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Church Pledging

Once more Hamlet's soliloquy has been pressed into strange service, but this time for a noble cause. We found the following lines in the St. Phillips Episcopal church bulletin, liked them, and are passing them along for the pleasure of our readers:

- List of church pledging statements: "To pledge or not to pledge—that is the question", "Whether 'tis nobler in a man to take the Gospel free and let another foot the bill...", "Or sign a pledge and pay toward Church expense...", "To give, to pay—aye, there's the rub, to PAY...", "When on the free pew plan, a man may have...", "A sitting free and take the Gospel, too: 'As though he paid, and none be ought the wiser...", "Save the finance committee, who—", "Most honorable of gentlemen—can keep a secret!", "To err is human, and human too, to buy 'At cheapest rate. I'll take the Gospel so.", "For others do the same—a common rule. 'I'm wise. I'll wait, not work. I'll pray, not pay.", "And let the other fellow foot the bills. 'And so I'll get the Gospel free, you see!"

—Quoted.

Trend Of War

The Axis' spokesman continues to boast of the dreadful doom that is about to befall Britain and all other powers which dare to oppose German-Italian-Japanese ambitions to create a new and revolutionary "world order." But in much of the present boasting there is a hollow and discordant note. For it is a plain fact that today the dictators are winning most of their battles on paper instead of the field of action.

The war, in other words, is not going well, from the Nazi-Fascist point of view. Germany has apparently abandoned hope of invading England—a move which, according to Hitler's original calendar, was to have been completed months ago. Her air attacks go on, and they do much damage. But there is no evidence to indicate that the plane can win a war or break the morale of a proud and determined people. In the meantime, English plane production, buttressed by imports from this country, moves steadily forward toward the day when Britain will be Germany's equal in the air. Nazi raiders and submarines have sunk an immense amount of British shipping. But Britain's merchant marine is still vast, and is being added to almost daily. And new British warships, including one or two 35,000 ton super-dreadnaughts, have lately been commissioned.

Greatest fiasco has been that of Italy. One expert recently observed that Germany alone is stronger than Germany and Italy together, and that may very well be true—Italy is one of the least self-contained nations, and Hitler must keep supplying her with materials which he could use to advantage at home. On top of that, the military experts are shaking their heads in amazement over what they regard as the almost incredible stupidity of Mussolini's much-bemadled general staff. The invasion of small, poorly-armed Greece is a vivid example. Italy attempted to use blitzkrieg tactics in a rugged, mountainous country in which there are few roads, and she started in the worst possible season. It was inevitable that her losses would be tremendous. No authority believes that Greece can hold out indefinitely, but Italy's victory will be won at great cost, in prestige no less than in men and material. And in the meantime, England has been able to establish air and naval bases on the Greek islands which are of immense importance in cementing her hold on the Mediterranean.

The British air attack which disabled three Italian battleships and a number

of lesser craft is, if English reports of the action are true, one of the major victories of this war. It means that the Italian fleet has lost close to half its effectiveness so far as the surface vessels are concerned. And that, in turn, means that Britain can now release ships from the Mediterranean to other places where they are badly needed for purposes of convoy, and to hunt down and engage the German raiders which are operating in the mid-Atlantic.

Watch Africa now—the next showdown will probably come there. More and more of French Africa has disavowed the German-dominated Vichy government and is throwing in with the "free French" cause led by General De Gaulle. Mysterious General Weygand is now in Africa. He was sent there by the Vichy authorities to hold the colonies. But reports leak out that Weygand may have an entirely different plan in mind—that he may join De Gaulle or, at least, keep the part of Africa he controls out of an alliance of any kind with Germany. If he does that, it will be a blow to the Axis, which must conquer Africa as a main step in its program for destroying the life line of the British Empire.

Also watch the Far East. There is quiet on the surface there at the moment, but there is turbulence underneath. Japan has been withdrawing great quantities of troops from China. Some fear she will use them in a foray against French Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies—or, if worst comes to worst, against the Philippines. Ray of hope is provided by Far Eastern experts who insist that Japan knows she is far too weak to provoke us into war, and that she will back down if we maintain a strong and unyielding policy.

Heading For Trouble

It cannot be successfully denied that the vast defense program upon which the United States Government has within the past twelve months embarked has resulted in a definite form in inflation.

This definite form of inflation seems destined to work a hardship upon the peoples of the country who are not directly connected with industry.

Skilled craftsmen are being paid handsomely for their contribution to the defense program. Materials which have gone into the construction of armaments have risen to almost unheard of peaks. The kindred industrial boom has also lent itself, most admirably to the increase in prices.

