

The Mountaineer

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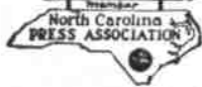
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Gold

There has been a great deal of conversation about gold in this country. It seems a difficult matter to understand, at least to those outside of banking circles. Calamity howlers pounce on it with both feet, and when they get through, it is worthless, like so much dirt under their feet.

We were interested in a recent article in the Baltimore Evening Sun, excerpts of which follow:

"That nineteen billions of gold in a hole in Kentucky is a popular topic of conversation. It is embarrassing to a lot of people. At the end of 1914 our gold reserve stood at the modest figure of \$1,206,000,000, valued at \$20.67 an ounce. The treasury report for June 25, just passed showed our total gold assets as \$19,855,859,026.68, valued at \$35 an ounce. In one year no less than \$3,791,601,950 had been added to the hoard. And it is still going on.

"Can the flow of gold be stopped? One suggestion is that it could be if the Treasury were to reduce the price from \$35 an ounce to a lower figure.

"What is the future of the nineteen billions of dollars of gold? The Germans offer an answer. They say that already the totalitarian governments, Russia, Germany and Italy, are making themselves independent of gold. As early as last February it was reported that Japan was nearing the end of her gold reserve and would have to devise some other medium of exchange. Before the fall of France, even she, and Great Britain, capitalistic countries had made arrangements excluding gold payments between them.

"Now according to the Germans, as soon as Hitler has conquered Great Britain and made himself the master of Europe he will declare the gold to be of no value and forbid its use in all the countries of the world which he controls.

But on the other hand many experts believe that Hitler will never declare gold worthless for a very good reason. When, and if, he conquers the British Empire, he will be in possession of the greatest gold producer in the world. South Africa alone produces over \$425,000,000 in gold each year, Rhodesia over \$28,000,000 in gold, West Africa over \$24,000,000, Australia over \$54,000,000 and the British Indies over \$11,000,000. If Hitler wins all this wealth it does not seem reasonable that he would willfully destroy such an asset.

"In the case of Russia it does not seem likely either as she produces some \$184,000,000 worth of gold annually from her own mines.

The world production of gold amounts to some \$1,117,000,000 annually. Of this the United States produces only about \$176,000,000. Therefore though she may buy all the world produces she will never have it all because the world will continue annually to produce close to a billion in gold."

These facts should certainly have a tendency to calm those who have worried so much about our hoarding of gold, for it would appear on the face of the foregoing that it will continue to be used for its full value.

In a recent speech Secretary Morgenthau said, "Let me assure you once and for all. As long as there are independent nations, and as long as there is international trade in goods and services, so long will it be necessary to settle international balances. Gold is the international medium par excellence."

The state's revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30 will pass the \$75,000,000 for the first time in the history of North Carolina and Tar Heelia breaks another record.

Keep It Up

We notice with satisfaction that the strip of pavement making up the driveway into the Dunham House has been mended by the town authorities.

This has been needed for sometime. In fact it had reached such a state that walking over the section reminded one of a rocky edge of a stream. Not exactly suitable for a sidewalk on a town as progressive as Waynesville.

We hope those who have the authority to remedy such things in the town will make a careful trip up and down each side of the street and that as a result the "good work" of mending pavement will keep up.

Revenue Going Up

Reports show that during the past fiscal year, the State of North Carolina had the largest revenue receipts in its history. It has been pointed out that since there has been little change in the tax structure, the only possible explanation of this encouraging fact is better business conditions.

While all important tax sources are said to show increases, the largest was shown in the gasoline tax, which has reached figures not expected by the most hopeful.

The increase in this tax shows not only better business in North Carolina, but also in the country at large, for much of it has come from tourists traveling through the state.

Money In Trees

J. M. Broughton, Democratic nominee for governor, made an address before the North Carolina Press Association at Hendersonville recently. He spoke of the "vital problems" concerning the state and especially of the development of a wise timber program in North Carolina as a "source of wealth."

This should make an appeal to the people over the state, but has a special message to the people of Haywood County. During the past thirty years many of the great forest areas have been cut, and some have been left in an undesirable state for further revenue of timber, but could be cared for in such a manner that they would produce not only again, but have a continued commercial return.

The Greensboro Daily News in commenting on Mr. Broughton's timely remarks, stated that such a program would serve to balance the recent loss of markets for the state's leading farm products, cotton and tobacco.

"Certainly when North Carolina forests offer an offset to these losses a balance where other crops are failing, it is imperative that no short-sighted policy be followed but that the best possible usage of the new opportunity be advised and applied," says the Daily News.

