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and

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Freedom of the Press

"A FREE press stands as one of the great interpreters between the Government and the people. To allow it to be fettered is to fetter ourselves."

That is the language used by Justice Sutherland of the Supreme Court of the United States in delivering the unanimous opinion of the Court that the tax on newspaper advertising, which the State of Louisiana had undertaken to impose, was unconstitutional. This decision is the latest of a long series of rulings by the High Court upholding the specific provision of the Constitution guaranteeing freedom of speech and of the press.

From the time when the first printing press was set up there has been an almost constant fight for the right to print and publish without control by authority. Sometimes it has been the authority of the church which has attempted to curb the press; sometimes the authority of government. In the long run, so far as the English speaking world is concerned, the press has eventually won every battle. That is not true in most of the rest of the world. Outside of the United States, the British Commonwealth of Nations and the Republic of France, there is no important country in the world in which newspapers are free to report the acts of public officials and comment upon public questions.

The first step that a dictator takes to make secure the power which he has seized is to suppress and curb the newspapers. So long as the newspapers of a nation remain free from political control in any form, Democracy is in little danger. Whenever a government or a public official attempts to suppress or influence the opinions of a newspaper, that is a danger signal not likely to be disregarded.—Selected.

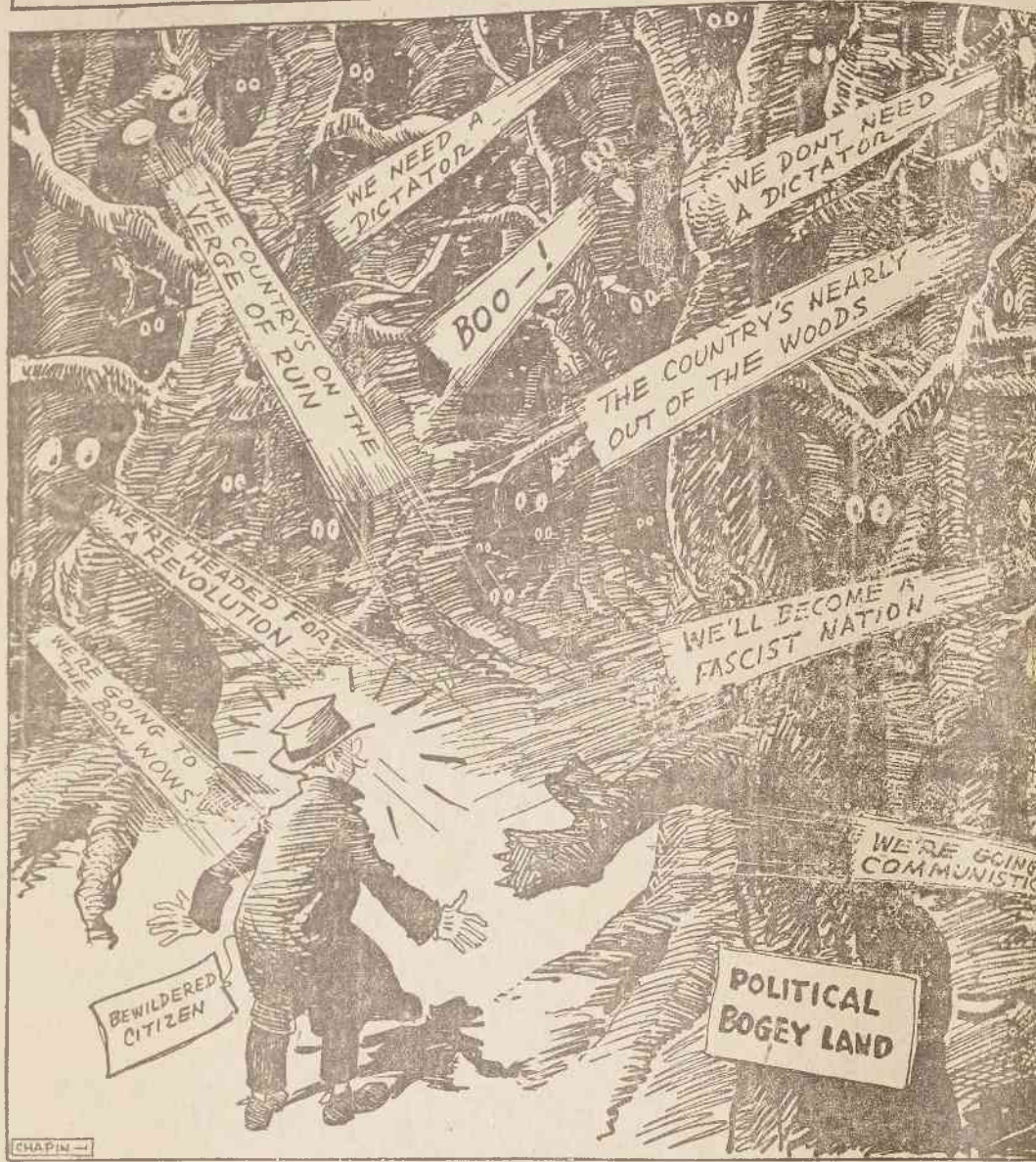
Talking About the Weather

THERE may have been longer periods of severe cold weather than we have had over most of the United States this Winter, but few people can remember them, and the Weather Bureau confirms the belief that, taken by and large, this has been the worst season in many years. There have been lower temperatures, but seldom such prolonged cold spells and such a succession of cold waves.

