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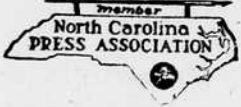
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MARION, N. C., MAY 22, 1941

OUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY

There is no question that Marion General Hospital must be enlarged. Facilities there are so crowded now that the corridors are being used for wards and beds are being so crowded together in both the wards and semi-private rooms that it is becoming rather shameful.

It is a case of necessity now to expand. Money is needed and it must be obtained. There is no alternative but to resign ourselves to get behind a hospital drive and see it through.

Facilities for a 60-bed hospital are the least that can be considered. This means practically doubling the capacity of the present hospital. Eighteen more rooms, including wards, private and semi-private rooms and sanitary rooms, are included in the plan that is only a vision as yet.

Just stop to consider what a service the hospital has been to this community. The saving of human life in emergency; the convenience of its nearness; the splendid service it has rendered cannot be measured.

Doctors and nurses there have given energy and unstinted time and interest. Now they are striving under a terrific handicap to serve as well and as efficiently. The best service may be impeded while conditions are so crowded. Such circumstances, it is pointed out, are a tremendous risk.

The hospital authorities now turn to us, the people of Marion and McDowell county. What are we to do about it? The hospital is there for us. It is our protection in emergency and ill health. It is our own convenience. It is our safeguard in birth and in the borders of death.

There is no alternative. A 30-bed hospital cannot provide a competent service wherein 55 beds are crowded. That is just the condition that exists.

Let us be ready to meet the issue.

COMMUNITY COOPERATION

The Progress urges all citizens of Marion to adopt an intelligent plan of community cooperation. This does not involve the careless boasting that ignores facts or the degenerating pessimism that depreciates everything. It merely requires the citizens of Marion to realize that the combined efforts of all neighbors and friends will definitely improve our town.

One of the necessities is a sound business structure upon which to rest other ornaments. The trade-at-home policy, as often outlined in this paper, is a cardinal principle of community loyalty. It applies to sellers as well as to buyers and involves the use of money for improving Marion, as spending it within municipal limits.

In addition, our citizens should compare Marion with other communities and, if possible, see that we acquire as many advantages as possible. Moreover, an eye should be kept on our living conditions and social organization in the hope of securing a fuller life for those who make their homes here.

DOING THEIR BIT

Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to this country, calls attention to the changed structure of war and emphasizes the part played by designers, draftsmen and skilled workers.

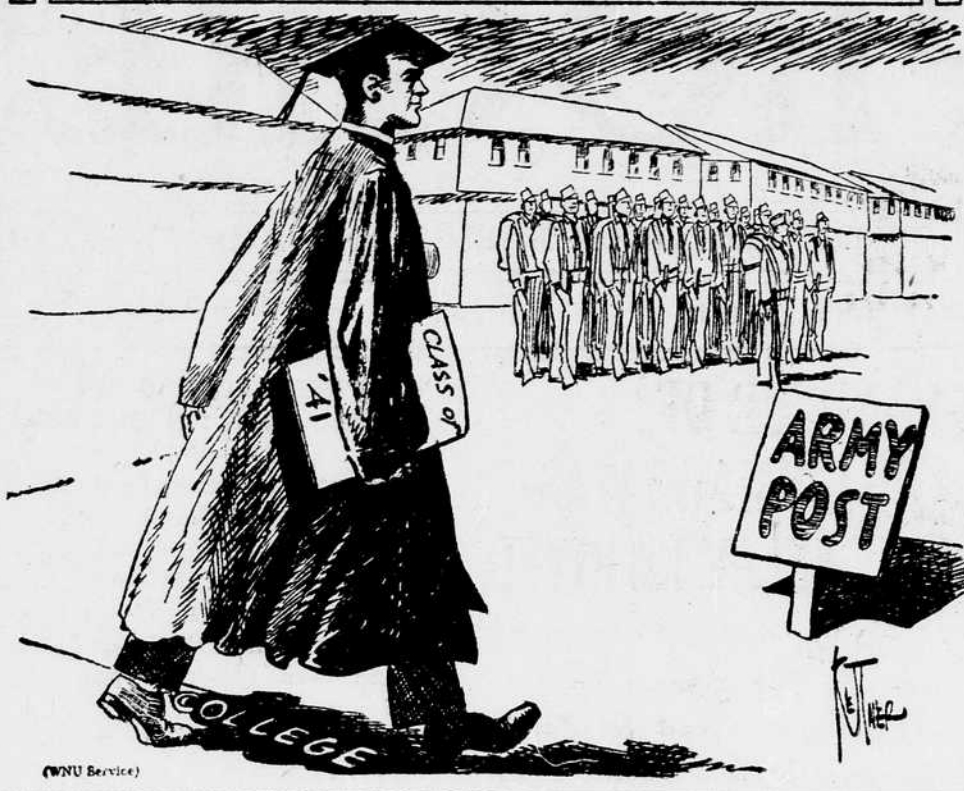
"Courage and endurance are still needed," he says, "but by themselves they are useless as the courage of savages against rifles and machine guns."