Now since the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Finland, which served as a main source of supply for newsprint used in this country, have been eliminated, at least temporarily from trade from the United States because of war, the possibility of this industry in North Carolina and the south seems better than ever before.

The establishment of the newsprint industry in the South has been urged for years as one of the remedies to aid economic progress, and now seems the opportune time to start.

In Haywood county we have learned the value of a market for our timber, and here would seem an opportunity for the development of an industry, that the county farm agents have been urging for years.

To develop the industry along permanent lines, there would have to be a continuous supply of timber, and the program of re-forestation and cutting would have to be developed along far reaching lines to serve the purpose.

In The Same Line

The following notice from a California newspaper does not fail to create a consistent "atmosphere":

"Bill Jarrett has returned from working on the graveyard shift of the Corpse Mining Company in Coffin Mine, located in Dead Man's Canyon in Funeral Range at the edge of Death Valley. He leaves next week for a prospecting trip to Devil's Playground in Hell's Half Acre."

Fear grows daily that we may have to adjust ourselves to a slightly less abundant life. The fat of the land will now have a chance to work it off in common defense.

In a laboratory experiment, thirteen out of seventeen rats preferred alcoholic drinks to water. The reader may draw his own conclusions as to what this proves.—Christian Science Monitor.

Here and There

—By—
HILDA WAY GWYN

As we have remarked before, there are few things in life more beautiful than . . . gratitude . . . on a bus ride into Asheville the other day a small girl of some 10 or 11 summers asked if she could sit with us . . . we saw she wanted to talk . . . this was her first trip alone . . . she would be several hours getting home . . . her mother had brought her up to Waynesville to visit relatives . . . she had helped make the money to buy a return ticket home . . . she had a note from her mother to the porter . . . she was very nervous . . . as one can be on a "maiden voyage" . . . she asked us to hold her ticket and "give it to the porter" . . . and we complied with pleasure . . . when we handed it over to the driver . . . we asked about her connections in Asheville . . . she had to wait over an hour . . . she was somewhat panicky over what to do about getting on the right bus . . . she was afraid she would get on the wrong one . . . so we reassured her . . . and told her we would see her through . . . she did not know there would be so many buses . . . we bought her ticket with her savings . . . then went over to the fountain and got her some sandwiches and candy . . . and her eyes grew big with excitement . . . as she asked . . . "You aren't buying that with your own money are you?" . . . when she saw us pay for it . . . we then put her in care of the travelers aid . . . with instructions about her bus and so on . . . we turned to leave . . . and not in many a day have we seen registered on the face of a human being such gratitude . . . it brought a lump to our throat . . . and all day . . . and even now . . . the remembrance of that child's face makes us smile . . . and happy . . .

It is a funny about news . . . how elusive it can be . . . and how much effort is put out on only a few inches of printed space at times . . . last week the editor said . . . "find out about the new car that has been put on the Murphy Branch" . . . it sounded so simple . . . only a matter of a few seconds or minutes at the most . . . Monday morning would take care of the brief story . . . but one never knows . . . in newspapering . . . as the following will show . . . we let the time slip up on us . . . we heard a train blow . . . we rushed out of The Mountaineer office . . . the whistle shrieked louder and nearer . . . it sounded as if it might be coming through Brannercrest cut . . . we reached the entrance into Depot street . . . we started running . . . on the way down we passed a couple of colored boys . . . one of them seemed rather surprised at our speed . . . called . . . "Oh, Mrs. Gwyn, please stop a minute . . . we have a taxi up here we'll take you down . . . we thanked him but called back that we did not have time . . . Mrs. Mullis called from her shop and asked if there was anything she could do . . . as we passed . . . breathless we arrived at the station . . . to find an old freight train puffing and backing . . .

It seems it was all of 20 minutes until the passenger train from Asheville would arrive . . . on which the air conditioned coach we wanted to inspect would be attached . . . as we waited for the train to roll in . . . we looked about at once familiar surroundings . . . which now from infrequent visits seems like a picture from out the past . . . something we had known quite well long ago . . . but was a bit strange . . . and as we took in the beauty of the rhododendron on the high bank on the Parkway Hotel grounds we regretted that the motor visitors do not get this glimpse of the town . . . there is nothing more picturesque in the village . . . or appropriate for this community as a sitting . . . make a special trip to the station soon . . . before the blooms have shed . . . and you will agree with us . . . the clerks at the station told us that they had a strenuous time keeping trespassers out . . . the lower branches showed recent inroads . . . the loveliness of the bank made us realize . . . what a co-operative planting in this year of 1940 would mean to the town 20 years hence . . . or what a planting 20 years ago would mean today . . .