The amateur weather prophets and the long-range forecasters are putting forward the usual variety of explanations which don't explain, and predictions which are more likely to be wrong than right. A favorite explanation for unusual weather conditions is that sun spots have something to do with them. But the theory that the 11-year cycle of sun spots affects terrestrial weather, whether favorably or unfavorably, has not been borne out by the records of the Weather Bureau, which have been kept continuously in all parts of the United States since 1871.

Some weather prophets are beginning to predict that 1936 will be like 1848, which used to be referred to as "the year without a Summer" in the northern states. Another school of thought holds that a severe Winter is always followed by a hot Summer. The fact is that nobody knows enough about the weather and the causes of its violent changes to forecast it for more than a week or so ahead. Nevertheless, the weather is, always has been and always will be the most interesting common topic of conversation.—Selected.

You Can't Believe All You Hear — by A. B. Chapman



BRUCE BARTON

Says:



POLITICAL LEADERS NOT DUMB

During the presidency of James K. Polk, one of the famous private schools of Boston was presided over by a salty old gentleman whose speeches to the boys were long remembered.

Looking down from the platform one morning, he said: "Young gentlemen, as I gaze into your alert and intelligent faces I am thrilled at the thought of your latent possibilities. Who can say what contribution to the history of your country may be in the making in this room today? One of you may become a Washington. One of you may be an Adams. One of you may be a Jefferson. And Heaven knows any one of you can be a Polk without even half trying!"

It is a well established American custom to belittle the holders of public office, from the President down. No politician is great until after he is dead, and then, given time enough, he becomes a statesman.

Washington's letters to his wife and friends were full of bitter complaint against the buffetings and sneers levelled against him. Lincoln was looked on as a pathetic mistake by a large part of the intelligentsia of the nation. I have seen a collection of sermons which were preached in the churches of Boston which "speak of him as a man who, in spite of lack of education and culture, tried hard to do his best." Not one preacher suggested that he was great. Woodrow Wilson was the impractical school-master; Calvin Coolidge was "an accident."

Taken as a whole, our presidents have been a fine lot. If they have not been "great" men the question is, who in any generation was greater or would have done the job better? While I exercise the citizen's right to criticize the President and Congress, I sometimes grow a little weary of the complacent assumption of superiority on the part of our so-called "best" citizens.

Business is business, and politics is a different business. When a man gets to the top in politics it may not mean that he is a genius, but certainly he is not dumb.

MOVE FORWARD ON COURAGE

I used to attend the annual sales convention of a company which is so big that most people think it has no problems at all. The man in the street fondly imagines that all its officials have to do is to send out the bills and deposit the checks. The funny thing about the sales meetings was that one district manager after another would stand up and tell how the company's leading competitor was stealing all the big orders.

Later I had occasion to endure a similar meeting held by this principal competitor, and there the story was exactly the same. Each of these two big companies was absolutely sure that the other was getting the best of the battle.

The other day the president of a railroad emitted a loud moan. He said that of all industries the railroads have the toughest "problem." They have to pay high taxes and maintain expensive road beds, while the busses run gaily along the concrete highways built with taxpayers' money.

I had hardly dried my eyes before I encountered the sales manager of a bus company. Was he happy? He was not. According to him, the railroads have enough influence with the state legislatures to get laws passed at almost every session making it harder for the trucks and busses.

What is true of these big companies is even more true, of course, of individuals. Each one sees his own troubles large and clear, and only the successes of the other fellow. General Grant was asked whether he was ever scared and if so how he had managed to win his battles. He replied that he always assumed that the enemy probably was just as frightened as he was, maybe more. With that he tightened up his belt and went forward.

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Largest Ship Elevator

The largest ship elevator in the world is at Niederfinow, Germany, connecting the Havel, Elbe and Oder rivers. Barges arriving at Niederfinow must be raised or lowered 120 feet, depending on the direction in which they are going.

Letter-Pre

Franklin, N. C., Feb. 22, 1936

Editor of The Franklin Press

Will you please allow

in your paper for a few

In regard to our school

especially the rules and

of our high schools, I w

to ask the question—are

and just to all the child

our teachers try to train

vate in the minds of our

girls the principle of the

golden rule, "Do unto o

you would have them

do to you?" Do they teach

the principles?

Is it fair and just for

girl who has to walk fro

4 miles through the mud,

cold to get to school, to

from his or her class-room

cause of the fact that h

happens to be a few minu

Is it right for them to ha

turn home just because th

doesn't want to be distur

the child is late?

Do we not all pay taxes

carry on the schools? Do

pay the teachers, bus

and county superintendent

Should our children n

the same fair chance? Sh

the child who walks from

miles through the mud, r

etc., be allowed to go

home rooms and their cl

the same as those who ride

There have been some

the child's being sent bac

or having to stay after sc

cause he or she was "tard

were they sent back, or w

they have to stay, after

after a long, hard pull thr

mud, just because they w

Just for the simple good

some of our teachers do n

or do not try to understa

the child has to go thro

to school, and also beca

teachers do not have a

Christian principles. Of

all teachers are like that

not a man or woman in

who would bar any child

class-room or home room

could only see what the

to go through to get to

Neither would they make

stay after school if they

selves, had to walk over

the rural roads in this c

some of the school childr

Should the teachers

things? Should the p

county superintendent, pa

taxpayers allow such un

things to be carried on

schools? No, no, I think

think it is time to begin

consider a change when s

are going on as they are

ent.

Yours sincerely,

W