

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another."—John 13:34.

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By Hugo Sims, Washington Correspondent

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MERCHANT MARINE

For many years the subject of a adequate merchant marine has been discussed and debated in the United States. Early this month, with the naming of a permanent Maritime Commission, a significant policy was placed on a permanent basis and the limited and concealed subsidies which have been heretofore paid by the Government are to be replaced by open subsidies. For many years the Postoffice Department, through open mail contracts based on prices much higher than those offered by foreign ships for the same service, has been giving a subsidy to American shipping companies. This policy increased the postal deficit and was only a ruse.

OPEN SUBSIDIES BEGIN

A little over two years ago, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a law to provide subsidies. He wanted fair play to shipping interests competing with subsidized foreign merchantmen and desired that the nation, in the event of war, would possess efficient ships to carry on American trade and, in the event that we were in the war ourselves, supply of ships to meet the emergency. The battle over the legislation was stormy and the bill did not pass until June, 1936. It provided a Maritime Commission, to which the President made temporary appointments, but early in the month a permanent set-up was effected. Heading the new commission is Joseph P. Kennedy, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Thomas Woodard, former member of the old Shipping Board; Edward Moran, a veteran opponent of large mail contracts, and two Rear Admirals, Henry A. Wiley and Emory S. Land, make up the five-man board.

The Commission will terminate forty-two ocean mail contracts involving more than thirty million dollars a year, by June 30th and, in their place, grant direct subsidies under the new law. It may make gifts of money, both to ship-builders and ship-operators to equalize their position with foreign competitors. The subsidies may amount to as much as 10 per cent, but dividends are restricted to ten per cent of the company's investment, and executive salaries are limited to \$25,000. Moreover, profits above the limit set are to be returned to the Maritime Commission. Shipbuilding loans, up to one-fourth the cost of construction, are authorized at three and a half per cent interest.

"EASY MONEY" FAVORED

Speculation that financial officials of the Government would abandon the "easy money" policy and initiate steps to tighten the currency has been summarily rebuffed by Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who advocates higher Federal income and profits taxes, if necessary, to sustain the relief bill, balance the budget and reduce the public debt as private property expands. He thinks this program is necessary to prevent monetary inflation and that other than monetary controls are needed to regulate sharp rises in the prices of certain "basic commodities."

Mr. Eccles warns that "the upward spiral of wages and prices and inflationary price levels can be as disastrous as the downward spiral of deflation" and contends that increased production must control unjustifiable price advances. This, he says, can be done as long as there is idle labor, unused natural resources and an abundance of money at reasonable rates. All of these conditions are present at this time.

Mr. Eccles declares that the Government will continue to pursue an easy money policy. He points out that the national income for 1929 was estimated at \$1,034,000,000 and that in 1936 it was \$60,000,000,000. Apparent the intention of responsible officials is to continue present policies until some of the discrepancies are removed. While President Roosevelt has held out the hope that the budget might be balanced without increased taxation, it should be noted that the President has also warned against the danger of inflation which, he suggests, might be an evil within two years.

MEAN TAXES GROW

Meanwhile, Treasury officials last week scanned reports as to

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Dobson Bank Is Robbed Mon. By Pinnacle Youth

Miss Eva Hancock, Bank Treasurer, Is Held Up At Point Of Gun. \$423 Is Estimated Sum Taken

CASHIER IN WASH ROOM

Youth Is Securely Lodged In Surry County Jail At Dobson. Said To Have Been Intoxicated

Dobson, Mar. 23.—Douglas Christian, 18-year old Pinnacle boy, started a career of crime Monday afternoon at one o'clock by holding up the woman treasurer of the Dobson branch of the Surry County Loan and Trust company. Two hours later he was securely lodged in the county jail here by Sheriff Harvey Boyd, apologizing to the woman treasurer of the bank he held up, and promising to reform if "nothing is said" about the case.

The pleasant-looking youth seized an estimated \$423, which was surrendered to him by Miss Eva Hancock, the woman bank treasurer, and roared away at a high rate of speed in an automobile up and down the highways in a futile effort to shake off pursuers. Officers found \$365.62 on him. He claimed that \$2.60 of this was his own money. Deputies questioned him in an attempt to learn if an alleged accomplice got the rest of the loot, but the confessed robber denied anyone was with him.

