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ALLEGHANY TIMES

The Times office is upstairs, over the Watchmaker, opposite the Post Office, IN SPARTA. "Come up and see us some time."

Vol. 15. No. 38.

SPARTA, Alleghany County, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1940.

3c Per Copy

Looking at Washington and Congress

One sees the new budget presented a short time ago as the eleventh straight edition of the Federal government's version of "Gone with the Wind."

It tells the same gloomy story as its ten predecessors of millions and billions of dollars blowing away down the gale. And it has the same old villains: a skyrocketing national debt, a huge deficit, and the prospect of heavier taxes hung like an anchor around the neck of Mr. Average Citizen.

The annual budget is a big book, and it's a dull book, but it's all written about your money. At that account, it's worthwhile spending some time digging around among the millions and billions and squillions to get at least some idea of what all the shooting's about.

In the first place, this is as good a time as any to clear up a misconception that's sometimes held by the average citizen. The misconception takes the following form:

J. Oswald Blimp picks up his newspaper, reads a headline that says "Deficit In Budget This Year Cut Sharply By President," and remarks comfortably to his wife, "Well, it looks as though this reckless spending is beginning to stop. Debt isn't going to be as big as it was last year." Then he nibbles his toast with real enjoyment for the first time in a long, long spell.

But the poor deluded man is confusing two very different items—the yearly deficit and the national debt. The deficit is the amount the government spends each year over and above what it is able to take in. The debt, on the other hand, is simply the accumulation of these deficits, which are added to the debt each year.

This will be the eleventh year in a row that there's been a deficit. And, as an inevitable consequence, it's the eleventh year in a row that the breath-taking curve of the national debt has continued to mount, mount, mount.

In other words, we've depended for eleven years now on something called "future prosperity" to make up for the fact that our government is spending far more than it has been able to collect. The significant point, though, is that the "future" is already catching up with us. The figure in the budget which tells how rapidly this process is going on is the amount set aside for interest payments on the debt.

If you as an individual borrow money for a number of years and finally reach the stage where you are paying most of the money you take in right back to your creditors in the form of interest, then you know that you've reached a danger point. The same situation holds true in the case of the Federal government.

The government this coming year, according to the Budget, will have to pay out a new high total of \$1,100,000,000 for this interest item. On the basis of estimated tax collections, this is going to mean that about one dollar in every six collected is going to be poured right back down the drain without performing any direct service for the taxpayers of this country.

This item may not seem overwhelming in itself. But when it's remembered that it's only one paragraph in a budget story that justifies the title "Gone with the Wind" from beginning to end—well, it isn't pessimism but just simple observation and arithmetic to "point with alarm!"

Your Government . . .

how familiar are you with it?

The CONSTITUTION — 1. Who holds the sovereign power in the United States? 2. How are amendments to the Constitution made? 3. Can proposed amendments to the Constitution be vetoed by the President?

Answer these questions in your own mind, then look elsewhere in this issue for the answers. How many did you answer correctly?

Other questions will appear in later issues. Keep account of the number you answer correctly. If you answer three out of four of them correctly, your score is excellent; if you answer half correctly your score is fair.



C. Wayland Spruill of Bertie County, State Senator from 3rd N. C. District, who announces his candidacy for Commissioner of Agriculture, and proposes 100 debates.

A challenge from Bertie County is issued by

—C. Wayland Spruill, prominent farmer and State Senator for the third district, who today formally announces his candidacy for Commissioner of Agriculture in the Democratic Primary, and assures a lively race for the State post now held by Kerr Scott, who is expected to run again. The silver-tongued orator from Bertie challenges to a joint debate in every county seat in the State.

"Cousin Wayland," as he is known to hundreds with whom he has continuously served in the General Assembly since 1933, is recognized as one of the most successful dirt farmers in the eastern section of the State. On his farms he grows cotton, tobacco, peanuts, corn, grains, truck, and livestock. He has attracted wide attention by providing for each of his tenants a milk cow and the essentials of a "live-at-home" way of life.

