

1936 Brings Us Exciting Political Campaign Year

TODAY and TOMORROW

(By Frank Parker Stockbridge)

SALARIES . . . ability
A great deal of publicity is being given these days to the salaries received by the heads of big business enterprises. To superficial thinkers it seems unfair that one man should get for his services so much more than most men do.

It depends, of course, on the value of the services rendered. If one man has the ability to manage the affairs of a great corporation so well that it is able to keep thousands of workers employed, and at the same time earn profits for the capital invested in the business, it would seem fair to me if he were paid, say at the rate of \$1 a year for each employee. I know dozens of cases, though, where the executive head of a big organization gets nothing like that. One of my friends draws a salary of \$100,000 a year—but his company employs 300,000 persons all the year 'round.

The scarcest commodity in the world is administrative ability. Without it, no great enterprise could flourish, and the man who has it is worth whatever he costs.

WORKERS

Few wage-earners work as hard as their bosses do. That is my considered belief, based on years of experience and observation. I have seen so many wage-earners rise through the ranks to high executive posts that I began years ago to ask how they gained advancement.

In every case the answer was to the general effect that they always did a little more than they were paid for. They liked their jobs and regarded the company's interests as their own. While most of them did not say so, it was always clear that these men who started life as manual workers had higher intelligence and better control of their appetites than their fellow workers.

And they had ambition. There isn't any other route by which men rise to the high places in our industrial system, but the route of hard work plus intelligence, plus ambition. And they don't stay long in the high places unless they also have the priceless element of character.

WAGES

I talked not long ago with a friend, who heads a great nationwide corporation, about wages.

"What we try to do is to put every dollar that is possible to put into every employee's pay-envelope," he said. I know that is true of great business concerns, in spite of the belief which many workers have that the effort is always to pay them as little as possible.

The man who is content to do as little as he has to, to get by, is usually the one who grumbles about his wages. But the National Industrial Conference Board reported the other day on 2,400 business establishments, employing 4½ million workers; all of which offer their employees opportunities to earn higher wages. More than half of them pay on a basis of work done—so much for each item turned out. That makes it worth while for the worker to be industrious. A third of these companies have premium and bonus payment systems; many are on a profit-sharing basis.

The bigger the concern, the more it is interested in putting as much into every worker's pay-envelope as possible.

PROFITS

I have been studying some statistics—accurate as any statistics can be—on the division of the incomes of industrial concerns between Labor, Management, and Capital. Roughly, it seems that out of every dollar taken in for the finished product, 65 cents goes into the pockets of Labor, about 20 cents is paid out in taxes—Federal, State and local—and out of the remaining 15 cents raw materials have to be paid for, interest on borrowed capital—bonds—has to be paid, management compensated, and the stock holders get the rest, if any.

The average profit to stockholder runs around 2 percent on the volume of business done—in some businesses, less.

Doubtless many inequities exist in our industrial system, but the notion that Capital gets the lion's share is, as I see it, a foolish belief based on ignorance of the facts.



DR. J. O. NICHOLS DIES IN TENNESSEE

Friends here will learn with regret of the death in Etowah, Tenn., of Dr. J. O. Nichols, following an attack of pneumonia.

Dr. Nichols, a brother of Drs. A. and A. S. Nichols of Sylva, was 42 years of age. A native of Culberson, Dr. Nichols began the practice of medicine in Clay county, but removed to Etowah many years ago, and for a long number of years he has been surgeon for the L. & N. Railway.

Funeral and interment were in Etowah. Dr. Nichols is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Owen Meredith Pulaski, (Van. one son Dr. Frank Nichols of Etowah, one sister, Mrs. R. O. Nalley of Blue Ridge, Ga., and four brothers, W. A. and Ulysses Nichols, of Culberson, and Dr. A. A. and A. S. Nichols of Sylva.

CAPITAL

When I hear people talk about the "Capitalist System" as if it were something to be abolished as speedily as possible, I wonder what they would do under any other system. For nowhere in the civilized world, outside of Russia, is there anything but the capitalist system.

For instance, every farmer is a capitalist. So is every forekeeper, every man who owns a barber-shop, garage or any other kind of "service" business. You are a capitalist if you have a savings bank deposit or a life insurance policy. Those two latter classes take in half the people in the country.

Where does the capital come from to finance big enterprises? Mainly from you and me. Our money, paid in to the savings banks and the life insurance companies, makes a big pool of money which goes into bonds and shares of all sorts of money-making enterprises.

I shudder to think what would happen to all of us if the capitalist system were suddenly abolished.

OWNERS TIME FOR BURNERY IS SOLD

The Connor boundary of timber, consisting of 42,000 acres in Cashier's Township, in Transylvania, and in Graham County, South Carolina and North Carolina, Ga., has been purchased from the Whitewater River Lumber Company by the More-Taylor Lumber Company, recently organized by Robert H. Morris and W. Graybe-Taylor. It is anticipated that 15 years will be required to complete the operation on the property, and that several saw mills will be located on the property, with a concentration yard, dry kiln and planing mill at West Union, S. C. The sale included the timber, land, mines and all other rights.

YULETIDE BROUGHT HEaviest SNOW OF MANY YEARS HERE

Sylva and Jackson county had the heaviest snow in many years for the Yuletide of 1935.