All the while, people who have been working along at their same type of endeavor, are receiving the same compensation which they have received for years, and farmers in some instances are receiving considerably less for their produce than they did before the conflict in Europe cut off much of the United States' export trade.

This inflationary reaction to the defense program, has therefore, resulted in a vital decrease in the wage of the general run of worker, and a decrease in the buying power of the farmer.

The predicament of the farmer is certainly less fortunate than other class in the country—what he has to buy has advanced in price almost kaleidoscopically, while what he has to sell has diminished in value practically in the same proportion.

Back in the early days of the World War, one heard much of the High Cost of Living—H.C.L. it was alphabetically dubbed in those days. It would seem that the United States government could profit from its unfortunate experience over two decades ago, and make an honest effort to forestall a recurrence of the inflationary boom which came as result and the aftermath of the World War, by at least attempting to make the price of what the general run of people have to buy more commensurate with the price of the things which they have to sell, or with the wages and salaries they receive.

People who get into scrapes, by the same token, must have a lot of close shaves.

The Nazis are reputedly trying to bore from within, but they're succeeding in being only bores from without.

The thing about arguing with yourself is that you win the argument any way you fix.

If they're really dyed-in-the-wool party members, the losers in an election won't look sheepish.

Getting a bee in their bonnet has more than once caused some people to have a swelled head.

Why We Should Protect Our Forests From Fire

BILLY ROBBINS

Wood is the most widely used product of the soil and as yet is the most practical and economical material for all types of construction. Wood, in its widely diversified forms, is a basis for nearly all types of construction, such as clothing, paper, explosives for war purposes, material for the construction of furniture

Billie Robbins, member of the senior class at Bolivia high school, won first prize in his school contest last year with today's essay. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin B. Robbins of Funston. He has had first hand knowledge of the damage caused from forest fires.



Writing is one of his favorite things to do, but when he finishes school he'd like to be a lawyer.

and homes. It might safely be said that the modern world is built upon a foundation of wood. Stop and think? In how many ways do our forests affect your every-day life? In the morning when you wake you find that you are lying upon a wooden bed. The large beautiful home on the hill and the little bungalow at the bottom are both built from the same economical and useful material, this product of our forests. Your rayon pajamas are a product of the forest. You walk through a wooden door, and if you live in the country, to an open log fire. Maybe there is a deer skin rug, which comes from the forest, in front of the fireplace. The chair that you sit in is also a product of the forests. The brush which you use to brush your hair is manufactured from a by-product of the wood industry.

You sit down in a wooden chair to eat your breakfast at a wooden table.

At school you write upon paper made from wood with a pencil constructed chiefly of wood. Our textbooks, newspapers, magazines and desks are all wood products.

The very food we eat is affected by the forests in that the forest preserves our fields from destructive soil erosion, therefore providing a better quality of vegetable foods for our tables.

Wood is a very essential element in modern warfare. The explosives that go into the making of bombs, torpedoes, and bullets would be harmless without the cellulose that goes into the making of them, which comes from the forests.

Our forests are a protection against the destruction caused by devastating floods as common in counties lacking in this most valuable of all resources. Forests prevent erosion of the soil, which is the enemy of farmers in sections where forests have been destroyed by fire or the unscrupulous greed of former lumber barons or where the forests have been cut to provide more space for agriculture.

The beginning of the decline of China is synonymous with the disappearance of Chinese forests. The immediate and careless destruction of our forests, while it may not immediately affect us, will in future years cause a decline in the prosperity of our rich and beautiful country. Generations to come will know the ill effects of this wanton destruction of our forests. We owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to conserve this natural resource in order that our glorious democracy may remain the beautiful and prosperous country that we know and love today.

The first and still most important use of wood is as a material for the construction of homes. Its substitutes, steel and brick are still out of range of the average person's income. Large and beautiful homes are built from this economical and seemingly inexhaustible supply. A home built of wood has many advantages over stone and brick homes. In winter brick houses are cold and hard to heat, while the wooden house heats quickly and easily. In the summer brick houses become hot and sultry and living in them becomes more misery than pleasure, while the wooden house remains cool, is easily ventilated and is a source of pleasure and contentment.

Wood is the light economical material from which useful furniture of artistic design and surpassing beauty is constructed. The beautiful artistic grand piano cases are products of our hard wood forests overlaid with mahogany. The wood for such purposes must be of unsurpassed quality and unblemished by the ravages of forest fires. The solid wood from our hardwood forests is an essential part of such furniture. The rare mahogany is laid over this economical base. Without this economical material

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—

Perhaps the lure of spending the holidays at home at the taxpayers' expense may do more to bring about an adjournment of Congress than all the political persuaders. An adjournment is necessary for our legislators to collect the 20 cents a mile travel expense allowed each member. The leaders are practically helpless in selling the boys the idea of an early vacation solely on the grounds that no important legislative business will be transacted. The amount collectible for those living in places remote from the nation's capital is sizeable though they may actually find it inconvenient to make the trip and remain in their Washington quarters.