In addition to his practical farming Senaor Spruill has been prominent in Democratic Party politics, serving as County Commissioner and Road Commissioner of his county several terms. For many years he was chairman of the board of trustees of the Lewiston - Woodville - Republican public schools. His business interests related to farming are extensive, including manufacturing of farm machinery, and mercantile business.

As a member of the General Assembly Spruill has been active in behalf of farm legislation, sponsoring the present law to prohibit the sale of rotten scrap tobacco, and the law to eradicate Bang's disease among cattle. He introduced the bill which was passed by the 1933 General Assembly to take the State tax off land.

Besides his interest in farming (turn to page 4, please)

A call for U. S. Marine Corps Recruits is made by

Sergeant Jud H. McDonald, in charge of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station at 126½ W. Sycamore St., Greensboro, who states that the recruiting service has been placed on an unrestricted Quota. The Sergeant says any young man between the ages of 18 and 30, single, white, with grammar school education or above, is eligible. Young men under 21 must have their parents consent. Sergeant McDonald says any young man who wishes to travel or advance his education, should write or call in person at the recruiting office.

In addition, temporary recruiting offices will be established, in the Post Office, at both Morganton and Hickory from the 5th to the 9th of February.

Six thousand tons of Lime were used last year by

—Alleghany farmers, mostly under the government grant, which assists farmers in the purchase of lime with which to improve their farm soil.

The County Agent, R. E. Black, is enthusiastic when he talks of some of our alert farmers who are keen to take advantage of every opportunity to raise the quality of farms and farm products.

Senator Bailey says the Tobacco situation is not

—encouraging, in the international outlook, and he urges N. C. farmers to produce more food and food crops. Senator Bailey of N. C. is chairman of the U. S. Senate Committee on Commerce. His statement follows:

"In view of the extraordinary situation concerning our tobacco, it seems to me that a statement may well be made at this time.

"1. When the British Government notified our State Department about two weeks ago of the intention to impose an embargo upon our tobacco, Mr. Secretary Hull immediately made proper representations and began negotiations with a view to preventing this action or reducing its force. The facts in this matter are known to me. I am not at liberty to divulge them for the reason that transactions of this sort between our nation and any other may not adversely be disclosed while negotiation is going on. Just let me say for the benefit of our people that our State Department is doing all that it can do in the premises and it may be trusted to continue its efforts to the full extent. I may add that the North Carolina Delegation, and the Delegations from other States affected, are deeply concerned and ready to do anything that they can do.

"2. North Carolina farmers are more adversely affected than any others. This is realized by the Delegation and every member of it is anxious to do whatever he can.

"3. Great Britain has been buying about 250 million pounds of American tobacco each year. It is our biggest export market for tobacco and for other commodities. Its buyers have for years been buying our bright tobacco of high quality and paying good prices for it. The withdrawal of the buyers last September gave us some impression as to the disaster entailed in the proposed embargo.

"4. When the buyers were withdrawn, the Federal Government (turn to page 2, please)

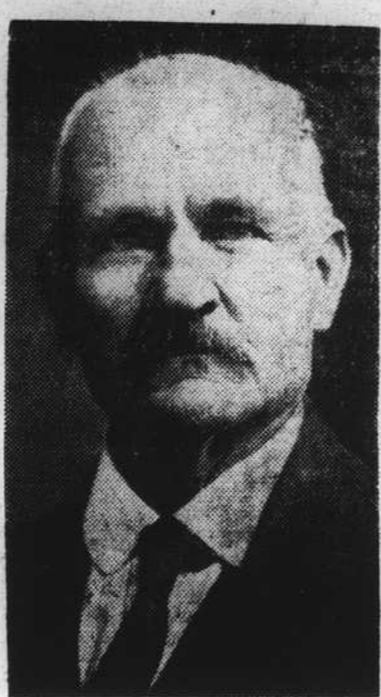
Gulf of Bothnia is the key to Finland's supply

—lines, and the fate of Finland probably depends upon continued ability to get supplies and men, such as Swedish volunteers, from outside its own country, in the opinion of Maj. George Fielding Eliot, one of America's foremost military critics. The Finns must keep control of the Gulf of Bothnia if they hope to continue their successful defense against Russian aggression, Major Eliot believes.

