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Obituary notices, cards of thanks, tributes of respect, by individuals, lodges, churches, organizations or societies, will be regarded as advertising and inserted at regular classified advertising rates. Such notices will be marked "adv." in compliance with the postal regulations.

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.

Will it be War or Peace in the Spring?

ALL indications and all the opinions of experts seem to point to the most violent warfare in history or the beginnings of peace during the coming spring.

Certainly the present condition cannot endure for long. The ever tightening blockade of Germany and her shrinking resources on the one hand, and on the other the strain of blackouts and food rationing in Great Britain and France and the boredom and discontent of their soldiers at the front, must force action one way or another before many weeks.

And whether the action is toward suicidal war or permanent peace, the impact upon the United States will be terrific.

If toward war, the demand for food, clothing and war equipment will cause an industrial and agricultural boom which will be followed by disaster unless we are prepared to control the inevitable deflation and keep the country in a safe economic condition.

If toward peace, we are also faced with grave problems. The release of many millions of men and women from military service and from work in munitions plants, and the consequent increase in unemployment, both in this country and in Europe, will result in the greatest economic collapse the nations of the world have ever faced unless measures have been prepared in advance to circumvent such a calamity.

In the preparation of such measures and in the work of restoration and recovery this nation will be forced to take the lead, because we have most of the money and resources and have not felt the shock of war; and also because our welfare depends so largely upon the establishment of a sound economy in other nations.

The present congress faces gigantic tasks whether the issue in Europe be peace or war.

The Russian Menace Dispelled

EVENTS in Finland have effectively banished the nightmare of Russian domination in Europe and Asia and have shown that the dreaded Red military machine, with its unlimited man power and superior mechanized equipment, is nothing more than a mob of ignorant peasants entirely unfitted to cope with first class troops.

Reports from Finland by unprejudiced correspondents state that the Russian troops are ill-clothed, ill-fed and that the commanders are incompetent. The common soldiers are so ignorant that they have no idea where they are or why they are fighting, and they lack the ability to handle motorized equipment in the Arctic cold. Trucks and tanks are wrecked and abandoned or captured by the Finns.

The Red armies have been disastrously defeated and hurled back at every point with an enormous loss in men and equipment, and there seems little likelihood of Russia obtaining and holding any strategic part of Finnish territory.

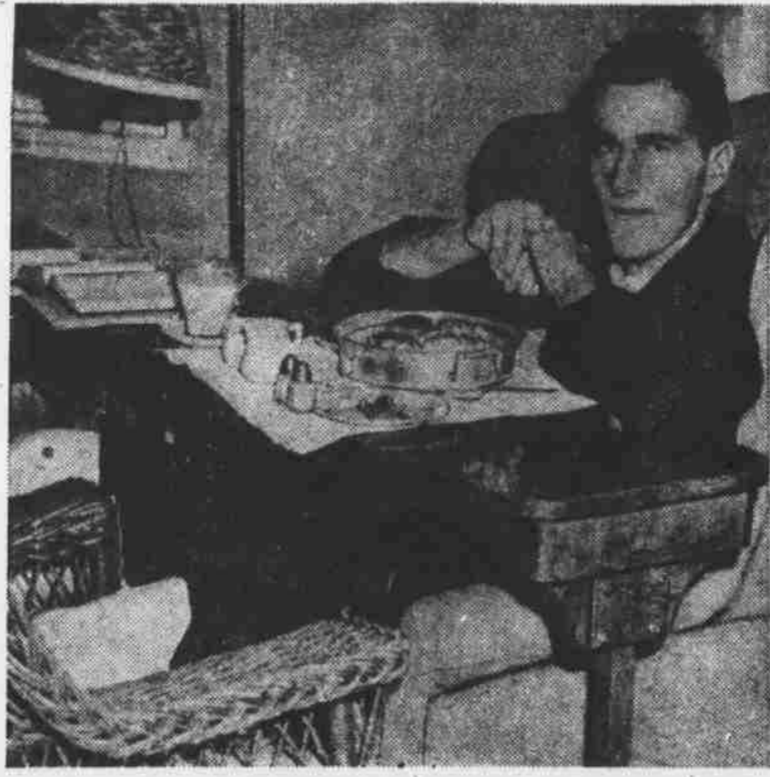
Thus a tiny, liberty-loving nation has dispelled the shadow of the Bear which has hung over Europe and the Near East for generations and kept the diplomats in a constant state of jitters.

Rumania, which received the Russian province of Bessarabia as a part of the spoils of the World War, was prepared a few weeks ago to cede that province back to Russia, but now King Carol has announced that Rumania will never give it up, but is prepared to fight to the last ditch.

Great Britain no longer fears a Russian drive for India, and the Turks feel secure in their possession of Constantinople. The Balkan powers have lost their dread of Russian overlordship, and the Japs are jubilant over the discomfiture of their ancient enemy.

All of Russia's experienced generals except General Stern have been shot in the various purges ordered by Stalin, and the only first class fighting men in the nation are the Don Cossacks, who are a law unto themselves and receive special treat-

Princeton's Grid Hero Goes Home



Don Herring, young Princeton football hero who lost his left leg as the result of an injury in the Harvard game this fall, is shown in a Princeton, N. J., hospital just before going home to his family. Cheerful as always, Don sees a good future ahead for a man with one leg "who can take it." The leg was amputated several weeks ago after doctors fought a losing battle to save it.

ment. The Cossacks have little sympathy with communism and no regard whatever for the government in Moscow. They obey orders from the government only when it suits them to do so.