The criminal career of Douglas Christian was stopped by the sharp eyes of a 17-year-old boy who accompanied officers in the pursuit car. Ellis Cassell, brother of L. C. Cassell, the jailer, sighted Christian as he sat in his car in a filling station near East Bend, and shouted "there he is!" The other occupants of the car were loathe to stop, but when they did back up, Christian made a dash from the filling station and sped 15 more miles before being run to earth.

The most exciting, and, in some ways, amusing, day Dobson has had in a long time started when the young boy, unmasked, entered the branch bank at 1 o'clock. According to Miss Hancock, treasurer, she was waiting on Mrs. W. B. Norman. When Mrs. Norman turned to go, a young man stepped up to the window, drew a pistol, and told Mrs. Norman: "You stay in here, lady."

Mrs. Norman, panic-stricken, replied: "I'm too scared to stay," and fled out the door. The bandit, who was unmasked, then turned to the treasurer, who was by this time quite unnerved, and leveled a .38-calibre pistol at her head and said: "Hand me that money quick." Miss Hancock lifted her hands above her head, at the same time asking "What did you say?" The youth repeated the demand, and Miss Hancock handed over all the money in her cash drawer, telling the bandit it was all she had. She did not give him the money in the drawer of another teller nearby.

Christian stepped quickly out the door, jammed his pistol in his jacket and entered a waiting car. Meantime, Mrs. Norman had found the street outside deserted. She finally found one man and told him the bank was being robbed, she said, and the two of them went on to spread the alarm. Several persons said they saw the robber step into his car. All of them agree that someone was waiting at the wheel.

TO HOLD ZONE MISSIONARY MEETING AT GRASSY CREEK

On Tuesday, March 30, a zone meeting of the Methodist Missionary Societies in the Statesville district will be held at Grassy Creek Methodist church.

Mrs. J. B. Henderson, who is zone secretary, will conduct the meeting.

NEW HOPE S. S. TO BE REORGANIZED SUNDAY

Rev. Howard J. Ford, pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, announces that on Sunday, March 28, Sunday school will be reorganized at that place, and that teachers and officers will be elected.

When Blast Killed Hundreds Of Children



General view of the New London consolidated school, New London, Texas, after the explosion that wrecked the school and snuffed out the lives of hundreds of school children in the worst school tragedy in all history.

Parkway Work Is To Be Resumed By Next Thursday

Completion Of Work On Scenic Road In Ashe, Alleghany And Wilkes Is Expected Real Soon

Contractors who suspended operations on the six projects of the Blue Ridge parkway in Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes and Watauga counties during the winter months plan to resume work in the next few weeks and begin a big push to complete the grading and surfacing this spring and summer.

James M. Anderson, head of the district employment service office which serves the counties through which the parkway is being constructed, said recently that he had received a requisition from one county for 90 laborers and skilled workmen to begin work soon and that every contractor is planning to push operations when resumed. He urged a full registration of all who live within the vicinity of the parkway or who can reach any of the projects daily.

Those who have formerly worked on parkway construction projects but have not renewed their registrations within the past few months are advised to call at the office and renew applications if they are interested in working when operations of the biggest Public Works project in this part of the state are resumed.

In the meantime the office is in receipt of calls for various types of labor for private industry, ranging all the way from laborers at prevailing wages to skilled men who command lucrative salaries.

Baptist W. M. U. Meets March 18 At Glade Valley

The Women's Missionary union of the Sparta Baptist church met on Thursday afternoon, March 18, at the home of Mrs. Ed Lundy, of Glade Valley, with Mrs. Walter Taylor associate hostess.

In the absence of the president, Mrs. W. B. Estep, Mrs. Amos Wagoner presided, opening the program with the scripture lesson.

The topic for discussion was "The Spanish and the Portuguese." Those taking part were Miss Margie Vass, who was leader; Mrs. Amos Wagoner, Mrs. Ralph Parker, Mrs. Bert Edwards and Mrs. Foster Hackler.

Mrs. Walter Taylor gave a very interesting report of the state meeting of the W. M. U., held in Charlotte last week, to which she was a delegate.

Following the business session, the hostesses served dainty refreshments during an enjoyable social hour.

Methodist W. M. S. Holds Meeting At Church March 19

The Women's Missionary society of the Methodist church met at the church on Friday, March 19.

Instead of the regular program, this period was devoted to the mission study work. Rev. A. B. Bruton gave a most interesting and able discussion of the concluding chapters of the book, "Out of Africa."