Undoubtedly the fate of the world today depends upon the industrial plants of Great Britain and the United States. The workmen who toil on defense orders are doing their bit.

Courtesy is possible even when steering an automobile. Try it on the highway and see how it works.

Freedom does not mean the right to disregard the rights of others.

Post-graduate Course



NO EXCUSE FOR UNATTRACTIVE TOWNS

Nature, bursting in bloom, suggests the beauty that would belong to Marion if advantage were taken of the native flowering species, planted for growth and development in various localities where they would startle our inhabitants in the early spring with their exquisite pictures of exotic loveliness.

Every community can enhance its own appearance and present its inhabitants with rare delight if a little time and thought be given to this idea. Really, folks, there is no excuse for an unattractive town or city in the springtime of the year.

What shall we do about it, besides talking and thinking?

Do we hear someone say, "Marion is wonderful at this time of the year?" We do! Well, we will admit that Marion has made a good start, and that it is ahead of other places that we know, but, just the same, we have hardly scratched the surface and, besides, there are other places that are far ahead of our city.

LET THEM SPEAK THEIR MINDS

Let's have a word in praise of the prospective graduates, even now working their minds upon problems to be solved in the annual commencement.

While the race of human beings pokes fun at the youngsters, isn't there something to praise in the eagerness with which they attack the evils of the day and the hopefulness with which they plead their special causes?

Youth may be criticized for lack of years, but if cynical experience could solve half the problems that it thinks it can, where would impetuous youth find anything to correct?

So, to all young people of McDowell county let these greetings appear. Let them proceed with their study of "problems," and make known their "cures." Who knows what statesmen have been developed from school day orators and what the world owes to the keen study of commencement day speakers?

FOUR FRIENDSHIPS

Have you ever stopped to think that very often people who are happy and successful have based their lives on four friendships?

The first friendship is with people. They are good neighbors. They are courteous, thoughtful, cheerful. Other people like to associate with them. They are leaders in their work.

The second friendship is with books. These people never lose the desire to learn, and one of the ways they improve themselves is through good literature. Through books they learn more about the business in which they are engaged, whether it is being a successful farmer or a skilled surgeon.

Next is friendship with high ideals. People know right from wrong and avoid the wrong as much as possible. They keep their promises... can be depended upon.

Last is friendship with God. They believe in a higher power, read the Bible, attend church regularly, and help to carry on the church work in their community.

Is not this a goal all of us can strive to reach? — The Progressive Farmer.

The Progress depends upon the business it receives to enlarge its service to the people of this area. When you subscribe to the newspaper, insert an advertisement or patronize another advertiser, you help to make possible the publication of an improved newspaper.

We are for peace but human beings have never found abiding peace in cowardice and surrender.

Not every dead-beat is a pauper; some of them are well-to-do.

A small advertisement in our columns often returns large dividends.

Rules of the Road

DUTY TO STOP

Sec. 128, Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina:—(a) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death to any person shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such accident.

"(b) The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in damage to property shall immediately stop such vehicle at the scene of such accident.

"(c) The driver of any vehicle involved in any accident resulting in injury or death to any person or damage to property shall also give his name, address, operator's or chauffeur's license number and the registration number of his vehicle to the person struck or the driver or occupants of any vehicle collided with and shall render to any person injured in such accident reasonable assistance including the carrying of such person to a physician or surgeon for medical or surgical treatment if it is apparent that such treatment is necessary or is requested by the injured person.

Hit-and-run driving is illegal, inexcusable and indefensible. Every driver involved in a motor vehicle traffic accident is required by law to stop, identify himself and render what aid he can to any injured person.

