

The Franklin Press

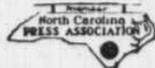
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The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES Editor-Publisher



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Good News

**A**NNOUNCEMENT by the Van Raalte company that it has decided to come into Macon County—to start a relatively small glove-making operation immediately, and to build a textile plant in East Franklin as soon as building materials can be obtained—is good news. While it is good news on all counts, a particularly gratifying feature of the announcement is the statement that 30 to 35 per cent of those employed in the plant will be Macon County ex-servicemen.

And it is no mere gesture of politeness to say that a warm welcome from the people of this community awaits the Van Raalte firm; it is simply a statement of fact.

Not just because the decision of the firm to build a plant here means another Macon County payroll, desirable as another payroll may be. For a payroll alone is not enough; there are payrolls, in fact, that might be brought here which would be of extremely doubtful value.

But the Van Raalte name is widely and favorably known, and local officials, during the negotiations with the company, found abundant evidence that the Van Raalte company will do more than bring additional business to Macon County; that its coming will mean the addition to the community of a good citizen—in its personnel, in its labor relations, and in its civic attitude.

There was nothing sudden or accidental about the company's selection of Franklin for one of its new plants. The decision to come was reached only after months of investigation, study, and negotiation. Under the leadership of Mayor T. W. Angel, Jr., local officials, with the cooperation of certain organizations and individuals, have been working quietly but tirelessly on the project ever since early last fall. One difficulty after another arose, and one after another, they were surmounted. For their successful efforts, these individuals and groups are due the gratitude of the community.

Who's To Blame?

"Politics is rotten."

How often that remark is heard! with the added comment that, because it is rotten, the person damning it will have nothing to do with it, not even to voting.

And if it is rotten, what made it so?

Is it our system of government? If it is, the voters have the power to change that system.

Is it the politicians? If it is, the voters gave them their power. The voters are the ones who create the politicians; the voters are the ones who put men in office or defeat them; the voters are the ones, in fact, to whose prejudices and indifference the politician appeals when he "plays politics"—it is the voters who make it profitable, even necessary, for the office-seeker to stoop to petty politics.

Or is it the indifference of the voters who are content to damn politics and let it go at that? If it is, the voters, and the voters alone, can remedy the situation.

It all boils down, Mr. and Mrs. Citizen, to you and me. If politics is rotten, the fault is ours.

Register Saturday for Bond Election

The best laid plans of mine and men often—go SNAFU.

Because of a technicality, the Town of Franklin must hold another election, in order to authorize bond issues for street improvements and extension of water and sewer lines.

The voters overwhelmingly favored issuance of bonds for these purposes when the question was presented to them last December. Today, the need is even more acute, for the town is growing. If it is to continue to grow—and all the evidence is that little short of a disaster of some sort can prevent its continued growth—it must be prepared to provide these public services for its new, as well as its old, businesses and homes. Viewing the growth of the past six months, and considering the indications

••• LETTERS •••

DANGER AHEAD

Dear Mr. Jones:

Regardless of one's views, it seems to me that the inclosed letter, clipped from The Clayton Tribune, contains food for thought, and I suggest you reprint it.

Very truly,

W. C. ZICKGRAF.

Editor of The Clayton Tribune:

You will perhaps recall that I wrote an agonized article for your paper in June, 1940, when France fell. I thought then, and think now, that our country and world democracy was in grave danger at that time. However, the tremendous weight of the industrial might of the United States pulled us safely through that danger. Pulled us through to what? Once again I am alarmed, since I feel that the country is drifting almost unknowingly toward confusion and anarchy.

After V-J Day all thought of co-operation was thrown to the winds, and grab, graft and selfishness became the order of the day. We beat the Germans and the Japs, but to what end if we cannot rule our own house rightly and decently? There is strife and dissension among us; the causes are deep-seated and—we must realize—they are almost insoluble.

All over our broad and once prosperous land, there are strikes and more strikes. Whenever one section of labor demands a raise of 30 per cent and gets 16 1/4 per cent, we heave a sigh of relief, but no sooner is that group satisfied than another group strikes for more pay. They get more pay, because there does not seem to be anything else the frightened negotiators can do. But no principles are settled, and the same group will soon be asking for more money. To satisfy the labor bosses, who make more and more demands, the big corporations just raise prices and the defenseless public pays the bill.

When is all this going to stop? Will labor ever be satisfied? Will prices ever stop rising? How long will the public be able to pay the bills? What's going to happen to the vast middle class, lying prostrate and helpless between organized labor and concentrated wealth, controlled and operated by a few large corporations?

