

MARION PROGRESS

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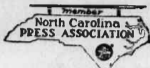
TELEPHONE 64

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MARION, N. C., MAY 2, 1940

NOTES AND COMMENTS

There are just a few indications that honesty is becoming the best policy.

There are people who believe in Democracy only as long as their party is in control.

While some folks debate whether to have vegetables or flowers their gardens produce weeds.

Highway fatalities are increasing but this won't persuade anybody that the next accident always involves new victims.

Individuals who get hot and bothered over what is going to happen to the world, ought to worry about something else.

Japan, like Russia and Italy, is watching any opportunity to take advantage of world conditions to get some territory for nothing.

His name may never get in "Whos Who" or his picture in the Hall of Fame, but the fellow who is industrious, thrifty and honest, who pays his bills and rears and educates a good family is as worthy a citizen of this republic as any whom the crowd so generously honors.

One of the greatest perils in this country today is the pressure group—the group who force special legislation through Congress because they control a block of votes. As a rule pressure group legislation is bad for the country. Most of it is prompted only by selfish interests of the particular group who many times have little or no concern as to how it affects the balance of the country.

The time will never come in this country when there will not be a pressure group demanding higher old age pensions regardless of the size that pensions may attain. No one ever got so much that he did not try to get more. Unfortunately there will always be a class of office seekers who are willing to pledge support to such demands, regardless of the ability of the country to pay.

More than 250,000 families are going to move from rented homes into their own homes this spring according to the estimates of the United States Savings and Loan League. Last year the number of new home owners was 190,000 and in 1936 it was 100,000. The trend, it appears, has started. Home ownership makes for a stability of a people. It gives one a sense of being a part of a community that a family in a rented shelter never knows.

GEN. O'RYAN'S VIEWS

Major General John F. O'Ryan, who commanded the Twenty-seventh Division in the World War, has a few opinions on the present crisis which we pass along.

He says that if the Germans win this war, the peace terms will make the Versailles treaty look "like a Christmas card" by comparison.

He also insists that the Monroe Doctrine is "only as good as the gun-fire behind it."

The general may be prejudiced against the Germans. After all, he fought against them. Just the same, his ideas have a background of sense.

HOW TO REDUCE TAXES

There is always a campaign for the reduction of taxes. Everybody wants the "government" to spend money on favored propositions and, at the same time, reduce taxes.

The way to reduce taxes is simple if that is what people want. Let the government eliminate activities that are not essential to the functions of government. This will cost some people their jobs but it will cut the cost of government.

THY NEIGHBOR

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindnesses and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort.—Sir Humphrey Davy, English chemist, 1778-1829.

Who is thy neighbor? He whom thou hast power to aid or bless; Whose aching heart or burning brow thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor? 'Tis the fainting poor whose eye with want is dim. Oh, enter thou his humble door, with aid and peace for him.

Thy neighbor? He who drinks the cup when sorrow drowns the brim; With words of high sustaining hope, go thou and comfort him.

Thy neighbor? 'Tis the weary slave, fettered in mind and limb; He hath no hope this side the grave; go thou and ransom him.

Thy neighbor? Pass no mourner by, perhaps thou canst redeem A breaking heart from misery; go share thy lot with him.

—Author Unidentified.

NOW THE DOGWOODS

Reluctantly Winter releases its grip on a land burgeoning and blooming. Now the dogwoods are beginning to sprinkle the woods with ethereal white.

North Carolinians, slow to learn the lesson of conservation and accord full obedience to Springtime beauty, have nevertheless come to love and admire the charming dogwood.

Farmers no longer whack down the dogwood trees for fuel. When pasture lands are cleared the dogwood is allowed to stand like a lonely sentinel in a seat of grass or lespedeza. When roadsides are cleared, care is taken to spare the tree that blossoms in a sea of white and yet, as botanists inform us, produces no real flower.

The result is that the traveler moving along in automobile or bus over North Carolina's well-paved highways, experiences the thrill of passing almost literally through a light shower of snow flakes, crystalline and sparkling. Only there is no discomfort, the sun shines ardently, the air is tintured with the attar of roses, birds sing and fit about in this gentle "snow" which waves in the lazy breeze on a thousand hills. It's dogwood time in North Carolina, and every heart is gripped by wanderlust and a "feel" for beauty must be stirred and go upon the open road! Winston-Salem Journal.

HIGH HOPES FOR MUSIC WEEK

National Music Week, we understand, will be observed early in May, but we are afraid that even this celebration will not remove from the air some of the raucous sounds which now afflict the human ears under the guise of music.

This slam-bang, pop-gun, whiz-whistling concatenation of tumultuous screams and howls is, it seems to us, a thing apart and not to be confused or associated with the "concord of sweet sounds" that "hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

Anyway, let's look hopefully toward May 5th, when we may have a week devoted to the harmonies of immortal souls in "linked sweetness long drawn out". As much as we hate the idea of so many weeks, with so many purposes, the musicians may win us to this one if they can produce their melting airs to entrance our senses.

It takes an optimist to run for any public office.

