

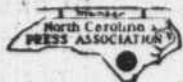
# The Franklin Press

and

# The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press  
At Franklin, North Carolina  
Telephone No. 24

VOL. LXI Number twenty-two  
WEIMAR JONES Editor-Publisher



Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter

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.

### Exit Mr. Weaver

THE Democrats of this congressional district, in Saturday's primary election, spoke in unmistakable tones. A majority in every county but two—and a total majority of more than 9,000—voted for a change.

The choice belonged to the voters, who usually know what they are about. And the Losers will graciously bow to the will of the people.

Mr. Redden's most ardent supporters, on the other hand, cannot view the election without a tinge of regret. With few exceptions, they will wish Mr. Weaver had voluntarily retired at the end of this term, and saved himself this disappointment. For there is general agreement that Mr. Weaver, whatever his shortcomings, rendered conscientious and honest service over a period of a quarter of a century.

### Dangerous Ground

The patience of the public, the congress, and the President already had been sorely strained before the railroad strike was called. Considering that fact, plus the disastrous effect of the strike on reconversion, plus the annoyance and inconvenience of disrupted service for most citizens, plus the unreasonableness and indifference to the public's welfare displayed by the leaders of two railroad unions—considering all that, it is no wonder the reaction was violent.

But the President remained on sound ground when he recommended legislation making such a strike illegal, and criminally punishable. Because it certainly is true that when the employees in an industry that has been taken over by the government go on strike—or when they remain on strike after the industry has been taken over by the government—they are striking against the government itself. And such a strike should not be tolerated.

But when Mr. Truman recommended drafting the strikers into the armed forces, he stepped over into a dangerous area. For it is one thing to say to a man that he must not strike against his government, and that he will be punished if he does; it is quite another to say to him that he will be drafted and forced to work, if he does not do so voluntarily.

That is forced labor. And forced labor—whether it be for the government or for private industry, and no matter how it may be disguised—has but one name.

Forced labor is slavery.

### Elemental Honesty

No one can fail to admire the vigor and courage of President Truman's address to congress recommending laws for the control of strikes. But there is one thing about the speech that raises some insistent questions.

The President recommended that the legislation he suggested "be effective only for six months after the declaration... of the termination of hostilities". Hostilities? Hostilities with whom?

And if the legislation is good, why limit the time it is to be in effect? If it is bad, is it honest to enact it under pretense of a war emergency? One might ask, too, why, if it is purely emergency legislation, it should be kept in effect for six months after the emergency ends.

And when will the emergency end? The fighting was over more than a year ago.

Will it be when the world returns to something resembling normal? That may be decades away.

Or will it be when certain elements, through use of war-time powers when there is no war, have made America over to their liking? That time, too—it is to be hoped—is far in the future.

As such questions rise to plague him, the President often must be reminded—too late—of something his mother undoubtedly taught him as a child:

"O, what a tangled web we weave,  
When first we practice to deceive."

For Mr. Truman's difficulty here, as in many other recent instances, grows out of sham. We are not now at war, and we have not been at war for many months. Mr. Truman knows it. The American people know it. And elemental honesty demands that the fact be admitted.

## Others' Opinions

### SPEED HAS ITS PRICE

The National Safety Council reports that more than 8,000 persons were killed in traffic accidents in the first three months of this year, which means an increase of forty-four per cent over the same period in 1945.

We call attention to the figures which imply that 32,000 persons will be slain on the highways of this country in 1946, without having much idea that they will impress any reader.

For some strange reason, the killing of nearly 100 persons a day is regarded as a casual price that 135,000,000 people must pay for automobile travel.—Marion Progress.

### ANOTHER INDUSTRY

We offer our congratulations to Franklin on the proposed establishment of the textile mills by the Van Raalte Company, Inc., a nationally known manufacturing company, famous for their hosiery, underwear and gloves.

