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Thursday, July 25, 1940.

"Let There Be Light"

Thought for the Thoughtful

Father Time is not always a hard parent, and, though he tarries for none of his children, often lays his hand lightly on those who have used him well.

—Dickens.

The Thirty-third President

by J. E. Jones

The people of the United States will devote a great deal of time and measureless conversation in the next three months to the quadrennial problems relating to electing the thirty-third President of the United States.

One phase of Presidential elections is that the voters seem to agree with the politicians each four years that "this is the most important election," and that it is "again necessary to save America."

In the first election in this Republic each elector voted for two candidates for President, and at that time George Washington received 69 electoral votes to 34 electoral votes for John Adams. The Electoral College named the person receiving the largest number of electoral votes as President, while the candidate in second place was chosen for Vice-President. That's the way Washington and Adams started out.

But Saint Thomas Jefferson had 73 Republican votes in the Electoral College and Sinner Aaron Burr had 73 votes. That threw the election into the House of Representatives where 10 States voted for Jefferson, and 4 States for Burr.

Be it remembered, that in this midsummer month there are loud threats of a "mud-slinging campaign." Senator Barkley as Chairman of the Chicago Convention referred to the Republican "Kilowatt convention," and next day in Washington some of the newspapermen who hadn't gone to Chicago spoke of the Democratic gathering as the "Job-holders convention." Well, that's all useless and "obsolete" stuff. After more than a century and a half of struggle "to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity," the fact should be recognized that the two old parties have gone to bat on the genuine issue which is: **Shall the New Deal be approved by the voters and continued for another four years, or shall it be replaced by policies of the Republican Party?**

One of the grand old fathers of this Nation was Henry Clay, and he declared in the sunset of his life, ninety years ago, "I would rather be right than be President." That is good philosophy today, which every American voter might take home to himself and recast in this individual platform: "I would rather be right than a mental slave to either one of the old political parties."

Congress And Its Opportunities

The political conventions of two great parties afford members of the Senate and House a "breathing spell," which they are in need of. The convention system provides new sounding boards for political opinions—which is a good thing for the nation.

The demands of the Administration have been rules obeyed by Congress at this session. In former times Congress had initiative enough to originate legislation of its own. Congress used to make its own policies. Under the New Deal the President and his advisors make the policies and Congress agrees with most of them.

The political convention went back to the old style of tearing all public problems apart and analyzing them. That was a sort of re-christening of popular government which has been on a vacation for most of the time in recent years.

Other Editors' Comments

"You can fool all of the people only some of the time," cries a trenchant critic of government trends. After that, it's the other party's turn.—Lynchburg News.

Add to list of footwear problems: Finding somebody to fit Jim Farley's shoes.

Cactus Jack is reported leaving the administration and the Democratic party to their own devices. Throwing in his hand.

Whatever came of that scolding Henry Wallace got from the White House for a speech he made in San Francisco suggesting that conditions would be such as to force F. D. R. to run for a third term?

Herr Hitler talks as if this was his war, which in fact it has been, mostly, so far, but it may not be very long before famine and disease take over.—Greensboro Daily News.

Acclaim And Support

The address of President Roosevelt, signaling a willingness to make the sacrifice, as he described it, to abandon a personal desire to retire at the end of his second term to continue his public services in a time of world crisis, was acclaimed by new dealers today as the best of his oratorical efforts. These good friends of the President were saying today that Mr. Willkie will, perforce, meet the champ.

There was some support for this viewpoint, very flattering to the President, outside new deal circles. For example, the Washington News agreed editorially today that the President was last night at his best, that "his oration was a superb job of self-justification in the course he has chosen—of rationalizing his indispensability." But the News prefers the simple words of warning uttered by Jefferson, to what it refers to as the oval room oration, and it takes its stand with Jefferson, horse and buggy and all, "rather than subscribe to the indispensability of any man, at any time."