PRESIDENT DESIGNATES JUNE 14 AS 'FLAG DAY'

Washington, May 14.—President Roosevelt, formally designated June 14 as "Flag Day" and declared it particularly fitting that "we reaffirm our faith in the ideals for which our flag stands."

He called upon the American people, in a proclamation, to observe the day by suitable ceremonies and by display of the flag.

"At this time when the principles of unity and freedom symbolized by Old Glory are under attack," he said, "it is especially fitting that we reaffirm our faith in the ideals for which our flag stands and our loyalty to the nation over which it has waved for more than a century and a half."

June 14 is the anniversary of the day in 1777 when the Continental Congress formally adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national banner of the United States.

LAND OWNERS MUST VOTE FOR SOIL CONSERVATION

McDowell county farmers will cast their vote next week in support of the proposed soil conservation project for this as well as neighboring counties. The project is known as the Catawba Soil Conservation program.

Western North Carolina has been offered this opportunity in preference to Mississippi or Alabama. Should there be insufficient interest shown in this section, either of the above states will receive the benefit of the federal program.

The matter is squarely up to the owners of farms. They must voice their approval of the project by an affirmative vote. Meetings were held in every section of the county last week to apprise them of what the program means to them. County Agent S. L. Homewood has advocated their acceptance.

Three days next week are set for the balloting at the court house in Marion. They are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 29, 30 and 31. At least 150 McDowell county land owners must sanction the project.

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RURAL TRENDS



SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL

It is time for America to willingly take off its coat, roll up its sleeves, and get down to the business of defense. Too few of us realize the seriousness of the task and the immediate need for action. The foreign policy of our government has committed the American people to the fight for democracy. Therefore it becomes our duty to prepare ourselves for any eventuality which may occur as a result of such action.

The nations of Europe were caught napping. America is still asleep, dreaming blissfully in comfort, but headed for a terrific shock unless there is an immediate awakening to the gravity of our present situation.

Should we get to our task immediately, there need be no fear of the outcome. This country has the brains, brawn and tools necessary to arm against any aggression or group of aggressors that may attempt to violate our territories.

To arm America for total defense, it is necessary for every red-blooded American to put his shoulder to the wheel. The entire defense program is falling down today because it lacks direction. In order to accomplish a great task, it is first necessary to outline what is to be accomplished. A plan is like a compass; it makes it possible for all of us to go in the same direction. Such a plan should be open and frankly stated. People get nervous when they keep finding out things after they have happened. Dictators thrive on confusion. Our best safeguard against bewilderment is to have a plan everybody understands, and to execute it quickly and accurately.

In such an emergency government must take the leadership. Its policies should be clear-cut and accurate—policies that will create confidence; policies that will give this great nation the will to revitalize itself and be ready to take on whatever responsibilities are necessary to let the rest of the world know that we are proud of Americanism and the institutions upon which this nation was founded.

Once government has accurately laid down the task, it then becomes the responsibility of every one of us to do our part. As individuals we must be prepared to make sacrifices and give up our comforts in order to carry the burden before us.

Management must be prepared to make courageous decisions. It must be willing to forego all profits if necessary. It is now confronted with the most difficult problems ever put up to management. It must be equal to the task.

Labor must purge its ranks of those who are not sincerely in accord with the program for the defense of American institutions. The task of labor will be long in hours. Machines are helpless without skilled men to operate them. Side by side labor and management must cast aside their differences in favor of the common welfare of a great people.

The efforts of industry must be sustained by an adequate food supply. This task falls into the hands of the farmer. He, too, must be prepared to make every sacrifice. Fortunately, the type of food needed is such that farmers turning their fields and farm operation to defense foods will be more prosperous than present cash crop farmers, for there are no surpluses in these much needed foods.

America must be aroused to the occasion. This can be started by laying the defense problems and requirements frankly before the people. Once this is done, every man and woman will understand clearly why and how we must put our shoulders to the wheel. Once an American knows what's expected of him, you can count on his "delivering the goods."

WAR RELIEF

The 323 organizations soliciting war relief funds in the United States have collected \$30,303,833 since the outbreak of the war in September. Of this amount, \$21,161,025 has been actually spent for relief; \$6,190,150 is unexpended and the remainder has been spent for administrative purposes or sent in the form of goods.

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