GOLDEN GLEAMS

- Earth sounds my wisdom, and high heaven my fame.—Homer. Nor fame I slight, nor for her favors call; She comes unlooked for, if she comes at all. —Pope. What a heavy burden is a name that has become too soon famous.—Voltaire. Sloth views the towers of fame with envious eyes Desirous still, still impotent to rise. —Shenstone. It is a fine thing to be pointed out with the finger and have people say, "There he is!"—Persius. Who fears not to do ill, yet fears the name, And free from conscience, is a slave to fame. —Sir John Denham.

ALLIES HAVE A JOB IN NORWAY

The task of British and French soldiers in Norway is difficult. Landings on the west coast do not, as yet, offer adequate transportation facilities for an army.

Norway is a mountainous country with limited highways. Advancing soldiers will not have boulevards toward Oslo, more than 600 miles from Narvick and about 350 miles from Namsos, where British and Norwegians are reported to have joined forces.

From Trondheim to Oslo is a distance of 250 miles, but there is a railroad between the two cities. To capture Trondheim would be a major accomplishment. The Norwegian coastal forts are in the hands of the Germans but the job might be done by a land attack.

As the situation seems to be taking form in Norway the British and Norwegians may hold the northern section of the country but the German forces operating from Oslo should be able to maintain themselves for a long time.

WPA ROAD ALLOCATION EXPLAINED BY BAISE

Raleigh, April 26. — W. Vance Baise, chief highway engineer, said today that approval of allocation of \$13,000,000 in WPA funds for highways "in nowise means that such a sum necessarily will be spent."

The allotment is expected to cover WPA road work for the next 12 to 15 months, he said, where formerly several requests for allocations were made during the year.

The recent allotment means that "we do not have to return each project request to Washington for approval but can complete the entire details through WPA headquarters in Raleigh," said Baise. "In reality it corresponds to a letter of credit. It does not oblige the commission to ask for one dollar more than it can efficiently handle or have funds to match."

The state must furnish not less than 25 per cent of the total amount involved in materials and equipment for each project, Baise said, and the WPA funds would care for payrolls.

NOTICE TO BUILDERS SUPPLY DEALERS

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received for the purchase by McDowell County of 46,000 brick, shade 40 (fallston type brick to match present brick in McDowell County courthouse.)

All bids must be received on or before 10 o'clock A. M., Thursday, May 9th, 1940, when all bids will be considered. Those interested may file sealed bids, in writing, with the County Accountant, at her office in the courthouse in Marion, N. C.

The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.

This the 29th day of April, 1940. I. L. Caplan, Chairman, Board of Commissioners for McDowell County.

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

"The Foremost Newspaper of The Carolinas"

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GOSPEL LIGHT

By R. VON KING, Pastor East Marion Baptist Church

A MAJOR OPERATION

Today is a day of marvelous achievement among medical doctors and surgeons. We have great and noble physicians who have performed hundreds of minor and major operations successfully and sent their patients back home well on the road to recovery. They are doing great things for suffering humanity, but their power is so limited. How often the best of earthly physicians must step aside and tell some anxious mother or loved one, "We have gone our limit. We know of nothing else that can be done. The case is hopeless." We cannot express the emotion that grips us as we hear the doctor's verdict, hopeless, and yet many times in just such an hour our hearts are turned to the Great Physician, who alone can comfort our broken hearts and bring new life and hope to us.

Truly Jesus is the Great Physician and the Surgeon of our souls. Indeed he is able to perform a major operation, the only operation that will help a dead man. In Colossians 2:12 we read: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also we are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Men in their natural state are dead in trespasses and sins. Something needs to be done. Man's efforts alone fail to bring this new life that is needed. When men who are surgeons operate upon the body they usually take something out, but when God operates on the soul he puts something in, a new life. A professor took his watch to the jeweler several times to have it adjusted but still it failed to run correctly. Finally, in despair, he said to the jeweler, "I have about lost faith in this watch." The jeweler replied, "It's not faith you need, professor, it's works." The watch needed a new heart. So do many who are depending on some vain formal religion or good works. Nicodemus had a chronic case of religion like many people today. It bothered him at certain times but never brought peace to his soul. Jesus prescribed a new remedy, "Ye must be born again."

Some of our folks who have a chronic case of religion need a good dose of regeneration. The Apostle Paul had an acute attack of heavenly Holy Ghost conviction, cried out, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and submitted to a major operation that changed his whole life. When we undergo such an operation from God we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. "Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." The most common ailment among people today is heart trouble, "Thy heart is not right with God." A bad heart will show itself in bad language and a bad life, for Jesus said: "For out of the heart cometh evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man." God's major operation is the only remedy for such a condition. In Ezekiel 36:26 we read: "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh."

God's surgical knife is the Word. "For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart," Heb. 4:12 James tells us to "receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." We must come to Jesus, the Great Physician, under the influence of the "ether of humility" as did the publican of old, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Through the lowly door of repentance we enter the palace of faith and feast from the King's table on the heavenly manna. The greatest sinner should not turn a deaf ear to God's "whosoever." We must make our reservation for heaven while on earth. A lady was once turned away from the hotels in a crowded city while scores about her were receiving accommodations. She had failed to make reservation ahead. The new birth from above is the only reservation that will assure us of heaven's accommodations. Have you had this major operation? If not, just now put your case into the hands of the Great Physician.

CLIMBING

America's war-stimulated foreign trade sent export figures climbing again in March to \$344,000,000, an increase of 30 per cent above the same month of last year.

Advertising is good for business.

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