On Friday and Saturday before Christmas a light snow fell and covered the ground. It melted there, as the mercury dropped; and again on Christmas day another one fell, though not a heavy one. It stuck to the ground, and on Saturday snow began falling about 10 o'clock in the morning, and continued on through the day and night. Sunday morning showed a total of 8½ inches of snow, a record for many years. Children who are almost grown, and who have lived here all their lives, never saw that much snow at one time before.

Snow plows kept the highways open, and icy pavements forced motorists to slow down, and thus the traffic accidents for the Yuletide were reduced to a minimum in all sections of the country, where there was other snow or sleet.

Many frozen water lines caused inconvenience and slight expense to some Sylva residents; but power and

ELLIOTT WILL PREACH HERE

Rev. P. L. Elliott, of the faculty of Western Carolina Teachers College will preach at the Sylva Baptist church, Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

A conference will be held following the sermon, regarding the calling of a pastor. Every member of the church is urged to attend the service.

There will also be a preaching service at the church, Sunday night.

P. T. A. MEETS TUESDAY

The Sylva Parent-Teachers Association, meeting next Tuesday afternoon, at the graded school building, will hear Mr. McGowan speak on the subject: "The Parent, The Guardian of the Child".

BALSAM

The Christmas holidays were much enjoyed by the Balsam people, especially the young people. Had a slight snow the 20th. Several inches of snow the 22nd, a blizzard the evening of the 25th. Mercury dropped to 4 degrees below zero, the 26th; and continued cold and snow again the 28th. Sunday the 29th the snow was 12 inches deep.

Nearly all the boys from here who are members of the CCC came home to spend Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bryson and five children of Detroit, Mich., spent Christmas here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Bryson.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Jones and twin babies spent Christmas in Waynesville with her mother, Mrs. Jane Leatherwood.

Misses Mary Pearl Phillips, Ruby Phillips and Thelma Phillips of Cullowhee spent the holidays with their cousin, Miss Virginia Coward.

Telephone wires were interrupted, due to care and hard work on the part of electric light and telephone employees and others.

LEAP YEAR ————— by A. R. Chapin



BONUS TO BE ONE OF FIRST QUESTIONS

Washington, January 1—Without trying to predict what the final outcome will be, this is a good time to take note of the major issues with which the second session of the 74th Congress, convening on Friday, January 3, will engage its time.

1. Immediate payment of the Veterans' Bonus. The only apparently open question about this is whether or not the bill as passed will provide for full cash payment or for a special issue of bonds.

2. The Townsend old-age pension proposal. This will stimulate a lot of oratory in both houses. The labor lobby will oppose it. The best guess is that the Townsend plan will not be adopted but that the agitation will result in liberalization of old-age benefits under the Social Security Act which has gone to be amended in many respects, anyway.

3. Lots of talk and some pretty heated debates on the Frazier-Lemke Farm greenback bill. Little chance, however, of its passage.

4. Government ownership of railroads. Again a lot of talk, backed by a well organized campaign of the railroad unions in favor of it. Action of Interstate Commerce Commission in ordering reduction of railroad passenger fares to two cents a mile, where they are now higher than that—which is all over the East, will be a demonstration of the Government's present power over railroads, and may have a strong influence in bringing holders of railroad bonds into line for Government ownership.

5. The neutrality question will come up early in the session. The present temper of Congress is to strengthen the neutrality laws. The strong belief prevails that a great war is rapidly approaching, and Congress will not be inclined to trust the State Department alone to keep us out of it. One outcome of the war talk is likely to be liberal appropriations for a bigger navy.

6. Proposals for increasing the army strength will be backed by reports that Mexico is planning an out and out Communist Government. This will give strength to the demand for military defenses along the Rio Grande.

7. There will be more debate on proposals to regulate wages and hours of labor. Outlook is for the passage of the Walsh Bill, requiring all contracts selling anything to the Government to conform to labor standards established by NLR.

8. Attempts will be made to strangle out the silver trouble, probably by mandatory legislation requiring the Treasury to increase its purchasing and maintain the world price. The silver policy is not clearly defined as yet.

9. Amendments to the Housing Act probably will be made, with the objective of inducing private capital to go into large-scale low-cost housing projects. This in accordance with the views of Secretary Morgenthau, Director Foley of Home Owners Loan Corporation, and Peter Grimm, Housing Commissioner.

10. A lot of noise that will be heard on Capitol Hill from now on will emanate from the committee rooms, where Public Works, railroads, merit pay, chain stores and various other phases of business will be under investigation.

The program for this session will be complicated by other factors. There will be Supreme Court decisions which will inject new issues. The budget as submitted by the President will be of quite reasonable.

Politically, the relief issue has been brought to the front by Hoover's St. Louis speech. The Government's plan to turn the relief problem back to the states as fast as possible is not making headway.

Betting on Republican candidates is now better than even money on Landon. It seems certain that neither Mr. Hoover nor Mr. Borah will be the nominee.

Even money is being bet on a Republican Congress in 1937, but the Presidential odds are still in Mr. Roosevelt's favor.

Mr. John T. Jones and family spent Christmas day in Canton with his sister, Mrs. Medina Brown. Miss Freda remained until Saturday.

Mr. Hubert Ensley and family spent the holidays with Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McHaffey, in Hendersonville.

Mrs. John Warren, Misses Ruth and Dixie Warren and Mr. Howard Warren were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Porte (Please Turn To Page 3)