

The Mountaineer

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W. CURTIS RUSS Editor
MRS. HILDA WAY GWYN Associate Editor
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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
1940 Active Member

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1940

Young Leaders

The nominating committee of the Chamber of Commerce took a right-about-face Monday night when they nominated 31 inexperienced, but energetic and progressive men and women as candidates for the 16 places on the board of directors of the organization for 1941. With the exception of the present president, not a single nominee has had previous official experience with the organization, but all have had enough practical business and civic duties thrust upon them, that they have proven themselves worthy of the obligations and tasks which lie ahead.

While the group is young in experience, they are conservative as well as progressive, and such a combination makes a healthy condition in any organization.

The group that for years have carried the burdens as directors and committee chairmen of the organization do not have to be sold on the work; they are ready and can be depended upon to support those elected.

This newspaper has watched the chamber of commerce die, and then come back and flourish. We have watched with keen interest as new blood was injected into every department, which brought about almost unbelievable accomplishments. We are elated over this new set-up which will push men and women with new ideas and bigger determination to the front.

Any of those nominated are capable of doing a good job, and the least the community can do is to show their interest by casting a big vote.

It looks like a new day for the Chamber of Commerce, as both young and old will be harnessed into one program designed for the common good of all.

Needs Recognized

In the "Voice of the People" last week it was interesting to note how many people felt that there should be a change of some kind in our educational systems.

The reaction against the old system should have been an encouraging note to M. H. Bowles and the teachers of the Waynesville District School who are now in the midst of inaugurating a guidance program in the schools that will develop and grow annually into a useful service to both teacher and student.

While the benefits of the initial efforts in the local schools will not be materially felt this year, the foundation is being laid for a system that will eventually revolutionize the Waynesville District Schools.

Students of the future years should be prepared to face life with more preparation and confidence than those of former years.

Old Thanksgiving Day

North Carolina has had a way of gaining distinction in emergencies. "First at Bethel, farthest at Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox."

Now if we don't get a move on us, we will be the last to fall in line and celebrate Thanksgiving on the new date set by President Roosevelt.

Last year about half of the states approved the President's plan, and this year the number has grown to thirty-two out of the forty-eight observing the third Thursday.

With the stride in which Tar Heels walked away with the tradition of precedent of a third term, the difficulty they are having over giving up this Old Thanksgiving Day seems a bit somewhat inconsistent.

This year we Americans have so much to be thankful for that it might be a good plan to observe both days, at least with gratitude in our hearts.

Inflation Scare

The inflation scare which followed the proposal of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that the debt limit of the Federal government be increased appears to have been short lived.

Burton Crane, financial writer of The New York Times, describes the sober second thought of Wall Street on the subject as follows:

"Inflation has become the word of the hour. Wall Street is stirring with the hope of it or fear of it. Hope or fear that, if inflation takes hold, values will change and investors and spectators alike must make their plans accordingly.

"Secretary Morgenthau's request for a higher debt limit started the talk, dramatizing the feeling of the last several months that the country could not spend four billion to six billion dollars a year on armament without causing some shifting of values. Some investors began muttering fearfully of Germany in the early 1920s. Others began studying our present machinery for the control of what inflation must come. They found themselves not so fearful.

Inflation, in its simplest, all-inclusive definition, is something which lowers or tends to lower the purchasing power of the currency. When prices rise, money buys less. That is inflation.

"A tariff is inflationary. So are arbitrary limitations on production. As this country has discovered since 1930, however, a considerable increase in the currency circulation is not inflation. That is merely an auxiliary, powerless unless true inflationary influences are at work. The money simply flows back to the banks, creating excess reserves. The same is true of low lending rates. Other factors must be presented or there is no inflation.

Wall Street students believe that the present situation holds the germ of a modest inflation, but assert that there will be nothing spectacular about it. In the World War, wholesale prices more than doubled. Nothing like that is likely this time.

In the first place, there are now no important shortages of raw materials, as there were in 1917. The few exceptions do not justify a general advance in prices, as the priority system will take care of them.

"In the second place, the government now in power has shown a disposition to keep prices in line with wages. President Roosevelt moved to do so in 1937. He and his associates have vast powers to control prices. Last week Mr. Morgenthau announced in no uncertain terms that they would be used.

Secretary Morgenthau coupled his suggestion for an increase in the debt limit with another—to end tax-exempt bonds. That reform is long overdue and will be particularly opportune at this time of increased borrowing. If taxes are stepped up and the opportunity to escape taxation through purchase of government securities is ended, the total increase in the national debt should be relatively small. Moreover, provision will already have been made for taking care of that debt once abnormal spending for defense purposes is at an end.—Raleigh News and Observer.

Food For Europe

As winter advances the question of food for European countries becomes more acute. In a recent article in Collier's magazine former President Herbert Hoover urges the American people to send food to the hungry countries over there.

Americans are by nature a generous people. They are not in the habit of turning deaf ears to those in need, but in this case, it would appear the better plan to let the call go unheeded, until the Germans make France a free nation, and make certain adjustments in other sections of the conquered territory.

