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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1948

For Better Fire Prevention

Members of the Brevard volunteer fire department are making extensive plans for the observance of National Fire Prevention week and the program calls for the cooperation of all the citizens of the town and county and the many civic, fraternal and religious organizations.

Last year the week was observed under the direction of the firemen here and the program attracted nation-wide credit and praise. Not satisfied with their outstanding performance in 1947, Chief Dan Merrill and his very capable staff are now making every effort to put on the program of safety and education during this October that will not only make our people fire-minded during the week, but also throughout the year to come.

Fire destruction in the United States during the 12 months ending June 30, 1948, was \$709,839,000 or nearly 3 1/2 times as great as the devastation caused in any one year by the Luftwaffe's blitz on Britain. It was nearly twice as much as the fire loss for the entire year of 1943, and 12 per cent greater than the losses for the previous 12 months ending June 30, 1947.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters emphasizes that these statistics reflect only the direct property losses from fires. Indirect losses are probably three times as great, the National Board estimates. These include fire fighting costs, hospital bills, loss of jobs and production in community buying power, and reductions in savings.

To the 1948 fire prevention program of the local department, we pledge our cooperation and urge all Transylvanians to cooperate 100 per cent.

Russia Blocks The Peace

The Democratic National committee publishes from New York a weekly clip-sheet called "The Democrat," which goes to editors and party leaders all over the country. It contains a miscellany of material — pictures, cartoons, news items and editorial comment. As one might expect, the clip-sheet lauds the Democrats and all their works and lambasts the Republicans.

"Do You Remember" is the title of an article running serially in the clip-sheet which purports to be a resume of the "Locust Years" of Republican rule from the election of Harding until the advent of Roosevelt. It is a dismal recital of the alleged misdeeds of the G. O. P. during those twelve years.

The September 2 issue of the article devotes a paragraph to the recognition by this country of the Soviet government. We are reminded that Coolidge laid down "stiff conditions" under which he would be willing to recognize the Reds. It seems that "Silent Cal" was wary about any deal with the Reds, and events since that time have vindicated his mistrust. The Reds let it be known that they were willing to accept the Coolidge terms, but Secretary of State Hughes turned thumbs down on the proposal and Coolidge let it drop.

"Indeed," says the clip-sheet, "the Rus-

sian rebuff was never ameliorated nor explained through the remaining Years of the Locust." We venture the guess that Mr. Hughes suspected that the Reds would not abide by any covenant they made, which proved to be the case. Then comes this incredible statement:

"It remained for President Roosevelt to make the first overtures to this major world power whose influence bulks so large in our present day striving for an enduring world peace."

At the end of each of these "Locust" pieces appears in bold type the words "Remember in November." It seems to us that the author of them could very profitably do a little observing in September. If he were to do that he could hardly overlook the drama being enacted in Berlin, where these same Russians are trying to starve millions of people and are behaving in such a rowdy manner that war may flare at any second. Russia bulks so large — and so menacingly — in what the writer calls our "striving for peace" that peace of any kind with the tyrants who rule that country each day appears to be more impossible.

Victory For Dixiecrats

The supreme court has held that the States' Rights Democrats are entitled to have the names of their candidates for President and Vice President, Messrs. Thurmond and Wright, appear on the general election ballot in this state in November.

The action of the high court was on an appeal from a decision a few weeks ago by Judge W. C. Harris, who took cognizance of the case after the state board of elections had rejected the application of the States' Righters for places on the ballot.

Judge Harris held the States' Righters had procured the required number of names on petitions and that the board regulation that any signers who had voted in the primary were not to be counted was "unreasonable and invalid."

Associate Justice Sam J. Erwin, who wrote the prevailing opinion, asserted that the law "confers on any qualified voter the right to sign a petition for the election of a new political party irrespective of whether such voter had participated in the primary election." Chief Justice Stacey dissented.

It is reported that the high court's decision will mark the beginning of an intensive campaign by the Dixiecrats for votes in North Carolina. An effort will be made to organize every county in the state, it is said.

Just how much sentiment exists in North Carolina for the Dixiecrats and their program is hard to say. But the action of the state's delegates to the Philadelphia convention shows that there is a deep dislike in the state for the brand of democracy championed by Mr. Truman. It may be significant that party leaders and candidates who along about this time are generally urging support of the ticket from "constable to President" are not having much to say along that line, deeming it expedient, perhaps, to let Mr. Truman carry his own skillet. We are of the opinion that whatever chance Mr. Truman had of carrying North Carolina was drastically reduced when the supreme court permitted the names of the Dixiecrats to go on the general election ballot.

