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Editorial Eddies

Highway Commissioner Hackett, Hoey's pet appointee for this road district, in Winston Wednesday, wanting to be re-appointed by Gov. Broughton, congratulates himself and his favored counties in his 4-year term as a highway commissioner. "During my administration," the commissioner says, "I have done so and so." He then enumerates the underpass at Kernersville, approved, coming soon; widening of the Winston-Lexington road; schedule for widening the Mt. Airy-Rural Hall highway; to eliminate the "bad curves" on 421 N. W. of W. S.; new bridge across Yadkin leading to W. S.; construction of new road to Low Gap, crossing the Blue Ridge; the \$500,000 job in Caldwell rebuilding 321; improvement of secondary roads in Ashe, now best system in the State; highway through Warrensville and Creston to Tennessee line to be hardsurfaced; highway from Warrensville to Halton to be finished; new bridge over New River; road from Glendale Springs to Orion to be straightened; concrete bridge at Crutchfield across the river, and so on ad infinitum, ad nauseam, ad infernus. At the close of his summary, Mr. Hackett, as an afterthought, says: "The only unpaved federal road in the eighth district is a 10-mile stretch in Stokes county." There is one thing that can be said in Hackett's favor. He is honest enough to tacitly admit that he allowed himself to become a part of the program of unfairness and discrimination against one of the counties of his district—a program which has marked the actions of all road administrations of this district. If the commissioner had gone a little farther in his candor and told the people the good things his "administration" has done for his own county of Wilkes, then he would have proved himself to be up to the standard of Seventh district road commissioners.

Among the Sunday evening visitors were Dr. W. J. McAnally and W. H. Gibson of High Point—both citizens of ours other days. Dr. McAnally is much interested in our farmers developing the lime deposits of Stokes county and using it on their land at far less trouble and expense than they pay for importing this commodity from other States. Dr. McAnally is enthusiastic over farming possibilities. He is a brother of the late R. P. McAnally, who was possibly the most scientific farmer ever reared in the county, and who removed to a farm near Richmond, Va., years ago where he died. The McAnally clan, one of the oldest Stokes families, were noted for their fine sense and their wonderful energies. Mrs. Dr. J. W. Neal of Walnut Cove is one of them. Mr. Gibson, who is a brother of our county commissioner H. L. Gibson, is a successful business man of High Point.

A North Carolina clothing company evidently has employed a goofy ad manager. Every day its radio announcement opens with the essential scream of an ambulance siren. This lugubrious clamor, instead of producing cheer for suits, is a pale blatant screech suggesting flowers, graves, shrouds and the great white cravat put on when we take off. Newspaper advertising is suggestive of life and happiness and prosperity. The merchant who would get in on the top stuff, should study psychology.

In the crucial months ahead of us, food is likely to be very dear and very sweet. The cue is to the farmer whose lands for tobacco have been curtailed, and whose restricted acreage in tobacco may bring skyrocket prices yet.

One of the pet sayings of the late W. G. Dodson, Walnut Cove business man, was that you may fool the other fellow, but don't fool yourself. The United States has been in a state of war with Germany and the axis powers for many months. All intelligent people know this. Then why not be honest and make a declaration of war. The effect of this stand would not materially differ with now. The result would be a stiffening of the backbone of neutral countries who are on the verge of surrender to Hitler, like Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey, and might bring in Russia on the side of England. It would enormously enhearten England herself who is in deadliest peril now. But the greatest advantage would be to enable the American government to stop its strikes and shoot those who by word and act are now doing their best to hamstring defense and are aiding and abetting those who would enslave the American people. With thirty big plants now tied up with strikes encouraged by John L. Lewis, Wheeler, Nye, etc., it is high time something were being done about it.

Banquo's ghost was nailed down to steel girders with the Alps mountains sitting on top of it. We are speaking, of course, figuratively and compatively. But the medieval spook never could boast of the resiliency, the inflorescence, the imperturbability, the irrepressibility or the Fleischmann yeast qualities of Marshall Kurfrees. This young Winston-Salem political aspirant who has missed the bus so many times during the last decade, now announces himself again—this time again for mayor of the Twin City. It is hard to down a Stokes county boy whose motto is "He who seeks one thing in life and but one, may hope to achieve it before life be done."

Listen to Byron: "The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold; his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold; the sheen of his spearmen was like stars on the sea, where the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee." The Hun armies descend like this on peoples who are afraid to defend themselves.

How would you like for your grandchildren to read in their story books that America let slip the freedom which our grandfathers died for, for us? Freedom of speech and press, freedom to live and work and love in our own way of life, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our consciences?

War is not quite life's supreme horror. That is left for those who are willing to surrender all that they hold most dear to save their skins, and then find they have not saved them, but have become gyved slaves, like France, Poland, Norway, Denmark, etc.

"I stood in Venice on the Bridge of Sighs." This line is from one of the world's greatest poets. That sigh of the 18th century is nothing to the groan now.

Italy is now just as much a prisoner of Germany as France and the others. All the Dagoes except Mussolini know it. That is probably the reason they are no better fighters.

"Deutschland uber alles." Do you like it?

A sensible and business-like measure was passed by the late legislature with reference to Stokes county. We refer to the bill to pay the members of the Stokes county board of commissioners \$10 a day each for actual services. The county commissioners fill probably the most important position in the county. They have in charge the interests of 23,000 people, and some 10 to 15 million dollars of property. They should in all cases be men who are distinguished for their high moral character, their consciousness of the serious nature of their duties, and their business ability. Our board, we believe, can qualify to the possession of these exalted public and private virtues. They meet just a few days in the year, operate their cars, buy their board and lodging, leaving their own duties at home to wait till they come back. Ten dollars for a day of this responsible work should be worth as much as many officials get every day with lighter responsibilities. The tax-payers of the county will not complain to pay a reasonable wage to their most trusted servants.

Help for England bids fair to be "too little and too late" unless the government of the United States can find some method of checking the strikes now slowing down defense in many parts of the nation. The effect of the sabotage of Jno. L. Lewis, Wheeler, Nye, Vandenburg, Taft, etc., is bearing its fruit. France was destroyed not by the Germans but by the enemies within, who by their disloyal utterances and activities undermined the morale of the people. We have many citizens who put their love of party above their love of country. Many had rather see Hitler "dictator" than Roosevelt.

The World War slogan—"food will win the war"—was revived yesterday at Washington with administration plans to use American farm surpluses to fill Britain's larder. But getting this food across is the thing. If American industrial plants under the sinister sway of John L. Lewis are allowed to continue their strikes and sabotage, the English people will not only starve but will not be enabled to get the planes and tanks that it will take to stop Hitler in time.

Somebody said it couldn't be done, but he with a chuckle replied: Maybe it couldn't, but he would be one who wouldn't say so till he'd tried. So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin on his face, if he worried he hid it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing that couldn't be done, and he didn't. Moral: Don't sing, whistle "Coming Around the Mountain."

Senator Bob Reynolds who chased off after Wheeler and Nye and that recalcitrant group until he alienated his constituency, now is all enthusiastic for the 7-billion bill. "When the devil is well, the devil of a saint was he, when the devil gets sick, the devil a saint would be."

On the society page of a Sunday newspaper the count of the word "vow" used 67 times. If the dictionary can't afford any synonyms for the Blessed, let us at least for a while call them "yows".

In the papers today it is stated that the Italians at Cheren have reinforced their troops with "the crack Savoy grenadiers rushed from Addis Ababa." We notice that all the divisions used by the Italians have been "crack" troops.