Sharp clashes of policy between the executive and legislative branches of our government have been strikingly evidenced lately. The current hotbed of contention represented in the head-on collision between the so-called Dies Committee, a special House group investigating alien influences, and the Department of Justice reached down into the White House. There is little Mr. Roosevelt can do to stop the legislators' probe which was created by a House resolution some years ago. Another sore spot is the growing sentiment in the Senate and House for legislation which will put an end to the frequency of strikes in vital defense plants. Unless these outbreaks are quickly and definitely curbed it seems likely that the President cannot stand out against public demand for restrictions on organized labor. This action would prove deeply embarrassing for it would strike at many basic social reforms of the New Deal on behalf of trade unions.

The battle royal in legislative halls this week over the Walter-Logan bill, designed to limit the activities of bureaucracy by permitting appeals to the courts, is another touchy subject. The various Federal agencies are hopeful that they can muster enough strength to defeat the plan either by a Presidential veto or holding sufficient vote to prevent Congress overriding White House disapproval.

The ballyhoo about the desperate financial condition of the as a basis for the rare mahogany such beautiful furniture would be unobtainable by any but the most wealthy of persons. All of furniture used for practical purposes is built of the solid wood so plentiful in our expansive forests.

When the average person goes into the forests he never thinks of the destruction he may cause by a little carelessness or disregard of the rules of forestry. He doesn't think when he carelessly tosses off his cigarette butt that he might be starting just such a fire as the one which destroyed so many lives and millions of dollars worth of property somewhere in the West. 23 thousand acres of forests were destroyed and over one hundred persons were made homeless besides those who were killed by the fire.

Forest fires cause much more damage than appears on the surface. Besides the irreparable destruction done to timber by forest fires, the killing of young growth and damage done to old trees, wild game is destroyed by the thousands, all by the forest fire demon.

Destroy this natural habitat of wild animals and you will, besides destroying the beautiful scenery and a source of income, have destroyed the last retreat of wild game in America. Indirectly the destruction of our forests will affect our food supply. Where forests have been destroyed the land erodes, floods, come, and the land is rendered unfit for any types of cultivation.

How may we conserve our forests? To conserve our agricultural resources we must first conserve our forests by protecting them from the ravages of forest fires.

How may we protect them? By simply obeying a few set rules in our trips to the forests. You aren't likely to start a forest fire if you observe them.

First, if you smoke, never do so while traveling through the woods. If you must smoke, stop in some clear place, void of any inflammable material. When you have finished smoking, stamp out the ashes on mineral soil, not on leaves or needles. Always be sure that your match is out before you throw it away. It is from such carelessness that we have so many forest fires.

Second, when you are camping, always clear away all inflammable material within a radius of five feet before building the fire. The fire should be in a hole dug in the center of the cleared spot. Keep it small. When one goes to break camp, he should make sure that there are no smoldering embers. Always carry a bucket and an axe along when you go camping.

Third, never burn brush near woods on a windy day because sparks are easily carried by the wind to inflammable material.

Obey these rules and help to conserve our forests so that our country will remain the rich and beautiful country that it is today.

--- NOT EXACTLY NEWS ---

Two developments of the early bird season are that quail are hard to find—and hard to hit... Wouldn't it be nice to have a dance down here between now and Christmas? With a good orchestra. Could be, judging from the manner in which money was raised for the Dean Hudson dance that never did materialize. Even if we had to settle for somewhat less than the Dean, a dance is a dance—and it's been a long time in between.

PIGSKIN CURTAIN: Duke and Pitt, Davidson and the Citadel put the 1940 season to bed Saturday, with victory going to each of the Tar Heel representatives. Duke played a whale of a game to stop the mighty Pitt Panther 12-7. Incidentally, Duke scored every possible way to gain her 12 points. Touchdown, point after touchdown, field goal and safety. Davidson still is a mighty good little team, and demonstrated this to the satisfaction of many Brunswick county fans who saw them play in Wilmington Saturday. They won 20-6, but next year a rejuvenated Citadel outfit may make it another story.

They may be de-emphasizing football at University of Pittsburgh, but they've done nothing to de-emphasize the band. One hundred forty pieces of Pittsburgh, but they've done nothing to de-emphasize the band. One hundred forty pieces it was, and a squadron of musical perfection if we ever heard one. Marching double-step, the band was a beauty to behold; and the music that pour-

ed forth filled the giant Duke stadium like a touchdown roar... Frank Rabon at Wintboro says that parties with which he hunted this year have killed a total of 23-deer. (These were last weeks figures, and probably have been increased.) Get him to tell you sometime about the wounded buck they caught and tied to a tree.