Cossacks are fighting men by profession and are recklessly brave and horribly cruel. They fight under their own chosen officers, whom they obey implicitly in battle and disregard entirely at all other times. They fight only for glory and loot and there is neither glory nor loot to be had in Finland—nothing but snow and ice and hard fighting Finns, therefore there will probably be few Cossacks with the Russian forces in the campaign.

The myth of Russia's overpowering might seems to have been exploded, and "the Bear that walks like a man" is back on all fours and running for home.

Communications

MR. PECK SEES GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR 1940

Editor Franklin Press:

As we enter upon the threshold of a new year, we are faced with the question, "What will be the verdict of 1940?" Perhaps no year in the history of the world, certainly not in the memory of most of us, has had a beginning fraught with so many problems, many of which are perplexing beyond any immediate solution. Doubtless some question similar to the above has arisen in the minds of many, many people over the world during the last few weeks.

We look across the ocean on either side, and what do we see? Devastating, cruel warfare with all its terrible consequences. We turn to behold the broad reaches of our homeland, and what greets our vision? Much uncertainty as to the ultimate position that might be ours with reference to the European crisis. The unemployed situation still looms large. Taxes are steadily mounting. Business continues to fail in many instances. Broken homes are on the increase, and suicides are still reported as we totter on the brink of moral and spiritual bankruptcy. These and countless other sickening pictures are daily flashed before the eyes of man.

This is not a pleasant picture, but how can one have a complete analysis of conditions that prevail in the world and be very optimistic?

The President chose his accustomed title "The State of the Union" for his annual message to Congress the other day. But doubtless a more appropriate title would have been "The State of the World." Certainly the President was compelled to think and speak in large measure in terms of world-wide conditions rather than just purely domestic affairs.

Does any one know the answer to the question? Only God knows. When the curtain falls on the year an understandable verdict will be presented to human intelligence, until then mortal eyes cannot penetrate the veil.

Humanity has it in its power to make the verdict what it should be, but to do so would require a complete reversal of the present trend. If the verdict of history is worth anything for guidance in the present day, then there must be a recouping of moral and spiritual assets and the acceptance and practice of Christianity in the world.

Respectfully yours,
Charlotte, N. C. R. M. Peck

Ellijay

By MISS HAZEL AMMONS

About five inches of snow fell Saturday night in this community. All the students who go away to school left last week to attend the D. A. R. school in Tamassee, S. C.

Mrs. Richard Heirs, of West

and family, from Erastus, are occupying their new home which they built on Ellijay.

Mrs. Edison Ammons and Miss Marie Keener were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ammons Thursday of last week.

Little Gurture Bowman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Bowman, who has been very ill with influenza, is somewhat improved.

Miss Katheen Shook spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Shook, but has returned to Gastonia where she is employed.

Rev. O'Kelly, from Greenville, S. C., is visiting friends on Ellijay this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Haskett and

family have moved from the John Berry farm to Mrs. J. W. Henry's place.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Morrison, of Gastonia, spent Christmas with Mrs. Morrison's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Mincey.

The current trend toward more livestock in North Carolina has hit Yadkin county where registered Guernsey heifers are growing in popularity as a 4-H Club project.

At the present rate of enrollment, Duplin county 4-H Clubs will boast at least 200 farm boys before the first of the year, reports Assistant Farm Agent L. F. Weeks.

Serving
As We Would Be Served

Whenever and wherever our services are needed, we respond immediately. We serve both those of limited means and others who are more favored by fortune, with fidelity to their best interests. Our service to the living is for all people, regardless of class or creed.

He Serves Best Who Serves Most
C BRYANT
Funeral Home
PHONE 106 NIGHT PHONE 20

STATEMENT OF CONDITION Macon County Building & Loan Association OF FRANKLIN, N. C. As of December 31st, 1939

(Copy of Sworn Statement Submitted to Insurance Commissioner as Required by Law)

ASSETS	
THE ASSOCIATION OWNS:	
Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$762.48
Mortgage Loans	80,429.96
Money loaned to shareholders for the purpose of enabling them to own their homes. Each loan secured by first mortgage on local improved real estate.	
Stock Loans	4,725.44
Advances made to our shareholders against their stock. No loan exceeds 90% of amount actually paid in.	
Accounts Receivable	26.54
Temporary Advances for Insurances, Taxes, Etc.	
Office Furniture and Fixtures	511.92
TOTAL	\$86,456.34
LIABILITIES	
THE ASSOCIATION OWES:	
To Shareholders	
Funds entrusted to our care in the form of payments on stock as follows:	
Installment Stock	\$45,140.17
Full-Paid Stock	32,850.00
.....	\$77,990.17
Accounts Payable	2.60
Undivided Profits	5,963.57
Earnings held in trust for distribution to share-holders at maturity of stock.	
Reserve for Contingencies	2,500.00
To be used for the payment of any losses, if sustained. This reserve increases the safety and strength of the Association.	
TOTAL	\$86,456.34

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
COUNTY OF MACON.

R. S. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer of the above named Association personally appeared before me this day, and being duly sworn, says that the foregoing report is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 9th day of January, 1940.

WILLIAM E. HUNNICUTT,
Notary Public.
My Commission expires August 15, 1941.

R. S. JONES,
Secretary-Treasurer.