This country is drifting towards anarchy and civil war, unless a major operation is soon made upon our body politic. It is only natural that labor should demand higher wages and better working conditions. It is only natural that stockholders in large corporations should want and demand a fair profit on their investments. If the corporation does not pay interest on the investment, the corporation will go broke, and soon there will be no capitalist and no corporation. What would that leave? Perhaps labor could take over the corporation and run it for its own benefit, but in such a case you would still have a corporation, operated for the benefit of stockholders, all of whom would be the laborers. Perhaps the laborers would decide to take all the profit for themselves and not have any dividends declared on the profits. Perhaps, the Labor Corporation would eliminate all profits. What would we have then? Why, we would have a collectivist state. The central government would then fix hours of work, rates of pay, and the laborers could take it or leave it. If all labor was regulated by law, very soon the lives of all citizens would be regulated as to hours of work, and rates of pay. All citizens would level off to one class as in Russia, have the same working hours, the same rates of pay, the same living conditions, the same lack of incentive to work more, or to strive to better their own living conditions.

Let us by all means be honest and frank with ourselves. If we are drifting into another form of government, or no government at all, let us realize it, and know what we are going into. If our elected leaders in congress and in the executive department realize the dangerous potentialities of the situation, they do not publicly show much concern over it.

Frankly, I do not know the answers, but I hope there are others who do. I hope there are wise men, and public spirited men in our public life who know the answers. Certainly, it is true that individual selfishness is at the bottom of all our troubles, and men being what they are, I could not change them, if I would.

The fabric of our daily living in this country is closely woven. There may have been a time in the early days when an individual could be an individual, living alone, every man for himself, the devil take the hindmost. But that time is past, now it is different in that every citizen is in a way dependent upon every other citizen for his daily bread. We are dependent upon the coal in the ground, the oil in tanks, the electric power in our rivers. We must have these things in our daily lives, or return to the primitive life of savages.

Trying to look at this serious matter in an impersonal sort of way, trying to be unbiased and unprejudiced, and being isolated as I am, I can see from afar no good of it, only danger and disaster in these labor wars. There is no good in it even for the laboring man, for if our capitalistic system goes down, so does the laboring man go down. There won't be any employers with whom to bargain, only a dictator to give orders to work.

Now, I am not blaming any man, or any organized band of men for our unfortunate situation. I am merely trying to raise the danger signal, so that disaster may be avoided in some way by the concerted action of our leaders in public and private life. It's too much for me; I don't know the answers but I do know where we are headed, and that very soon: towards national confusion, anarchy and civil war. We failed to avoid one civil war; what a pity it would be to fail to avoid another one. Oh, Joe Stalin sits on the side lines, grinning, watching and waiting on the outcome of our effort to live with ourselves.

J. Q. WEST.

(Editor's Note: A part of the less important sections of Mr. West's letter have been omitted in the interest of space.)

of what may be expected in the immediate future, the board of aldermen has become convinced that the \$89,000 in bonds it originally was proposed to sell would hardly provide for today's increased needs. Looking ahead, it has suggested to the people that \$120,000 in bonds should be authorized.

The bond attorneys have held that, for the election to be valid, a majority of the voters registered must ballot in favor of the bonds, and that there must be a new, special registration for the bond election of June 25. That special registration will be held from May 25 through June 15.

It is to be hoped, that there will be a heavy registration of Franklin voters, regardless of their party or their views on the bonds, and that they will register early. For those Franklin voters who are Democrats, Saturday will be a particularly convenient day for registration; for they can register for the bond election when they go to the courthouse to vote in the primary.

A good thing to remember,  
And a better thing to do,  
Is to work with the construction gang  
And not with the wrecking crew.—Anon.

Judge not thy friend until thou standest in his place.  
—Rabbi Hillel.

The Rev. Charles E. Parker, pastor of the Franklin Baptist church, returned this week from Miami, Fla., where he attended the Southern Baptist convention. He spent the week-end visiting the Baptist mission field in Cuba. Average depth of oil wells drilled in the United States in 1945 was the greatest in history—3,469 feet.

Chapel School

Presents

EMMANUEL MANSFIELD

Famous Negro Tenor  
in Concert at

Franklin Courthouse

May 26 and 27 — 8 p. m.

A Section of Seats Reserved for White Persons

Admission ————— 50c and \$1.00

Have Another Cup

JFG SPECIAL COFFEE

"The Best Part of the Meal"

NOTICE

To men interested in pulling Rhododendron and Laurel

BURL

We are again buying the top grade of burl at a slightly reduced price.

SEE US FOR SPECIFICATIONS BEFORE PULLING ANY STUMPS

Highlands Briar, Inc.

Franklin, N. C.

EXTRA TASTY BREAD!

GET FLEISCHMANN'S ACTIVE FRESH YEAST

BECAUSE IT'S FULL-STRENGTH—this active fresh Yeast goes right to work. No waiting—no extra steps! And Fleischmann's fresh Yeast helps make bread that tastes sweeter, is lighter, finer-textured every time.

IF YOU BAKE AT HOME—be sure to get Fleischmann's active fresh Yeast with the familiar yellow label. Dependable—America's time-tested favorite for more than 70 years.

Always fresh—at your grocer's