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Saturday School Attendance

County school authorities are right much perturbed about the poor attendance at the white schools last Saturday, the first of eight Saturdays on which white children are being required to attend school this year. Only at Ashemont school was attendance considered good.

In the colored schools Saturday classes were begun early last fall and now their attendance on Saturdays compares very favorably with the other days of the week. The white schools will have only eight weeks during which school will be held for six days, to make out their full nine-months terms and complete the school year on May 31, and the school officials and county Board of Education do not feel they are asking too much of the parents and children when they insist on more cooperation in this matter of attendance.

The Saturday classes were instituted this year, along with the nine-months term, in order to be able to close the schools as early in the spring as possible that the children might be available for work on the farms at a time when crop demands are greatest. The Board knows that these are extraordinary times, and this extraordinary matter of handling the schedules is an effort to meet the demands of a county so predominately agricultural as Hoke. Never-the-less, the nine-month term is a matter of law and the Board must conform to the requirements thereof in the number of class days of each school term. Too, the basis of teacher allotment is made upon the best six months of the year for attendance, and these have usually been largely in the winter months. If the average attendance drops much lower the county stands to lose a number of teachers next year. The loss of teachers in some of the grammar schools will bring about a serious situation which will result in some teachers having inordinately heavy pupil loads next year for several months of the term. The Board recognizes the fact that such a situation will not be at all to the liking of many patrons. Consolidation of classes will necessarily result and there will be a resulting disadvantage to the pupils.

Too, with schools running six days per week now, and many pupils attending but five days, the pupils are losing one-sixth of the training value from a week's school. This, and the accompanying loss of interest due to inequities in training between students of equal abilities is likely to lead to truancy on the part of some students and to an apathy on the part of others which will result in failure to make passing grades, and loss of the year's work.

County Superintendent K. A. MacDonald states that the patrons have been demanding the nine-months term for many years and, now, it being instituted, many parents here are failing to cooperate sufficiently to assure success in the rural areas. Yet, he points out, the six-day week has been in use in a number of other counties and in most it has met with usually fine success.

Children-like, most youngsters will stay away from school if they have an opportunity. Attendance on Saturdays is a matter, largely, of parental cooperation with the schools. If the nine-months term is to operate successfully here, opening late in summer and early closing in the spring is necessary. To close early in the spring it will be necessary to have classes for a few weeks for six-day weeks, unless the parents see that their children attend these extra days, attendance records will be so poor that the county will suffer additional loss of teachers and, instead of helping, the nine-months term will eventually result in a lowering of the present high educational standards of the Hoke County Schools.

Comstockian Mr. Walker Bans Esquire

In revoking the second class mailing permit of Esquire, Postmaster General Frank Walker appears to have set himself up as a dictator and has made a first step toward ruling out the "cheesecake" from the "slick" publications.

Just why he selected Esquire is not explained. There are many of the more popular magazines which cater to the eye with greater expanses of unclothed feminine bodies of the deluxe designs, and whose subject matter, too, deals with sex-stimulant matter. The few copies of Esquire which we have read were as free from such stories as the venerable Atlantic Monthly. Mr. Walker placed no charge of obscenity—just stating that he believed the publication was making no worthy contribution to the reading public.

As the High Point Enterprise so pointedly states: "We realize that Esquire is offensive to some people. So are the communistic Daily Worker, Bob Reynolds' Vindicator and the Chicago Tribune. So are other magazines to you. But Mr. Walker is not the national dictator of tastes and opinions. And if he was, he could not get away with it. That sort of thing has been tried a thousand times and every time it has been tried it has done more harm than good."

The publisher of the magazine will have a chance to argue his case before the magazine is finally excluded from the mails, and we will

venture to predict that the publisher will win his case. Then, when his magazine next appears, the sale will have been greatly boosted by this pernickety and misguided attempt at high-handed punishment by Mr. Walker. The Comstock crowd of Boston made a success of the struggling American Mercury for Mencken and Nathan because of a story named "Hatrack." ... Remember?

OPINIONS and SENTIMENTS From Other Editors

Inside Germany

(Rocky Mount Evening Telegram)

Americans probably get more sheer delight in reading speculative reports of what is going to happen inside of Germany than they do of actual accounts of what has already taken place. For the past two years the dearth of any clear reports has made us grasp at any rumors or statements from the two neutral nations, Switzerland and Sweden, despite the fact that it is readily understood that both are filled with Axis spies and topnotch Axis propaganda agents.

Yet because we want desperately to know how much longer this war is going to last we are prone to digest even the briefest of reports. For that reason, the comments of a Swedish aviation expert are to be taken with the proverbial grain of salt but nevertheless must be added to that already overflowing bag of speculations.

Stig Wennerstroem, Swedish aviation commentator, believes that Germany is shaken to her very foundations by bombing and that an invasion might cause the Nazi home front to collapse. Yet he does not believe that bombing raids can completely conquer the Germans, "since this could only wound and not kill the Reich's decentralized industry." Yet he goes on to say that "there is no question that the bomb war is very effective because it is a fact that Germany is shaken to her very foundations. How much more the home front can stand is a complicated question. What happened to Italy could happen to Germany at the moment of invasion. Germany may be so weakened materially and her morale may be sapped to such an extent that only the mere fact of invasion might cause a collapse."

It must be noted here that his opinion about the possible collapse of Germany is not shared by some Swedish correspondents stationed in Berlin. While in Sweden for Christmas some of these men are reported to have said that the bombings drew the German people closer together, a fact which may well be true since it happened in England in 1940.

Magnificently Done

(The Charlotte Observer)

Governor Broughton made a courageous approach to the question, "How Can the Democrats Win in 1944?", in his Town Hall discussion last night in New York.

The North Carolina chief executive laid down a clear-cut pattern as to what the party must do in order to win—and much of that which he outlined as being imperative to this end is corrective and reformative of present administration policies relating to domestic situations.

Here it was that the Governor exhibited not merely his faith, but the only basis upon which he maintains his faith in another Democratic victory—that, and the certainty that a "liberal" candidate will be offered for the Presidency.

Some of the danger-signs which strew the way to victory for the party in 1944 were enumerated as being these:

Growing apprehension among the people that the party's program involves the extinction of free enterprise;

Too much bureaucratic regulation;

Loss of substantial farmer-vote;

Grave concern of the public over non-essential spending;

The danger of extermination in which small business finds itself;

Federal encroachment upon the rights of states;

The "political turmoil" in the South over the national party's repudiation of principles of Jeffersonian democracy;

Threat of post-war unemployment.

In citing these factors as imperiling the chances of Democratic success in 1944, Governor Broughton put his fingers on the central arteries of the party's vulnerable body.

That he had the courage fearlessly to stand up and point out these weaknesses and to challenge the present leadership of the party to correct its position on these issues and to give the American public abundant reassurance as to its intentions speaks memorably of the political intrepidity of the Governor.

His address was not only among the most statesmanly of the many illustrious utterances he has made here at home and across the nation since becoming the State's chief magistrate, but of tremendous significance as bearing upon the next Presidential campaign.

Governor Broughton ought to go to the rostrum of the next Democratic convention and make this speech all over again before the assembled delegates there.

And then he should be placed at the head of the party's next platform committee to write into that document the policies and principles he so magnificently discussed in this immediate address.

Like the hermit who thought he was voting for "Teddy" in 1932, a veteran has been discovered in the wilds of Montana who thinks Dewey ought to be elected if for no other reason than that he whipped the Spaniards in Manila Bay—Christian Science Monitor.

There is no Forgotten Man today, recently marked the Man on the Eighty Twenty. If he didn't get a Christmas card from somebody, he certainly will get an income-tax blank in a very few days.—Christian Science Monitor.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER GETS HIT AGAIN

WASHINGTON. — Congressional taxmakers entered an apparent gentleman's agreement earlier in the year that they would sock the individual income taxpayer no more until he had a chance to straighten himself out on the so-called "pay-as-you-go"—the device by which they half-covertly hiked his war taxes at least 25 per cent, under the benevolent guise of letting him pay currently after 1945.

Members of the house committee, and also senate finance, agreed the individual just could not stand more during this transition period of double taxation. Nothing was written down, but public statements were issued by many members to this effect.

Now, after nine months of searching for new methods of taxation—and failing to consider seriously a single new method, not even voting on a sales tax or a spending tax, or trying to reach the special restricted class of inflated war incomes—senate finance has submitted a bill:

To hit the same old individual income taxpayer and no one else, again by the stealthy method of allowing rates to remain the same while removing two important exemptions.

Elimination of the 10 per cent earned income credit will hike the individuals tax costs about 540 million dollars next year; disallowance of deductions for excise taxes will cost 150 million dollars more. In all, this bill raises income taxes again by about 700 million dollars.

How did they dare do it? Chiefly because a thoughtlessly false, if not intentionally deceptive, propaganda has been built up before the public. Taxmakers in their giddiness or frustration have come to believe their own words—"The country can stand more taxes." "People have money to burn." "Danger of inflation."

The truth is, certain war working people have greatly increased incomes, but most people have much less after taxes and high prices.

