

The Madison Messenger

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Subscription: \$1.50 Per Year

MADISON, N. C., APRIL 28, 1932

Maybe a laugh is good for what ails us, but alas, what ails us ain't good for a laugh.

It has been a case of too many laws and too many fragrant miscarriages of justice under the laws that have given rise to a growing disrespect for law with its accompanying increase in all forms of crime.

It really appears that Al Smith has carried at least one state in the hunt for delegates—Massachusetts. We guess he and Raskob and Shouse are happy, for it looked at one time like he was not going to round up very many delegates.

The National Cautail is so full of wet propagandists chattering about the loss of their liberties that one might suppose that all the other great national questions did not concern family relief, unemployment, a balanced budget, or protection from foreign wars. Even the country newspapers are being fed wet propaganda by "their own correspondent," and they seem to be falling for it.

PLAIN TALK FROM FARMERS

Application of common sense to government farm problems is again being urged upon Washington by farmers throughout the country. The latest advice along this line directs attention to overlapping of activities between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior. Speaking for the farmers, Tom Carthart, editor of The Country Home, addresses an open letter to Ray Lyman Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior.

"Dear Mr. Secretary," writes Editor Carthart, "you have an extraordinary opportunity to help hard-pressed taxpayers, to confer a great benefit on the farmers, and to prove yourself a generous and far-sighted public servant.

"Nobody knows better than you what a crazy quilt our government has become. Bureaus and commissions have become so plentiful that not even old residents can name them all. Some are independent and others are scattered through the various departments without logic or reason.

"Take your own department, for instance. Among other bureaus you have the Reclamation Service and the General Land Office. They should be transferred to the Department of Agriculture for many sound reasons and convincing reasons, as you being an intelligent man, very well know.

"Take your Reclamation Bureau, which is now considering a \$400,000,000 irrigation project in the Columbia River Basin, to yield more than a million acres of new farm lands. The plain fact is that too much land is now being used for agriculture. It is necessary to restrict rather than increase the productive farm lands, if agricultural unrest is to be dispelled by fair prices.

"No progress in these matters can be made while the responsibility is divided, and while sundry bureaus work independently and without thought of the major problem. Why don't you inform your associates in the Cabinet and notify the President that in the interest of the nation you are willing to surrender these bureaus which properly belong in the Department of Agriculture? Such a surrender would be an act of statesmanship which would be long remembered and appreciated."

WHY IT'S SOLID

"Believe it or not," Sunday's Greensboro News appeared without an article from "Aristocrat." But Monday there were two in the News from him, so that made up for the omission. One of them had to do with the slavery party in the South, meaning of course the Democratic party. In that "Aristocrat" aspires to be treasurer of the State, one can appreciate his views, for he knows far in advance that he will never land the job. But, in order to keep history straight it must be remembered that the party to which the "Aristocrat" belongs is responsible for the "slave party" in the South, meaning of course the Solid South. Had the party to which he belongs adopted a different attitude toward the South after the Civil War the people of the South would have had a great deal more respect for it than they now have, and in all probability the South would not have presented a solid front, which was done in self protection. And there are enough of the "old boys" left to remember these things, and they remain solid from principle rather than expediency. No, the carpetbaggers and ignorant negroes which were forced down the throats of the Southern people just after the Civil War by the party to which "Aristocrat" points with pride are responsible for the Solid South. And all the communications that he can write between now and doomsday will not change the situation.

THE BONUS QUEST

Congress has been diligently canvassed to pledge a majority for the two billion dollars with which to pay war veterans the face value of bonus certificates that by the present law are to mature in 1945. No sooner is balancing the

budget in sight, than it is proposed to disjoint it with commitment so radical as to threaten the country's financial structure. Whether this cash bonus were paid with fiat money, as some suggest, or with a further issuance of bonds, adding to the national debt, its influence upon the credit stability of the country would be disastrous. Many believe that it would precipitate a new crisis of such magnitude as to dwarf our present difficulties, under which the country groans with distress. Two billion dollars cannot be picked from the cherry trees growing by the Potomac. They must come from some place where sweaty-browed taxpayers have put them. These dollars must be paid in before they can be paid out.

