

The Franklin Press

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LYLES HARRIS.....Editor
J. J. MOORE.....News Editor
MRS. F. M. TESSIER.....Ad. Manager

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Bill Boards

IN THIS day of campaigns and more campaigns, it would be impossible not to run up against one now and then that is worthy of every person, who has the civic welfare of his land at heart, giving it his whole hearted support. The one we have in mind at this writing is the nation-wide campaign to eliminate the all too prevalent obnoxious, (we nearly said obscene) unsightly roadside bill board. It would a great step towards the mellinism, where in all things are as they should be, if the public would boycott every article that is advertised on bill boards.

Bills are a nuisance in every way that the lovers of our natural rural beauty can imagine. They are an obstruction to the farmer. They are the cause of excessive eye strain on the motorist. They are glaring and gaudy and unsightly, and they add too much to the cost of the article to the final consumer. They should be outlawed by every means within the power of man. And they will be.

Something to Think About

IN A GRAPHIC presentation of the facts about food and feed imported into North Carolina, the Progressive Farmer states that we import: one out of every four ears of corn consumed in the state; two out of every three bushels of wheat; one out of every four bales of hay; one out of every ten bushels of Irish potatoes and one out of every four bushels of sweet potatoes; one out of every three pounds of beef; five out of every six pounds of mutton and lamb chops; two out of every five pigs; two out of every three quarts of milk; and one out of every two chickens and eggs.

The farm population of North Carolina is second only to the farm population of Texas. The farm population ratio (55 per cent of the total population) in North Carolina is exceeded by only four or five states. Our soils and climate are well suited to the production of food and feed crops and livestock. Yet the bill for food and feed imported into North Carolina is around one hundred and sixty-five million dollars annually—for basic necessities, not counting the amount spent for luxuries and luxuries of one sort or another. Such an outlay for things that we can and should produce at home is a terrific drain on the wealth of the state, and is the main explanation why this state, which produces farm wealth in abundance, fails to retain a fair share of the wealth produced. Producing food crop wealth and importing food and feed supplies has proven unprofitable and it is obvious that we will never rank high in accumulated wealth until our system is radically changed in line with the program championed by our Governor.

Our Legislator

THERE will come a time very soon when a decision will have to be made as to who will—we nearly said have the honor—represent Macon in the legislature next session. There are one or two things that it would seem well for all voters to consider in making this decision.

First and foremost is the fact that the indications are that there is no need for a great legislator other than a man who is honest enough to be brave and brave enough to be honest. That is a way of saying that the man we choose should be one that has two out standing qualities. First, he should be capable of looking at the needs of the state as a whole and the needs of his local constituency as a whole, and not be controlled in any way in his endeavors by the dictates of any individual or group without first as-

certaining what effect his efforts will have on the whole unit, whether state or purely local or both. Second, he should not "play politics" in any sense of the word as the thing is generally done, but rather he should study the social and economic aspect of each proposition purely on its merits. After that there are several factors that inject themselves into the picture.

First among these is the fact that, as a whole, we have enough laws already. Second, it is fundamentally unwise to try to do anything in the way of legislation without a thorough study of the effects on all related or interlocking conditions and circumstances. Third, there are one or two things of a purely local nature that might be said to need attention. Among these are more teeth in our road law, remove the bonus on catching of liquor cars passing thru Macon; consolidation of several county homes and the placing of a test farm at the same place; investigate the best method to bring about the eventual (and inevitable) county consolidation; change the election law governing the election of county commissioners so that one will be elected every two years; and to help consider a plan whereby the state can take over the U. S. mail routes in the counties; also assist in bringing about a state school unit. There is more than the above, but think those over till next week.

Others' Comments

A-TAX PAYER'S SONG

IT IS probable that many county treasurers in South Carolina (Harry Wessinger among 'em) have received letters similar to this one that follows, said to have been written to a tax collector in a South Georgia county:

"I beg to inform you that the present shattered condition of my bank account makes it impossible for me to send you a check in response to your tax notice. The state of my present financial condition is due to the effect of federal laws, corporation laws, by-laws, brother-in-laws, mother-in-laws and out-laws. Through these various laws, I have been held-up, walked-on, sat on, sand-bagged, battered and squeezed until I do not know where I am, or why I am. These laws compel me to pay a merchant tax, capital stock tax, excess profit tax, income tax, state auto tax, road tax, amusement tax, gas tax, city auto tax, light tax, cigar tax, cigarette tax, school tax, street tax, surtax, syntax and carpet tax. In addition to paying these taxes, I am requested and required to contribute to every society and organization that the inventive mind of mankind can organize. To the society of John the Baptist, the Woman's relief, the Navy League, the Children's Home Fund, the Policeman's Benefit, the Dorcas Society, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Boy Scouts, the Jewish Relief, the Belgian Relief, the Near East Relief, and the Gold Diggers Home. Also to every charitable institution in town, such as the Red Cross, the Black Cross and the Double Cross.

