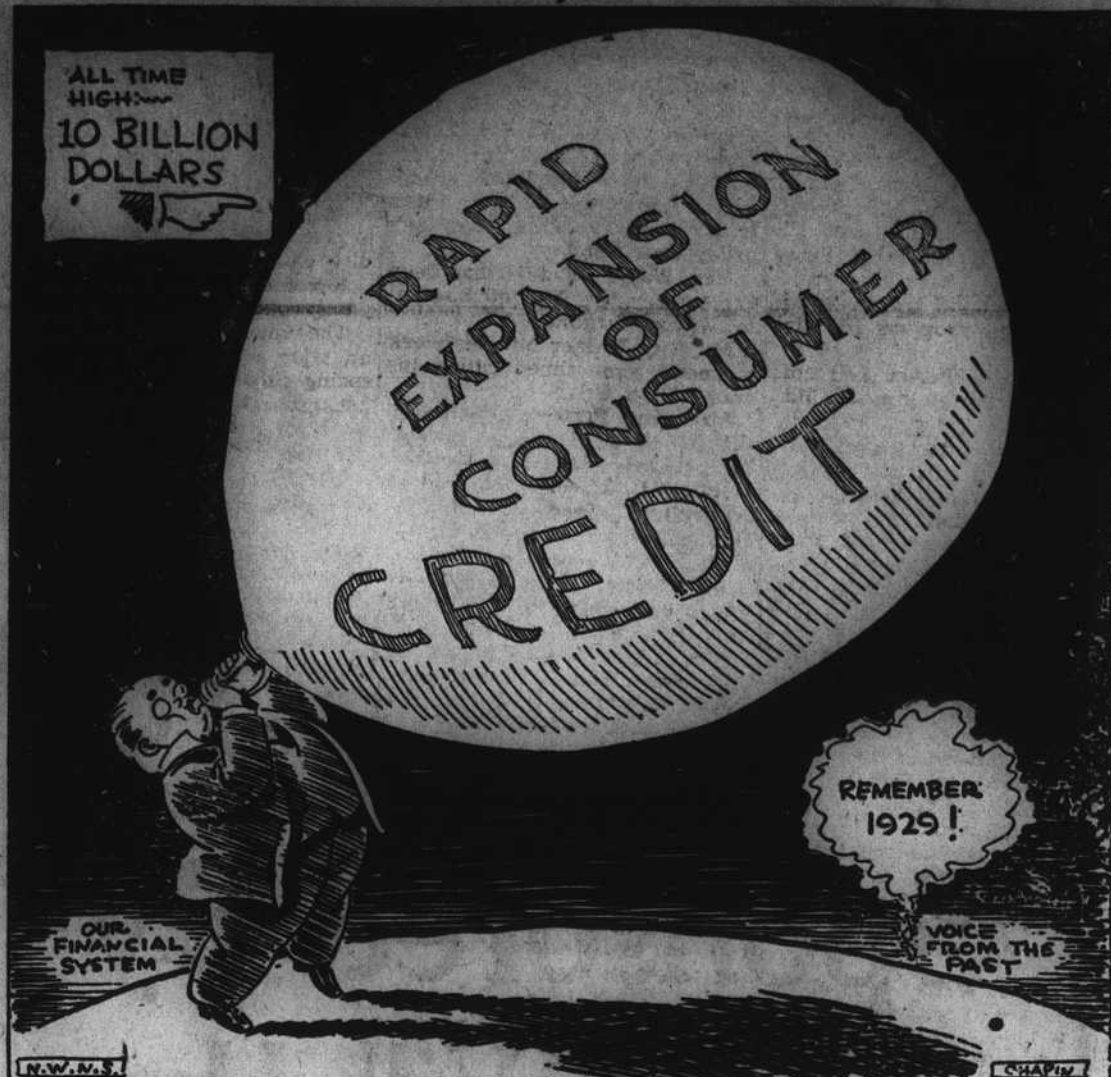
USDA announced that 2,835 pounds of toilet soap and 25,000

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching on farms May 1 were estimated at 437,038,000.

The USDA announced that a program under which mules will be purchased for the Mexican government will be initiated at an early date.

pounds of stearic acid have been exported to India to meet established needs.

Look Out for a Bust



This Week in WASHINGTON

How high priced farm land is playing its part in the inflationary picture was depicted by I. W. Duggan, governor of the Farm Credit administration in testimony before the senate agricultural committee. Mr. Duggan testified in favor of permitting federal land banks to make loans to farmers, on a similar plan as land bank commissioners.

Many veterans and others are buying farms today, the FCA official said which will be worth less than the loans granted for purchase in ten years. He said that recently a veteran purchased a farm for \$25,000 paying \$10,000 cash. Then he asked for a \$15,000 loan. Three appraisers were sent out to look at the farm by the government and reported value of the farm not more than \$10,500. He cited many other instances.