The location of the plant is another recognition of West-Carolina by the nation's manufacturers and will offer new fields of employment and opportunity to the people of Macon County. We can understand and fully appreciate what the plant will mean to that section, for we, too, have had additions to our industrial life in Haywood county, which have brought not only material compensation but also new and desirable citizens.—Waynesville Mountaineer.

### GARDENS IN FIELDS

One thing I notice this spring is more and more gardens being planted right out in the field. I like that. There is a lot of religion lost in the old fenced garden. It is usually the Saturday afternoon job, and who wants to work Saturday afternoon? Then the mule steps on everything and has to turn around before he gets started. You are half-mad anyway, and that just sets it off. You sweat and swear and fuss, and then you are not fit to go to church Sunday morning. On the contrary, if you plant your garden out in a fertile field, you are away from the accumulated insects, diseases, and grass of the old garden spot, and you can plow it right on through when you plow the field crops.—J. M. Eleazer, writing in The Progressive Farmer.

### ANOTHER SMATHERS

The Haywood County large family of Smathers are not only esteemed at home but honored in other States. Referring to the recent primary victory for a seat in Congress by young George Smathers in the Miami district. The New Republic says that "his easy victory represents a gain for the Claude Pepper forces in Florida," adding: "Smathers, a former Marine and anti-trust lawyer, hammered away at the record of Congressman Cannon."

Smathers was Assistant U. S. District Attorney before entering the Marine Corps in 1942. The Miami papers call him "a very determined and capable person."

The selection of Smathers by Florida voters recalls that his father, Judge Frank Smathers, then a resident of New Jersey, was appointed judge by Governor Woodrow Wilson, and his uncle was elected to the United States Senate in New Jersey.—Raleigh News and Observer.

### A GREAT SOUTHERNER

A statue of Booker T. Washington belonged in the Hall of Fame at New York University. It is good to know that at long last the neglect has been corrected. Thursday the statue was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies in which his true greatness was fittingly extolled.

Booker T. Washington was a great American and a great Southerner. It is perhaps no exaggeration to say that few Americans of his generation labored more wisely and more faithfully. Certainly he was the most distinguished leader which the Negro race has known in America.

It was Washington's fate no less than his opportunity to work in the South—his South—at a time when the rancors engendered by the War between the States and its cruel aftermath of Reconstruction blinded or distorted the judgments of so many. These bitternesses increased the difficulties of the statesmanlike task to which he set his hands.

But the South can now appreciate Booker T. Washington at his true worth. The years since his death have vindicated the tools with which he worked and the job which he did. The inscription on his statue at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute has a richer meaning today than when it was first written: "He lifted the veil of ignorance from his people and pointed the way to progress through education and industry."—Asheville Citizen.

### HAS CIVILIZATION COLLAPSED?

Is our modern civilization falling apart? The question is put more vividly by an editorial in the Christian Century when they ask: "Has Civilization Collapsed?" They suggest that it is not enough to look at what is happening and what may happen tomorrow as indications of a collapse that may come, but rather to look at the events of the last thirty years and see that civilization may have collapsed a generation ago.


It is indicative of our present state of civilization when the government of the United States appoints a committee to study suitable underground sites for large industry. It seems that we are not going to be forced reluctantly to become cave men, but to become so by choice. This, of course, is only a surface indication of the collapse of our civilization. Far more significant is the evidence of our economic instability, political corruption, and moral uncertainty.

Consider the ease with which all major nations practiced obliteration bombing during the war without apology. Think of America's black markets in terms of starving millions in Europe. Read of the displaced persons in Europe. Find out something of the slave labor in some nations—Russia in particular. Watch management and labor battle without thought of public responsibility. See the collapse of the family in our community and our nation.

If civilization is collapsing it has gone very far. If it has collapsed the wreckage is enormous. Those who prefer light to darkness must seek again their God!—H. Grady Hardin in Black Mountain News.

Peace-loving peoples must learn to pay the price of peace, if they would avoid wars.—Marion Progress.

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