

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

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Now it is being proven that the Italian thunder was more potent than its lightning.

We know folks who think they can't do without things which, five years ago, they never thought they'd have.

The conception that some people have of doing their part for National Defense is to look around for a job that pays twice as much as they have been getting.

The idea behind freedom of speech and freedom of the press is that nothing can go very far wrong before somebody wants to tell everybody about it.

Right Side

Failure to obey what is probably the most elementary of all traffic rule—driving on the right hand side of the road—accounted for 1,589 accidents on North Carolina streets and highways last year.

And this driving on the wrong side was exclusive of driving on the wrong side while engaged in passing other vehicles, a variety of wrong-side driving which accounted for a good many other traffic fatalities.

It is a shameful commentary on the driving habits of North Carolinians that more than a hundred fatal accidents occurred on our streets and highways during 1940 as a result of driving on the wrong side of the road.

More than one hundred North Carolinians who were killed last year might be living today but for the fact that some North Carolina drivers would not stay on their side of the road.

Don't straddle the center line. Stay on your side. Be a safe driver.

Safe—Maybe!

It's only human nature to think that our property and our lives are in small danger from fire, the great killer and destroyer. So, many of us defer taking simple "anti-fire" precautions.

Perhaps you've seen homes and buildings burn. You've seen walls fall in an inferno of smoke and flame. You've seen costly possessions and irreplaceable keepsakes reduced to worthless ash in a few minutes.

You're lucky if that hasn't happened to you. But there's no guarantee that luck will go on indefinitely. You and yours may be next on fire's long list—unless you take those precautions that will make your property safe.

Crisis Near

Practically all of the men who have been drafted in favor of the President's lease bill have offered the opinion that a crisis in the war will occur within the next three months—and that it will probably take the form of an all-out Nazi blow against England, beginning with air raids of unprecedented intensity and

winding up with the long anticipated attempt at invasion. Secretary of the Navy Knox, for example, testified that, according to his information, the German strategists were now watching the long-range weather reports, and waiting for a time when an extended period of good weather can be anticipated.

There are many good reasons for believing that Germany will make her great effort before many more moons wax and wane. Primary reason is the obvious one that Hitler has a far better chance of winning if he makes his gamble before this country can send materials abroad in significant amounts.

Second, Hitler, many think, must move before Italy collapses entirely. She has become a drain on the Reich, instead of an asset. Her reverses in Africa have almost reached the comic opera stage.

Third, according to some experts, English and American warplane production is now catching up with Germany. But it will be a long time before Britain can obtain enough ships to equal the strength of the sky fleet commanded by Marshal Goering. So it is logical for Germany to make her bid for victory while she has a decisive edge in the skies.

Fourth, there are reports, which cannot be substantiated in the light of the rigorous German censorship, to the effect that morale inside Hitler's Reich is slipping. Hitler promised victory before 1940 ended, and now seems farther from it than when the war began.

Evidence of a more material nature is also available. For the most part, the Luftwaffe has lately been bombing industrial centers, and has done less indiscriminate bombing of cities. It now seems to be trying to knock out important British factories, rather than to break the people's morale.

It is obvious where the U. S. enters this picture. If England is to be really helped, there must be a tremendous speed-up in our shipments of war materials. And, despite claims of Administration spokesmen to the contrary, the feeling persists that it will not be long before we are convoying British shipping.

Hitler himself has said that any American ship—merchant or naval—which is put to the service of England in European waters will be sunk. There can be no question but what use of our navy for convoy purposes would be an act of war, complete and unmistakable. Yet Germany has shown no desire to formally break relations with us.

Should Re-Appoint Powell

There seems every reason in the world why A. F. Powell, Jr., of Whiteville, should be re-appointed as a member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission.

During his tenure in office, Mr. Powell has served the interests of his division and of the state well. He has lent an attentive ear to the voice of the people whom he served, and without any intention of casting aspersion upon those who preceded him in office, we believe Mr. Powell has done more for the roads in this section of the state than any other man.

At the outset of his term of office, he introduced a plan whereby the Tuesday following the first Monday of each month was set aside by him for hearing the requests of individuals and delegations from this division who might want to be heard.

There remains in the division and in the State much to be done with regard to the road building program. In order to accomplish the task which lies ahead, the State of North Carolina and the Third Division needs such men as Mr. Powell to remain on the highway and public works commission.

We sincerely hope that Governor Broughton gives the work which Mr. Powell has done the recognition it deserves by reappointing him as a member of the commission.

Henderson Throws New Light On Carolinians' Duel (Continued from Page 1)
talented British officer, Major John Andre, who was hanged as a spy. This able North Carolina soldier, and duelist on occasions, was distinguished also in statesmanship, often representing his country in the house of commons, on the committee of safety, and in the patriotic conventions and militant gatherings during the stirring years which marked the upsurge of the spirit of liberty in North Carolina.

BORN IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Robert Howe was born in the precinct of Clarendon within the limits of present Brunswick county, about the year 1730. The Royal governor, Joseph Martin, conceived such an animosity against Howe because of his resolute patriotism, that he insisted upon calling him Howes, declaring in 1775 that he was "commonly called Howe, he having impudently assumed that name for some years past in affection of the noble family that bears it whose least eminent virtues have ever been far beyond his imitation."