N. C. Assembly Adjourns Session In Raleigh Tues.

Governor Hoey On Rostrum With Lieut.-Governor When Gavels Fall For Sine Die Adjournment

Raleigh, Mar. 23.—North Carolina's 1937 General Assembly, which balanced the largest budget in the history of the state, legalized liquor, complied with all phases of the social security program and authorized free textbooks for children in elementary schools, adjourned sine die at 5:38 o'clock this afternoon.

Officially, the legislature quit at high noon, when the old-fashioned clocks in the House and Senate chambers were stopped.

Actual adjournment, however, came more than five and a half hours later, after the enrolling office had had an opportunity to copy last-minute bills, the board of education omnibus measure had been enacted and the House had killed a measure allowing counties and municipalities to issue revenue anticipation bonds to match federal funds.

When all legislative remnants had been disposed of, the tall doors of each chamber were thrown open so that Speaker R. Gregg Cherry of the House and Lieutenant Governor W. P. Horton of the Senate could see each other across the corridors and the circular hallway at the base of the Capitol dome.

Both officers raised their gavels. Governor Hoey was on the rostrum with Horton. Persons in the crowded galleries craned their necks as the law-makers lined up in double file in the aisles.

Then Horton nodded slightly and both mallets descended simultaneously.

Just before adjournment, Representative Dellinger of Boston, asked that his bill, which would have substituted electricity for lethal gas as a means of capital punishment, be revived. His motion was shouted down.

B. Y. P. U. SOCIAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY NIGHT

The B. Y. P. U. quarterly social will be held on Friday night at 8 o'clock at the home of Miss Margie Vass.

All members are invited to be present.

Explosion At New London (Tex.) H. S. Kills 455

Worst Disaster Of Its Kind America Has Ever Known Takes Place In Heart Of E. Texas Oil Fields

New London, Tex., Mar. 23.—What has been described as the worst disaster of its kind America has ever known occurred here Thursday when a gigantic explosion completely wrecked the \$1,000,000 New London high school building, killing 455 students and teachers. The mighty explosion, which was heard for miles around and threw bricks for a distance of one-fourth mile, came suddenly and without warning just before the hour for dismissal of school classes.

It happened in the heart of the East Texas oil fields. The high school building, center of the London consolidated school, was torn apart in an appalling tragedy.

At 3:20 p. m.—ten minutes before the end of the school day—the walls were shaken with shattering force. The roof rose, then settled with killing strength on the children trapped within.

An explosion of accumulated gas in a space below the first floor was one theory of the cause. There are seven producing oil wells on the campus.

"I looked out a window and saw my friends dying like flies," said Martha Harris, 18, a survivor. "Kids were blown through the top onto the roof."

Chaos rivaling the explosion itself developed in the aftermath. Governor Jaems V. Allred declared martial law in the precinct, ordered the national guard troops and instructed that a military court of inquiry be set up to begin an investigation.

Red Cross nurses, doctors by the score rushed against time to allay the confusion here—1,000 oil field workers tore at the debris, frenzied parents strove to find their children and hundreds of curious blocked the highways.

Superintendent W. C. Shaw, who lost a son in the explosion, theorized that it was caused by an accumulation of gas.

Shaw said that accumulated gas in a space between the floor of the one-story building and the ground undoubtedly caused the explosion. The building was heated by gas-steam radiators and there was no main boiler.

Seven hundred pupils and forty teachers were in the building—most of them in the auditorium.

Suddenly with a force of tremendous proportions the walls of the building began to shake. Pupils and students alike were trapped.

A low rumble sounded. Many thought it was a boiler explosion. None was sure hours later.

Witnesses said there was an ear-hammering explosion after the grumbling roar that preceded

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Lonnie Wright, Native Of Alleghany, Commits Suicide In Winston-Salem Prison

Hughes Expresses Opposition To Court Reform Plan

Believes That To Increase Membership Of High Tribunal Would "Impair" Its Efficiency

Washington, Mar. 23.—Foes of the Roosevelt court proposal were made jubilant yesterday when Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, of the United States Supreme court, bluntly declared that to increase the membership of the high court was likely to "impair" its efficiency.

This statement, to which Associate Justices Van Devanter and Brandeis agreed, was thrown dramatically into the tense hearings of the Senate judiciary committee by Senator Wheeler (D.) Mont., the first witness to appear in opposition to the bill.

Opposition senators have long been seeking to get an expression of opinion from the high bench, believing it would lend powerful support to their cause, and they were obviously happy over the Hughes declaration.

