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and

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Need of 'Short Ballot' Emphasized

MOST of the voters going to the polls Saturday to cast their ballots in the state's biennial Democratic primary will have a pretty fair idea of the issues involved in the contest for governor. This year's heated campaigns have aroused intense interest in the candidates for governor and their platforms.

Unfortunately, however, the gubernatorial race has overshadowed other contests to be decided in the primary to such an extent that we fear chance, instead of enlightened public opinion, may prove the deciding factor in the selection of lesser state officials.

The state ballot, besides carrying the names of the four contestants for governor and the four candidates for United States senator, confronts the voter with the names of 17 candidates for various state offices.

How many Democratic voters could list the offices involved, to say nothing of naming the candidates seeking them? How many will know the qualifications of the various candidates for lieutenant governor, for secretary of state, for state auditor, for state treasurer, for superintendent of public instruction, for commissioner of agriculture?

All of which brings to mind the not new proposal for a "short ballot," by which is meant fewer elective state officers and more appointive ones. The "short ballot," of course, would give the governor more authority—too much, say critics of the proposals. But we still have a legislature to act as a balance wheel.

Politically, the "short ballot" has always been unpopular in North Carolina. Politicians like to make the people think that they, the people, run the state's government from top to bottom. But it doesn't work out that way.

The present arrangement—the "long ballot"—would be splendid if John Public took enough interest in it to inquire as to the qualifications of the numerous candidates in order to arrive at some intelligent decision. But John Public has too many other things to think about.

Charles M. Johnson Indispensable

WE HAVE long felt that a good, sensible woman would be a valuable asset to North Carolina's council of State, which is composed of the state's constitutional officers. Mrs. Helen Robertson Wohl, who springs from fine old Guilford county Quaker stock, seems to be that kind of a woman and we would like to vote for her in the Democratic primary June 6; but we can't see why anyone would want to supplant our present state treasurer, Charles M. Johnson, one of the ablest, if not the ablest, man now in the state's service.

Mr. Johnson not only has proved his duties as state treasurer efficiently and honestly, but he has proved a financier extraordinary by succeeding where there was but small hope of success in refinancing operations during the dark days of the depression. Thanks to his ability and good management, North Carolina bonds are among the best on the market.

But Mr. Johnson's services to the state do not end in the treasurer's office. He also is the guiding spirit of the Local Government Commission, without whose cooperation and helpful oversight many more counties would now be listed in the default column. Give Mr. Johnson and the Local Government Commission a little more time and, too, a little more authority, and they will pull most of the counties out of the red. We venture they would have had a refinancing plan well under way in Macon County had it not been for short-sighted local legislation enacted by the last General Assembly at the instance of our own representative.

All Aboard for Cleveland

by A. B. Ch...



BRUCE BARTON Says:



FOUNDATIONS IMPORTANT

Now we are told that hard drinking does not cause sclerosis of the liver and is not, in fact, a direct cause of any of the other physical ailments for which it has so long been blamed. "Some persons" says a Johns Hopkins authority, "can drink enormous quantities of liquor without doing themselves any harm. Others can't go a quarter of a small bottle without upsetting their livers."

That is because of liver conditions which existed before the drinking began. If a man has a good liver it doesn't make much difference how hard a drinker he is." In other words, if the youngster has grown to be sound and tough, nothing much hurts him; if he has a functional defect, everything hurts him.

The same thing is true with the consumption of Communism and other subversive theories. People who have sound reasoning powers are not likely to be much hurt by them. They can imbibe large quantities of cock-eyed economics and continue to walk upright. But give the weak or the very young even a mild dose of Utopianism, and they get giddy.

Says Schopenhauer: "There is no absurdity that cannot be fixed permanently in peoples' minds if it is implanted there when they are young."

All thoughtful men are in favor of the freest sort of free speech for adults, just as they favor allowing each adult to decide for himself whether he wants to drink or not. But it is a crime to put whiskey into nursing bottles. And it's no good trying out all sorts of half-baked theories on minds that are still soft and wet. In school the child ought to be taught those things which human experience has proved to be true. Two of those established truths are that whiskey can be very dangerous, and that Communism is the recourse of failures and fools.

I MUST CONFESS
My wife said to me: "Tomorrow we ought to go to Such and Such Museum to see the murals that are on exhibition. They are famous and are to be shown all over the

country. We can stop in before dinner. It's just around the corner, right on Fifty-seventh Street."

But on the morrow there was some reason why I had to be late at the office. And the next day I had to go to Chicago, and one thing after another came up. Finally, after a couple of weeks, I said: "Let's go tonight to see those murals." And she said: "It's too late now; they're gone."

That's human nature. For more than five years we lived almost opposite the Metropolitan Museum, which is certainly one of the great

show places of the world visited it in other years during the time we looked it from our windows I reached its threshold. In that were in the British Museum the National Gallery and the National Gallery and the Cairo Museum and the Cairo and goodness knows others. In fact, we have looked much of anything way of museums anywhere world—except right at

When I was a kid in Boston. After we had moved to Chicago we returned to land one summer, and made a pilgrimage to Boston. We had meant to go to see the residence, but it was so far there that we never went.

I was looking yesterday for big ships in the harbor. I could go to Pekin. I thought I could go one of these days, but if I ever get around to it, I'll see the murals on Fifty-seventh

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