But we came back to the matter in hand . . . the whistle of the passenger train cut the air . . . the train pulled in . . . but no air conditioned coach . . . it goes into Murphy one day and back the next . . . it was the day for a return trip . . . it would mean another wait of 2 hours—or took . . . or another day . . . we took the latter . . . which all goes to show that the readers never know the story behind the news . . .

We reprint the following contribution to this week's column . . . from a reader . . . which seems to hit the nail on the head about the queer inconsistencies of life . . . "When a man is little the big girls



Voice of The People

In view of the increasing volume of work that goes through the office of the county farm agent and home demonstration agent, would you approve Haywood County renting or acquiring a separate building devoted entirely to the agricultural interests of the county?

Miss Edna Hays—"Yes, I would approve the county having a separate building for the county agents. It is greatly needed."

Henry Francis—"Yes, I certainly would approve such a plan."

M. O. Galloway—"Yes, I would favor having a separate building for the farm work, as it is growing so much."

Ernest J. Hyatt—"I am not familiar enough with the situation to give an opinion."

Captain George Platt—"Interest in agriculture is increasing, and no town is bigger than its surrounding farming industries. I think the building is much needed, and I would approve of having it

for the use of the county agents."

W. D. Keener—"From what I know about the office, they seem crowded and I would approve a plan to give them enlarged quarters."

Captain W. F. Swift—"Yes, I think the county agents need ample room for their work, which seems to be growing."

J. T. Coman—"I think all agricultural interests in the county should be encouraged, and since the offices of the farm agent and the home demonstration agent are crowded, they should have more room to expand their work."

John R. Hippy—"I know of nothing more important to Haywood County than the work of the farm agents. If they need more room they should have it. But I approve of them staying in the court house. The farmers like to go to the court house for such matters, and I would not like to see the offices moved."

Letters To The Editor

Editor The Mountaineer:—
 Dr. C. C. Crittenden, secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission and chairman of the executive committee on Historical Markers, stated some weeks ago that the committee has decided to place a memorial in Waynesville, "Marking the Surrender of the last Confederate force in North Carolina, May 6, 1865." The quotation is taken from a letter of Dr. Crittenden's to this reporter under date of July 13, 1940.

Although Dr. Crittenden speaks of the event to be commemorated as being the surrender of General James G. Martin, who was stationed at Asheville as the commander of the Western North Carolina district of the Southern Confederacy during the last year of the war, people generally do not know the event by that name. It is, in fact, the same event that Major W. W. Stringfield, Joe Collins, and other well known veterans of the Confederacy, now passed to their reward, spoke of as the treaty between Colonel William H. Thomas and Colonel Bartlett, of the Federal army. The only discrepancy in the two accounts is as to the date, Stringfield speaking of it as May 10, 1865, whereas the true date is May 6, 1865.

Major Stringfield, who was commander of a battalion in Colonel Thomas's Legion, had been made in April, 1865, the commanding officer of the western end of the

kiss him . . . when he is big the little girls kiss him . . . if he is poor he is a bad manager . . . if he is rich he is dishonest . . . if he is prosperous . . . everyone wants to do him a favor . . . if he is in politics it is for graft . . . if he is not interested in politics he isn't a good citizen . . . if he doesn't give to charity . . . he is a stingy 'cuss' . . . if he does give to charity, it is for show . . . if he is active in the church, he is a hypocrite . . . if he is not interested in the church he is a hardened sinner . . . if he gives affection . . . he is a soft specimen . . . if he care for no one . . . he is cold blooded . . . if he dies young . . . there was a great future for him . . . if he lives to an old age . . . he missed his calling . . . if he saves money, he is a tightwad . . . if he spends it, he is a loafer . . . and a spendthrift . . . if he gets money, he is a grafter . . . if he doesn't, he is a bum . . . so what's the use?" . . .

Asheville area, but he was not present at the "Surrender of General Martin," having been sent by General Stoneman, the Federal officer stationed at Knoxville in command of the Federal army in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. Stringfield and his squad when they neared Knoxville were captured and put in prison in the Knoxville jail.

