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THE CORONATION

With all the preparation and publicity for the coronation of King George VI, on first thought one became almost disgusted with the whole affair. For months the whole English people have been looking forward to this formal occasion. Every art and craft have been occupied with elaborate creations to honor the king and incidentally (?) to profit in a financial way.

When an American stops to remember the pre-election campaigns of its presidents, the wild excitement, the millions spent every four years, all lasting for months, with all the corruption of our political machines as compared with the dignity and apparent sacredness of the coronation of England's king, one is impelled to admit that the mother country still has much to teach America by example as well as by precept. The dignity and culture of the one far outshines the extravagance and tumultuous noise of the other. With England it is an occasion of a lifetime to most of the people. To America an election is an ever recurring incident. In England God and the church are glorified in the coronation. In America the man and politics are magnified in the inauguration. In this hour of glory and grandeur and rejoicing of the greatest nation on earth we are impelled to join in the glad shout of a nation, "God save the King!"

WAKE COUNTY AND LIQUOR

On June 22nd Wake County will hold an election on whether liquor shall be legalized and put into the best society by the people of the county. We believe that a majority of its citizens are both opposed to its sale and use. However, if these people assume the attitude that they don't drink it, that it does not bother them, and let the other fellow drink it if he wants to, and then stay away from the polls, Wake county will go wet. The only way to defeat the sale of liquor in the coming election is for every man and woman who is opposed to its use and sale to go to the polls and vote his convictions.

We believe the only thing that will defeat those opposed to the dangerous foe of all that is good will be their unconcern and indifference regarding their vote. The urgent demand for revenue and keeping our liquor money at home will be contributing factors in the election. It is true that those who are habitual drinkers will continue to visit Middlesex and other nearby liquor stores. Wilson county has received \$100,000 dollars in revenue since its liquor stores opened. And it has probably cost the county and its people five times as much in other ways. The revenue represents only a small part of what is spent for liquor. With the total cost of drink, expenses of operating the stores, the costs of courts in trying offenders and the sorrow and suffering brought on from this curse, the pittance of revenue becomes almost negligible in comparison.

We hope every good citizen will gird himself for the conflict. It will be either that or a rout

for the dries. The wets will work and vote for liquor. If the ministers and their church members will assert influence and power that are theirs from now till June 22nd, there is no question as to the result. But will they do it? When the election is over we wonder if it will be as it was on an occasion in ancient time when the forces of evil were arrayed against the righteous: "Cursed be Meroz that went not up to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

A DAY IN COURT

Tuesday the editor was summoned to the Wake county court as a witness in a civil action. Being requested by the attorney for defense to go to his office. I found that gentleman very busy defending a client in a magistrate's court. It seemed that a young man sometime during the winter had run into another car on a snowy night at some street crossing in Raleigh and was being asked to pay \$337.00 for damage to the other fellow's car. The chief contention of the plaintiff was that since the young man was deeply in love with the young woman who was riding with him and they were soon to be married, then he naturally was driving carelessly and recklessly. My sympathies were with the young man though I think he lost.

About 11:00 the civil action was called at the court house. The opposing attorneys painstakingly questioned each jurymen as to kinship, knowledge, residence and other matters as though some one's life and not a matter of a few hundred dollars depended on the verdict to be rendered. In an hour or two this operation on the jury was completed with only two fatalities. Then the opposing legal lights took turns in telling the judge and jury just what their clients had done or did not do, a sort of crimination and recrimination. By one o'clock either hunger or exhaustion halted the proceedings for an hour and a half.

At one o'clock everything seemed ready for a renewal of the legal combat. But not so. Three young women and a man who acted and talked like a lawyer appeared before the judge. After he had read a paper setting forth certain and sundry statements of facts, these were testified to by two of the young women. The judge made a few remarks and asked the jury if they agreed. By a show of hands they said they did, and then the judge declared the holy bonds of matrimony dissolved that bound one of the young women to some man not present. All this took less than ten minutes. We thought of Reno.

Before the court could take up the case of the morning again four legal lights appeared on the scene armed with bulky brief cases and overflowing voices and assaulted the judge in one solid phalanx. It seemed that a tobacco warehouse, a bank and perhaps a number of other things were involved and the matter must here and now be settled or the dear people would suffer grave and sundry injustices. The court reminded them that the jury had already been sworn, certain testimony had been offered to the jury and the case must proceed or they might forget vital facts in the cause of justice, or words to that effect. Sometimes one, two, three and even all were talking. But the judge sent them away and they, grinning like a crowd of school boys who tried to put something over on the teacher, went.

