

No Need for Worry

The people of Raleigh and Wake County have expressed their overwhelming support of our schools by approving the proposed school bond issue last Thursday. Voting was comparatively heavy for this type of election, and school officials feel that the heavy turnout is indicative of the great interest Wake County residents have in their schools.

The opposition to the issue came from several sources. There were those who by nature are contrary and will oppose anything that comes up. There are those who could not and would not understand the necessity and financing of the bonds. There were some who felt that the bonds for public schools discriminated against parochial schools. And there were those who feared further consolidation of county schools.

Superintendent Randolph Benton gave his assurance that no further consolidation for white schools is planned. We ourselves are happy to hear this promise, because we are convinced that overconsolidation can be as inefficient as underconsolidation.

A school is the cultural center of a community. Through it the children gain a knowledge of and take pride in the accomplishments of their own people. Our living standards rise and fall according to our educational standards, and good schools will bring prosperity. Without the school, a vital part of community life is missing.

We hope that consolidation does not go further for other reasons, too. Little children are up before dawn in order to ride the busses in the morning, and frequently in winter it is dusk before they are back home. We would not like the thought of their rides increasing in length.

We do not write this because we entertain any fears that Wakelon will be closed and the children sent to some other place for their schooling. With its beautiful buildings and spacious campus, Wakelon will never be moved. But we do sympathize with smaller schools like Rolesville, where the people worried over the permanence of their schools until Superintendent Benton assured them no further consolidation will be necessary.

Loyal or Not?

We read with interest that the oath of loyalty for faculty members of a California university is no longer required, having been voted out. This oath intrigued us because we have known of no other school which required such a statement from its teachers.

When first the oath was required, there were faculty members who refused to swear they had never been members of the dastardly Communist party. They presented a clever argument, and backed it with offers of their resignation.

Many people sympathize with the professors. We are not among the sympathizers. It is our opinion that a patriotic American will never hesitate to swear his loyalty to his country. If a person fabricates excuses to keep from swearing his allegiance, there is reason to suspect that either he is giving his loyalty to a foreign power or that he is laboring under false presumptions.

As for ourselves, we take great pride in demonstrating our loyalty for our country, and we are willing and eager to exhibit our patriotism whenever and wherever it is required.

Evaluate Capabilities

We have had the opportunity to visit many of the countries which are playing such a vital part in world affairs, including Communist Russia, where vodka, clabber, and raw onions were the delicacies offered us when we were visiting in the peasant homes. In each country we found that once the suspicions of the people were allayed, they were friendly and generous with what little they had to offer.

We have wondered at length as to where international misunderstanding develops. If the little people in each country are friendly and agreeable, where up the line does the chip-on-the-shoulder attitude develop? We do not pretend to know, but it does serve to remind us that we should choose our elected leaders with care, evaluating their capabilities in world as well as national affairs.

The Zebulon Record

Entered as second class matter June 26, 1925, at the post office at Zebulon, North Carolina, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Ferd L. Davis Editor
Barrie S. Davis Publisher

Staff Writers: Mrs. Theo. B. Davis, Mrs. Ferd Davis, Mrs. Janice Denton, Miss Bonita Bunn, Mrs. T. Y. Puryear, Mrs. Polly Fuller, Mrs. Iris Temple.

This, That and the Other

By Mrs. Theo. B. Davis

The funniest item that came my way last week was about the mother who told her little daughter Auntie was going to marry Mr. Blank. The child was both surprised and interested, and inquired, "Does he know it?"

On reading in the daily papers that residents of Troy had found small snakes hanging on thorns of trees, I remarked that most probably shrikes had hung them there. Years ago in a short period that was used for nature study in the country school where I taught we learned first-hand about shrikes or butcher birds, which belong to the hawk family. One of the larger boys brought in one he had killed and told us of having seen it hang a dead mouse on a thorn. We did not know that the birds hang up what they kill because their claws are not fitted for tearing, as are those of most hawks, and we fancied they used the trees as a sort of smokehouse so that they might keep plenty of food on hand—or on thorn. It is understandable that persons who had never heard of shrikes would be mystified at seeing small snakes hung up. Mice, lizards, snakes, are on the butcher bird's diet list; and I think I heard a boy say he had seen a mole hung up with the other game.

One day last week Mrs. Ida Hall took me with her when she went out near Bunn to make a report on some X-ray pictures. While she went in at Mr. S. H. Horton's I waited out in the car. At the back

of the house was a barn lot. The barn door was open, and a fat mule came out into the lot, looked me over carefully, waved one ear in my direction, rippled its sleek black hide and sauntered off for a drink of water. Then my attention was caught by the number of birds around a prong of a broken limb some distance up on a large tree near the edge of the yard. As I watched a black martin came out of a hole in the prong, stretched its wings, smoothed its plumage, stood on its right leg and scratched its head with its left foot, then went back to what I suppose was its nest. Several English sparrows went into openings near the first bird, and I became enough interested to leave the car for a better lookout. I've never seen anything like it. From knot holes and from a long split along that hollow space straws stuck out from where birds had carried them. Down at the bottom was a round hole that must have been made by woodpeckers. Birds hurried in and out, too busy to pay much attention to each other. Turning from my watching, I found myself watched—by two large dogs that looked to be more German shepherd than anything else, and by a much smaller one that lay on a pile of dirt and seemed merely to have happened to have his eyes turned my way. The larger dogs did not show any ill-will; they had the air of waiting for developments. And they looked on approvingly as I hurried back into the car.