Referring to Rev. Charlie Phillips in The Pilot two weeks ago reminds us that one of the leading laymen in this district of the Methodist Conference told us several weeks ago that Mr. Charlie was one of the most sought-for preachers in this area... Rev. E. M. Hall, former pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, moved this year from Kety to Grifton.

Ann Sothern deserts her Mazie role Monday and Tuesday to be "Dulcy" in the picture of the same name. Its the feature at the Amuzu... New employees at local places: Gene O'Brien at Ruarks'; Sarah Creech at Watson's; Evelyn Laughlin at Specialty Shop (although this one isn't exactly a scoop.)

The following in place of Mary hand a Little Lamb:—

Mussolini had some troops Who made a gallant show, And everywhere there were no Greeks These troops could safely go!

British is not making the impression which its sponsors expected. Congressional feeling is to go slow about modifying or repealing the statutory prohibitions against loans to nations in default of debts to this country. The small band of isolationists in the Senate are remaining on the job in readiness to wage a long battle against the proposal on the theory it will be another step toward our involvement in war.

Senator George, of Georgia, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is not a man to follow the dictates of the White House because he is one of the Senators who successfully emerged from the Roosevelt "purge" two years ago. Chairman George will not be hostile to the State Department but only more cautious than his predecessor, the late Senator Key Pittman.

Officials in charge of the preparedness program are jittery as Congress considers a resolution to provide a joint committee to keep Congress currently informed on all expenditures in the progress of the defense program. It has been anticipated that the legislative body would do something of this sort because they hold the purse strings. The Administration forces do not take kindly to the proposition at this time as they feel that the House Appropriations Committee will make diligent inquiries into the matter when the administrative branch of the government comes before it for more money. Reports of dissension in the defense agencies as to which body has power and authority is trickling through to Congress. Sentiment is growing in legislative halls for

better coordination between the various groups. It is doubtful, however, whether Congress itself can do much to bring about a change, as it is primarily the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

The Department of Justice has replaced the routine Congressional committees in investigating alleged violations of Federal election laws. The legislative group, whenever it finds time to work, may resent the intrusion of the executive branch in their affairs. Ostensibly the Attorney-General will probe cases where it is

claimed campaigners overstepped the Hatch and Corrupt Practices Acts. Experienced politicians are grinning over the spectacle of Attorney-General Jackson ordering an inquiry by a Federal Grand Jury into these alleged violations. It seems that Mr. Jackson in his anxiety to construe the restrictive Hatch Act on a liberal basis before the elections placed himself in hotwater. The Hatch law is aimed at expenditures, but primarily to restrain the electioneering activities of Federal office-holders. The election of 1940 was the first to be conducted under provisions of these two measures prohibiting "pernicious political activities," particularly those features relating to excessive expenditures by political committees, associations, and organizations accepting contributions and making expenditures for the purpose of influencing election of candidates. Therefore, keen interest attaches to the grand jury proceedings here this week.

LOST—Somewhere between the dials of our radio, the time and date of two corking good radio shows: Horace Heidt's "Pot o' Gold" show and the Gangbusters show which used to play on Saturday night. Can some fan enlighten us?

WE CONSIDER—Sunday, Tuesday and Friday nights the best for solid radio entertainment. There's hardly a minute during the aforementioned evenings that there isn't something really good in the form of entertainment forthcoming from your loudspeaker.

OUR ORCHIDS to radio performers go to Frank Munn for his beautiful voice, Jean Dickinson ditto on the same show; Professor Jerry Colono and Brenda and Cobina on the Bob Hope show; To Wayne King for his soft, soothing music; To Richard Crooks for his contribution to the "Voice of Firestone program"; To Lucille Manners for her luring melodies; to Mary Eastman and Bill Perry for making Saturday evening more enjoyable; To those who make up the "Waltz Time" show for brightening up the 9:00 o'clock sport on Friday evening; To the Hour of Charm's lovely all-girl orchestra which manages to keep us awake until 10:30 on Sunday evenings; To Paul Sullivan for going on the air now at 6:30 instead of 11—that being too late to wait up.

THERE, RADIO FANS check this against the list of your favorites and see how well they tally up.

Advertisement for STATE PORT PILOT featuring a man in a hat holding a sign that reads: MR. MERCHANT: ... Even Santa himself doesn't cover Brunswick County as thoroughly as this newspaper. If you want your share of Christmas Business, Plan to Advertise in ... The STATE PORT PILOT "Covers Brunswick County" SOUTHPORT, N. C.