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CAPITOL FAIRLY QUIET

With the President watching the fleet manoeuvres, the capital was fairly quiet last week. Congress was in the initial stages of grinding out appropriation measures and the flurry over the sale of war planes to France had about subsided.

It may be taken for granted that as a result of the French airplane purchases, efforts will be made to limit the power of the President in such matters. The incident will also be used as a lever to pry into the entire question of foreign relations and as a springboard from which to jump into long discourses on neutrality and keeping this country out of war.

NATIONS SEEK PLANES

The arrival of military missions from the Netherlands, intent upon the purchase of airplanes in this country for the Army and Navy of that nation, apparently aroused no adverse comments. Even the report that Soviet Russia might make an effort to purchase two battleships to be built in this country, touched off no fuse. The uproar about the French purchases was caused, apparently, by the secrecy surrounding the transactions which was disclosed by the crashing of the bomber in the West.

NEUTRALITY ADVANCED

The earlier purchase by Great Britain of planes caused no consternation. Meanwhile, it may be assumed that the present policy of this country, as adopted by the President, includes willingness to sell war supplies to the British and the French and thus help the democratic nations to arm themselves on a parity with the aggressor powers in Europe. That such purchases will accelerate production in this country and reduce the cost to the Government is a pleasing fact. In other words, Mr. Roosevelt had advanced the official attitude of this country from one of blind neutrality, regardless of the issues involved in a war in Europe, to one of legal neutrality, which policy, as things stand today, amounts to considerable assistance to Great Britain and France.

That the position taken by the President expresses the views of the American people can hardly be disputed. Public opinion in this country is overwhelmingly against Germany and Italy, largely because our people believe that a war in Europe will be the result of premeditated aggression.

HOUSE DEBATES GUAM

Last week the House having passed the bill to increase the Army flying strength to 5,500 planes took up the naval air base program, with most of the discussion involving the proposal to establish a seaplane outpost on Guam. Chairman Vinson, of the House Naval Committee, said the Navy had no intention of fortifying the tiny island at this time but warned that some day it may prove "indispensable to the success of United States defensive operations." With the world being overrun by the dictator powers, he continued it is necessary for the United States to answer them in their own language and the nation should be vigilant in looking to its defenses. Criticism of the project came from Representative Fish, of New York, who called it a "dagger" at the throat of Japan and said that if we "were ever looking for war, this is the way to get it."

Regardless of the debate and the discussion that enters around Guam, it may be taken for granted that the Congress will provide the air bases requested and that the United States will enter into their active development. While this writer has no "inside information," and while the present measure does not include the actual fortification of Guam, it is reasonable to assume, unless world conditions change, that the island will eventually become a strong outpost for the Navy. In fact, its development is necessary if the Navy is to be able to function effectively in the event of a clash with the Japanese. Moreover, the fortification of Guam increases the difficulties that stand in the way of any attack upon Hawaii, the western coast including Alaska and the Panama Canal.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

While economists do not look for anything like a boom, underlying factors are favorable to steady improvement in the coming months. The Administration's encouraging attitude to business tends to remove some friction, although peace is being delayed by the die-hard attitude of some (turn to page five, please)

A bill designed to "reform" elections passed

—the House of Representatives in Raleigh Tuesday, riding over an opposition bloc. The bill, the first and possibly the most controversial of a series of bills designed to "reform" North Carolina elections, was sent to the Senate.

While the legislative machinery operated at the fastest clip of the 1939 session, the joint revenue committee gave a favorable report to a permanent tax bill providing for a "substantially balanced budget," and the senate finance committee killed the Umstead bill providing for the mail-order sale of liquor in dry counties.

The senate passed and sent to the house an amended bill which would give juries discretion in sentences in first-degree arson and first-degree burglary cases. At present, conviction of such crimes carry mandatory death sentences. The amended bill, however, would allow juries to decide between life imprisonment and death.

As originally drafted and sponsored by Governor Hoey, the measure also would have given judges and juries discretion in sentences for first-degree murder and rape, which also carry mandatory death penalties.

The election "reform" measure, a direct outgrowth of fraud charges which followed in the wake of last year's primaries and elections, would ban absentee voting in primaries and tighten absentee regulations in general elections.

Chairmen of county election boards would be solely responsible for the distribution of absentee ballots for general elections. Debate on the bill was touched off by Representative Phillips of Onslow, chairman of the house elections committee, who described it as "a good workable bill to reform voting practices."

An appeal for support of the appropriations

—by the North Carolina legislature proposed for the benefit of public health work in this state, was issued recently by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, State Health Officer, at his office in Raleigh.