Wheeler, asserting that he had been "shocked and surprised" by the President's proposal and by charges that the court's work was hindered by the age of its members, told the committee that he had gone "for the facts to the one source that could be expected to know them better than any one else."

From the chief justice, he received a letter which asserted that "the court is fully abreast of its work," that "there is no congestion of cases upon our calendar," that the work of reading petitions for review is "laborious" but adequately handled.

"An increase in the number of justices, apart from any question of policy, which I do not discuss, would not promote the efficiency of the court," the Hughes letter said. "It is believed that it would impair that efficiency so long as the court acts as a unit."

"There would be more judges to hear, more judges to confer, more judges to discuss, more judges to be convinced and to decide," the letter continued. "The present number of justices is thought to be large enough so far as the prompt, adequate and efficient conduct of the work of the court is concerned."

Sidney B. Gambill Now With Treasury Dept. In Washington

(The article published below is reprinted from a recent issue of The State Magazine, and, since it has to do with a prominent former Alleghany resident, it is believed it will be of wide interest to readers of THE TIMES.—Editor.)

The article follows: "Sidney B. Gambill, secretary to Representative Doughton for the past two years, moved down to the opposite end of Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D. C., last week to become associate counsel in the general counsel's office of the Treasury Department. He is attached to the division handling the refund of processing taxes."

A native of Ashe county, Gambill was graduated from Duke university in 1925. After several years in Ashe county, he returned to school and finished his legal education at Chapel Hill in 1932. He practiced law in Sparta with the Congressman's brother "Governor" Rufe Doughton, for two years before coming to Washington as Farmer Bob's secretary.

His wife is the former Miss Myrtle Reeves of Virginia. They were classmates at Duke. Mrs. Gambill recently resigned as local news editor of The Alleghany Times at Sparta to come to Washington. They have one child, a daughter, Billie, 6.

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Had Escaped From Forsyth County Prison Farm. Was Questioned In Regard To Brannock Girl's Murder

ESTABLISHES ALIBI

Was Sought By Authorities At Galax For Forgery. Hangs Self With Noose Made From Underwear

Lonnie Wright, a resident of the Saddle Mountain section of Alleghany county, was found dead in his cell in a Winston-Salem jail Tuesday morning, hanged with his underwear. He was about 25 years of age.

He was a son of Robert Wright, who lives in sight of, and not more than 300 yards from, the spot where Elva Brannock was found murdered on February 12.

Wright had escaped from the prison farm in Forsyth county, where he was serving a 30-day term, and was recaptured Sunday. When taken, he asked officers if he was wanted for anything except the offense for which he had been serving. On being asked what else he had done, he replied that he thought perhaps he was wanted for questioning about the Brannock girl's murder, and added that at the time of her death, he was in Florida.

Forsyth county officials notified Sheriff Walter M. Irwin of Wright's capture, thinking he might wish to question the man in connection with the murder case. Sheriff Irwin, accompanied by R. D. Gentry, went to Winston-Salem on Monday, and questioned Wright, who became more and more nervous during the interview. He claimed that he was in Florida at the time of the girl's death. Sheriff Irwin left him alone for a while, and when he went back to the cell to continue the questioning, he learned that Wright had attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself with his underwear. Wright still contended that he was not connected with the murder case. His alibi was later verified by telegraph. At the time, Wright was said to have been incarcerated in a Florida jail.

On Tuesday morning when Irwin returned to the jail to question Wright further, he was informed that the man was found dead in his cell that morning, having hanged himself by fastening his underwear around his neck and to the top of the cell, over the door. His knees were almost touching the floor.

Wright was a cousin of Connie Wright, who was held for a short time as a suspect in the Brannock murder case.

Wright's body, still warm, was discovered by an attaché of the jail who was making an inspection round at 2:50 o'clock.

Cleared of complicity in the Elva Brannock slaying only a few hours before, Wright was last seen alive at 1 o'clock by officers who noticed nothing un-

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ALMANAC



"Pity him who turns his back on his own people."

- 26—Texas gave women the right to vote at primary elections, 1917.
 - 27—The Creek Indians were defeated at the battle of Horseshoe Bend, 1814.
 - 28—The United States frigate Essex surrendered, 1814.
 - 29—Providence, R.I., attacked by King Philip and nearly destroyed, 1676.
 - 30—The United States purchased Alaska from Russia, 1867.
 - 31—The Treasury Bldg. and a large number of records were destroyed by fire in Washington, D. C., 1833.
- APRIL
1—Construction of the first railroad in Massachusetts began, 1826.