We do not believe that the majority of the men who served in the great war would be willing, when they see the cold facts, to place in financial jeopardy a cause which they did so much to preserve. To seek payment now is to embarrass the country, to threaten the welfare of all that has been fought for.

TAXES MUST COME DOWN

Taxes and the cost of government must be reduced because the people are demanding it in all sections of the country and because things can't continue as they are. Business men and wage earners are crying out against the oppressive load of taxation. And when the masses raise their voices, the leaders are forced to listen. That is one advantage of a Democracy.

There are 110 government bureaus in operation at present time. Practically all of these can be eliminated and the country will rock along as smoothly as ever. The government is engaged in 250 types of business and has deprived capital and individuals of opportunity and at the same time has made private capital and individuals pay the bill.

Taxes are now absorbing 3 per cent of the wealth of the country. Six per cent is a normal return. Wealth is paying half of its return in taxes.

Since wages have been reduced and business profits cut to the bone, there is no reason why the government shouldn't follow the same trend. Governments are operated to protect the people and not to ruin them.

BUGS AND BLUE MOLD HELP

It seems that the bugs and blue mold have decided that it is not fair for the tobacco manufacturers to get all the weed for nothing, so they are stepping to the front just at this time and taking their share before these manufacturers get a chance to grab it for nothing. Really, they appear to be doing the growers a favor, for the grower will not have to work all the summer in the broiling sun to produce it and then get less than the cost of production—the bugs and blue mold will save him that trouble and expense. But—it is to be hoped that the alleged shortage of the crop down east and in South Carolina and Georgia will not induce those growers, who had decided to curtail their output, to increase it on the strength of this alleged shortage, for this is the same old cry we have every year. It is safe to say that more tobacco will be produced this year than the growers will get a living price for, more's the pity.

TIME TO GET BUSY

The spring season has arrived. Now is the time to make the needed repairs or a coat of paint for the house and garage, the planning of a garden, or getting the lawn in shape with seed and fertilizer for the summer, or some interior changes or refurbishings in the home. Probably every home needs something and not in many, many years were materials as cheap, or good labor available at such reasonable wages. Many families will be able to do this work themselves, but if unable to do it yourself get busy and employ as many people as you can. Work is needed by scores of men and women, and by giving employment to them you are helping yourself and everyone else in the community, either directly or indirectly.

FIGHTING HIS FRIEND

Al Smith developed more strength in Massachusetts than was expected, and many political prognosticators are predicting that he will yet develop enough following to check the advance of Roosevelt. It seems that this is Smith's main object—he knows that he cannot secure the nomination, and at the same time knows he could not be elected were he to secure it, yet he seems determined to put himself and his followers in position to dominate the approaching Democratic convention. Just why he should treat his erstwhile friend, Roosevelt, in such a manner is causing a great deal of unfavorable comment, even among those who so ardently supported him four years ago.

FOR FUTURE FARM POWER

A farmer considering whether or not he should raise his own source of power may well ask what the demand for his horses is likely to be three or four years from now as compared to other classes of livestock. The cost of raising a colt to useful age for farm work, as based on data secured by the U. S. Department of Agriculture previous to the war, is \$104 according to Henry and Morrison. That it has not been generally profitable during the past ten years for farmers to raise their own farm power is shown by the fact that there is at present only about one colt to every 12 farms.

LETTERS TO GEORGE

(Being Excerpts From The Private Correspondence of Henry Hardcastle.)

THE SECOND MONDAY IN JUNE

Dear George:

Well I see where the attorney general of N. C. has finally and definitely set the second Monday in June for the sale of property to satisfy back taxes. That's tough. The best thing the Democrats can do politically now is to try and stall off those sales until after the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, let the Republicans get elected, stall a little longer until they take office, and then saddle them with responsibility for these tax sales.

