

The Cleveland Star

SHELBY, N. C.

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We wish to call your attention to the fact that it is and has been our custom to charge five cents per line for resolutions of respect, cards of thanks and obituary notices, after one death notice has been published. This will be strictly adhered to.

MONDAY, FEB. 15, 1932

TWINKLES

Ye Twinkler's own prize thought of the week: All the Hoover jokes end to end might reach to that famous corner around which prosperity is preparing to turn.

The European nations may kick at the claim the Americans won the war, but they're not quite so unreasonable about standing aside and permitting us to pay the bill.

Now that the light plant controversy has cooled down, watch for new heat to show up in the county political races. Four candidates for sheriff and the lists not yet closed, while the rush hasn't opened for several of the other offices.

Of all the comment about the retirement of Andy Mellon as Secretary of the Treasury to become ambassador to Great Britain, nothing hit the spot better than the remark, "No, Mellon did not serve under three Presidents; he had the honor of having three Presidents serve under him."

LIPPMANN SEES BAKER

ONE OF THE FAVORITE pastimes of the day is that of the political prognosticators and observers who tell us over and over again, one guess after another, who will be the presidential candidates. Predicting the Republican standard-bearer isn't such a difficult task; the odds are 100-to-1 on Hoover. But there is a bigger field for guessing on the Democratic choice. It may be Roosevelt, or Baker, or Traynor, or Garner, or Smith, or Ritchie, or Byrd, or Murray, and who have you. Just now the main feature of the guessing contests centers about who it will be if it isn't Roosevelt.

Walter Lippmann without question one of the closest, most able observers and commentators on public affairs living, put Newton D. Baker out as his guess, should the tide turn from Roosevelt, and Lippmann would not be surprised if the tide turns. Baker is not so well known to the nation at large and the Lippmann remarks about him last week were, we surmise, read with interest throughout the country. The major thing the South knows about Baker is that he is one of the men Woodrow Wilson placed great faith in. That, incidentally, is as near perfect as a recommendation could be to the South as a whole. But Lippmann, in his enlightening style, tells other characteristics of interest. Baker, he says, has one of the best executive minds in the nation today—a mind remarkably adapted to leadership under present conditions. Likewise his "eloquence is unequalled among men in public men in America today." That is another good boost for him down South, down here where the spell and charm of a captivating orator and public speaker is valued more highly than anywhere else.

BLOT OF UNGRATEFULNESS

AL SMITH'S SECOND STATEMENT, clearing up to some extent his first statement about accepting the presidential nomination should it be tendered him, has modified and lessened the avalanche of criticism first directed at him by even those who loyally supported him in 1928. Al made it clear that he hardly expects the nomination, and, certainly, will not make any effort to get it. That will be comforting to many Democrats who were nauseated and troubled by the idea they might once more have to go through with such a bitter campaign and religious discussion as swept the country four years ago, for the odds are very much against Smith getting the nomination without making an effort for it. So, seemingly, he is a sulking egotist who would rule or ruin the party.

Yet it is rather evident that his statement, intentionally or unintentionally, makes a good beginning at putting the skids under the Roosevelt boom. Newton D. Baker and several others might make a more capable president, or might not, we'll not argue that point here, but even on that basis and although Smith may think so he could have shown himself up in a far nobler manner by not going back upon a friend. That angle of it still sticks in the craw of many. For instance, this view expressed by Johnston Avery in The Lenoir News-Topic, which supported Smith in 1928:

"There may be plenty of Democrats who do not desire the nomination of Franklin Roosevelt—but if Smith is one of them his ungratefulness should go down in history along with the acts of spectacular treason which blot its pages. Roosevelt, dragging himself from one sick bed after another to support the selfish Smith, should know the bitterness of a man who has been betrayed."

McADOO'S BLUNDER

WILLIAM G. McADOO in a statement published last week seems to have slipped into the web of the anti-prohibition forces. The former Wilson cabinet member, recognized as one of the outstanding drys of the country, proposed a tax upon the income of bootleggers. In doing so, as we see it, he entangled himself as an ardent prohibition in two ways. First of all, how is a government to tax a profession that it says does not exist? And if the bootlegger can be taxed by law, why can he not be curbed by law? How much difference in actuality would there be between repealing the pro-

hibition amendment than to have the law recognize the illegal racket and semi-legalize it by imposing a tax? Think of a government closing its eyes while someone violates a law and then holding out a hand for a portion of the illegal profits. Why not go ahead and admit that thieving exists, permit the thieves to get by with it and then ask a portion of the loot for the public treasury?