"The government has so governed my business that I do not know who owns it. I am suspected, inspected, disrespected, examined, informed, required, commanded, expelled, and compelled until all I know is that I am supposed to provide an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race and because I refuse to donate all I have and go out and beg, borrow, and steal more money to give away, I am cursed, discussed, boy-cotted, talked to, talked about, lied to, lied about, held up, held down, knocked down and robbed until I am nearly ruined and the only reason I am clinging on to life now is to see what in hell is coming next."—Selected.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

THIS is a true story that happened in a town in Iowa.

A man entered a store and made a small purchase. As the merchant was wrapping it up for him the customer pointed to a package under his arm and said:

"I wonder if you would mind wrapping this up a little better for me. It got kinda damaged in shipping."

"Not at all," said the merchant. "What have you been getting?"

"Some kind of patented salt I've been reading about in the farm magazine," replied the customer. "It was announced in an advertisement the other day that they had just got in a carload and were selling it a special price in 10-pound lots so I sent for some to try it out. It's something new, I guess, but I thought I'd try it out on this special offer."

"What did it cost you?" queried the storekeeper. The customer told him.

"Huh!" snorted the storekeeper. "Special, my eye! They just hooked you, that's all. I have it right here and sell it every day at ten cents a pound less and you don't have to take it in ten-pound lots, either."

"The deuce you say!" returned the customer. "Don't that beat all! I've been reading about it in the farm papers quite a while and

thinking I'd try some, but I didn't know where to get it until I read it in an ad the other day, and then I sat down and sent in my order."

"Better try buying it at home next time," announced the proprietor a little acidly, as he handed him the re-wrapped package. "You'd have saved a dollar on this."

"Thanks for the advice," returned the customer with his hand on the door latch. "Now let me give you some. You better try advertising what you have to sell and at what price. I'd have bought some from you a long time ago if I'd known you carried it, but you just sat back and waited for me to come in and buy it."

"The advertisement told me they had it, and I bought from them. Probably a lot more of your customers did the same and I don't see that you can blame them if they did. When a business house lets me know it has something I want I am going to buy it from them instead of going some place else to ask if they have it. If you don't care enough for your customers to inform them what you have to sell, you'll continue losing business to those firms that advertise their goods and prices."—Kinston News-Leader.

AN OPTIMIST AT 80

CELEBRATING his eightieth birthday at Raleigh on Thursday, Bishop Cheshire told the reporters that after keeping up pretty well with the world for seventy years his own feeling was that it is getting better all the time.

"There are many offenses, glaring offenses, against the conventions and traditions of the elders," said Bishop Cheshire, "but there never has been so much interest in personal religion among young people as there is today. The generation with which I came up can not be compared with the present. The good old religion which you hear so much about today was largely a pack of nonsense. Young people today have more personal religion than they did then. I thank God that I can believe the world is growing better."

Bishop Cheshire has been bishop of the diocese of North Carolina for thirty-six years. What he says about the condition of the world today as compared with conditions in his youth is what nearly every man of his generation will tell you. There are plenty of things in the world at the present time which are wrong but there has never been a period in the past when so much was being done to make things better. Pessimism is confined for the most part to the younger generation. Men and women who have lived as long as Bishop Cheshire and who have seen the progress that has been made in their time can not help being optimists.—Asheville Citizen.

THE DINNER OF THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS

THE YOUNG Democrats' feast in Raleigh last Saturday night was a success because it brought together 2,000 or more men and gave them a chance to have a jolly good time. That result is justification enough for any conference, convention or conclave.

As for the speeches, they were worse than nothing. The best of the reports of the gathering that I saw in the papers next morning was Carl Goerch's in the News and Observer, and the truest sentence in it was the following: "Everything that was said could have been boiled down to ten words, 'Three cheers for the Democrats and to hell with the Republicans.'" Mr. Goerch's next best sentence was: "Tyre Taylor opened the oratorical proceedings by introducing folks whose turn it was to introduce other folks who needed no introduction."—Chapel Hill Weekly.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By FRED HOLMES, Washington Correspondent of The Franklin Press

Washington, March 29.—There is no reason to doubt that John Brown's body still lies in the grave, although undoubtedly long past the a-moldering stage. It may be that his soul still goes marching on, but undeniably with less vim and vigor than of yore, and with less popular acclaim in view of the fact that so far as possible its mission was long ago accomplished.