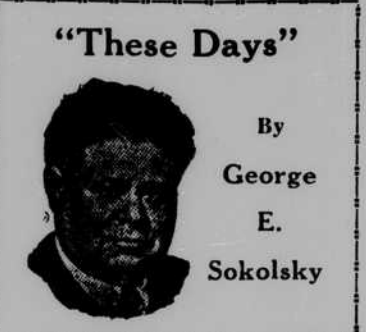
Profit Isn't The Trouble

At more or less frequent intervals, the newspapers still carry accounts of consumer "strikes against retail stores." The participants pledge themselves to cut their buying to the minimum until the storekeepers reduce prices by 10 or 20 per cent or some other arbitrary figure.

This kind of consumer feeling may be understandable. But to blame the retailer for today's steep prices makes no sense at all. If the storekeepers — particularly those dealing in staple necessities — made no profit whatever, the average family's buying power would be increased very little.

The proof of that is found in statistical breakdowns of what happens to the money spent in typical stores. Practically all of it goes to buy supplies, to pay wages and taxes, for rent and maintenance, and for other unavoidable expenses. All that is left as profit, in most cases, is two to five cents out of each dollar rung up in the cash register.

Retailers will be among the first to cheer if prices ever come down. And, in the meantime, they'll sell you what you want at the lowest cost possible.



By George E. Sokolsky

"These Days"

Up here in the hills where I live during the summer, we have school problems. They are the same as big city school problems. First of all is the question of building. Two of our towns, Otis and Sandisfield, had decided to consolidate their little red school-houses, which were old-fashioned and in one or two instances condemned as unfit, into central schools, one for each town. Some of the parents who had moved up here from big cities want the same facilities for their children that they had had as children. Some of these parents even attended expensive private schools, but, in true democratic spirit, they want the village school to provide the same advantages.

On the other hand, everybody, including the schoolteachers, objects to taxes being raised. So, an argument has been running along in these towns on four subjects:

- 1. The costs of new school buildings; 2. The teachers want a raise; 3. The increased cost of bus service; 4. State aid.

If it could be fixed so that the State or the Federal Government would take care of schooling, some of the parents and especially the teachers would be satisfied. But they want it.

- 1. Without State or Federal interference with local control of schools; 2. Without increase of State or Federal income taxes or other taxes.

Well, neither town has a new school building for this year's school opening because while the Selectmen and the School Committees and the Town Meetings and the Taxpayers Associations have been arguing, the prices of everything went up and if the schools were built now, the towns would have to go in debt for years. Even more, state laws give a monopoly to architects, although farmers here build their own homes and barns, some of which have stood for a couple of centuries. Also, the state requires that certain wage rates be paid which are way and beyond anything related to reality on these hills. Also, taxes already collected have to be spent upon immediate needs such as road repair after a bad winter and a rainy spring.

In one town, they are solving the problem by cutting out the

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general contractor and by using local labor. We'll see how that works, because nearly every man on the job will have a child or more of his own in school and therefore will have a personal interest in the success of the project. One of the major items of the cost of building—about one-third it was estimated—in traveling from the contractor's home town to the school site. By eliminating this travel, the town can get its budget down.

Another problem is teachers. The other day a rumor went the rounds that one of the teachers was not returning. A special meeting of the School Committee was held and the parents were hysterical because where does one get a teacher nowadays? Teaching has become less popular than it was in my childhood for reasons which I shall describe as we go along with this discussion of the schools and the education of our children.

Teaching is a semi-profession which offers guaranteed tenure at medium to low wages in comparison with certain skilled laborers. Tenure is a compensation when times are bad and a teacher is paid out of taxes even when factories are closed. Tenure means less when times are good and anybody can get a job.

Teachers like the advantage of tenure has no special attraction. Perhaps that is human nature. Alson, in days not so far back, the teacher used to be, with the clergyman, the most respected person in the community and that had its compensations. Today the teacher is just a load on the taxpayer, who seems constantly to complain.

And so school opens on a lot of arguments none of which really concern the children or education or the welfare of the next generation—which may, however, be hurt by them. I shall, in the course of this month, discuss this problem in this column on several occasions.

"EYES" HAVE IT

Needing a new secretary, the firm's manager decided to have applicants judged by a psychologist. Three girls were interviewed.

"What do two and two make?" the psychologist asked the first.

"Four," was the prompt answer. To the same question the second girl replied: "It might be 22."

The third girl answered: "It might be 22 and it might be four." When the girls had left the room the psychologist turned triumphantly to the manager.