The foregoing editorial utterances strengthen the impression that the Scripps-Howard papers, numerous and influential in the central west, are to throw their support to Mr. Willkie.—Greensboro Daily News.

Politics Will Be Cleaner

It would be naive to suppose that the two Hatch Acts, the second of which has just been passed by the House of Representatives, will completely purify American politics. Basic reforms are not accomplished simply by passing laws, but they can be and are accomplished in wholesome degree by public support for enforcement of those laws.

Public opinion has been heartily for the Hatch bills; otherwise the present one could not have been forced out of a reluctant committee and brought to passage over the opposition of entrenched political leaders. The first measure, passed in 1939, provided penalties for using Federal office to influence the votes of WPA workers or others on Federal pay rolls. The statute which Senate and House now have added will forbid this sort of political activity among State employees paid wholly or in part with Federal funds, such as highway department workers, agricultural agents and many others.

The Bankhead amendment also limits political contributions to \$5,000 from any individual. Wendell L. Willkie, Republican nominee for President, added to the pressure for enactment of the bill when he announced that gifts to his campaign fund would be limited to that amount anyway. The curb on activity of State employees already had earned the endorsement of President Roosevelt.

Such measures, as has been said, are, are not self-enforcing. But the fact of their passage under the circumstances described is in itself an earnest of the fact that the American people want elections decided on their merits and not by an army of office-holders using public funds. In a democracy public opinion determines political customs, and political customs determine the character and quality of government. The passage of the second Hatch Act is an important step in defining the American concept of political morality.—The Christian Science Monitor.

The Hickory Grove Low Down

You know, this idea of doing something about getting prepared for war is O. K. But the idea of just doing something, and having only a hazy idea about how it is gonna turn out, is a horse of a different color.

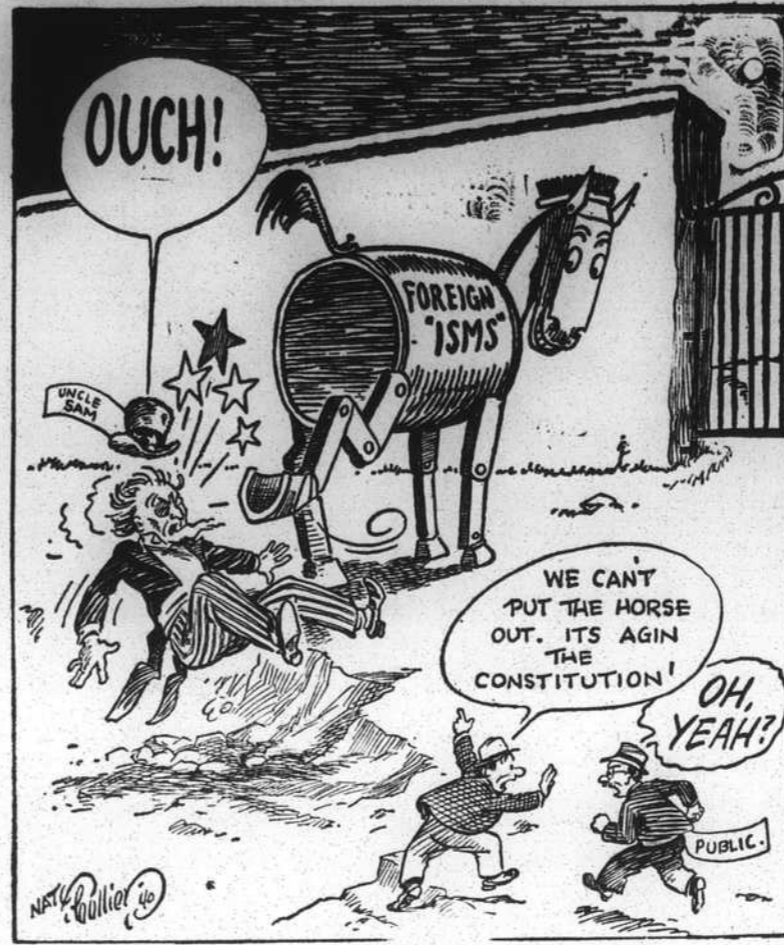
And you take these battleships costing around 90 million each, which we think we gotta have, they will maybe not be what we want, 3 or 4 years from now, when they are finished. We need something now as much as 4 years hence.