According to Senator Connally, of Texas, another spirit is now on the march. Near the close of the debate in the Senate on the tariff bill, Senator Connally called attention to the debate in the Senate on the tariff bill, Senator Connally called attention to the absence of Senator Grundy. Said the Texan: ".....While the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Grundy), the godfather of this bill (laughter) is not here, his spirit is here. He is in Pittsburgh, in conference with the Secretary of the Treasury and other high dignitaries, trying to iron out the embarrassment which is presented to the President by the candidacy of one of his own Cabinet against the Senator from Pennsylvania."

In concluding his speech Senator Connally said: "Ah, the Senator from Pennsylvania is not here today, but his spirit is here today, and his campaign fund in Pennsylvania for the Senate will be vastly increased. This bill is a bill for the protection of Pennsylvania politicians. This bill is a bill which will give

him more sinews of war. It may give him more soldiers as well as more sinews of war."

And then, on top of that, came another essentially Grundistic surprise of surprises. It was announced with apparent authority that Mr. Grundy would not file nominating petitions as a candidate to succeed himself in the United States Senate. At the same time, Samuel S. Lewis, backed by the Mellon-Grundy organizations, definitely withdrew as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor.

The withdrawal of Lewis and the announced retirement of Senator Grundy were taken to mean that the Mellon leadership in the State would join the Philadelphia and Allegheny county organizations headed by William S. Vare in backing a ticket headed by former Attorney-General Francis S. Brown for Governor and Secretary of Labor James J. Davis for Senator. But before the politicians had time to analyze the possible effect of this news, along comes Grundy, the now acknowledged champion political acrobat, with still another feat in ground and lofty tumbling. He has no intention of retiring; his nominating petitions will be filed.

Lewis states that a bitter fight in the Republican primaries might have a serious effect on the Republican party nationally. He asserted that he put the welfare of the party above personal ambitions and considerations and added that Republicans should present a united front to support the protective tariff theory of Government. Mr. Grundy refrains from commenting on the situation. If there is anyone who thinks he can solve the Pennsylvania puzzle at this time, let him step up to the front and receive the substantial reward.

Grundy was not "there" day before yesterday, and it looks as though he might not be "there" day after tomorrow, but it is certainly apparent that the spirit of this blow-hot-and-blow-cold super-politician will keep on marching on, with destination known but via a route which none can guess.

Following about seven months of debate the Senate finally passed the tariff bill by a substantial vote. Whatever may be said of the bill, at least the Senate cannot be accused of speedy action. Some of the votes cast for the passage of the measure were predicated upon the earlier action of a majority of the Senate in writing into the bill the so-called debenture clause and the amendment removing from existing law the flexible tariff provision. Probably Senator Borah of Idaho and other Republican Progressives from the West might have voted against the measure had it not been for these amendments.

The bill has still to run the gauntlet of conference and adjustment between the two houses of Congress. Ultimately, following its re-writing in conference, it must command a majority of both houses and then the approval of the President if it is to become a law. Much will depend upon what happens in the conference room.

A determined effort to obtain publicity of the daily actions of the Senate and House conferees on the tariff bill will be made by Representative Garner of Texas, the House minority leader who will be one of the five House members on the conference committee.

With one or two exceptions, all tariff bills have been considered behind closed doors in conference, but there have been frequent occasions when the actions taken have been made public as the sessions progress. Garner said he would endeavor to have this practice followed on the Hawley-Smoot measure passed 53 to 31, by the Senate.

Chairman Smoot of the finance committee, who will head the Senate Republican conferees, said he would put the question of publicity to the conference when it gets down to work on the hundreds of differences in the House and Senate measures. Speaker Longworth said that "there would be no effort to rush the tariff bill through the House." The bill formally was messaged to the House from the Senate. It will lie on the Speaker's table for a few days.

"We desire to give the Senate a rest and the members of the House an opportunity to study the Senate amendments," Longworth said. "No one yet knows what is to be done. Conferences are to be held to determine the course."

The Senate can help the country best at this time by promptly confirming the nomination of Judge John J. Parker as associate justice of the Supreme Court, but the possibility of serious Senatorial objections to the elevation of Judge Parker from the 4th Federal Circuit to the United States Supreme Court became manifest when it was learned that the American Federation of Labor proposed to submit his record of labor decisions to the Senate.

It is the consensus of opinion here that President Hoover has chosen a suitable member of the Supreme Court, and the Senators should have the decency to confirm him without trying to tag him as either a reactionary or a liberal. A judge should be permitted to ascend to the Supreme Court bench without being bespattered by mud and filth at the hands of demagogues in the Senate. Let the Senate bear in mind that it is acting as a judge in considering nominations. Its own self-respect commands it to avoid expressions which tend to degrade it while insulting the judiciary.