Major Stringfield wrote more about these closing events of the war in Western North Carolina than any other man. Joseph Collins, who died a few years ago at his home near Clyde, has also given a story of the event as he saw it. He told the writer a short while before his death that he was picked out as one of the twenty men on the morning of May 6, to go with Colonel Thomas to see Colonel Bartlett in Waynesville. He went and heard a part of the conversation between the Confederate officer and the Federal officer.

Colonel Thomas, Mr. Collins said, was in no mood to surrender. On the contrary he told Colonel Bartlett if he did not stop Kirk from stealing horses and burning houses in Haywood County, he would turn his Indians loose upon them and have them all scalped. The news of the surrender of both Lee and Johnston had trickled through to the mountains by that time, and after Colonel Thomas had cooled off some, he was willing to enter into terms of peace.

In the meantime, General Martin had been commissioned with in Asheville and the peace terms were agreed to and signed. People in Haywood County know of the event as a Peace Conference, and that is what it was. It may be called a surrender as being a better term, but it was in reality only a peace conference according to several veterans of those times with whom the writer has talked.
 W. C. ALLEN.

CLIPPINGS

HONEYMOON BRIDGE
 (The Thomasville Tribune)
 There is symbolism in the fact that work is humming along merrily on both sides of the Niagara river in replacing the old "Honey-moon Bridge" that collapsed in an ice-jam in 1938.

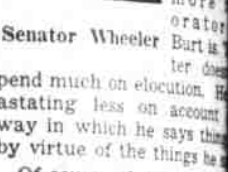
Ever since 1869 there has been a bridge across the Niagara gorge at or near this point, linking Canada and the United States across our friendly border. The Falls View Bridge (Honey-moon Bridge) the visitors called it carried more than 1,500,000 people across the border in its last year.
 The new Rainbow Bridge (which

Stewart Says

Senator Wheeler Steadily Becomes More Formidable

By CHARLES F. STEWART
 Central Press Columnist

BURTON K. WHEELER, tana's senator, unquestionable opponent in public life of Senator Bennett Chaffin of Missouri is pretty good.



pend much on eloquence. He astates less on account way in which he says things by virtue of the things he says.

Of course, there are those who are emphatically for Roosevelt as either Burter. However, they're somewhat counted by the fact that supposed to be of the administration's opposition party. Yet if any of them, have Burter fireworks, either.

Burt's Sincerity
 Burt Wheeler's sincerity something awful. I wouldn't say that there other politicians who are care he is, but it would to find another one who has it as he has.

Out in the mining country "I. W. W." days, some were due to be tried on dynamiting, assassinations, miscellaneous other crimes. They were so hated that they scarcely could a lawyer to defend them in tana's courts. Risking his career and maybe his life, safety, right then, Burt courage to "take on the" handled it well.

Montana unexpectedly nized his nerve, chose his face and presently he was Washington as a Democrat.

Never a Conservative
 Senators have a tendency turn conservative, but Burt didn't. The Democrats prove to be as liberal as hoped, but he couldn't see Republicans were much better. At that juncture the editor Robert M. LaFollette running for president on the ally independent Progressive et. He offered Burt second on his ballot. It looked like sacrifice of a senatorship sure licking. Nevertheless, he had the infatigable fortitude. He was Progressive as expected, but using Montana, still admiring him on as a Democrat.

I don't know just how state stood or how far personal ground of him as a democrat ("little 'd").

Anyhow, the other day, to have begun to suspect Roosevelt administration plates participation in the world conflict in some fashion entirely "short of war."

No War for Wheeler
 Thereupon, he announced the Democratic party's "party" he no longer believed. It was quite an announcement considering that Burt's a candidate for senatorial re-election. Democratic ticket, this. If he wins, he'll win as a cratic outlaw (administrative speaking) and normally hard stunt. But Burt's Wheeler seems to have the conclusion, not only administration Democrats a war party.

He accuses it of having conservative.
 When President Roosevelt, Henry J. Stimson and Fred respectively, for his cabinet of war and the navy, Burt is that F. D. R. chose the conservative Republican to hit on.

So the administration, Wheeler, not only is economically reactionary. Burton K. has been, he'll be nominated, less, but . . . and during

will undoubtedly also be Honey-moon Bridge by mental) is now well known. The foundations are being simultaneously on each side, but will meet in the form a renewed symbol of between two great countries.

In the closer relations certain to follow between the United States and the United States, "Honey-moon Bridge" may be a symbol even in its name.

FORESTS
 While the forests of the States are making large tions to national defense, tion has not provided for the defense of the Secretary of Agriculture.

NO HOME GARDENS
 Last year there were farms in Indiana which home gardens.