"Governor Hoey made a very forceful and logical statement when he said, 'There can be no such thing as EXPANDING public service and CONTRACTING tax levies.' And again our statesman gave us food for thought when he said, 'There is a general feeling that conditions do not warrant major changes in tax policies now, either in the way of new levies or general increases; therefore, the budget may only partially meet the needs of some agencies and institutions.'"

"What financier can hope to meet with success who establishes a profitable business and destroys its effectiveness through false economy? It takes money, coupled with intelligence and executive ability to meet with success and to establish economic security. It is wise to be liberal in a PROFITABLE UNDERTAKING."

"It is admitted, and without fear of contradiction, that the prevention of disease and the preservation of health has been, and is now, inadequately distributed. Local communities cannot deal with this MASS problem unassisted. The State of North Carolina should assume its relative responsibility to insure its citizens the protection and security that can be had in no other way."

"Through taxation, and in substantial amounts and on a permanent basis, is the only sound, economic and profitable foundation upon which we can establish a comprehensive health program to meet the needs of our citizens. 'Syphilis is our greatest health problem today. We have it on the 'run.' Is it wise to retreat? 'This is Progress, but I pray that the body politic may be awakened from its somnolence and arouse anew an active and progressive program for an increase (turn to page six, please)

Dogs Guide Sightless



DETROIT, Mich. . . . These Dobermann Pinscher dogs, trained by Eugene Kelly of the Pontchartrain Kennels, lead their blind masters along the street here. The sightless men are (left), Dr. Glenn B. Wheeler, of Detroit, and Paul E. Brown, of Toledo, Ohio, brother of Joe E. Brown, the film comedian.

Many farm homes in Alleghany can now install

—efficient, inexpensive water systems where conditions permit the use of a hydraulic ram, R. E. Black, Alleghany County farm agent, said recently. Mr. Black stated that the average farm family carries as much as thirty-seven tons of water yearly in buckets by hand, from springs or wells to the house. The tremendous amount of labor and energy expended in carrying this water can be avoided by installing hydraulic rams.

The successful operation of a ram depends upon the following conditions, says Mr. Black: sufficient water, and sufficient fall. Any home owner having these conditions can easily install a ram, and enjoy the convenience of running water in the home. Mr. Black states his office is prepared to furnish the necessary engineering assistance in determining whether or not conditions would permit of the installation of a ram.

Attention is called to the fact that several Alleghany County farmers have installed water systems with hydraulic rams, among whom are Mack Brooks and Bob Nichols, Sparta; and Frank C. Brooks, Glade Valley.

The fishing season for all species of fish

—except Trout, in and west of Alleghany, Wilkes and Rutherford counties and west of Highway No. 18 in Burke and Caldwell counties, has been extended to April 1, it was announced recently at the Asheville office of the North Carolina division of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The season was originally set to close March 1st, but due to a great demand from the people and recent cold weather which will delay spawning somewhat, it was concluded that there would be very little harm done to the spawning fish by extending this closed period. The season is now set for Large and Small Mouth Bass, Bream, Crappie and all other species of fish except Trout, closes the 1st day of April and extends to June 10th, at which time it opens again. The Trout season is now closed and will not open until April 15th. Under special regulations, Lake Santee-elah in Graham County is now closed to all fishing and will not open until June 10th.

In view of the granting of this extension and the equalizing of the Large and Small Mouth Bass season, also the plans for a widespread public restocking program, the Division earnestly requests that should any fisherman catch any of the various species of game fish which looks to contain roe or spawn, that they will wet (turn to page six, please)

A letter was received from Howard Delp

—who awaits execution April 21 in the state penitentiary in Richmond, by Roby Dolinger, of Whitetop, Va., one of the jurors who returned the death verdict against Delp for the murder of Chief of Police Posey Martin, of Galax, Va., in 1935. The letter received from Delp was under date of February 9, and was made public recently by Mr. Dolinger. Delp was declared sane after a period of observation and the supreme court of appeals denied an appeal.

The text of the letter, without change in any detail, follows: "Dear Mr. Dolinger, 'I am praying every night to God to please hear my humble plea and have mercy on me! 'I know I have committed a terrible sin but God in Heaven knows I was not in my right mind when I did that awful thing else I would not have taken Mr. Martin's dear life for anything in this world. Mr. Dolinger you must believe me when I say I did not hold any malice for anyone and did not have a desire to do the awful act I have been convicted of. 'If you only knew the condition I was in I am convinced you would want to help me. Anyone who has not been through the experience I have can not realize just how I have felt since realizing what I did there in Galax. 'I know you would understand if I could have the opportunity to talk to you personally and explain. 'If you will forgive me and have mercy on me I will be very thankful to you and I know you will never regret showing mercy on a poor wretch like me. 'I am praying ever night to God to forgive me and have mercy on me and to save my wretched soul. 'Thanking you sincerely; 'I am yours truly and humbly, (Signed) 'Thomas Howard Delp.'"

