

# The Franklin Press

and

# The Highlands Maconian

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This newspaper invites its readers to express their opinions on matters of public interest through its columns. The Press-Maconian is independent in its policies and is glad to print both sides of any question. Letters to the editor should be written legibly on only one side of the paper and should be of reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to reject letters which are too long, are of small general interest or which would violate the sensibilities of our readers.

### The President and the Court

THE people of the United States are witnessing a major struggle in the supreme court issue now facing congress. The methods of defense and attack are reminiscent of the recent presidential campaign, with both sides firing barrages over the radio, "big guns" thundering in Washington, and smaller artillery keeping up a steady firing in the press.

Mr. Average Citizen realizes that his ear is sought and influence invited as never before in history—and if he will listen and read he can clearly understand the issue and judge for himself from the mass of facts and arguments pro and con.

For the supreme court itself is on trial.

President Roosevelt has stated the issue to the people in two radio talks, introduced with "I propose to follow my custom of speaking frankly to the Nation concerning our common problems."

Reiterating that "one-third of the nation is still ill-fed, ill-nourished, ill-clothed," the President presents his case as "the representative of all Americans who have faith in political and economic democracy."

Defending his plan to appoint new judges in federal courts as soon as a judge becomes 70 years of age—increasing the supreme court to a maximum of 15 members—in case older judges do not retire—the president pleads his case squarely on the basis of human needs and the preservation of democracy. He discards as unnecessary and too slow the method of constitutional amendment to meet the needs "NOW."

Referring to decisions nullifying New Deal measures framed to meet economic crises, he said in his fireside chat, "Since the rise of the modern movement for social and economic progress through legislation the court has more and more often and more and more boldly asserted a power to veto laws passed by the congress and state legislatures. . . . In the past four years the sound rule of giving statutes the benefit of all reasonable doubt has been cast aside. The court has been acting not as a judicial body but as a policy-making body."

Quoting Chief Justice Hughes as saying, "The constitution is what the judges say it is," and Justice Stone, in a dissenting opinion as saying that the majority read into the constitution their own "personal economic predilections," the president advocates as the remedy appointment of judges who will bring a "present day sense" to a court "in which five justices will be over 75 years of age before next June and one over 70." The plan proposed would bring into the judicial system of all federal courts "a steady and continuing stream of new and younger blood. . . . This plan would save our national constitution from hardening of the judicial arteries. . . . This plan is no attack on the court; it seeks to restore the court to its rightful and historic place in our system of constitutional government and to have it resume its high task of building anew on the constitution 'a system of living law.'"

Answering the criticism that a baneful precedent be set in increasing the court to a possible 15 members, the president said, "If by that phrase 'packing the court' it is charged that I wish to place on the bench spineless puppets who would disregard the law and would decide specific cases as I wished them to be decided, I make this answer—that no president fit for his office would appoint, and no senate of honorable men fit for their office would confirm that kind of appointees to the supreme court."

"Is it a dangerous precedent for the congress to change the number of the justices? The congress has always had, and will have that power. The number of justices has been changed several times before—in the administrations of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson—both signers of the declaration of independence—Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant."

In closing:

"During the past half century the balance of power between the three great branches of the federal government, has been tipped out of balance by the courts in direct contradiction of the high purposes of the framers of the constitution. It is my purpose to restore that balance. You who know me will accept my solemn assurance that in a world in which democracy is under attack, I seek to make American democracy succeed."

Plainly President Roosevelt places "human needs" first as a test of our institutions, and meeting human needs the challenge to our democracy.

Whatever the outcome of the struggle, he has made the issue crystal clear to the common man.

A. B. J.

## Signs of Spring — by A. B. CHAPIN



# BRUCE BARTON

Says:



### YOUTH MUST NOT BE DISCOURAGED

Some of us who are older can tell the young man of today that from our own experience he, at 25, is now at the age of greatest discouragement. We came into business life full of determination to set things right instanter. We were frankly critical of the bungling of our predecessors. There should be no more mistakes and no delay!

In a couple of years we, too, were in the depths of despair, deeper depths than we have ever been in since.

It is not clear to any human mind just what is the whole purpose and plan of human life. But two things are reasonably apparent.