For 90 million we could build 25 or 30 welter-weight boats. And 25 or 30 such spitfires circling one battleship, would make things pretty lively for the big boat. The 25 million dollar Graf Spee of the Germans, she didn't last long against 3 small Britishers, down there off South America.

We been rushing around, voting money hap-hazard, and half-way beside ourself. The only thing Congress asks is, how much—and the bigger the amount, the quicker the vote. Maybe this old, common-sense Hoosier boy, Willkie, will kinda get 'em quieted down and back on terra firma, there in Old Potomac Town.

Yours with the low down,
JO SERRA

HE WHO GETS KICKED



Alleghany

—Oddities

Oddities of nature make us wonder, but oddities made by human hands really make us sit up and take notice.

I walked into the home of Corbitt Sturgill of Twin Oaks, the other day and was looking at what appeared to be an ordinary library table. I tried to open the drawer in the table and discovered it to be only an imitation. I inquired why the table didn't have a drawer, and Mrs. Sturgill answered that there wasn't room for a drawer in the table because there was a bed in it! I looked at her, wondering if I was crazy and hearing strange things, or what was wrong. She soon solved the mystery by simply lifting up the top of the table. And there, concealed, was a set of folding springs. She unfolded the springs, and the legs to hold the foot of the bed just automatically dropped into place. The top of the table served for a very attractive head board! So there you have it—a simple library table—30 inches by 40 inches, patented in March, 1918, and sold to the present owner by a salesman passing through with a load of furniture—with a full length, half size bed concealed on the inside of it. Strange to relate, this bed is really very comfortable to sleep on. By the way, trailer owners, here's a tip—it saves a whole lot of space when space is scarce.

Mt. Zion

Piney Creek P. O., July 22.—Mr. and Mrs. Bonnett, Mr. and Mrs. Roy K. Pugh, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and W. R. Pugh, of Tolia, spent a short time in this community last Wednesday. They were on their way to visit relatives at Crossnore, Avery County.

Dr. O. R. Black and son-in-law, Ralph Lynn, of Landis, and W. E. Maxwell, Sparta, spent Sunday night at W. F. Pugh's home; other guests in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Pugh, Logene and Fred Pugh.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Black and children, of Sparta, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Black.

Rev. W. C. Cooper, Mocksville, Rev. R. L. Berry and son, Robert Allen, Sparta, were at John Grubbs' home Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wagoner and children, of High Point, Mr. and Mrs. Rex Wagoner, Stratford, visited Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Billings Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. E. M. Mabe spent Sunday with Mrs. W. F. Pugh. Other recent guests were Mrs. J. F. Shepherd and Mrs. Dora Douglas. Mr. and Mrs. Cole Parsons and son, of Whitehead, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Parsons.

A number of persons from this community attended the lawn party Saturday night, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Moxley, given by Misses Lorene Moxley and Velma Pugh.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Pugh and children were dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Douglas Sunday.

Misses Jean Absher, Mary Lou Grubb and Hazel Van Dyke were recent dinner guests of Mrs. S. E. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Weaver and children, of New Hope, and Miss Levon Church, Scottville, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Smith.

J. F. Allen, North Wilkesboro, who has been ill for some time, is with his family near Peden.

A number of persons from this community attended the revival service at Piney Creek Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hill and daughters, of Scottville, visited

Travel

Around the Rim of Good Old U. S. A.