Again the court returned to the case of the morning. One lawyer began by asking certain questions whose answers were desired and all else suppressed, next the other took the witness in hand to force him to retract what he had already testified and tell what had previously been kept back. This continued till five o'clock when the court promptly adjourned till the following morning. The plaintiff was still seeking to enlighten the court on the justice of its demands. The defense was yet to be heard from. And after that there are to be speeches and speeches and the judge's charge before the jury has a chance to say one word.

Whether the President's plan for reforming the U. S. Supreme Court is what the country needs or not it is my honest opinion that some-

thing ought to be done in our Superior Courts to hasten the dispatch of legal matters. We believe a witness should be allowed to state the facts as he knows them and that the judge should direct the testimony. The summing up of the evidence by the attorneys should be limited to the time used by the judge in charging the jury. Never having been a lawyer perhaps I am wrong about the whole matter, but as it is, something is wrong which ought to be corrected. If it is done right it will save time to the people, money to the state and justice for the contenders.

SEEN AND HEARD

Mr. Bradley, pastor of the local Methodist church has a new every day straw hat. It looked so well when he bought it that he wore it down town. He says he thinks he has a right to do anything that any one else does if it is right. In that case he would like for everybody to do like he does. And we agree.

At Page Supply Co., where they were buying chickens by the dozens this week, the lover of chicken fights could have had some fun. At one time three couples of roosters were doing their utmost to wreck each others' futures. A blue game fought a dominecker to what he thought was a finish and started to crow about it when the dominecker again took up the battle. Two White Leghorns strove furiously for mastery, while farther back two that were no special kind did their best to do their worst. And Graham Conn declared that the hen fought worse than roosters when first put into the pen.

"AS MAINE GOES—"

Maine is certainly pointing way for traffic accident control at least one respect. That is, tailing the activities of the drunken driver.

A survey recently completed by the Maine Highway Safety Campaign revealed that one-fifth of motor fatalities in Maine in 1936 were associated with them. Even in 1936 Maine had effectively reduced traffic fatalities as compared with the preceding year. However, not satisfied with partial success, she is now setting out to better her own record with special emphasis placed on drunken drivers. The motor vehicle division urges better cooperation by the courts in handling cases involving drunkenness, and held certain "legal loopholes" and technicalities to be inimical to effective law enforcement.

Public officials, as well as citizens of Maine, realize that a drunken driver is a criminal to be handled the same as any other criminal. Both menace society. There is absolutely no excuse for driving while under the influence of liquor. Every person doing so is a potential murderer. In some respects the drunken driver is even worse than the average murderer because the murderer usually commits his crime in the heat of passion. The drunken driver blunders along with callous indifference toward all who are unfortunate enough to be in his path of death.

Maine is to be congratulated, as are all other states that take a determined stand to "wipe out" the drunken driver.

Stokes County farmers report one of their best small grain crops in history. With favorable weather until harvest they expect high acre yields than in several years.

Recreation News

The church playground will be open daily from 9:30 to 11:30 — 3 to 6 — except Saturdays. Boys woodwork on Tuesday and Thursday. Girls softball practice on Tuesday and Friday at the school building. Boys practice on Monday and Wednesday at the school. Picnic at the playground Friday P. M. at 5:30. Children bring baskets. Softball game Saturday P. M. at 3:00 with Raleigh — Men's team.

Mrs. Latta Marshburn has been added to our staff of workers.

We will greatly appreciate the co-operation of the parents by sending their children to the playground.

MORE ECONOMY PROPOSALS

A short time ago Representative Woodrum of Virginia warned his colleagues that the day of reckoning in Federal spending was at hand. To continue to spend without restriction, he pointed out would lead inevitably to dangerous inflation and its consequent misery. To approach fiscal soundness, he said, it would be necessary for the House itself to take the initiative, since appropriations originate there. Every appropriation must be scrutinized more closely, he explained, and kept down to the bare necessities—which was most excellent advice.

Now Mr. Woodrum indicates that he is ready to apply this theory. Speaking as the acting chairman of a House sub-committee considering the relief situation, he says he believes it will be possible to cut the work-relief appropriation \$500,000,000 below the \$1,500,000,000 recommended by the President. This would bring it down to less than half the amount being sought by mayors of