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EDITORIALS

## Of People and Things

### THE BOSTON MASSACRE

If the incident were not one of universal grief and horror which has excited a wave of amazement and sympathy throughout the nation, the laugh would be on Boston.

Here is the alleged national center of learning, of science, medicine, art and music in all their cultural ramifications. Here civic advancement is supposed to be tops in modern thought and practice.

But here we have a scene typical of medieval times when there was scant provision for the safety of society and little regard for human life. People were allowed frequently to die like rats in a trap when confined in asylums, prisons, dungeons and black holes. In public assemblies often fire destroyed human life, on big scales. The rulers were ignorant, thoughtless, neglectful, indifferent to human rights.

The affair in Boston is a blot on the State of Massachusetts and a smudge on the culture of Boston. It was on Saturday night, November 28. Nearly a thousand people were in one of the most exclusive night clubs of the city. It was the football season and men and women were out for a good time. Many of the gay young were socialites from distinguished families, and many students from the universities were there. It was a night of wine, women and song. It was happiness, hilarity and hoop-la.

But when fire broke out there was a panic. Only one revolving door afforded an outlet. The result was nearly 500 people burned to death. Many others injured.

Lord Byron describes a similar gathering in Brussels a century ago when "there was a sound of revelry by night, and Belgium's capital had gathered then her beauty and her chivalry." When the guns of the enemy were suddenly heard and the foe was approaching nearby, pandemonium ensued and death took charge of the scene of the revelries.

No use to blame the boy who lighted the tinsel in the Coconut Grove night club, nor to condemn the management too severely. Even the city's fire commissioners nor the building committee are as guilty as the Governor and legislature of Massachusetts who failed to provide precautions to protect the rights of thoughtless citizens and save them from their own follies.

In North Carolina there is a law that requires theaters and auditoriums to be equipped with plenty of exits in case of emergency.

Neglectful Massachusetts and smug Boston, as well as other States and cities, would do well to study the North Carolina statute for the protection of human life.

### INSPIRING SIGHT

In the sad world of today torn with turmoil, bathed in tears and staggering with blood and death, how restful to look on something that momentarily makes you forget.

And so we direct your gaze to a tall symmetrical holly with its dark green foliage and red berries—a quiet dignified being clothed with beauty and peace, graceful, charming, inspiring.

Soon its form will receive a mantle of snow.

And this will add purity.

### THE PARTING OF A FOOL AND HIS EMPIRE

Of all the titled fools of history Mussolini has probably been the greatest.

Without any provocation except his pompous ego and his impossible ambitions, this prince of disaster abandoned his French and English and American allies in world war No. 2 to stab France in the back and go along with the crazy Hitler in a vain delusion to be a partner in the conquest of the world.

And what has his course brought him? His African empire has disappeared like a pipe dream, while certain destruction awaits his dominions at home, and ruin to himself.

Today the Italian people are as truly serfs of Berlin as the Greeks, the Belgians, the Poles, etc. The Huns are camped all over Italy, consuming its food, driving off the young men to be cannon fodder for the Russian armies, and with no prospect ahead but slavery.

Last Sunday Churchill broadcast to the Italian people to throw out Mussolini or see their cities pulverized. The signs are multiplying that this will be done soon.

Soon the allies will be established just across the Mediterranean. Then within easy reach of countless thousands of Sterlings and Flying Fortresses coming across day and night from the factories of America and Britain, the dreadful hour of Italy's chaos will have struck.

And then this jackal who has betrayed his friends and led his people to unparalleled disaster, will be caught and punished for his crimes.

Unless he before the climax slips an Italian stiletto under his own fifth rib and saves the executioners a nasty job.

### HITLER EXTIRPATES THE JEWS

There are not so many Jews left in the German Reich.

A great part of the population has been murdered by Hitler, thousands taken away from their wives and children and deported to distant mines or factories to work, their property confiscated.

Others are confined in gloomy ghettos, crowded in small quarters where there is dampness and disease, no medicine and but enough food to keep body and soul together for awhile. Thousands die daily.

But the other day Hitler gave the order for his Gestapo to MASSACRE AT LEAST HALF OF THE REMAINING HEBREWS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

Such brutality sends a shock of horror and pity throughout the civilized world.

Rivers of blood have flowed from the murdered Jews, Poles, Belgians, French, Czechs, etc.

But the living God of Mercy and Justice has heard the cry of these downtrodden and defenseless people.

The day is not far distant when the assassins and their lairs will singe in the fire of the avenging armies that converge on Berlin, and the incomparable beast for whom hell burns not hot enough will be brought to his fearful reckoning.

### BETTER BE SAFE THAN SORRY

Some of us believe the war will be won by next spring.

Others believe it will last for years yet.

No man knows when the end will be or the extent of the sacrifices which the American people must endure before the enemy is crushed to rise no more.

And in this light the question of food looms large and serious, and it behooves the farmers of Stokes county to be on the safe side and while hoping for the best, to prepare for the worst.

Next year the value of tobacco will soar to previous unheard of figures, whether the war ends or not.

But let not the good practical sense of our level-headed farmers be caught napping. The big roll of Federal Reserve notes in your pockets will be poor stuff indeed if it will not buy something to eat.

One of the best posted men in North Carolina, when it comes to the question of farming and home economics is Dean Schaub of State College. And he is conservative, weighing carefully his words.

In an address recently Mr. Schaub said that in his best opinion—if the war continues—many people will go hungry even here in North Carolina by 1944.

This man spoke from long experience and observation, and based his opinion on the known capabilities of the farms when their manpower is depleting so rapidly and so seriously.

It will be wise before laying out too much acreage for tobacco to first not only to prepare for all food needed at home, but for a surplus of food TO FEED OUR ARMIES AND OUR ALLIES.

Corn, meat, potatoes, beans—all the things that can be used and canned.

The needs ahead are great and will have a tremendous influence on the war effort.

### IN THE DAYS TO COME

There can be no better guarantee of the future prosperity of the people of Stokes county than an investment to the limit of their ability in war bonds.

These securities represent the obligation of the strongest and safest government in the world today.

Every dollar you put in bonds means that much additional power of the government to win the war and bring our boys back home.

Airplanes by the thousands are rolling off the assembly lines, tanks, machine guns and powder are accumulating to insure our troops will be fully armed and equipped to do the job.

Buy bonds today—buy to the limit of your purse.

It will mean needed help for the government and future prosperity for you.

And the bonds are just as safe as the money in your pocket.