"There," he said, "that's what psychology does. The first girl said the obvious thing. The second smelled a rat. The third was going to have both ways. Now, which girl will you have?"

The manager did not hesitate. "I'll have the blond with the blue eyes," he said.

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The Everyday Counsellor

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

Are we going to keep Christ and Christmas this year? You may think this is too early to be talking about Christmas cards, but the manufacturers of these cards are already sending out samples for sale and distribution. An article in the New York World Telegram of August 3rd gave a preview of these new cards:

"Ah, but the new cards. Fifteen samples of Christmas joy, cherry-nose gnomes helping St. Nick, the traditional, happy feast! First, 'The Three Wise Men' and 'Angel' by S-D—."

"The Angel has no head, But wait! YOU mentally form the face by manipulating a flock of birds descending upon the carcass! Wings? They're snowy mountain peaks. The figure at the left, like the Angel, strums a sort of banjo. 'What manner of ferocious, growling beasts do the 'Three Wise Men' ride? And the Star of Bethlehem is an unorthodox prism. Frankincense, gold and myrrh may be the wise men's cargo. Only D— can tell."

"El G—'s offering, the index says, is 'The Annunciation.' On wispy clouds another 'Angel' heralds Christendom's most sacred event. The Angel, stern-faced, has arms like Gargantua. The figure with the halo expresses utmost sadness!"

So plans for Christmas have already commenced. Last year we saw a great growth in Christmas parades in the towns, with balloons in the figures of prehistoric monsters.

Where is all this ridiculing of one of the world's most sacred

events going to end? The excerpt from the New York World Telegram quoted above refers to the 1948 Christmas cards produced by one of the biggest commercial greeting manufacturers in the country.

This column in advance of Christmas is an appeal to all of our readers to join in a volunteer movement to "help re-establish the true meaning of Christmas." It is an appeal to the merchants who sponsor these Christmas parades, which they are already planning, to put into them more of the true meaning of Christmas and avoid these pagan distortions which is reality ridicule the Holy Christmas season. It is an appeal to those who are now placing their orders for Christmas cards that they resolve to buy and promote those cards which emphasize the TRUE meaning of Christmas. This does not mean that they all have to contain scripture texts. But if Christmas is a religious festival, and no one can deny that as its origin, specially in a Christian nation, then the religious and Christ emphasis should be foremost.

Orfe large church publishing house has resolved to try to counteract this anti-Christ propaganda at Christmas time with the preparation of religious, CHRISTMAS greeting cards. These are to be sold through Church organizations only. The name of this company will be supplied upon request.

May we resolve early this year to keep the Christ in Christmas. Never did we need more the Prince of Peace in the world than today. Won't you help when all of the Christian principles which stem from Christ and Christmas are under vicious attack throughout the world. You can do your part.



YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

STATISTICS show Americans smoked 345,000,000,000 cigarettes during the last year. No wonder so many of your pals seem to be walking around in a fog!

To tobacco companies the present great demand for fags must seem simply puffect.

The luxury industry is one of our biggest. That's gold in them thar frills.

Los Alamos atom plant employees quit to "go fishin'" when 115 non-union workers were hired. It seems they don't

want to do any fission with non-union help.

Montreal, Canada, reports a series, of butter burglaries. A new kind of yellow peril!

Defendant hurled a Bible at an Australian judge. His honor threw the writ right back—jail for contempt.

In Tokyo 1,230, race horses have contracted sleeping sickness. Betcha Dollar Dier says win, place and show should go to the first three nags to wake up.

FROM A

(From Front Page Second Sec.)

Fun highlight last week was the Lions-Kiwanis ball game. If you ask a Lions club member who won, he will inevitably answer, Lions. Ditto for the Kiwanis, and I honestly don't believe either club knows who won. That doesn't really matter, though, since everybody had a good time, and the proceeds went to the Orthopedic home fund.

Lots of folks will be going to the Western North Carolina fair in Hendersonville this week. If you get a chance be sure and see the canned good exhibit. If the same is true as in previous years, there will be luscious looking fruits and vegetables that make your mouth water. Nothing at a fair is more intriguing than the row, upon row of bright colored peaches, pears, beans, corn and peas, not to mention all the preserves and the deep, dark red strawberries in particular. By all means, don't pass by the canned foods exhibit. You'll be envious and hungry all at the same time, believe it or not.

VISIBLE EVIDENCE

"I wonder," beamed the young housewife, "if you would kindly weigh this package for me."

"Why, certainly," the butcher agreed affably. "It weight exactly three and a quarter pounds."

"Thank you. It contains the bones you sent me in the four pound roast."

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