Sentiment for road beauty is rapidly growing

—in all parts of North Carolina, with the result that many counties are already planning clean-up and dress-up campaigns along the highways, it was announced recently by T. E. Pickard, Jr., Secretary of the Governor's Committee on Roadside Control and Improvement. This committee, of which Coleman W. Roberts of Charlotte is chairman, is also planning to introduce legislation in this session of the General Assembly designed to give Boards of County Commissioners and the State Highway and Public Works Commission more authority in the improvement of the roadsides and adjacent territory.

"Well kept, attractive roadsides definitely help to draw more visitors to the state and to keep them here, while ugly, ragged roadsides and roadside properties tend to drive them away and into other states," Mr. Pickard said. "Since each visitor or tourist spends from \$6 to \$10 a day while in North Carolina, it is definitely to our advantage, from a financial standpoint if nothing else, to make our roadsides as attractive as possible. Last year tourists spent more than \$60,000,000 in North Carolina. Next year they will spend still more if we will go to the trouble to make the state more attractive and remove the many eyesores and ugly places along our highways."

By roadside improvement and control is not meant the planting of trees or flowers along the highways, as some seem to think, but rather the removal from the roadsides of all illegal and unsightly signs, trash heaps, automobile "graveyards" and other eyesores, Mr. Pickard explained. The committee does not propose to prohibit all types of signs or advertising, but rather to restrict these signs to certain types and in certain localities. It does seek the removal of the so-called "snipe" signs along the highways, however, which are already il-

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To Circle Globe



SAN FRANCISCO . . . Edward W. Harden, former war correspondent, who scooped the world by six hours on the story of Dewey's victory at Manila, begins his second tour of the world. His first trip forty years ago took ten months; this one can be completed in nineteen days.

A referendum on war was proposed in the Senate

—in Washington, D. C., Tuesday, when twelve senators indicated support of a proposed constitutional amendment, under which the government of the United States would be prevented from waging war on foreign soil unless the people approved in a referendum. The proposal bobbed up in the Senate with the announced support of the twelve senators from four political parties.

The amendment, highly objectionable to the state department, was introduced by the 12 while the senate proceeded with a bitter debate on the administration's armament program—a discussion in which Senator Nye, Republican, North Dakota, said there would be no war in Europe "until the United States gives the word."

With the exception of a few changes, the war referendum resolution was word for word the measure introduced in the house last year by Representative Ludlow, Republican, Indiana. The Ludlow measure was defeated after an extraordinary battle in which the administration brought heavy pressure to bear for its rejection.

The state department made clear its attitude as being that such a system would bind the hands of the government in the conduct of its foreign relations. This contention Senator La Follette, Progressive, denied Tuesday.

"Popular veto power would not hamper the chief executive in any foreign policy supported by public opinion," he said in a formal statement. "On the contrary, it would encourage him to take the people into his confidence on matters of the gravest international concern."

The war referendum amendment would provide that: "Except in case of attack by armed forces, actual or immediately threatened, upon the United States or its territorial possessions, or by any non-American nation against any country in the western hemisphere, the people shall have the sole power by a national referendum to declare war or to engage in warfare overseas."

The 12 who introduced it were, in addition to La Follette: Senators Bone, Democrat, Washington; Capper, Republican, Kansas; Clark, Democrat, Idaho; Clark, Democrat, Missouri; Donahay, Democrat, Ohio; Frazier, Republican, North Dakota; Lundeen, Farmer-Labor, Minnesota; Murray, Democrat, Montana; Nye, Republican, North Dakota; Shipstead, Farmer-Labor, Minnesota; and Wheeler, Democrat, Montana.

The heaviest late winter snow in Iowa's history

—left behind it, as February went out like a lion, clogged roads, disrupted business and closed schools in that state.

Willie Taylor was robbed on Tuesday night at Stratford

—according to reports. Mr. Taylor lived alone at the Wagoner farm, where he was awakened by a voice and two persons with flashlights, standing at the two windows.

According to reports of the occurrence received here, Mr. Taylor was forced by the unwelcome visitors to arise, go to another room, get all of his money and give it to them. The victim of the robbery did not recognize the thieves who blinded him with the lights and who appeared to be wearing masks.

Bishop Purcell spoke at a Youth Crusade Rally

—Monday night in West Market Street Methodist Church, Greensboro, on the subject, "Youth Takes a Look." This was the first official visit in Greensboro of Bishop Clare Purcell, who resides in Charlotte, since he was assigned last year to the Carolina conference. He was made a bishop in May of last year at the quadrennial General Conference of the Church.

