

The Daily Tar Heel



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Thursday, February 20, 1930

A THOUGHT A DAY

In essence, poetry is the love of life—not mere brutish tenacity of sensation, but a passion for all the hostilities that make life free and generous and clean.—Christopher Morley.

The Anti-Carolina Theatre Movement

For the past several days a movement has been underway to launch a boycott against the Carolina theatre unless the price of admission is reduced by the management from forty to thirty cents. Thirty-seven copies of an agreement to stop patronizing the theatre on and after March 3 until the admission price is reduced are now being circulated, according to the promulgators of the movement.

In the Readers' Opinions column on this page appears a letter requesting the manager of the Carolina to state the valuation of the theatre, the profits received from it last year, and the rate paid on the investment since the vitaphone was installed, figured on an annual basis. The Tar Heel agrees with the authors of the Readers' Opinions letter that the Carolina management should be given an opportunity to defend itself against the charge that it is exploiting the students by charging unreasonably high admission prices.

Last week a communication to the Readers' Opinions column was received, in which it was alleged that the Carolina is "the greatest paying enterprise in the state according to its size." Several similar allegations were made, all of them without substantiation. After careful investigation, we were unable to discover any evidence that admission prices at the local theatre are unreasonable in comparison with those prevailing elsewhere in the state for a similar quality of pictures, or upon the basis of return on the investment here. Therefore we did not publish the letter, believing that the Tar Heel would not be justified in furthering the boycott movement without positive

evidence that the theatre is exploiting the students by charging unfair prices.

A movement of the scope and nature attempted by the originators of the boycott idea should be based upon clearly demonstrated facts. It is to be hoped that Mr. Smith answers the challenge contained in this morning's Readers' Opinions letter, in order that the students may determine whether the proposed boycott is justified, but the management of the theatre is his own business and there is no valid reason why he should reveal the details of it unless he wishes to do so.

Too Effective Laws

That there can be laws in America which are proving too harsh seems almost unbelievable in the face of all that has been written about the laxity of law enforcement in the country. But, typically illustrative of the brainlessness of our lawmakers is the Baumes law of New York state, which carries with the conviction of a felon for his or her fourth offense a mandatory life sentence. If this law were applied with discretion and tempered with wisdom it would be a splendid thing; that New York has already succeeded in materially reducing her crime record is proof of its effectiveness as it stands.

But the law assumes the monstrous inhumanity of the pre-reform days in England the way it is applied in some instances. Recently, a woman who had been convicted of shop lifting for the fourth time was sent to the penitentiary for life. There was no question of a jury's mercy or a judge's tempering humanity; the law said life imprisonment and the prisoner suffered. It is a credit to the judge that he promised to take steps for action in securing the unfortunate woman's freedom after the lapse of a reasonable time, but this action was an individual matter. The Baumes law provides for no extenuating circumstances; there is no leaven of differentiation between the character of common offenses against society.

When the law was first established as an existing factor in the legislative machine of New York the entire country was interested, looking upon it as an experiment. Its power was felt at once; the effect of the legal innovation was evident from the very first in the hasty exodus of large numbers of criminals from under the shadow of this harsh enforcement. But the law was soon seen as a two-edged sword, knowing no discretion in its arbitrary action, when it began operating against numbers of petty felons whose law breaking, while chronic, was not dangerous.

It is for this weakness that the law is to be condemned. Let its application in the case of petty law breaking be modified, let some sensible scheme of differentiation be established—and the Baumes law can remain in a point of pride with the state of New York. Such an action would not indicate sentimentality; there is too much of that now in the treatment of the enemies of society. But a leaven of humanity is necessary in our present state of civilization; we cannot allow the hopeless, tortured dope fiend or the incorrigible sneak thief to be sent to prison for the rest of his life like the gangster, the dope peddler, or the daring criminals with long records of grand larceny and murder behind them.—R. H.

Armed Peace and National Security

More than ever before, the statesmen of the world are trying to devise some means for

establishing and guaranteeing a condition of world peace. All over the civilized world of late has appeared a wave of literature, speeches and pictures designed to bring the horrors of war into the limelight of popular thought in an effort to outlaw the demon destroyer of men and wealth. The aim of statesmen and other world thinkers in this connection is to cause the glory and glamour of war as portrayed by so-called patriotic influences to fade into a more realistic conception of the bloody devastation which has been wrought in numerous conflicts "to make the world safe for democracy," or some equally noble and impossible ideal.