In commenting on the war in a copyrighted article in the New York Tribune, he cited the unexpected activity of the Finnish air force as the most remarkable feature of the first few weeks of hostilities, and draws the conclusion that Italian planes and pilots, and possibly ones from other nations, must be actively engaged in the war. The lack of success by Russia in the air leads Major Eliot to conclude that the Soviet air force has been highly overrated.

He points out one other interesting fact—that Russian generals probably fear Stalin and the political element in Russia so much that they embarked on the war under conditions that generals from democratic nations, such as the United States or Great Britain, would refuse to face. Major Eliot shows in his analysis how impossible it is for Russian supplies to keep up with an adequate attacking force, particularly in the icy wastes in the North.

If his conclusions are right, the greatest service democratic nations can offer Finland is to make available war supplies, particularly fighting planes, and to keep open the Gulf of Bothnia to insure immediate delivery. Apparently England is prepared to give a certain amount of assistance in keeping the supply line clear. The United States builds the finest airplanes in the world. Should not some of these be made immediately available for the Finns?



Elder Meredith Benjamin Martin, active in the Primitive Baptist Church for 53 years, and having served in Alleghany County many years, passes away. (Cut by courtesy Greensboro News)

The old argument, country vs. city, is up again,

—and O. E. Baker of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture gives five reasons why he hopes his boy will become a farmer.

You may wonder why in these hard times for agriculture I should wish my children to become farmers or farmers' wives. I will tell you.

1. The farmer and his family have more to eat than have most city people, and in times of depression they are more certain of a livelihood—if they have not mortgaged the farm. About six million people went from the cities back to farms during the years 1930-34 seeking shelter and sustenance, and two million of these were still on farms when the census was taken January 1, 1935.

2. The farmer has better health and lives longer than the city man—four to five years longer—according to a recent study made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. If the farming people had equal medical facilities, the difference in duration of life would be still greater.

3. The farmer becomes a wealthier man than the majority of city men, judging from the per capita wealth of rural and urban states. This may not be true in the South. It is true in the North because of the millions of city people who have almost no property at all—except an automobile and some secondhand furniture.

4. The farmer is more likely to enjoy his work than are most city people. Most city work is (turn to page 4, please)

Over 76,000 trees have been ordered and planted on

—Alleghany County farms under the Government's plan, which was outlined in these columns a few weeks ago, it was announced by County Agent R. E. Black, yesterday.

Not only are these farms richer for having the trees, the farmers have received a cash bonus for planting the trees. And the offer is still open, but it will be open only a few days more—February 15 to be exact.

These 76,000 trees are a very definite and very secure bank account for the coming generation, as Mr. Black remarked, and every year the trees grow they accumulate interest.

Those who have taken advantage of this offer and propose to profit by it are the following: T. D. Carson has planted 35 thousand white pine; M. E. Reeves, 8 thousand; R. G. Joines, 5 thousand; Geo. Richardson, 4 thousand; R. F. Crouse, 4 thousand; W. E. Billings, 4 thousand; F. B. Caudill, 4 thousand; John W. R. Davis, 1 thousand; and John M. Cheek, 1 thousand. C. H. McGuire has planted 4 thousand black locust; John M. Cheek, 2 thousand; Emerson Petty, 1 thousand; and D. J. Jones, 11 hundred. John M. Cheek has also planted one thousand poplars.