Is the action of President Truman in approving the portal-to-portal pay bill any indication as to his action upon the labor bill which will be presented to him, probably late in June? Des- and industrial railroad interests charging them with "the most far-reaching concentration of monopoly power known to law". Defendants include 47 western railroads, western association of railway executives, J. P. Morgan & Co., Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and 89 officials of railroads and railway associations. The government says these groups maintain a non-competitive rate system and suppress competitive transportation in the western area and have prevented western railroads from reducing rates and improving services. Differentials in class rate scales show a discrimination varying from 112

pite the fact that he signed the portal-to-portal pay bill, the odds here are that he may veto the labor bill, particularly if the conferees make it any tougher than as it passed the senate. The department of justice has finally started its anti-trust suit proceedings against the Association of American Railroads and other combinations of financial power to 160 per cent against the west in favor of the east, the government charges. And in the meantime, the United States Chamber of Commerce presses for enactment of the Bulwinkle bill to exempt railroads from the anti-trust laws, calling it "the badly needed Bulwinkle bill." Hearings before the senate and house agricultural committees on a long-range farm program which likely will not be enacted into law until next year, indicate the policy to be followed largely will parallel the recommendations of Secretary Anderson based on a program of abundance and full production.

Such a program will necessitate, according to the testimony of many witnesses, expanded markets at home and abroad, continued subsidization to take care of surpluses, such as school lunches and other similar measures and on foreign sales to meet a demand for lower priced food; extension of the support price program to stabilize farm income

and continued production curbs on certain crops.

Governors from ten states west of the Mississippi and the senators and representatives from these states are urging restoration of the cuts made in the department of interior budgets, particularly for self-liquidating reclamation projects, Senator Morse of Oregon took the floor of the senate to object to the cuts as one of the "serious mistakes."

Said Senator Morse: "It is because of my devotion to the basic principals of the Republican party, which I think, need to be revived and put into practice, that I feel so badly regarding the many mistakes which my party is making in the eightieth congress. This is another serious one. Earlier today we helped to scuttle the effective administration of the National Labor Relations Act to the detriment of free workers in the United States; and if we go through with this fiscal program I think the party will do great damage to hundreds of thousands of people who have the right to be protected from the type of damage which would be inflicted upon them if the appropriations program of the party thus far advanced in the 80th congress were consummated. . . . I intend to continue to try to point out what I think are the sad mistakes which the Republican majority is making in connection with both the labor program and now the fiscal policy. . . . I hope that even yet such effective and constructive action will be taken by the congress, Republican administration," that, in spite of mistakes, I can still make an honest plea for a

ANNUAL WMU MEET BEING HELD TODAY

(Continued from Page 1) ville, state community missions chairman, will speak on "Take the Task He Gave You Gladly." Officers for the coming year will be named and a large crowd is expected to attend.

113 WOMEN ATTEND DISTRICT MEETING

(Continued from Page 1) Fred Osborne, place committee, and Mrs. Tom Moxley, resolutions committee. The women of Alleghany county were hostesses to the district women here last year, when the Wilkes county club women were the winners having a total of 83 women present.

COUNTY TEACHER ALLOTMENT IS CUT

(Continued from Page 1) certified teacher be employed when it was possible to secure a certified one and that she hoped that Alleghany could obtain those with certificates. Only a few vacancies remain in the school, Miss Fields stated. Piney Creek has no vacancies.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUGAR AVAILABLE

(Continued from Page 1)

said: "A better way to put it would be: Did Congress hurry it because it knew this action was coming?"

He gave three reasons for the move:

1. The international emergency food council said today the United States will get 350,000 extra tons of sugar from Cuba.

2. Cuba has still more surplus sugar which is expected to help cut down demands from other parts of the world.

3. Some 200,000 tons of Java-ness sugar—availability of which was in doubt—will definitely be offered to world users now.

Anderson said he "did not dare" end rationing until he received news of the extra sugar from Cuba.

He warned industrial users that they still need ration checks to get sugar from wholesalers or retailers.

In addition, he said, retailers will be required to keep records of the name and address of each industrial buyer, the address to which the sugar is delivered, and other information.

MASONS MEET TO HONOR STEADHAM

(Continued from Page 1)

Wilkesboro, Elkin, Winston-Salem and Jefferson being present as well as members of the local lodge.

LAND OFFERED LOCAL VFW POST

(Continued from Page 1)

Blue prints for the proposed clubhouse have been ordered from VFW National headquarters, Cecil J. Murray, local commander, stated, and as soon as they are received more definite plans can be made.

Already members as well as outsiders have pledged not only labor but some of the necessary building materials. If both labor and materials can be secured, the post can be assured of a house at an early date, Commander Murray stated.

BIBLE SCHOOLS NOW IN PROGRESS

(Continued on Page 4)

July 4, 9:00-12:00 noon; Osborne Memorial, July 7-11, 9:00-12:00 noon; Liberty, July 14-18; 9:00-12:00 noon; Pine Fork, July 14-18, 6:00-9:00 p. m.; New Hope, July 21-25, 9:00-12:00 noon; Bellview, July 28-August 1, 9:00-12:00 noon; Scottville, August 4-8, 9:00-12:00 noon; Mt. Carmel, August 11-15, 9:00-12:00.

2 GIRLS RECEIVE DEGREES AT W. C.

(Continued from Page 1)

during her junior year. Miss Pugh, majoring in elementary education, was given a bachelor of arts degree. She was a member of the Cornellian Society for four years, Playlikers, 4, Y. W. C. A., for four years; the Pine Needles staff, the square dance club and a member of the hall social committee. Her plans are now to teach school at Apex in the fall.