"Youth should follow the way of Christ in making a better world for men," said Bishop Purcell, speaking to some 1,500 youths gathered for the rally. The Greensboro District rally was the second of a series of Youth Crusade rallies in the Western North Carolina Conference. "The Church calls for youth to expose youth's soul to the ever-living Christ," Bishop Purcell said, "for the way to a better world is the way of Christ. Get a detached point of view. Look upon the earth as with a telescope from the moon."

Also included on the speaking program were Frank Masters, Greensboro; Rev. W. A. Kale, Mooreville; Miss Nina Wrenn, secretary of the High Point Young People's Union; Greer Hoover, president of the Rockingham Union; Rev. M. Teague Hipps, Salisbury, conference director of young people's work, and Rev. L. B. Hayes, presiding elder of the Greensboro District. Wayne Kermode, Greensboro district director of young people's work, presided.

The Youth Crusade, a four-year program for youth in Southern Methodism, is scheduled to be concluded in 1942. The first rally in the Western North Carolina Conference was held in Morganton on Friday, February 24, for the Marion District. The third in the series was held yesterday (Wednesday) in Winston-Salem. Other rallies are to be held as follows: Salisbury, Statesville, Monroe, Asheville, Waynesville, Gastonia and Boone.

Governor Hoey was praised by Ralph McDonald

—Monday in Winston-Salem. "I have always held a high personal opinion of Governor Hoey and I find myself liking him better all the time," declared Dr. McDonald, the Governor's 1936 primary opponent, in his first public interview after his release from the Western North Carolina sanatorium at Black Mountain Sunday. "He has shown me every kindness in recent months, and his thoughtfulness has been a source of much comfort to me."

The former candidate and leader of the liberal democracy of the State had only the highest praise for his former opponent of the last gubernatorial race. "I approve heartily the administration of Governor Hoey. Of course, our beliefs on some matters, especially taxation, are fundamentally different," he said, "but those differences are matters of honest opinion which are bound to exist among people who think seriously of the problems of democratic government."

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE AWAITED

—Tuesday night an armistice in the 31-month old Spanish civil war following resignation of Loyalist President Manuel Azena.

The sit-down strike has been held illegal

—by the United States Supreme Court. On Monday of this week, the nation's highest court, denouncing the sit-down strike, ruled that workers who seize their employer's factory have placed themselves outside the protection of the Wagner labor relations act. Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, reading a majority opinion, declared that a sit-down in the Pansteel Metallurgical corporation of North Chicago, Ill., two years ago was a "high-handed proceeding without a shadow of legal right."

Declaring that the employer could discharge the "wrongdoers" without violating the Wagner Act his opinion invalidated an order by the national labor relations board requiring the company to reinstate employees who were dismissed when they seized key buildings of the corporation. The labor board had contended that the strike resulted from violation of the Wagner act by the employer, including refusal to bargain collectively.

Besides delivering this sharp blow to the labor board, the court set aside two other board orders for reinstatement. One involved the Sands Manufacturing company of Cleveland, and in this case the Supreme court held that employees who strike in violation of a contract sever their relations with their employer.

The tribunal ruled also that the labor board had not substantiated a charge that the Columbian Enameling and Stamping company of Terre Haute, Ind., had refused to bargain collectively with its employees. An order for reinstatement of those discharged was set aside.

The court supported a board order that the Pansteel company withdraw recognition from the Rare Metal Workers of America, local No. 1. The tribunal agreed with the NLRB that Pansteel had violated the labor act in refusing to bargain collectively with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America.

"But reprehensible as was that conduct of the respondent" (Pansteel), Hughes wrote "there is no ground for saying that it made respondent an outlaw or deprived it of its legal rights to the possession and protection of its property."

The Chief Justice said the strike was "illegal in its inception and prosecution." "This was not the exercise of the 'right to strike,'" he added. "It was an illegal seizure of the buildings in order to prevent their use by the employer in a lawful manner and thus by acts of force and violence to compel the employer to submit."

"When the employees resorted to that sort of compulsion they took a position outside the protection of the statute and accepted the risk of the termination of their employment upon grounds aside from the exercise of the legal rights which the statute was designed to conserve."

Justices Reed and Black dissented in each of the three decisions against the labor board. Justice Frankfurter, a new member of the court, did not participate in these decisions.

Four miles of REA line have been located

—in Alleghany County, and have been staked. The remainder will be located and staked as soon as the weather will permit, according to an announcement made this week by C. G. Collins, one of the REA directors in Alleghany County.

Bids for wiring of homes have not yet been let. However, announcements concerning these will be made later.

"BRENTWOOD," A NEW SERIAL, STARTS TODAY —on page 3 of THE TIMES. This story by the popular author, Grace Livingston Hill, is one that is being acclaimed as the best ever written by this famous novelist. Turn now to page 3 and read the first installment of this interesting and entertaining story, and look for it each issue for the next several weeks. Don't fail to read it!