State Auditor is the office for which

—Charles W. Miller, head of a directory publishing company of Asheville, announces himself a candidate

and promises a determined campaign. As Mr. Miller is only 29 he enters the lists as the youngest candidate, and should be able to carry a vigorous campaign. He has never held a public office, either elective or appointive, and in making public his plans, said he was motivated by a desire to be of service to the citizens of his state. Mr. Miller favors the redistribution of legislative representation at Raleigh and believes that the 1940 census should provide the basis for this re-allocation of representatives. He is also an ardent advocate of a plan calling for an equitable distribution of appointive offices between the Eastern and the Western portions of the state. In commenting upon his candidacy, Mr. Miller said, "if nominated and elected, it will be my ambition and earnest effort to discharge the duties of this high office fairly and impartially. I will, at all times, uphold the best interests of the state and of its citizens. I pledge myself to a program of efficiency and economy in the conduct of the Auditor's office, and I feel certain that in me the people of North Carolina will have an official who is accessible at all times and one who is sincere in his desire to serve them and their interests without fear or favor."

Miller pointed to the fact that the office was created by the state constitution, which provides that the State Auditor be elected by popular vote, that he serve for a term of four years, and which outlines his duties, all of which are prescribed by law. Mr. Miller points out the exacting requirements of the office and states his belief that it calls for the time and attention that only a man young in years can give to it.

Miller is the youngest son of Ernest H. Miller, former Vice-Mayor and member of Asheville's city council. He was graduated from the Asheville High School in 1927, then attended Biltmore College, the University of Miami, and the Asheville University Law School.

The Graf Spee Captain failed to understand the

—Latin character.

A well known newspaper correspondent, writing from South America, recently expressed the opinion that Captain Langsdorff, of the ill-fated Graf Spee, committed suicide because he failed to understand the Latin character. Apparently Langsdorff believed the warm and sympathetic reception he received in Montevideo meant the people of Uruguay were sympathetic toward Hitler and the Nazi cause. The Captain must have received a rude awakening when he arrived in Argentina. The press was antagonistic, the people were cool, and all officers and men were immediately interned.

The letter of protest left by Captain Langsdorff bitterly complained of the hostile attitude of the Uruguayan Government, which, he stated, was directly opposite to the attitude of the people. He could not seem to understand that the Latin-American people could be sympathetic toward a group of men who had come through a bitter fight, yet still not sympathize with the cause they represent.

This inability of the Germans to understand the temperaments of other people has been demonstrated again and again. Kaiser Wilhelm did not think the British would go to war over the invasion of Belgium. Later, he erred in his judgement of just how much the people of the United States would stand in the way of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The tradition carried on last fall when Hitler felt he could accomplish his conquest of Poland in the bloodless way he had already annexed Czechoslovakia and Austria. Like other German leaders, he apparently thought that people who are reluctant to fight are afraid to fight.

German people pay a terrific price for the psychological blunders of their leaders.

A daughter away in school would appreciate the Alleghany Times, four months, 60c.



Charles W. Miller of Asheville, head of a publishing firm, who announces his candidacy for office of State Auditor.

Only two cases of Bang's Disease in over 4,000 animals

—tested in Alleghany County, causes the Federal Veterinarians, who are making the examinations, to exclaim about this being one of the very cleanest counties they have ever worked in. Also they praise highly the wonderful cooperation and help the Alleghany farmers have given.

The work is already half done, says Mr. Black, the County Agent, who is evidently pleased at the excellent reports from the veterinarians.

Honor Roll of Piney Creek School for First Semester

First Grade: Clinton Debord, James Landreth, Joe Wheatley, Edna Gibson, Betty Landreth, Edna Musgrove and Emma Lee Mitchell.

Second Grade: Dickie Bear, Ralph Brown, Jayce Billings, Patsy Billings, Bertha Childress, John Henry Delp, Elton Delp, Norma Douglas, Inez Marie Douglas, Willie Fitzgerald, John D. Grubb, Mary Alice Hoppers, Edna Ruth McMillan, Katy Halsey, Ray Hoppers, Anna Sue Osborne, Darlene Osborne, Gayle Osborne, Aileen Parsons, Blondie Smith, Nannie Frances Smith and Doris Winger.

Third Grade: Gayle Billings, Jimmy Weaver, Ola Mae Childers, Rena Fitzgerald and Dorothy Wheatley.

Fourth Grade: Mary Frances Parsons, Leta Fae Woodie, Herbert Barr, Dean Cox, J. C. Mabe, Raline Barr, Eanzaleen Landreth, Billy Halsey, Robert Caudill, Susie Halsey and Doris Southers.

Fifth Grade: June Hash, Harold Reed, Ozena Landreth, Blanche Hoppers, Lois Finney and Evelyn Brown.

Sixth Grade: Bytha Sturgill, Fred Pugh, Mildred Blackburn, Laurene Landreth, Susie Brown, Edwin Wyatt, Wanda Ruth Weaver, Horace Billings and Ruby Childers.

Seventh Grade: Faye Cox, Hazel Caudill, Emma Caudill, Evon Jenkins, Lacy Lee Weaver and Dale DeBoard.

Eighth Grade: Georgia Cox, Carolyn Billings and Bruce Whitely.

Ninth Grade: Burton Landreth, June Cox and Mary Sue Reeves.

Tenth Grade: Iva Mae Caudill and Maxine Jenkins.

Eleventh Grade: James Caudill, Elizabeth Cooke, Mataline Gambill, Edith Hash, Marye Kennedy and Eva Weaver.

The fellow, whose

—job it is to keep the Court House front steps clean of snow and ice, must have been ill this last month, or away on vacation, —the latter probably, and evidently.

Very Convenient,

—just to clip this coupon and mail it to Sparta, to the Alleghany Times.

My name is

My address is

.....

.....

Here's my check or dollar for the Times a year. (That's all)

A Gold Medal for some Alleghany boy or girl is

—offered by the Local American Legion Post in the National Oratorical Contest which is being sponsored by the American Legion.

In addition to the information given in the Alleghany Times of last week, it appears that the state is divided into several sections. Each section is divided into districts. And each district includes three or more counties. Alleghany, then, is divided into three groups, at Glade Valley, Piney Creek, and Sparta High.

"Each High School participating shall between March 1st and 4th select by a public contest a contestant for said school and shall send winner's name and address to the county chairman not later than March 5.

"The winners from each High School shall compete in a county-wide contest to be held between March 8 and 12th in the High School auditorium of the county seat town unless some other place is designated by the county chairman.

"The county winners will compete in a District contest which will be held between March 18th and 22nd at some central point. District winners will be reported not later than March 23rd.

"There will be a statewide contest for the winners of the four sections between March 30th and April 3rd.

"The oration shall be composed of two parts. 1. A prepared oration of not less than 10 or more than 12 minutes. 2. An extemporatory oration of not less than 4 or more than 6 minutes. This feature shall be on some phase of the Constitution and its amendments, and each contestant shall draw his subject from a hat only 5 minutes before he is to speak, and is to speak without being allowed conference with anyone on the subject or see any one on the subject or any literature on same.

"Informal dress will be required. Each contestant shall draw for his position on the program. Names of contestants and judges shall not be made known until after the contest. Each contestant will be called by his number.

"Each contest will be judged by 5 disinterested judges, who shall render their decision without conferring and shall grade, 1. Poise and personality, 25 points, 18 on prepared speech and 7 on extemporatory; 2. Accuracy and effectiveness 50 points, 35 on prepared speech and 15 on extemporatory; 3. Power to thrill, quicken and compel 25 points, 18 on prepared speech and 7 on extemporatory.

Further information may be had from the county American Legion chairman, R. F. Crouse, or from the Alleghany Times Editor.

Circle No. 1 of Sparta Baptist Church met Thursday

—afternoon with Mrs. C. A. Reeves, who presided in the absence of the president. Mrs. P. L. Choate acted as secretary.

Little Shirley Bumgardner, representing the New Year, presented the society with a Bible.

Mrs. Belle Liles played "How Firm a Foundation," on the violin softly, as Mrs. A. O. Joines gave it as a reading.

The topic of the month, "The Eternal Purpose of God," was discussed by nine of the members present.

Following the program Year Books were distributed and refreshments were served.

REV. C. H. McKNIGHT

—will preach at Pine Fork Baptist church on Sunday, February 4, at eleven o'clock. The public is invited.