First, it does not seem to be any part of the program to have the millenium come quickly or easily. Gain is won only as a result of sweat and blood, and time.

Second, as we get older we see more clearly how destructive it would be if all the good ideas of youth were allowed to become immediately effective. The first two Great Reforms in whose service I myself labored were both successful. I think now that both were bad mistakes.

So in our later years we give up the idea of a quick millenium. Some of us do it in deep discouragement. Others say: "I cannot lick the world, but there is one part of it I can lick namely, myself. I'll see what I can do with that."

It's a good sporting proposition. And who knows? Maybe the spread of that simple idea is the real plan.

### QUANTITY MEANS LOWER PRICES

A scientist who presides over a laboratory of a big chemical company was telling me the story of artificial rubber. Many minds contributed to the discovery and perfection of this product. It is used now in certain specialized fields where extra endurance and resistance to acids are necessary but its present cost is many times that of natural rubber.

Said the scientist quite casually: "Of course, it will be cheaper." It did not occur to him that he

was saying anything especially important but, as a matter of fact, he was expressing unconsciously the whole philosophy and justification of big business. Businesses get big and stay big in these modern days because by research they find ways to make things in greater quantity and so to make them cheaper.

Look around you, and you see everywhere the results of Big Business research and production. The electric light bulb was invented by Edison, but if there had been no improvements in it since Edison's day your electric light bill would be about a hundred times what it is now—for the same amount of light.

The automobile, which costs you less than a thousand dollars, is so much better than the best car a millionaire could buy twenty years ago that there is no comparison. It has been steadily improved and made cheaper by being manufactured in big quantities.

The one thing that goes down all the time is the price of the goods of Big Business.

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### Letter-Press

#### URGES BETTER GRADE OF POULTRY

Dear Farmer Friends:

As many of you know, I have been actively engaged in the marketing of poultry and eggs for 20 years, and for years have realized the need of a better grade of poultry. I realize there are quite a large number of farmers in the county who have No. 1 poultry flocks, and I feel like raising my hat to them, but there are also a large number who still think that a pound of chicken is a pound of chicken, regardless of breed or color. This is quite a large mistake.

I sell poultry and eggs to the hotels and camps at Clayton and Mountain City, Ga. They insist on having good stuff for their fancy tourist trade. Last summer I paid one poultry dealer out of the county \$93.00, for poultry in one single week. This was for graded poultry, and the dealer sold his culls elsewhere for what he could get. Now this \$93.00 could have been kept in Macon county,

The most desirable breeds of poultry are "rocks" and "reds." May I suggest to you people who have been raising black chickens and mixed breeds of an inferior quality, that you get better poultry this Spring.

Suppose you change eggs with a neighbor who has a good breed of poultry, and do this even if you have to walk a couple of miles or more to get them. And please pardon me for offering one more suggestion. Try keeping more hens until up in the summer before selling so close.

When a farmer feeds his horse or mule all winter, he feels like getting some work out of it before selling. This is the way farmers ought to feel about their hens. When the grass and weeds and insects come, then your hens will live on much less feed and you can produce eggs cheaper than than at any other time of the year.

I feel like the merchants all over the county and the county agent will indorse what I have said.

Very respectfully,  
J. L. YOUNG

Franklin Route 2  
March 6th, 1937

We heartily indorse what Mr. Young has to say about poultry and eggs.

S. W. Mendenhall  
Farmers Federation Inc.  
Hastings & Ledford.

### Olive Hill

By HOWARD WILLIS

Mrs. S. E. Tallent returned to her home in Cramerton, N. C., Sunday after spending a few days with her folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Lon Campbell were visiting relatives here Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Dennis Ghormley and Miss Pallie Ashe were quietly married Thursday in Clayton, Ga. They are expecting to make their home in Georgia. Mrs. Ghormley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Ashe.

Mrs. Fannie Tallent was visiting relatives here Sunday.

Mr. Tom Lambert, of Kyle, N. C., was here Wednesday on business.

Paul Ashe returned to Mr. A. L. Ramsey's Monday where he has been staying.

We are glad to report that some of the sick are able to be out again.

Several people from here attended preaching at Iotla Sunday and Sunday night.

Mrs. Fred Ledford was visiting relatives here Sunday.