This country has never seen politicians in such a fix. It has come to where both major political parties would love to relinquish the country to some third party until the country could be gotten prosperous enough to pay taxes again. Its a hell of a depression when even politics don't pay. And despite the fact that politicians and political factions own and control newspaper propagandists generally throughout the country, the majority of citizens are beginning to look on political office holders as a type of gangster. That's an awful state of affairs, but if you do not believe it is true take a look around your own community. Recently one of the leading College Papers of the U. S. stated that the reason college students shun politics is because of this growing tendency to attach stigma to a politician.

That is a very bad condition of affairs for many reasons. It makes it unfair to the honest and sincere among our political office holders, and handicaps their efforts toward some laws and constructive legislation. It keeps the very type we most need in our public affairs today from running or accepting nomination, in an effort to obtain a political office. We need not a professed political candidate for an office today, but a business man and property owner who has the guts to demand, and fight until he gets, a reasonable set of laws and a tax rate and collection and distribution system, that will cut Government expenses in half, restore our confidence in Government, and make the owning and accumulation of property a safe and sane business of life. Unless such men and women are persuaded to run for office and this reduction and legislation put in effect, North Carolina and the majority of her counties and municipalities, will have to repudiate the public debts, and chaos will reign where the political treads.

A letter in a recent issue of the Greensboro News, Public Pulse Column, was calling on school teachers to get together and fight tax reduction, etc., and it made the statement as a threat to present any would-be office holders, that, "It should not be forgotten that the State's business is the biggest business within the State." That is the attitude that is ruining the country today. The attitude that has made it a liability to own any kind of property today. The attitude that makes it possible for some little political ward-heeler in the form of a tax lister to ask you under oath what your bank account is, if you have a sewing machine, chicken, cow, pig, building material, watch, gun, pistol, land under cultivation, beds, chairs, etc., etc.? That's the attitude that if allowed reign for much longer will make it possible for the tax listers to ask you under oath how many pairs of drawers and undershirts you own, the regularity of your bowels, and other even more personal questions, in order that these things may also be taxed. Many of the present day tax listers apologize for the questions they are supposed to ask when listing personal property. Some even ignore them, especially when the listing party is known to them personally.

The State's biggest business is to protect the rights and property of her citizens. That was the original idea in organizing the sovereign "State." Our constitution says that our Government shall be by the people and for the people. Now comes one fearing reduction in school funds saying, "The State's business is the biggest business within the State." Literally the State's biggest business is to levy and secure and transfer funds from her citizens and their property to the office holders, school teachers, and politicians! That's the State's BIGGEST BUSINESS! That is why the second Monday in June will make thousands of the State's citizens homeless!

The general public is slow to wrath, but once aroused they become like unto the wrath of God. The officers of the American Legion have been powerless to quell the pseudo-patriotic demands of the pseudo-patriotic within their ranks, and the Legion has fallen into evil repute in the eyes of substantial citizens. If the conservative and long-headed among the school teachers do not soon curb the greediness and grasping that is being aired in the name of their profession, they are inviting disaster in the way of public disgust, and the surest way

JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER —BY— CARL GOERCH

Last Saturday I drove to Williamston and, while passing through the streets of that enterprising little city, saw Rev. Charles H. Dickey walking along. He's the chap who writes the "Small Town Musings" in the Raleigh News and Observer every Sunday.

I hailed him and he got into the car. "Where can we get a drink?" I asked.

"Drive down to one of the filling stations near the edge of town," he suggested.

While we were riding along, he started telling me about an article he had in mind for magazine publication. We stopped in front of a filling station and an old lady came out to wait on us. I ordered the drinks and she brought them out to us. Then, while we were sitting there talking and drinking, she stood close by, apparently very much interested in what Mr. Dickey was saying.

When we got through, I told him about a special article that I was trying to write, and the old lady seemed to be just as greatly interested in what I was saying as she had been in what Mr. Dickey had said. I caught an occasional glimpse of her out of the corner of one eye.

"By the way, Dickey," I remarked. "I certainly am glad I saw you this afternoon. I want to tell you of the most sensational piece of news I have heard in a long time."

"What is it?" he wanted to know.