COMMANDS FORT JOHNSTON

At the age of thirty-five he was appointed by Governor William Tryon to the post of commandant of Fort Johnston. A year and a half later he succeeded in that post, to which he had been only temporarily appointed by John Abraham Collet, soldier, mathematician, and engineer. Upon the return of Collet to England in 1769, Howe took over this post again and retained it until 1773, when he was again succeeded by Collet. Howe became a justice of the peace in 1756, served for a time as baron of the court of exchequer, and was elected to the assembly as early as 1760.

It was on Mr. Percy's land, At Squire Rugeley's corner, Great H. and G. met, sword in hand, Upon a point of honor.

CALLS HIM A DON JUAN

That delightful Scotch "lady of quality," Janet Schaw, analyzed Howe as a North Carolina Don Juan, setting down the following characterization in her diary of "Bob" Howe, as he was called who happened to be the brother-in-law of her sister-in-law.

Carolina (except in point of furniture)." Evidently, the most outspoken and constructive North Carolina patriots of that gathering, in Quincy's opinion, were Howe and Harnett, for he records in his diary: "Robert Howe, Esq., Harnett, and myself made the social triumvirate of the evening. The plan of continental correspondence highly relished, much wished for, and resolved upon, as proper to be pursued."

"ALPHONSE-AND-GASTON" DUEL

At some later time, I shall relate the story of Robert Howe as soldier and statesman. Today I shall merely mention the causes which led up to his ludicrous, "Alphonse-and-Gaston" duel with General Christopher Gadsden of South Carolina. The latter bitterly resented being ranked by Howe troops. McRae, Wheeler, and Moore are all in error as to the causes of the duel, attributing it to the intemperate criticism by Gadsden in Georgia in 1777-1778.

Conflicting views were entertained of Howe's character. McRee in his "Life and Correspondence of James Iredell" quotes the characterization of Howe as a man "whose imagination fascinated, whose repartee overpowered, and whose conversation was enlivened with strains of exquisite rallery."

G. went before, with Colonel E., Together in a carriage, On horseback, followed H. and P., As if to steal a marriage.

On chosen ground they now alight, For battle duly harnessed, A shady place and out of sight, It showed they were in earnest.

They met, and in the usual way, With hat in hand saluted, Which was, no doubt, to show how they, Like gentlemen, disputed.

And then they both together made, This honest declaration,— That they came there by honor led, And not by inclination.

That is, they fought, 'twas not because Of rancor, spite or passion, But only to obey the laws Of custom and the fashion.

The pistols, then, before their eyes, Were fairly primed and loaded; H. wished and so did G. likewise, The custom was exploded.

But, as they now had gone so far In such a bloody business, For action straight they both prepared, With mutual forgiveness.

But, lest their courage should exceed The bounds of moderation, Between the seconds 'twas agreed To fix them each a station.

The distance stepped by Colonel P., 'Twas only eight short paces; Now, Gentlemen, said Colonel E., Be sure to keep your places.

Quoth H. to G., sir, please to fire, Quoth G., no, pray begin, sir; And, truly we must need admire The temper they were in, sir.

We'll fire both at once, said H., And so they both presented; No answer was returned by G., But silence, sir, consented. They paused awhile, these gallant foes, By turns, politely grinning. 'Till, after many cons and pros, H. made a brisk beginning.

H. missed his mark, but not his aim, The shot was well directed, It saved them both from hurt and shame, What more could be expected.

Then, G., to show he meant no harm, But hated jars and jangles, His pistol fired across his arms, From H., almost at angles.

H. now was called upon by G., To fire another shot, sir, He smiled, and after that, quoth he, No, truly, I cannot, sir.

Such honor did they both display, They highly were commended, And thus, in short, this gallant fray, Without mischance was ended.

No fresh dispute, we may suppose, Will e'er by them be started; And now the chiefs, no longer foes, Shook hands, and so they parted.

TAX BILL PASSES RALEIGH — North Carolina's tax bill, designed to raise a record-shattering sum of \$163,000,000 during the next biennium, won unanimous approval in the house of representatives today, and was sent to the senate.

BOLIVIA SCHOOL NEWS WINNER The county-wide recitation and declamation contest was held here last Thursday.

RHYTHM BAND Rhythm bands are being formed in the first four grades of the elementary school this week.

"BASHFUL BOBBY" "Bashful Bobby" will be presented by the junior class Friday night, Feb. 21, at eight o'clock.

PLAN AXIS DRIVE ROME—Fascist commentators declared tonight that an Axis diplomatic offensive is "in full development throughout the Mediterranean and the Balkans."

What you will see how his mind is changed later. Elizabeth Rahon plays that of Helen, Bob's sweetheart. She does everything to make Bob propose, but you'll be surprised how she gets what she has waited for for seven years!

Harry, played by Ardel Parker, seems to be the right kind of fellow to have around in the case of such circumstances, until Bob causes him trouble.

The play will cause many laughs, and will furnish a nice evening of entertainment.

VALENTINE PROGRAM The sixth grade gave a very interesting Valentine chapel program last Friday.

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WITHOUT HYPODERMICS
The State Port Pilot Does Not Use Them To Bolster Circulation.
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It has attracted its readers by the simple process of publishing a complete, interesting newspaper full of reliable news and informative features. The combination has attracted an audience of Brunswick County's active and intelligent families. They buy and read The State Port Pilot for what it is . . . THE complete reliable newspaper.

THE STATE PORT PILOT
With More Than 1,150 Paid Subscribers