Mr. Hoover argues that food sent to the conquered countries of Europe will not aid the conquerors, but it will be hard to convince the American people that any supplies sent to the nations under the heels of Hitler, will not indirectly aid Germany.

No doubt when the stage of rehabilitation comes there will be many more opportunities for the American people to show their generosity. As yet it seems the wiser plan to let Germany feed her own.

With North Carolina's world's fair exhibit to be returned from New York to Raleigh, here's hoping that it won't cost as much to get it dismantled as it did to get it mantled.—Greensboro Daily News.

Some disappointment is being expressed because we gained only seven per cent in population in the last ten years. That's a better return, however, than sound investments will yield today.—Exchange.

Opportunity doesn't knock quite as loudly as in the old days for her hands are pretty calloused.

Here and There

—By—
HILDA WAY GWYN

The other week we quoted a well known woman in town about the conduct of certain groups in the Park Theatre . . . at the same time she took the matter up with the manager, J. E. Massie . . . this week she handed us Mr. Massie's reply and asked us to give certain parts of the letter as follows . . . which should reveal how many headaches the matter has given the manager . . . who has tried so hard to "force good manners" on his patrons. . . .

My dear . . .
 I wish gratefully to acknowledge your recent letter setting forth certain constructive criticisms of the conduct in the Park Theatre, and I agree with you one hundred per cent as to its effect on patrons who wish to enjoy the presentation in comfort and tranquility.
 However, I cannot agree with your ideas of correction, as I have tried the matter of projecting a request on the screen. "Please refrain from talking and please do not spit on the floor"—and they proceed to talk and laugh about the matter all over the house, and spit on the walls too after that.

I have also placed young men ushers in the auditorium with instructions to ask anyone who persisted in talking or disturbing to leave, and the results I got were two or three heated arguments right in the theater during the performance. Then I tried two girls who said they could handle the matter, and at the end of five weeks I could find no improvement in the conduct.

I have repeatedly gone down and taken out of the auditorium certain children whom I found to be constant offenders and refused admittance to them for weeks, but all this seems to be of no use, so what am I going to do? I cannot refuse to admit children of a certain age on Sunday or other days, as this would be against the principles of community service and to be perfectly frank the offenders are not all children, as I believe you will agree.

I was pleased to note Mrs. Gwyn's remarks in her column last week, and it seems that she has offered a solution to this matter, and I believe that if we all try a co-operative campaign along this line something might be accomplished. . . .

With all the foregoing from Mr. Massie, it looks as if the next offender would hesitate to put himself in such a position.

Mrs. Jack Holtzclaw contributes the following . . . which in this day of labor agitation and "40 hours a week" should be of interest . . . it is a list of the rules made out by a merchant in Montreal, Canada . . . back in 1843 for clerks. . . .

"Store must be opened promptly at 6 a. m. and remain open until 9 p. m. the year round . . . Store must be swept; counters, base, shelves and showcase dusted . . . lamps trimmed, filled and chimneys cleaned; pens made; doors and windows opened; a pail of water and a scuttle of coal must be brought in by each clerk before breakfast . . . any employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigars . . . getting shaved at a barber shop, going to dances and other places of amusement . . . will most surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and all-round honesty . . . Men employees are given one evening each week for courting purposes . . . and two if they go to prayer-meeting regularly . . . after 14 hours of work each day in the store, the leisure time must be spent in reading good literature.
 If the author of these rules could have looked into the future what would he have thought of the girls with modern make-up and the clerks who take in the night life with them . . . during their leisure moments. . . .

An extraordinary story of a "Lost and Found" article is the experience of one of the young matrons of the town . . . six years ago she lost her wedding ring . . . after searching for sometime . . . she gave up all hope of ever seeing it again . . . recently she and her husband built a new home . . . they moved in . . . they unpacked some of their "Lares and Penants" in the garage at the new home . . . and out fell the wedding ring . . . she says she is more thrilled over it this time . . . than she was when it was first put on her finger . . . because she expected it then . . . and this last time it was such a thrilling surprise . . . no bride could be prouder of a brand new ring than she is over her "lost" wedding ring. . . .

The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station has found that wheat mixed with corn is satisfactory dairy feed.

"LET NO MAN PUT ASUNDER"



Voice of The People

What is your opinion of the proposal of Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau that the limit on the national debt be raised by Congress from the present \$49,000,000,000 to \$65,000,000,000 to finance the defense program?

Jonathan Woody—President of the First National Bank—"I think every citizen and taxpayer in the United States is wholeheartedly behind the defense program. It appears that we must have it, otherwise our present holdings could be endangered. However, there must be a stopping place for our national debt, otherwise we are headed for inflation, which would be most serious."

C. V. Bell—"I believe that we should maintain enough confidence in President Roosevelt and other high officials to let them decide how much should be spent on National Defense. Some drastic means of protecting this country at this time is apparently necessary. It is better to go in debt than run the chance of losing our all."

T. L. Bramlett—"I do not feel qualified to express an opinion on such, but I do trust the wisdom of the President and the secretary of the Treasury."

James B. Neal—"I think if it is necessary to have national defense,

at such a cost we will have to have it."

J. C. Patrick—"The descent and preservation of our nation comes first. If we are to keep this country free for posterity, they should be willing to share the expense of keeping it free, therefore, use all means necessary to do so."

George A. Brown, Jr.—"Under the present emergency I feel that if it is necessary to defend this country, and if it takes that much money to do it adequately, there is no other course."

R. L. Prevost—"I take it for granted that the secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau, knows his business, as to what the administration has mapped out for a Defense program, and if the program is to be carried out the necessary expenses will have to be arranged, and it takes money to do big things."

L. N. Davis—"I think that Congress should authorize expenditures to fully and sufficiently carry the defense program, even though it exceeds the limit that Mr. Morgenthau is asking."

James S. Queen—"I approve the proposal. I had rather see this country in debt than in bondage."

CLIPPINGS

STATE NOT REARMING

Among the state budget requests is one for a 10 per cent increase in all salaries in the state auditor's department except that of the auditor himself, whose salary is fixed by law at \$6,000 a year. The employees may need it, but who else is getting 10 per cent extra?
 The farmer out there in his field isn't getting it. The employee in private business isn't getting it. The teachers aren't going to get it. Many a man operating a business will be glad to get out of it as much as he did last year.

A casual look at the budget requests discloses that departments and institutions have raised their sights. They ask for a total of \$96,945,000 for the next two years, compared with \$84,223,000 estimated expenditures for the last two. This occurs, too, when the federal government will be taking more and more from the people, defense expenditures calling for what may be unlimited sums.

The State of North Carolina is not at war. It is not rearming. It is not building ships and planes and training men. It is confining

itself to regular peace-time work. It should at least restrict itself to peace-time expenditures, make an effort to cut down instead of going up.—Shelby Star.

BILLION-CRAZY

The secretary of the treasury announces that a request will be made to remove the statutory restriction on the public debt, and ask that the limit be set at \$60,000,000,000 instead of 49,000,000,000. There has been a general impression that the limit was 45 and not 49 billion. Four billion must have crept in the side door some time or other, but what's an extra \$4,000,000,000,000 these days?
 Senator Byrd, of Virginia, who plays the role of watchdog of the treasury, counters with a proposal to lift the restriction only \$5,000,000,000 at a time. More, he asks that the government should reduce its non-essential, non-defense spending "to the absolute minimum."

His voice will carry little weight. It is a voice crying in the wilderness, a wilderness of billions upon billions of dollars. We are on our way now, roaring along the way, and saying it with billions. A billion dollars used to be

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Stewart Ask

All Signs Point To Coming Boom—but Afterward

By CHARLES F. STEWART
 Central Press Column
 Various things are following our present forecast.
 For instance, it's pure speculation how. But, as the law was under con-



Mrs. Roosevelt

think it should be our policy.

And prohibition is trying itself into the situation. In a radio forum some ago as potent a voice Eleanor Roosevelt's was in favor of prohibition of alcohol. She expressed the hope that there will be universal prohibition not only for armed forces for those who remain at home. Now, conscripting men, it's a system which has lasted so long that more or less accustomed has been and is the rule in every democratic country, conscripting industrial workers, is a pretty new notion except war-torn nations which have caught women as well as men.

I wouldn't think it would be a lady to be invited to employment. It's something that Roosevelt might like to doubt a majority of us would agree with him.
 Colonel William J. Donovan, of countrywide fame, was on the same program as Mrs. Roosevelt. He said, "In university service as a national 'I'm not urging that we slow, but it's something that I think of for the That is to say, Bill comes good thing, even when it's an emergency. There are who agree with him.

Newspaper readers have noticed that Women's Temperance Union among several additional drink groups, have been adopting resolutions calling for a ban on all centers in the vicinity of concentration centers. More, many of these demand alcohol's removal everywhere—wine and beer. The movement has much headway thus far but it will, if we get into one corking good reasoning out of it.

In passing, I may recall Doctor J. M. Doran's saying that can't possibly work.

He should know. He outstanding would be only official back in Volstead was an exceedingly good too, but he couldn't get it. He confesses that he and is well satisfied that can. When prohibition went to work for the Institute.

Three Possibilities Besides permanent conscription of everybody, it's quite likely present emergency may into still further ones. Those three possibilities are, anyway.

I'll say this. Our millionaires are doing their best to make army discipline, as pleasant as they can be and file.

At the beginning of our nation in the last war, they were ample, concentrating of them at a railroad station, transportation somewhere, or would herd 'em like 'He'd shout, 'Hep! Hep! make them step properly, he'd shoot them into a box cars.

On today's occasion (several delegations of anti-tears entraining from ton) the professional in says courteous, "This is tlemen." And if they're for an overnight trip, he them into a solid train mans.

There's none of that, never get rich digging a voice in the army now, you're.

The scheme's to democrat whole outfit.

It's anybody's guess but this politeness will last. I date it's exemplar, if I depends I wouldn't mind a soldier myself under circumstances.

real money; now it's mere feed.
 The nation always has of lunacy in periods of stress. Sometimes it takes form at others another. We are a little spend-crazy to think and talk of especially billions of dollars. Shelby Star.