"Well," I continued, "I don't talk scandal and gossip, as a rule, but still I can't help telling you about this particular episode, because everybody in and around Williamston is going to be greatly interested in it. Before I say a word about it, I want you to promise solemnly that you won't mention it to a soul."

"I'll promise," he replied.

"It directly concerns some very prominent people in Williamston," I continued, "and if the news of what I am going to tell you should get out, there would be havoc to play. Just the same, it is one of the choicest pieces of gossip I ever heard and that's the reason I want to tell it to somebody. I accidentally found out about it three or four days ago and I want your opinion about the matter."

"If it is anything you think I should know, I can assure you that I won't tell a soul about it," he reiterated.

"I hope you won't forget that," I told him. "Now then, here's the story."

And then, without saying another word, I reached forward, turned on the switch, started the motor and drove away just as fast as I could.

As we sped up the road I turned around and looked through the rear window. The old lady was standing there, her hands upon her hips, her mouth wide open and a generally let-down look about her entire appearance.

"That," said Mr. Dickey, "was the meanest trick I ever saw played on anyone. That old lady won't sleep for a month, trying to figure out what the scandal was about and whom it concerned. I can't imagine a more annoying predicament in which to be placed."

I agreed with him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I am a candidate to succeed myself in the next Legislature and will appreciate the support of my friends.
LILY C. MEBANE.

Lemon Sherbet
6 lemons, juice of all and grated rind of 3
1 orange, juice and grated rind
1 pint of hot water
3-4 pint of sugar
Method: Mix juice, powdered sugar and rind. Pour hot water over mixture. Strain through cheesecloth and freeze.

Read The Messenger ads.

to crystalize this public sentiment is to hoot at a tax payer. Education, an organized system for job holders, managed to get laws passed making it compulsory for all children of school age to go to school. Whether a child is or is not mentally or physically capable, whether he has books, clothes, a bed or home to sleep in, he must go to school! This was done in order to assess everyone for school taxes—I beg pardon—done in order to assess all listed property for school taxes, in order that the most wonderful thing in all the world could be put in reach of every man's child. No more effective way could have been found to cheapen education. Carpet the world with diamonds, and they are worth no more than the grains of sand.

Regards to Evelyn.
Sincerely,
HENRY HARDCASTLE.

Friday-Saturday Specials

We are offering our entire stock of Ladies' Silk Dresses at special prices for these two days only.

25 Dresses, \$3.95 regular price **\$2.95**
18 Dresses, \$5.00 regular price **3.95**
10 Dresses, \$10.00 regular price **7.35**

All this season's Dresses

D. W. BUSICK'S SON

Odd—but TRUE

RESPONSIBILITY

UPON no other industry falls the stupendous responsibility that is the railroads' charge of one-half a cent per ton. Of the total claims presented during the year, more than 88 per cent were handled to a conclusion within 30 days. And during the past three years, the N. & W. has carried 5,426,505 revenue passengers without a single fatality.

In fulfilling this public trust, railroads have expended billions of dollars for the finest equipment and facilities that can be obtained. They provide and maintain every modern railway safety device and appliance, extensive freight terminals, freight depots, storage warehouses, passenger terminals and stations. They have trained representatives to serve the shipping and traveling public in every hamlet and metropolis. The railroads are dependable; they carry anything, anywhere, any time, in all kinds of weather. And the railroads are financially responsible.

The Norfolk and Western, and the other railroads of the country, are keenly conscious of the great responsibility resting upon them. Certainly, the facts presented here show that they are continuously fulfilling the trust placed with them. Because of these things and because of their records for safety, efficiency and dependability, the railroads feel justified in asking the continued support and patronage of the American public.

That the Norfolk and Western Railway always "measures up" in fulfilling your trust, is strikingly illustrated by the railroad's extraordinary achievements in safety and efficiency. Here is the record: In 1931 the Norfolk and Western moved 39,101,285 tons of revenue freight with the remarkably low claim

NORFOLK AND WESTERN RAILWAY
"PRECISION TRANSPORTATION"
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA