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**Oh! The Heat**  
 For several days now we have been listening for some one to blame the heat on Hitler or Roosevelt, or say that it is a sign of the times. Maybe a lot of people have seen hotter spells than this as the result of Hitler's maniacal doings, and a lot of anti-third-termers likewise have found themselves quite hot under the collar toward the President. And it may be a sign of the times, in that it is indicative of a place still hotter than we have experienced the past ten days if we fail to mend our ways.  
 One thing certain is that when they come to write the history of the year 1940, they cannot safely or properly overlook the weather. It has played tricks on us that are almost as unusual as the blitzkriegs. Figuring back a bare six months, some strange things come to light. It was on the night of the 27th of January that the mercury slid to eight degrees below zero for an all-time low hereabouts. It was the afternoon of the 27th of July—six months to the day—that what is apparently an all-time high temperature of 105 was recorded. That is a difference of 113 degrees from one extreme to the other, and in the space of exactly six months to the day, in the same year. Maybe, after all, it is a sign of the times, eh?  
 One who is the least bit superstitious will make a lot out of this. They could say that not only has old Mars set out to hand us a wallop, but that the weather man has also turned against us. Well, well! What next? And what are we coming to, and whither are we headed? Bla, bla; for our part we only wish we knew.  
 But, heck, ain't it been hot?


**Judicial Convenience**  
 By a vote of the esteemed Public Ledger comes the information that "indignation was rampant among members of the bar and their clients in civil actions set for the July term of Granville Superior Court" in Oxford over action of Judge Henry L. Stevens, Jr., in adjourning the term Tuesday afternoon and leaving for his home in Warsaw.  
 The action of the judge in what appeared to be an arbitrary termination of the session after disposing of the few criminal cases on the docket caused some disturbance and disruption of scheduled hearings. One girl seeking a divorce, and expecting to be granted on Wednesday had already bought a trousseau for a second marriage Saturday. A Louisville attorney who had a case pending in civil court Wednesday came to Oxford for the trial, only to find Judge Stevens had adjourned court and gone home.  
 The Public Ledger says the judge made no explanation in open court of his decision to carry over the civil cases, but privately confided to a member of the bar that he had planned to take his wife and son to the beach for a few days. The paper also added that talk around the court house was for presentation of a bill in the 1941 legislature to require superior court judges to remain in a county until Friday evening of the week set for the term. A penalty of \$100 a day would be applied for failure to comply.  
 Of course, that would be rather drastic. If the business of the term were concluded earlier, there would be no point in the judge staying over to idle away his time. Moreover, illness might justify an earlier adjournment. But, on the face of the news from Oxford, there would seem to be no good reason for the action of Judge Stevens in this case.  
 Fortunately, there are few judges on the superior bench who look upon their duties so lightly as this. Further, it is no place for men who place mere judicial convenience ahead of the business of administering justice. It is not a pleasant experience to sit in a stuffed court room all day in July weather of the intensity of that during the past week. But the common run of humanity who pay taxes to provide \$8,000 salaries for superior court judges couldn't adjourn their affairs and go to the beach, however oppressive the heat may have been.  
 Positions on the bench carry duties and responsibilities for which most people are unsuited and unqualified. But they are not so burdensome but that a few of those entrusted with the work earnestly seek the posts. And they owe it to the cause of justice and to the State to put public interests ahead of their own. After all, it is their job, and when they take liberties as Judge Stevens did in Granville county, if the reports are accurate, they cannot be said to be faithfully discharging their obligations.  
 Since the term of court has been set by law and the calendar fixed by the bar, it would seem to have been the proper procedure to work through the remaining two days necessary to finish the docket, or at least to have obtained the consent of court officials and attorneys to shorten the session if sufficient reasons could be given for doing so. Certainly there could have been some consideration for the rights and plans of others as well as the convenience of the presiding judge.

**Plans and Denials**  
 Henry Wallace, personal pick of President Roosevelt on the ticket with him that will attempt to smash America's sacred anti-third term tradition, says he will quit his job to campaign for vice president after he has been officially notified. And in the same breath the secretary lets loose a salvo to the effect that the vast AAA set-up will not be used as a political machine.  
 It impresses us as being proper that the secretary separate himself from the public payroll while he is seeking higher office. Yet the President is not resigning his office to run again, nor did Cactus Jack Garner step out four years ago, when, with Mr. Roosevelt, he sought and won re-election. Those with good memories can recall, too, that the present head of the Democratic national ticket did not resign as governor of New York to run for president in 1932 for the first time. There is plenty of precedent for Mr. Wallace to stay put if it suits the top man that he should hold on.  
 Maybe the huge AAA organization won't be used for political purposes; it should not and we hope it will not be. But what one may hope and what he sees actually happening are at times quite at variance.  
 It has been repeatedly said that the WPA relief set-up was not in politics, and that government funds were not being and would not be made use of in election campaigns. But there was a lot of talk to the contrary in that "mandate" election of 1936; there was a lot of talk of pressure being brought from Washington in the 1938 purge, and in one notable instance of a certain senatorial campaign two years ago.  
 Already, before the 1940 campaign is scarcely begun, more than a billion dollars has been voted for relief, and the time in which it is to be spent limited to eight months from the beginning of the current fiscal year, which is barely a month old. And some people are wondering just how much politics there will be in the spending in the multi-billion-dollar defense program.  
 The agricultural chief announces his plans to retire and denies agricultural subsidies will exude the odor of political taint. To all of which we can enthusiastically shout our fervent amen. But Mr. Wallace knows the man who is agreeing to, if he did not suggest, his retirement during the campaign, will still have the power to restore him to office should he fall by the wayside. And if he should win, he won't care for the old job again anyhow.  
 So about all the country can do is to wait and hope—and in November vote.