When Mrs. Horton came out with Mrs. Hall she said her hus-

band means to pull down that broken limb. I'd like to be there when he does it.

On numerous occasions I have felt ashamed of having heard so little over the radio; and whenever that happens I make up my mind to pay more attention to it. But, if I don't leave it on I am liable to miss part of the program decided upon; and, if I do leave it on, I hear so much not worth tiring my ears for that it's discouraging. The last effort made was when I heard some man's voice throbbingly pleading that day and night, night and day, his whole life through might be spent making love to you. And I wondered why anyone should think that a boon worthy of such pleas. If he had begged for intervals of making love, one might understand and sympathize. But "day and night; night and day" are enough to wear out both love and patience. I cut off the radio and went back to work.

The art exhibit at Wakelon School this week was for better than I had anticipated. Pictures were arranged on both end walls of the gymnasium; some that we knew with many that to me were new. Western landscapes were a prominent part of the display and I liked them especially. In addition to the Masters shown, sixth and seventh grade pupils of Mrs. Wallace Chamblee had a number of original drawings placed on view, and we enjoyed seeing them.

Farm Questions Answered

Is Turkish tobacco susceptible to blue mold?

Yes, blue mold may attack Turkish tobacco plant beds just as it does flue-cured plant beds. W. D. Lewis, assistant farm agent in Wilkes and Alexander Counties, points out that "there are preventatives, but no cures" for the disease. He adds that proper use of 76 per cent ferbam of 65 per cent zineb, in either spray or dust form, is the most dependable and practical method of controlling blue mold. First applications should be made when the plants

are about the size of a dime. Complete information about treatments is given in Extension Circular No. 348 (A), "Tobacco Blue Mold Control," copies of which are available from the local county agent or the Agricultural Editor, State College Station, Raleigh.

I have heard a lot about the high yields produced by the Georgia bunch or vineless strain of Porto Rico sweet potato. Do you advise planting this strain in North Carolina?

H. M. Covington, extension hor-

ticulturist, says experiments at State College do not show that the Georgia bunch or vineless strain of sweet potato will give the extra yield that has been publicized. It has also been noted, he says, that the lack of vines closing in the row presents a cultivation problem. In addition, the Experiment Station also found that the strain was seriously infected with the new disease, internal cork. Covington advises farmers not to use this strain unless plants can be found that are free of the cork disease.

Economic Highlights

The most fateful question facing the world of today can be stated in five words: "Is war with Russia inevitable?" Probably something like 5,000,000,000 words have been used in trying to answer it.

The arguments on the positive side are both compelling and depressing. Men of the highest sincerity and ability obviously believe that, sooner or later, the world will be plunged into the most ghastly global conflict it has yet seen, led on the one hand by the Soviet Union and on the other by the United States. But the arguments in the negative side are powerful too. They have been extremely well presented in a Reader's Digest article written by George F. Kennan, counselor of the State Department, and an acknowledged authority on Russia. Because of the importance of the subject, the magazine has waived the usual copyright privileges, and has granted permission to quote from or reprint the article, provided credit is given.

Mr. Kennan presents his arguments for peace in question-and-answer form. First, he asks, "Are the Russians planning to make war on us?" He believes that "current Stalinist doctrine does not demand war," even though Lenin and other leaders frequently said that a communist-capitalist world clash was inevitable. Present-day communist teaching, he points out, holds that capitalism will collapse from within, of its own weakness—hence it does not have to be destroyed from without. Moreover, Russia has never in all history attempted aggression at great distances—she has always expanded slowly, on a bit-by-bit basis. Lastly, she is straining every resource to make herself into a modern industrial state, and war would shatter that program.

Mr. Kennan's second question is, "How does Russia's development of atomic weapons affect this situation?" The available evidence leads him to believe the bomb does not affect it very much. It is ex-

tremely unlikely that Russia has anywhere near enough bombs, to say nothing of the means of delivering them; to cripple the U. S. and bring us to immediate terms. If her initial blow were not decisive, she would face merciless retaliation. Her hard-won industrial development, pride of the communist leadership, would face ruin. And, he adds, "The masters of the Kremlin . . . are not suicidally inclined."

Question three consists of three potent words, "Is war possible?" Of course it is, he observes, and for several reasons. Wars can arise by accident. They can result from the fear of attack, and the idea that it is necessary to strike first. They can rise from ignorance of the true situation. So, it would be the worst kind of ostrich-like tactics to write war off as impossible and draw a deep breath of relief. But, on the credit side, Mr. Kennan, finds no "valid reason for regarding war as probable at an early date."

(Continued on Page 6)