Montana And Yellowstone River

Our road across the Bitter Root Mountain range led to heights of matchless grandeur, invaded tall timber and mountain splendor, and swept around the flanks of snow-crowned peaks. After traveling through this rugged country for days one can really sing its praise. Travel in any direction you wish, you will soon encounter some famed beauty spot, for it is truly a land where nature holds sway in wild majesty. It is a land to gladden the heart and quicken the senses, where one can feel the refreshment of winter's bracing wind, or taste the sweetness of the mountain water, hear the roar of cataracts or enjoy the quiet of virgin forests, smell the odor of camp fires or inhale the fragrance of wild flowers. Variety is the spice of any Western scene—variety of landscape, variety of climate, and variety of coloration. I marveled as I discovered wonders both natural and man-made. The series of scenes at every turn astonishes one's senses. As I made this tour of the state I came face to face with the wonders of the West, and it appealed to me as a mad race between the works of nature and the works of man,—man trying to bend the way of nature to his needs, and nature ever on the alert trying to tear apart or destroy the progress of man. To include the work of both, they have given to the West their best—the three great power and irrigation projects, and the world's two largest bridges. The Boulder, Grand Coulee, and Bonneville Dams do honor to the imagination and skill of mankind. The Golden Gate bridge and the San Francisco—Oakland Bay bridge, it has been said, may never be surpassed.

If I were able to find words for description, I would write a book on the wonders and scenic beauties of the golden West, but for the present I will have to limit my description and be on my way through scenic Idaho, and into Montana, a state no less impressive than the former ones, what with the romantic loveliness of 250 lakes, 60 glaciers, and numberless gigantic precipices.

My stop in Butte was indeed interesting. Some of the old buildings there were quaint reminders of the typical western town in its heyday, when the law was the six-shooter, and gambling halls and saloons were the chief attractions. I read one time (perhaps in "Believe it or not") that anyone who stood on the street corner in Butte, Montana, would be standing over more wealth than he could count in a life time.

Very soon after taking the bus again, and thinking, "All's well!" we were on the plains, and the great Continental Divide was be-

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Pugh Sunday evening.

Georgia Cox is spending this week with her mother, Mrs. Bee Smith, of Piney Creek.

hind us. Plainly visible in the distance, however, I could see another mountain range rising up abruptly, decorated like a bride with streamers of white clouds. And to add color to the scene a very fast train was working its way around the side of the mountain, leaving a trail of smoke equal to any landscape painting.

At Livingston, Montana, I gained an indelible regret for having had to turn north instead of going south to the Yellowstone Park, which was only a short distance away. The Park has always been a magnet to my adventurous nature, since it is the oldest and largest of all National parks, contains more geysers than are found in all the rest of the world, and has to its credit the largest and most successful wild animal preserve on earth.

For 200 or more miles our road played hide-and-seek with the beautiful Yellowstone River, which was crystal clear, and very often jammed with ice, which added sparkle and brilliance to the picturesque setting.

He Wanted Utility

Willie was being measured for his first made-to-order suit of clothes.

"Do you want the shoulders padded, my little man?" inquired the tailor.

"Naw," said Willie significantly, "pad de pants."

Anniversaries

This week it is a pleasure to honor one who will complete 81 years of a busy life on next Wednesday, July 31st, having been born in 1859. We send hearty birthday greetings and good wishes to

MRS. S. JANE SANDERS

—of Stratford, the grandmother of Mrs. Edgar J. Mabe, and the mother of C. M. Sanders the Stratford Postmaster, Mrs. I. B. Richardson and Mrs. W. G. Richardson of Stratford, Mrs. J. Lester Irwin of Sparta, and Mrs. F. O. Richardson of Laurel Springs. She has 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Being a widow, she makes her home among their children. Her husband, Elder John R. Sanders, died 20 years ago. She is very well known through the Stratford section and has many friends there and around Sparta.

"This is the worst town for gossip I ever lived in."
"H'm! What have you been doing?"

J. C. Sutherland
Watch, Clock and
Jewelry Repairing
INDEPENDENCE, VA.

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Watch For Thursday's Issue Of This Newspaper And For Our Big Circulars Being Distributed Throughout This Section.

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N. MAIN STREET, GALAX, VA.