**A Louisiana Purge**  
 Hedged about as it is with the stench of cruelty and murder in European dictator countries, and with the odor of political venom in our own, the word purge has come to have about it something that makes it feared and despised. But down in Louisiana they are removing some of that sour taste and giving the term a ring of respectability.  
 Governor Sam Jones, who a few months ago took the measure of the old corrupt Huey Long dynasty and threw it overboard, is purging the State payrolls of some 20,000 henchmen of the former czar. Many of these will not be replaced because their jobs will be abolished, and new and uncontaminated employees will be put into positions that are essential to the proper conduct of the government.  
 Louisiana, under its new governor, is setting an example for other states, and even the Federal government, to follow. Of course, they will not take the hint, but this old game of political patronage is one of the cankers that infest and shackle the efficient functioning of democracy. It is present nearly everywhere in our government machinery from Washington on down, and those in position to perform the operation necessary to remove it are either unable or unwilling, chiefly the latter, to undertake the process.  
 It is fairly generally known and admitted that public affairs could be carried on with far greater efficiency and with from a third to half the present cost but for the hideous patronage system that infests governmental agencies. There are not enough good citizens to root it out, and the people not only stand for it but give their approval, many in the hope of somehow, sometime personally becoming a beneficiary to an easy living. Others tolerate and support it because they can use it as a vehicle upon which to ride into office or to stay in once they make the grade.  
 Governor Sam Jones' drastic purge is so unusual that it makes an oddity of him, but a characterization, nevertheless, that is wholesome and one that justifies a feeling of genuine pride on his part and on the part also of the people of his State as well, if not, indeed, the whole country.

**A Law To Himself**  
 American citizens who by their silence or otherwise are consenting to the conscription act now on its way through Congress might do well to find out what the bill actually contains. For the first time a copy of the "Selective Training and Service Act of 1940" has come into our hands, and some sections of it confer amazing powers upon the President.  
 After enumerating a long list of authorities granted to the chief executive in administering the act after it becomes law, there follows this Sec. 12 (n): "All regulations and proclamations issued by the President, or pursuant to his direction, in carrying out the provisions of this act shall have the force and effect of law." The full meaning of that sentence, in its final analysis, is, in effect, to make the President a law unto himself.  
 The bill is seven printed pages in length and sets forth its purposes in rather much detail, but at the same time delegates vast powers to the chief executive. It is a further step in verification of what hitherto has been known as "inside" information from Washington that all of this and more has for some time been in the minds of the war group. It is a preliminary to that other reportedly secret document that prescribes a plan for complete regimentation and mobilization of industry, presumably with as much power for the President in that direction as over the military establishment.  
 Opposition in the Senate committee hearing on the bill made the point that conscription should not be forced on the country until voluntary service had been given a chance, which is what we have been contending for from the outset. Senator Wheeler said the project had been "conjured up in the minds of a few people who want to see us go to war and send our youths to Asia or Europe." And we fear that once this country has a highly trained and capable army reserve, somebody's sons are going to be sent from these shores to fight on foreign soil.  
 Another fallacious proposal that is being inserted into the act is one that would force employers to reinstate draftees in their old civilian jobs after finishing their course in the army. In the first place, such a requirement is not necessary. In the vast majority of cases, employers would be happy to cooperate to that end and would consider it a patriotic duty and privilege to take care of youth who come back to their old jobs after serving their country.

**What Do You Know About North Carolina?**  
 By FRED H. MAY  
 1. Who was the North Carolina senator who resigned in 1829 to become Secretary of the Navy?  
 2. What was the ghost of fusion days that came back to plague Justice Walter Clark in 1902?  
 3. When was Howell Cobb, native of Granville county, elected congressman from Georgia?  
 4. How many furniture manufacturing plants does North Carolina have?  
 5. When was the Carolina colony divided into North and South Carolina?  
 6. When were the terms of North Carolina governors changed from one to two and four years?  
 ANSWERS.  
 1. Senator John Branch, of Enfield, elected United States senator in 1822 and in 1829, resigned to accept the appointment as Secretary of the Navy in President Andrew Jackson's cabinet. He served at this cabinet post from March 9, 1829, until May 12, 1831, when he resigned. North Carolina immediately elected him to fill a vacancy in congress and he returned to Washington.  
 2. His friendship with the populists and Republicans in 1894 when both parties endorsed him after the Democratic party had already chosen him as a candidate for an associate justiceship of the Supreme Court.  
 3. Georgia elected him in 1806 and again at the next two congressional elections. He did not complete his third term, however, but returned to his Georgia plantation, Cherry Hill, where he devoted his time to farming. He died in 1818. He was born in Granville county in 1772.  
 4. Recent reports give a total of 178 plants. These employ more than 16,000 persons.  
 5. After trying to operate the colonies under one governorship the Lords Proprietors abandoned the idea in 1712 and established both as separate colonies. Edward Hyde was

**OIL FOR THE LAMPS OF CHINA**  
  
 The beauty about telling the truth is that you don't have to remember what you said.