From another standpoint Mr. McAdoo's far from scintillating suggestion plays into the hands of the wets. They have been arguing for lo! these many months that the deficit in the national treasury and in State and school treasuries could be eliminated by repealing prohibition and taxing the manufacture and sale of liquor, the government getting a portion of the profits that make the bootleg kings and racketeers wealthy. And then McAdoo, bitter foe of repeal, steps up and suggests practically the same thing, except that he would tax the bootleg industry as an illegal business instead of legalizing it and then imposing a tax. What a hypocritical attitude that would be, refusing to recognize a business as legal yet asking for a portion of the rake-off. There would be more respect for and less hypocrisy in the plan of the outright wets. And even if Mr. McAdoo were only teasing, he has slipped to the extent of making good propaganda for the wets by letting them know he admits the government could get a good income out of a whiskey tax, and that admission automatically brings the admission that he recognized that prohibition has failed to prohibit.

RISE ABOVE THIS LEVEL

THE MATTER OF AN ELECTION on the sale of the city's light plant at the price offers so far defeated by the unanimous position of the four members of the board of aldermen, but The Star wishes to admonish the people to keep cool heads and bridled tongues.

Many harsh words have been spoken, charges of gross corruption and graft have been hinted at, and the motives of certain individuals have been questioned. Our long experience in the newspaper business has taught us not to believe all we hear. In any heated controversy, it is a common street practice to indulge in uncivil words and question the integrity and honor of men who hold conflicting views. This should not be the case. Some ardent workers on both sides of the light plant matter have sought to have The Star print in its open forum column, charges and insinuations that we would not permit to appear in print.

We cannot and do not believe there is a citizen in Shelby so base and disloyal as to accept a graft directly or indirectly in the light plant matter. The light plant is the property of the citizens as a whole and we have enough faith in our fellow citizens to believe that there is no one who would sacrifice the city's welfare for personal graft and suffer the danger of dishonor which follows. With business conditions such as they are, many people are peevish, suspicious and cross and it is our supreme hope to keep peace and harmony in the city of noble men and women who have heretofore worked unitedly for the common good.

Neither do we believe the officials of the S. P. U. to be men of low calibre who would offer graft or resort to underhanded or questionable methods to put across a deal. The power men as we know them are men of the highest character and integrity.

It is all right for our business men to honestly differ as to what is best for Shelby. It is all right to discuss facts and figures pertaining to the light plant, but it is not right in street talk to question the honor and integrity of men unless the questioner is sure of his charge. We believe our business men, those in as well as out of office, are too honorable to sacrifice their honor on the altar of greed and graft. Should we know of one to go wrong in public matters, The Star will expose him to public scorn and contempt. So when you hear baseless charges, keep your poise and speak a few quieting words.

Says Shelby Should Be Cool In Talking About Light Plant

Gastonia Gazette.
Shelby folks have something to talk about now besides politics (always a live subject in State of Cleveland) . . . it's the proposal for the sale of the Southern Power Company of the town's municipally owned light system . . . power company has offered the town \$1,100,000 for it . . . city council has been investigating and figuring and sounding out the folks on the subject . . . some favor the plan, others oppose it . . . though council has made no definite statement to that effect public seems to have idea that the city duds favor the proposition and want to call an election . . . from this distance just a word about the matter in The Star, looks like the folks are getting warmed

up over it just like they were over Al Smith and Hoover in 1928 . . . not knowing conditions there the Ambler would not undertake to advise Shelby just what is the proper thing to do about the matter . . . but we do make this suggestion, namely, that no action of any kind be taken while there is partisan feeling over the subject . . . it's a matter of too great importance to the future of the town of Shelby and county of Cleveland to be disposed of on the basis of feeling . . . cold, calculating study of the whole subject, including a consideration of the town's prospective growth and power-consuming abilities should be made . . . remember that old saying "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad" . . . in the heat of passion or acrimonious debate is no time to settle as big a question as the one Shelby now has before it.