In our anxiety over the success of the London conference which is now in session, we are apt to overlook the serious situations which are now existent in Central Europe—conditions which make the effective execution of any plan of world peace an impossibility. In Central Europe are 12 small states which comprise one-fourth of the entire population of the continent and which are likely to open hostilities among themselves at any time. There are 30,000,000 people in Europe who are discontented with the government which rules them. Furthermore, each of these 12 states is suspicious of the others. Nearly all of these smaller countries are continually being exploited by the larger nations of the continent. In one European nation the minority party, which is by far the most incapable party, is the ruling element. Although we are a staunch advocate of world peace, we cannot help seeing in these conditions the seeds of future wars which are apt to assume a world-wide scope.

Although we talk a great deal about naval parity between the United States and Great Britain, such a condition would mean little toward the permanent abolition of war as long as the seeds of war are being constantly sown in Central Europe. It is high time for the statesmen of the world to forget limitations for a while and turn their attention to the conditions now existing in that region of the "tortured continent."

Far be it from the intentions of the writer to minimize the work of the London conference which is now in session, but we do believe that all plans to bring about world peace will fail until such time as a spirit of international confidence has been developed. At present the great power and wealth of the United States make her the logical nation to take the initial step toward complete disarmament down to the point of the police power, but she does not have sufficient confidence in the other nations of the world to warrant her making this important move. Greed and jealousy, the arch enemies of peace, are still very obviously existent.

Self preservation is often referred to as the first law of nature. It is equally true that national preservation is the first law of nations. The glory of war still completely overshadows its horrors in the mind of the average man. When considered aside from the present political and social conditions of the nations of the world, the principle of disarmament and numerous other plans for bringing about international peace as a permanent thing are sound; but the attitudes of the peoples of the world favor conflict rather than peace. Before peace can be guaranteed disarmament must be thought of as something more than the mere mechanical act—it must be a psychological step actuated from within and by virtue of an attitude of horror of war.—J. C. W.

Readers' Opinions

MORE LIGHT ON MR. HUGHES

Editor the Daily Tar Heel:  
In an editorial appearing in the columns of this journal a few days ago, in which I commented on the selection of Charles Evans Hughes as chief justice, I made two points as to why the man selected is not qualified. Considering the first point, disqualification on the grounds that Mr. Hughes made no protestation of the corruption of the Harding cabinet, there is no need of a further statement to those who read the editorial under consideration.

That Mr. Hughes resigned from the supreme court to run for the presidency in 1916, thus placing his political ambitions above the court, the second point, is undeniably contrary to the fine tradition of the court of aloofness from political ambitions on the part of its members. Hughes proved by his action, regardless of whether he was running for office on the basis of his convictions that the United States should enter the war at that time (as J. W. implies), that he preferred the presidency to the chief justiceship, for which position he was in line at the time.

The analogy between Hughes and Chase is quite clear. It was merely stated that we condemn Chase for his political ambitions while a member of the court and that likewise Hughes should be condemned. Their cases are much the same. If Chase was allied with a faction, so is Hughes allied with the Coolidge - Hoover - Republican - Conservative faction, if such may be called a faction. And I might say here to J. W., who so rebuked my recent editorial effort, as a bit of information, that Chase himself was not in the habit of attending political conventions, although he coveted the support of certain conventions to a degree which probably cost him his supreme desire.

Defenders of Mr. Hughes, especially J. W., point to his ability as a lawyer and to his record as secretary of state as his qualifications for the high office of chief justice of the United States. It is a well known fact that Hughes has been primarily in the courts a defender of corporations and big-business interests. He is not a man of the common people, nor as chief justice does he represent the common people. He is the representative of the financial powers and it is not strange that Hoover appointed him. As secretary of state he ruined what might have been a creditable record by his narrow views on the Central-American situation. His watchword then was protection, protection of American property interests at any costs to the transgressed. He might have shown the world that the United States, a nation which dotes on democratic principles, was ready to guarantee independence and a democratic form of government to her weaker neighbors. Instead, the world got the impression of the giant transgressor, the United States, oppressing the pygmy-like Central American states. So, after all, Mr. Hughes's achievements have not shown such "brilliance" as J. W. would have us believe.

If you please, J. W., this assistant editor who offers this rejoinder will be grateful if you will excuse his "unsound reasoning and false analogy" because he, being fortunate enough to have a reader, dislikes to annoy by such as the above. B. M.

INFORMATION DESIRED

Editor the Daily Tar Heel:  
For the last few days I have

heard many discussions on the question that seems now to be the sensation of the campus, and it is very strange that the question has not reached the Tar Heel before now. But disregarding that fact, I wish to ask Mr. Smith in this article, which I hope will reach the open forum, a few questions which I hope he will answer in the Tuesday issue of the Tar Heel next week. And I will have to know the answer before I can state my opinion in regards to this situation. I understand that there has been a great effort by certain parties on the campus to obtain such information on the theatre from the revenue department of the state, but it refuses to give out such information to the public.

What is the valuation of the Carolina Theatre in Chapel Hill? What were the profits received from it last year?

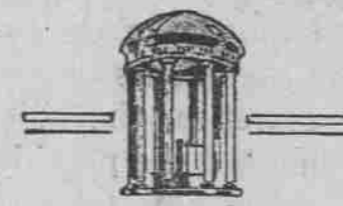
What has been the rate paid on the investment since the vitaphone has been installed, figured on an annual basis?

These are only facts that the whole student body should know before they take too great a jump in the reduction of the prices.

Hoping this will not be ignored, we are,

G. W. FLEMING,  
FRANK ERINO,  
G. R. HINTON.

The Campus



By Joe Jones

If you should happen to drop into 6 Pettigrew some time between now and commencement you wouldn't be there long before you would get told about a great and glorious tour of America which the various science departments of the University are taking part in next summer. For the occupants of this room are Wallace Kuralt and Scottie, locquacious young scientists, notorious for their geologic tendencies. Being all set for the summer's tour they spend a great deal of their leisure time thinking and talking about it, and have in such manner worked up a prodigious amount of enthusiasm and anticipation for the trip.

The tour stretches to the Pacific coast and back, but according to the boys it's going to be more than a see-America-first affair, and the members are going to do many things besides go around with a little hammer tapping gneisses and schists. It seems there are to be about forty co-eds on the trip.

The two geology students tell us that the tour is under the educational direction of the University extension division, and that college courses are offered in geology, botany, general science, sociology, and economics; that the party leaves Chapel Hill June 7 and gets back August 2; that the itinerary includes eighteen states and Mexico; that Yellowstone National Park, Salt Lake City, Reno, Yosemite National Park, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hollywood, Death Valley, Zion National Park, the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, and Jaurez, Mexico, are among the stopping places, and that the entire trip will be made by motor.

As the boys get warmed to the subject they start pulling out gorgeously illustrated booklets and pamphlets dealing with the big western parks and resorts. The pictures in these books depict the canyons and mountains and other natural wonders of the west in all their colors and brilliancy, and describe them in words as glowing as the pictures, so that whoever looks upon them is moved

to enroll in the University's educational transcontinental tour. One page dazzles the eye with the glistening walls of the Great White Throne; another with the fantastic colors of the Grand Canyon.

Only when Wallace comes to a railroad time-table among the travel literature does he pause to throw it in the waste basket and say, "I don't see why they send me that; I don't want that." Then he goes on with more about the trip, saying, among other things, that the group of University professors to accompany the party includes Drs. Prouty, Totten, Preston, Brooks, and MacCarthy.

Such a tour as this and the extension division's European tours certainly bespeak a progressive university. They let the world know more about Carolina and they help Carolina know more about the world.

National Oratorical Contest Ends Mar. 31

Although March 25 is the closing date for entries in the sixth national intercollegiate oratorical contest on the Constitution, already 81 colleges and universities from 29 states have written to P. Caspar Harvey, national director, Liberty, Mo.

Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., national winner in 1925, was the first school to enter the 1930 contest.

The competition for the greatest forensic honor open to college students in America fore-shadows bringing together this year the largest group of colleges and universities in any project of the kind in the history of American higher education, according to the announcement made this week at the national headquarters. A total of \$5000 in prizes will be awarded, and the winner, who will become the national intercollegiate champion orator for 1930, will be awarded a prize of \$1500. Second place will give a prize of \$1000, scaling down to \$400 for seventh place.

SKETCH CLUB MEETS

The Sketch club met yesterday afternoon with Mrs. W. E. Caldwell, while the garden club met with Mrs. C. E. Preston.

Mr. Paul Lindley of the Van Lindley nurseries, Greensboro, spoke to the garden group on "rock gardens."

Send the Tar Heel home!

CAROLINA THEATRE

LAST TIMES TODAY

Here She Is. The New Sweetheart Of the Screen



with JOE BROWN  
added PARAMOUNT SOUND NEWS

FRIDAY  
Ann Harding  
in "HER PRIVATE AFFAIRS"