**HAIL DAMAGES CROPS IN SANFORD SECTION**  
 One Farmer Says His Tobacco Is Total Loss—Storm Came Out of Clear Sky  
 Sanford, July 29.—According to information reaching Sanford, considerable damage was done to growing crops on a number of farms in Swann Station and Olivia sections in southern Lee and western Harnett counties during a sudden hail storm Thursday afternoon. Damage by hail also was reported from the Cameron section in Moore county.  
 The storm, described as coming up almost out of a clear sky about 4 o'clock, cut a swath about a mile wide, beginning at Swann Station and moving southeast towards Olivia.  
 Eugene Womack of Swann Station reported his tobacco crop a total loss. His cotton crop about two-thirds destroyed, and his corn and garden riddled by hail.  
 A. L. Seawell of near Olivia said his tobacco crop was about 50 per cent damaged, and Arnold Butcher reported his damage as somewhat less. Possibly 90 to 95 per cent of the tobacco crop was still in the fields.

**YOUTH EXONERATED IN FATHER'S DEATH**  
 Boy Of Near Reidsville Says He Fired Fatal Shot To Protect His Mother.  
 Reidsville, July 29.—(AP)—A coroner's jury here Saturday exonerated a 15-year-old boy who said he shot and killed his father who in a drunken rage was about to strike his mother with an iron pipe.  
 The boy was Louis D. Pruitt, and his father was Louis D. Pruitt, 39, a farmer of the Mayfield community, about 15 miles northwest of Reidsville.  
 The boy and other members of the family testified that the senior Pruitt returned home with a companion Friday night with a gaudy jug and a quart of whisky.  
 They said the senior Pruitt's companion left after a while and Pruitt continued drinking and began to quarrel with and threaten the members of his family, attempting to beat up his wife.  
 Saturday morning, the witnesses said, Pruitt resumed the quarrel with his wife. The boy testified he shot his father while he was struggling with his mother in the yard.  
 Pruitt died two hours later in a hospital. He is survived by his widow and 10 children.

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 This 8th day of July, 1940.  
 A. A. HUNN,  
 Administrator of the Estate of F. E. Marston, deceased.  
 8-15-22-29-5-12

**NOTICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**  
 In Superior Court.  
 State of North Carolina.  
 County of Vance:  
 G. L. Burton, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 Fanny Ange Burton, Defendant.  
 The defendant, Fanny Ange Burton, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the superior court of Vance county, North Carolina, by Divorce absolute upon ground of the year separation; and the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the clerk of the superior court in the courthouse in Henderson, North Carolina, on the 16th day of August, 1940, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint.  
 This the 15th of July 1940.  
 E. O. FALKNER,  
 Clerk of Superior Court of Vance County.  
 D. P. McDuffee,  
 Attorney.

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Jobs after serving their country.  
 But to make this compulsory might conceivably work a tremendous hardship on some firms. Where a youth went away for a year and his job had to be filled during his absence, and the vacancy could be filled only by the promise of permanency, what could an employer do in that case? On the one hand, his business suffers if the place is not filled. On the other, if filled on terms of permanency, he faces the alternative of violating a law.  
 It is another case of government interference in private affairs where it has no proper right to interfere. But that is nothing new in these days; it is so common that free enterprise is virtually a thing of the past and bids fair to remain so and more so unless somehow, some time we shall experience a rebirth of freedom in America.  
 The conscription act is a new departure in American life. If found necessary and a last resort, few would object. But we have not come to that yet, except arbitrarily in the minds of a comparatively few people who have authority and are getting ready to use it with a vengeance, whatever the wish of citizens generally. Meantime, and along with all the other activities, more and greater power is being vested in the hands of one man, until we know neither where we now stand nor whither we are headed.  
 But the people submit to it, and that is why movements of this sort are carried through to success.  
 The world does, occasionally, learn its lesson. So far no one has called this one the war to end all wars.  
 Recent baseball news suggests that this may become known as New York Yankee weather.

**ANSWERS TO TEN QUESTIONS**  
 See Back Page  
 1. Federal Communications Commission.  
 2. Yes.  
 3. Theodore Roosevelt.  
 4. Mediterranean.  
 5. Lewisburg, Pa.  
 6. A manicurist.  
 7. Coal.  
 8. No.  
 9. In central Maryland.  
 10. St. Swithin's Day (July 15).

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