— QUEEN CITY COACH LINES —

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Auto Leaders Want To Hear More Of Ford

Believe Magnate Will Offer New Plans For Breaking Down Sales Resistance

Detroit.—When Henry Ford told about the V-type eight and the improved four he is soon to produce, he hardly scratched the surface of what fellow leaders of the industry would like to know about his plans.

Leaders of the automotive world generally believe another announcement will be forth coming, probably with introduction of the new models, of new plans the Ford Motor company has for the breaking down the sales resistance which has all but throttled the industry for the past two years.

Plenty of Rumors
Only production plans were covered in yesterday's announcement. The rest was left to rumor, and there are plenty of them.

One is that a new financial plan is being or has been formulated. The rumor is not subject to confirmation, but repeatedly it has been suggested that the new Ford will be offered for \$100 down, with two years allowed to pay off the balance.

Whatever may be the specific plan, automotive men are convinced any changes made will represent an easing of credit to potential buyers.

While yesterday's long-awaited announcement served to clarify the atmosphere to a high degree, still another field was left open for speculation—that of price. There was no mention at all of what the new cars will sell for and the official explanation was that prices will be fixed when production costs become available. There was a belief—no more than that—that the company hopes those costs will justify marketing the new eight at the price of the old four.

Tempo Quickens.
Although the new Ford four will not be introduced until about the first of March and the eight some time later, the quickening of the tempo in the automobile and affiliated industries resulting from yesterday's announcement is expected to come much sooner. With the Ford plant in production, payrolls will mount—although Ford warned yesterday that only former Ford employees will be taken back. There were 65,000 men at work there yesterday on part and full time basis, a gain of 8,000 since the first of the year.

Then, when the plant is on a

normal production basis, 3,200 of the 5,600 firms which service Ford supplies always are working on Ford orders.

Keen Competition

There is also the factor of keen competition in the low priced field, which automobile men consider necessary to stimulate buyer interest. That is now in prospect, and approximately 75 per cent of normal automobile production is in that field.

Chevrolet, General Motors' representative in the low priced class, unofficially has estimated its output this month at 55,000 units and has predicted it would maintain the 1932 employment average of 35,000 men. The Chrysler corporation which produces Plymouth is reported to have stepped up its February schedule to 21,000 units, a 40 per cent increase over January.

Maybe Frank Grist Can Tell You, Sir

Charlotte News.
Somebody is playing a cruel joke not only upon those who are responsible for government in North Carolina, but on the people themselves for not coming out frankly into the open and telling us exactly how it will be possible for the governmental branches of the state to continue spending money on the same old basis in the face of drying up revenues!

The woods must be full of peevish people who ought to be able to produce this very vital and what would be, also, very refreshing and constructive information.

Perhaps some of the professors in the colleges that have been stricken by the enforced wave of economy and who are rebellious about it could furnish this information.

Or, perhaps, from the ranks of the multitudes employed in state departments where salary reductions have been made effective and where discontent and rank criticism have been breeding as a result could step out with exactly the kind of explanation about this matter which is so desirable.

It makes no particular difference whence the delectable news could come from, if only the people of North Carolina and those in charge of its government could be told authoritatively just how it would be possible to maintain all phases and factors of government on the same high basis of expense when the revenues which furnish them their pay have so tragically shriveled.

It Pays To Advertise

Would You Pay the Small Balance Due on a Fine
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Bailey Believed Roosevelt Backer

Senator Attends Luncheon Party In Interest Of Executive's Candidacy

Washington, Feb. 12.—Senator Bailey was a member of a luncheon party of about a dozen members of the senate who are interested in promoting the candidacy of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The luncheon conference was also attended by Homer S. Cummings, former chairman of the Democratic national committee, who has joined the Roosevelt pre-convention managerial staff.

Mr. Cummings is of the opinion,

that failure of the party to nominate Mr. Roosevelt would be a good deal of a tragedy as he feels sure that a majority of the party rank and file is instinctively for him. Apparently Senator Bailey had actively identified himself with the Roosevelt movement but after the luncheon Mr. Bailey declined to comment on the gathering beyond saying that he had accepted the invitation of Senator Hull to attend the luncheon and added that the candidacy of Governor Roosevelt had received wide approval in the state.

Raleigh.—The Southern Desk Co. at Hickory, has been awarded contract for \$12,600 worth of chairs for Raleigh's new memorial auditorium.

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