No one advertises the truth that this government increased its toll on the income taxpayer 152 per cent the first five months of this fiscal government year (July to December) over last year. Little do you hear of taxation rising 700 per cent in three major bills since Pearl Harbor, the brunt falling on old taxpayers, not the inconsiderable new war workers (nine million new Victory taxpayers pay only 162 million dollars).

A struggling married wage earner getting \$5,000 today must pay 20 per cent or \$1,000 to his federal government, in addition to state and county taxes and other federal levies on cigarettes, liquor, etc.

IT'S A REAL STRUGGLE

All you hear are expert arguments about inflation with generalized overall national figures about swollen incomes, nothing about this \$5,000 man trying to buy bonds, pay with-holding, terrific prices, and raise a family on about half or less of what he earns.

No one, absolutely no one, takes the part of the individual taxpayer. The way the propaganda has been set up, it is considered unpopular, even remotely unpatriotic to do so.

But generalized average taxation already is \$357 per person here compared with \$291 in Britain and \$261 in Canada, and our people already pay eight times more than in World War I.

MIRACLE NEEDED TO WIN ELECTION '44

Mr. Roosevelt, the miracle man of politics, is now supposed to be whipping up another one for 1944.

His tactics abroad confirm the expectation within Democratic ranks that he will again completely reorganize his lines for the coming election. Certainly a miracle is demanded by the current condition of the Democratic party and the frayed, worn strategems of the New Deal.

His actions suggest he is working toward two main developments, an agreement with Russia (not as a unified permanent American foreign policy, but as a personal Roosevelt venture, engineered by him alone and to be led by him alone)—and secondly, a direct campaign for the soldier vote to bring the bulk of these decisive 10 million absentee ballots, or a great majority of them, into the administration camp, regardless of what congress is now doing to prevent it.

His aides are working ardently to get through his \$300 soldier demobilization pay bill.

Amidst the soldier heraldry in congress, Mr. Roosevelt has conspicuous success as much, or more time recruiting troops in Egypt, Sicily and North Africa than with the Russians.

Meanwhile his radio and other commentators are singing in significant unison against the dastardliness of congressional action in leaving the soldier vote collection to the states. Obviously the last has not been heard of this subject.

SOME PLEDGES ARE KEPT



By the solemn oath they take, our men and women in service pledge "true faith and allegiance to the United States of America," and to "serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies."

They keep that pledge. Even if it means giving up their precious young lives—they keep that pledge.

What, then, is there to be said about the "no-strike-in-wartime" pledge?

POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. SCOTT POOLE

All grain in this part of the state was ground by water mills in the earlier years of my life. Jesse Thomas who had a grist mill on Drowning creek a half mile above my father's farm had the best head of water and did more grinding dry summers than any miller in that section.

President Roosevelt's administration claims to have done something in the way of both drought and flood control. Since he came to the presidency of the United States a number of great power dams have been constructed, and electric power is the power for all uses. Electric power has done much toward taking drudgery out of all labor, except farm work. How to ride and plow helps, but you cannot ride and chop cotton, nor thin any plants to a stand.

In the latter 1870's matches came in round wooden boxes, and Make Blue made a telephone by punching a hole in the bottom of two match-boxes, knotting a string forty feet long, and let you hold one to your ear while he held the other to his ear and you whispered to each other. The string was poked through a hole in the bottom of the match box and a knot tied on the end of it. You could hear the whisper as if the whispering mouth was at your ear.

Over in upper Richmond county

was the poorest farming section I knew. It took an average of ten acres of cotton to make a bale, and why all the folks in that section did not move I never knew.

However, there had been a good growth of long leaf pine on that land and after the turpentine had been worked out, and the timber cut, some cleared the land and stayed there even until now.

The wooden cane mills, and the syrup cooked in washpots was better syrup that it looked to be, but the mills did not get all the juice out of the stalks. That syrup was better than some I have seen made on modern equipment.

They have done more in learning how to destroy human life than in any other way it seems, but the surgeons have made and are making a wonderful record in their treatment of the wounded in this war. They cure the wound and the scar.

The better class of citizens of other nations were captured and enslaved by the Roman government about the time Christ was on earth. It would be an impossibility for citizens of any country to be kept in servitude now as was done 1940 years ago.

Government is growing more expensive as time flies. The tax rate in this country will be something worth considering after the present war is over. I believe one thing will be a necessity after this war is over, and

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OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

"You can't eat your cake and have it too." — OLD SAYING.



WE CAN'T BUY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT—SPEND EVERYTHING WE EARN—AND STILL EXPECT TO HAVE SECURITY FOR OUR FAMILY.



WE CAN BUY NECESSARY THINGS AND SET ASIDE A PORTION OF OUR EARNINGS IN WAR BONDS, SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND LIFE INSURANCE. THEN WE WILL HAVE SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE.