

THE ELKIN TRIBUNE

AND RENFRO RECORD

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second-class matter.C. S. FOSTER..... President
H. F. LAFFOON..... Secretary-TreasurerSUBSCRIPTION RATES, PER YEAR
In the State, \$1.50 Out of the State, \$2.00**Let's Make It Permanent**

It has been definitely demonstrated that Elkin can put over a community fair that is worthy of the name. Those who attended the two-day event here last week can testify to that. It is no small task to get together such a splendid exhibit, and yet it is a job for which there is no remuneration. It is one that is paid for in "thank you's" and there should be plenty of such payment.

The community owes Messrs. Poindexter, Armfield and all who were charged with the responsibility of putting the fair across, a debt of gratitude that should not be overlooked. It was not entered into in any selfish spirit or with any hope of reward; it was a community enterprise made successful by the community spirit upon which our little city depends more than we realize.

The fact that the exhibit was confined to the purpose of promoting agricultural and community projects is commendable. Fairs that deviate from such purpose to include the whoopee and carnival attractions often defeat the very objective for which it was organized.

After viewing the exhibits here last week there can be only one conclusion, and that is that it must be made a permanent event—one that will be looked forward to with anticipation for the next twelve-month period.

The farmers of this section are to be commended for their splendid co-operation, and congratulated in their ability to present attractive exhibits. Having seen what their neighbor has done this year they will of course be better prepared for next year—and there is where the real benefit of a fair comes in.

To Be Commended

The City Board is to be commended for its refusal to open the city to the carnival company whose booking agent had scheduled an appearance here. We know nothing of the merits of the show itself; it may have a snow-white record or it may be reeking with filth for all we know, but this is no time for frivolities of any kind that may be attended by a question mark.

In the first place Elkin is engaged in the important task of staging a comeback after a depression that has been featured with numerous stumbling blocks, and our nickels and dimes are needed as fighting tools, rather than to be chanced on roulette wheels and risqué shows.

We yield to no one in advocacy of abundant recreation for all, young and old, so long as it is a healthy sort. But attractions that are open to question should be dealt with just as our city fathers have handled this one. They should be, and we are sure they are, backed by the approval of public sentiment in placing thumbs down on any proposal to bring shows here that are not elevating—even in the name of pleasure and recreation.

Improvement Continues

Indications of a business revival continue in evidence. Operations of cotton manufacturing plants were advanced further beyond seasonal levels in the southeastern states during the past week, with more expansion in prospect on account of a steady inflow of orders. Employment, of course, has increased with this expansion. At several points an increase in pay has accompanied an increase in the number of working days per week, and this furnishes definite encouragement.

Louis R. Brown, a high official in the General Electric Company says: "In the electrical industry we are speaking of the depression as though it had passed from the current news into the books of history. We believe that there are many indications of the correctness of this attitude. Aside from the favorable signs in the general business situation, the electrical industry itself is in an enviable position." And then Mr. Brown goes on to recite the thousands of applications for electricity that are not yet fully developed, and to point out its tremendous future.

According to the American Railway association, freight car loading last week showed an increase of 8,444 cars over the week before, with 595,746 cars as a new high record for the year.

Foreign purchase of wheat, cotton and petroleum were reported by the United States Chamber of Commerce as "extraordinarily large" during the first six months of the year.

If cotton and tobacco prices would only reach a decent level and stay there, we could go about the business of reconstruction with less worry. But we have an abiding faith that these commodities will follow the general adjustment of business conditions.

The thought that has lurked in the minds of many that the enumeration of these improvements in business is but political propaganda, indulged in to promote Republican success at the polls in November, seems to be unfounded. Hard-boiled business men whose dollars have been inactive for so long are eager to put them to work, and when there is apparent safety, they will not pause to consider being a wet nurse to any political party—that is the majority of them who are engaged in legitimate industry will not.

Popular Government

The institute of Government, conducted at Chapel Hill under the direction Albert Coates has cut out a big job for itself but if it anywhere near approximates its ideals and objectives, North Carolina will be deeply indebted.

In the words of one of the officials: "The governmental program of the Institute offers an investment which in terms of dollars and cents, in terms of improved governmental processes, in terms of public knowledge, understanding and confidence in our governmental institutions, will pay higher and surer returns to the citizens and taxpayers and future generations than any other offered to the people of North Carolina." We are inclined to agree with him.

To state it briefly, the purpose of the Institute of Government is to provide instructional service to city, county and state officials that will enable them to measure up to the responsibilities of their office with more efficiency and with less duplicative effort.

Mr. Coates points out that under our system of popular government newly elected officers come into the administration of public affairs, every two or four years, unprepared for the duties of the office they hold. The uncertainties of political life do not offer them incentives to study the responsibilities of a public office before they seek it, and the democracy which clothes them with the public trust does not provide them with training to fit them to discharge it.

Our system provides no training for these jobs, and our method of selection has little regard for the fitness of a candidate who offers for the place. He goes into office unable to avoid mistakes that prove costly to the public; he learns only by experience that is expensive to the taxpayer, and when he is defeated by another he is not in a frame of mind to pass on to his successor the benefits of his experience. Those who follow him would gladly learn but cannot find one who would gladly teach.

Under this system it can easily be seen that with every rotation of officers in every general election the continuity of governmental experience is broken, accumulated governmental knowledge is wasted and government is forever in the hands of beginners who are not always fitted with ability nor always attended by luck.

The people must pay for this costly training in the end. As governmental service expands, as it is expanding each succeeding year, the bill becomes higher and higher, and the cost is attached to the tax receipt, a little piece of paper that is almost unweighable but which has weighted us down until some of us can hardly move.

It may thus be seen that the wisdom of Solomon is not needed to appraise the value of such a service as that conceived by those at the University who have interested themselves in providing each governmental officer with the methods, techniques and practices rising out of the initiatives and resourcefulness of other officers in similar offices in this and other states.

Courting the Negro Vote

President Hoover has evidently come to the conclusion that there is little hope of holding the 1928 Republican gain in the South at the polls next November, and is making a bid for negro support in the North where they hold the balance in many states.

Last Saturday he entertained the negro "four hundred" on the White House grounds and was photographed as the central figure in a group of 150 or more. These negroes were the guests of the national Republican advisory board and planning committee at a banquet in their honor, which all the more accentuates the open bid the party is making to hold the negroes in line in the North and virtually discloses that they have abandoned hope of carrying the five southern states again this year. And they are correct in their analysis, because the South went "haywire" in 1928—voting for Republican candidates that year did not mean that they had gone Republican.

Abundant campaign funds of other years have meant meal tickets for negroes who did not need them so badly then as they do now, and the clamor, for that reason must be heeded by those who would hold them in line. By toadying to their demands for recognition the Republican high command reveals the panic in which it finds itself at this stage of the game.

Affected by the economic distress to probably a greater degree than their white brethren, they are not averse to blaming their misfortune to the party in power, and a revolt has been threatening for a long time. But this picture alongside the President will go a long way toward quieting them, even though the gnawing at their intrals cannot be helped thereby.

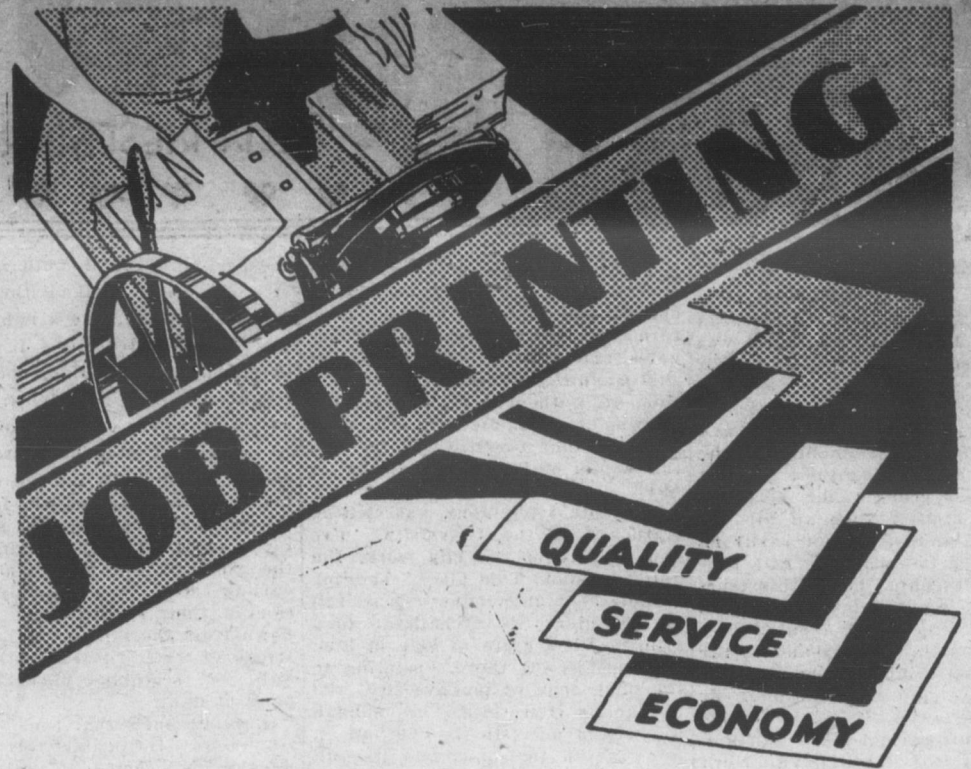
We of the South are perhaps too hasty in our criticism of anything that smacks of racial equality; we forget that the head of our government is president of all the people. If he wishes to entertain the DePriests purely as an act of impartiality, we are inclined to grant him that privilege without censure. But when he places himself in a group of negroes to be photographed for purely political advancement, he crosses a line of demarcation that is foreign to anything connected with his official duties, and lets the gap down for criticism that is sure to come from at least one section of the country.

Taxation with representation isn't so hot, either.—Arkansas Gazette.

After the white man stole the Indian's land the women came along and grabbed off his war paint.—Florida Times-Union.

Tourists are people who travel 200 miles to get kodak pictures of themselves standing by the car.—Canton Repository.

A resort is a place where the natives charge you enough in three months to live happily the other nine.—Buffalo News.



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