

PETTENGILL

"The Gentleman from Indiana"

THE CHURCH AND CAESAR

Under the heading, "The Liquidation of Christianity," we told of the danger which threatens the churches of America by reason of high taxes competing with church contributions, and low interest yields reducing endowment income. This column attracted so much comment and editorial discussion as to warrant a supplement.

I have just received a description of the church in Germany. As it was written by a Nazi propaganda bureau it may be assumed to state the case as favorably as possible to the Hitler regime.

Although Germany has published no budget in the last two or three years, it is believed that the government absorbs one-half at least of the total national income by taxation, even when not at war.

This is redistributed to sustain its economy and enforce its will. "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing." Hitler maintains his iron discipline over German life as much by control of the purse as by the sword, or secret police. It is perfumed and window dressed as the "socialization of income."

Hitler's power is not much different in principle, although worse in degree, than the power of corrupt political machines in American cities. The machine does not have to use the sword. Its control of the purse is enough. Everyone is put in fear of benefits withheld. The precincts that "vote right" get the favors on parks, playgrounds, streets, schools, etc.

"We must make our selection between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude," said Thomas Jefferson. The National Socialists at Washington claim that we can have a profligate government and free men, free schools and a free church. I have too much credit in their intelligence to believe that they believe what they say.

Point 24 of the National Socialist Party platform reads: "We demand the freedom of all religious denominations in the State in so far as they do not endanger its property or offend the concepts of conduct and morality of the German people." This means exactly nothing. No one is free whose freedom is subject to be withdrawn by the arbitrary will of another man. He lives by favor, and not by right. And with favor goes fawning.

In Germany the Constitution also means nothing. The courts are tools of the party boss. Neither church nor pastor can criticize the State. The will of the Fuehrer is the supreme law. Even in the field of morals the church must take orders from Hitler.

With the State taking fifty per cent of national and individual income, could the Church, Protestant or Catholic, stand alone? It seems impossible. In any event it does not.

The State places its tax gatherers at the disposal of the Church under a sort of "check off" system. When he pays his income tax, every church member must pay a supplemental tax of 7 to 10 per cent which the State turns over to the Church. This places the Church, its pastor, priest, officers and members under Caesar's thumb. For the threat of withholding the money must always be present. Church taxes in arrears are collected by the State. You must pay to pray.

The State also pays the salaries of pastors whose parish tax income does not suffice. Archbishops receive an annual salary of 36,000 Reichmarks (about \$14,000); bishops 21,000 Reichmarks. The State further maintains the theological faculties in the universities. In the army the State bears the expense of all spiritual services. Soldiers are used to build and repair churches.

All this is told by the German Library of Information of New York City as if it were a great accomplishment. But this is the unpardonable sin. For it is the condition in which one is unable to distinguish right from wrong. This is not the separation of Church and State. It is the subordination of the Church to the State. All things are rendered unto Caesar, who if he feels benevolent, distributes largesse to those who cringe.

No doubt millions of Germans, Protestant and Catholic, are still as devout as men have ever been. That they keep their ancient faith

NOTICE

Any church in Alleghany County that wants a painted and lettered board to announce its name, denomination or time of service can have it if they will furnish the board, painted white, and bring it to us for the lettering—without cost. 12 inches by 30 is a good size. There is no obligation whatsoever.

W. S. MEAD

Our world...

"Free French" Go Into Action

Cairo.—General Charles de Gaulle's "Free French" forces, sweeping 225 miles across the wild-est wastes of the Eastern Sahara, have driven into the heart of Italian Libya from the south and annihilated Fascist forces at the Oasis of Murzuk. Opening up a new invasion front in Libya, the "Free French" appeared to be joining Britain's imperial army of the Nile in a huge encirclement of the badly-battered Fascist army of Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.

Haile Selassie To The Front

Cairo.—British forces last night closed in on the towns of Agordat and Barentu in Italian Eritrea, taking a total of more than 1,100 Fascist prisoners in a drive aimed at cutting Mussolini's Red Sea colony in half. To the south where other British columns were driving deeper into Ethiopia, a spread of the revolt of Ethiopian tribesmen led by Haile Selassie in the interior was reported in today's communique of the British middle east command.

Serious Unrest In Rumania

Bucharest.—Hundreds of Iron Guard rebels were herded before a court martial yesterday, many to be condemned to death for last week's rebellion, as Premier General Ion Antonescu announced that he will swing Rumania into "closer community" with the Rome-Berlin axis.

Four Days Peace—Then Bombs

Lon.—German bombers ended London's four-day respite from raids with a shower of incendiaries and explosives which caused considerable damage to houses and brought the city's anti-aircraft defenses into vigorous action yesterday. The four alarms in London were the first since last Thursday, but the attacks ended before dark ushered in the ninth night without a raid warning.

Using Economic Warfare, Too

London.—Great Britain and the United States are negotiating on a far-reaching proposal for joint economic warfare against the Italo-German axis in an effort to double the effectiveness of Britain's blockade. Under the plan, which is being discussed both in London and Washington, all German assets in the United States would be "frozen" by order of President Roosevelt and ships trading with the axis would be denied entry to U. S. ports throughout the world.

Opinions On Who Can Win

Washington.—In clipped monosyllables, General George C. Marshall yesterday expressed the opinion that Britain could whip Germany with the American aid contemplated under the lease-lend bill. The views of the army's chief of staff, expressed to reporters after he had testified at a secret session of the House foreign affairs committee, recalled the testimony given last week by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, who said that even with the full military assistance of the United States Britain could not hope successfully to invade the continent of Europe, unless Germany collapsed internally.

Willkie Admires English Courage

London.—Wendell L. Willkie, disdaining even a tin hat, had his baptism of fire yesterday as he filled a heavy schedule despite the longest German daylight air raid since last September. Listening to a debate in Parliament on the freedom of the press, he remarked: "That is democracy at work. It's wonderful!" Willkie forgot his steel helmet when he started his rounds. When the sirens shrieked and anti-aircraft shells began bursting, he didn't bother to go back for it. "I am particularly impressed with the calm, deliberate courage of everyone I've seen," Willkie said. "It's all done so deliberately and naturally and without any fanfare of trumpets. That's the kind of stuff I admire."

Winston-Salem Man For Ambassador

Washington.—Unless President Roosevelt changes his mind, S. Clay Williams, of Winston-Salem, will be minister to Great Britain, and the Chief Executive is only awaiting London's approval to announce the appointment, it was reliably reported yesterday. Williams has been chosen, these reports stated, to accomplish the terrific task of co-ordinating the vast productive machinery of the two nations into one huge arsenal for the defeat of the axis powers.

Deaths

EDWARDS

Mrs. Ellen Edwards of Sparta died at her home on Sunday morning January 26, after an illness of six weeks. "Aunt Ellen" as she was known to all, lived her entire life in Alleghany County, and her eighty-three years were of love and devotion to her family and friends.

To the marriage with John C. Edwards were born two children, both of whom survive, Rufus C. Edwards of Sparta, and Mrs. Sam Spicer of Bel Air, Md. She is also survived by two brothers, H. C. Cheek and F. W. Cheek, and two sisters, Mrs. Lucinda Edwards and Mrs. Manual Williams. She

while in chains to the modern Caesar is a promise, perhaps, that when men once more revolt against tyrants, the communicants of the church, as in centuries past, will be in the front lines of freedom.

But we want none of this in America. It is, however, threatened by the school which proposes to tax and tax and tax and spend and spend and spend. It is done in the sacred name of "humanity." But "what avail the plough or sail, or land or life, if freedom fail?"

SAMUEL B. PETTENGILL

leaves seven grand children and eighteen great-grand children.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 o'clock on Monday, January 27, at Little River Primitive Church, of which she was a member, by Elders, Shade Caudill and C. B. Kilby. Interment was in the Edwards Cemetery west of Sparta, near the old home in which she lived for many years after her second marriage to Hiram Edwards.

Honorary pall bearers were her nephews, George Cheek, J. T. E. Fender, Welter Maxwell, L. E. Edwards, John M. Cheek, Robert Fender, C. G. Fender and Eugene Transou.

Active pall bearers were relatives of the family, Wayne Spicer, Ode Joines, Ralph Evans, Earnest Edwards, Wayne Waddell and Rex Mitchell.

Flower girls were nieces, Mrs. James Mac D. Wagoner, Mrs. Edd Caudill, Mrs. J. T. Fender, Mrs. A. O. Joines and friends Mrs. Wayne Waddell, Mrs. Bess Spicer, Mrs. C. G. Lucas and Mrs. Connie Edwards.

PETTY

George Alton Petty, three-year-old son of George W. Petty and wife, Mrs. Ruby Sanders Petty, died at the home of his parents in the Fairview section, near Galax, Tuesday morning, January 28.

Funeral services were conducted in Shiloh Methodist Church,

ALLEGHANY STAR-TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd Year. No. 23.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, January 30, 1941.

Dr. C. A. Reeves Is Stricken While at Work

Monday, about 5 o'clock as Dr. Reeves was busy in his office extracting teeth for some men from the prison camp he excused himself for a moment and went to the next room. Capt. Glynn Shepherd, who was in the office with the men, became suspicious when Dr. Reeves remained away nearly 30 minutes. So he opened the door, and there sat the Dr. in a chair, with a very peculiar look on his face, and he was found to be unconscious. Help was summoned, and he was soon on the way to Davis Hospital in Statesville. At last report he had not yet regained consciousness.

It has not been generally known that Dr. Reeves has suffered for two years with high blood pressure, and it is supposed that that had something to do with this sudden stroke.

(The last word as we go to press is that Dr. Reeves is resting easier, having regained consciousness.)

45 Jobs in 52 Weeks is Record

A recent caller at the Durham Employment office is witness enough to disprove the statement that "a rolling stone gathers no jobs."

Miss Lyra Ferguson worked at different jobs in 45 States of the Union in 1939. The first thing she did on entering a State was to head for a typical industry. As a result, she worked with a lighthouse keeper in Maine, made maple sugar in Vermont, caught salmon in Oregon, packed oranges in Florida and milked cows in Wisconsin. Only New York, Nevada, and Arizona failed to give the itinerant worker a job before a week of searching was up.

Favorite State in Miss Ferguson's itinerary is North Carolina, where she worked with the Biltmore industries during the Rhododendron Festival. This job-traveler is now lecturing and writing a book about her adventures.

—N. C. Employment News.

"What Shall It Profit" Goes Big At Hanes Church

The New Haven Young People brought their temperance play, "What Shall It Profit," through a fifth showing with flying colors last Saturday night at Hanes Baptist Church near Winston-Salem. Three car-loads of the young people motored down Saturday evening. After a reception and delicious supper, they went on to the church and prepared for the evening performance. The play started at 8 o'clock after a short devotion of song and prayer led by Rev. James Swinson, pastor, and Ray Billings. The "Boosters," a singing group heard over the radio from High Point each Saturday sang a selection during the devotion.

Rev. Fred Dancy, of Boone, introduced the play. Following a reading "Little Blossom," by eight-year-old Garnett Cecil Sexton, and a trio, "Dare to be a Daniel," by Nannie Reid, Freddie Sue and Margaret Sexton, accompanied by Cleo Reeves and Ford Sexton with their guitars, all of Twin Oaks, the first curtain rose on "What Shall It Profit."

The play went over with success, and the crowded house of 250 people testified to the interest. The players say they never played to a more appreciative audience.

near Sparta, Wednesday morning, at eleven o'clock, by Rev. L. F. Strader, pastor of the Sparta Methodist charge, and burial was in Shiloh Cemetery.

SIMONS

J. R. Simons, formerly of Piney Creek section passed away Friday, January 17, at the age of 68 at his home.

Funeral services were conducted on Saturday, January 18, at 10 o'clock in the Piney Creek Methodist Church by Preacher John Evans, and interment was in the church cemetery. He is survived by his wife.

ENOUGH TO SCARE ANY GROUNDHOG



Woman's Club Initiates New County Building

The Woman's Club held their regular monthly meeting last Friday afternoon in the Assembly room of the new County Office building, with thirteen members and two visitors present. Although the building is not completed, the women wanted to start out the new year in it.

The meeting was held around the huge fireplace, using planks and nail kegs for seats.

Mrs. A. O. Joines was program leader and the topic "Safety" was discussed by Rev. Mr. Strader, Mrs. Lola White and Mrs. Emerson Black, after Rev. Mr. Berry had opened the meeting by prayer.

During the business session the general offices of the club were re-elected to serve another term.

At the close of the meeting Mrs. Edwin Duncan served refreshments.

The women are very proud of the new building and are looking forward to its early completion.

Healthy Place, Alleghany County

As the newspapers bring daily reports of schools all over the country, and especially in adjoining counties, being closed because of the "flu" epidemic, it is worthy of record that Alleghany county has reported very few cases of "flu" thus far, and no schools have been reported closed. Indeed, the general health in Alleghany can be reported good, perhaps due to the winds that give a great abundance of fine fresh air—even through the cracks into the houses.

Alleghany county has almost none of the pale pallor of modern dwellers in super-heated apartments.

Maple Shade

Maple Shade, Jan. 28.—Hubert and Harold Pettyjohn returned to their home in New Jersey after spending some time here with their father, J. H. Pettyjohn, who accompanied them back to N. J. to spend a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Perry, Mrs. Anna Perry and Don Halsey, of Maryland, were visiting relatives at Piney Creek last week.

Mrs. Clyde Louthin, Mrs. Myrtle Phipps and Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Louthin, of Maryland, attended the funeral of Mrs. Laura Halsey at Maple Shade Saturday.

Howard Brown and Miss Flossie Halsey, of High Point, were visitors in the home of Steve Halsey during the week-end.

Miss Evelyn Pettyjohn, of Piney Creek, has been ill for the past week.

Miss Clyde Fender spent last week with Charles Hawkins at Whitehead.

Young People Hold Meeting Of B. Y. P. D.

The young people of New Haven Church of the Brethren held their monthly B. Y. P. D. cabinet meeting at the home of J. R. Sexton last Thursday night, January 23, with vice-president, Frances Wrench, presiding in the absence of president, Jay Sexton. The meeting was opened with prayer by the adult advisor, Garnett Sexton. After the roll call and minutes by secretary, Freddie Sue Sexton, a report was given by each of the committee chairmen. Plans were discussed for the coming year. Among these was a proposed young people's conference which the Willing Workers hope to hold. Representatives will be invited from every church in the North and South Carolina District.

After a discussion and other business the meeting adjourned to meet again February 21st.

Transou and Edwards Given Committee Places

Alleghany county's senator and representative, Eugene Transou and W. Bert Edwards, both have been named on a number of important committees in the legislature at Raleigh. Senator Transou, who represents Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties, was made chairman of the committee on railroads, which is significant since Alleghany has no railroad within its bounds.

Senator Transou is also serving on the committees for agriculture, claims, counties, cities and towns, election laws, federal relations, insane asylums, mining, public boards, public welfare, senate expenditures, senatorial districts, penal institutions and printing.

Representative Edwards, who is a new member, was assigned to serve on the following committees: Agricultural, conservation and development, education, election and election laws, expenditures of the house, game, insane asylums, military affairs and justice of the peace.

Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion, Jan. 27.—Rev. A. C. Gibbs, District Superintendent, of Elkin, will preach at Mt. Zion Sunday morning, February 2, at eleven o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Pugh visited Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Pugh one day last week.

Mrs. Maude Mason has returned to Washington, D. C., after a brief visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Black.

Bonnie Grubb is spending some time with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Grubb, of Nathans Creek.

Louise Perry spent last Tuesday with her aunts, Mrs. Rebecca Paisley and Mrs. John Grubb.

Mrs. Mattie Smith and Misses Edna Rae Smith and Velma Pugh visited Mrs. W. F. Pugh last Thursday evening.

Rev. and Mrs. S. G. Ferree

Frank Statement By U. S. Senator Josiah W. Bailey

(The Star-Times has received direct from Senator Bailey the following statement of his position on our relation to the war in Europe and gladly presents it herewith.—Ed.)

The policy of our government with respect to the war in Europe, and in view of complications in the Orient, appears to be as follows:

1. It is our purpose to render full aid to Great Britain and other countries allied with her in resisting the aggressions of the totalitarian powers.

2. The limitations upon this aid are:

(a) The preservation of our own security.

(b) A hope that we may escape involvement as an actual belligerent.

(c) We do not intend to send our soldiers to fight in any Old World country.

3. In order that we may render aid promptly and intelligently to Great Britain, we are about to give the President extraordinary powers, since matters of this sort cannot be handled as promptly as is necessary by the Congress.

It is not intended that those powers shall be permanent, but shall expire whenever the necessity for them passes. The President has declared that he does not intend to have our ships used for purposes of convoy of ships to Great Britain or ports of other belligerents and that he does not intend to transfer to Great Britain, or any other country, any important part of our Navy. He has repeatedly said that this country will not be taken into war, meaning by this that he will do nothing to take it into war as a belligerent. Limitations in line with the foregoing are likely to be enacted.

It is important to this country that the British Empire and Commonwealth of Nations shall not be overwhelmed, and it is important that the British Navy shall not pass into the hands of any other nation. In the final analysis, come what may, we may reasonably hope to prevent by this course the control of the seas passing to the powers that would isolate this country in event they should get such control, and which countries cannot be trusted not to attack us if they should conceive it to be to their interest so to do. In other words, if control of the seas can be preserved as in the present hands which control it, that is the British and the United States fleets, we will be relatively safe in any event.

Since there are many inquiries as to my position, I am issuing this statement in order that all may know that I am sustaining the policy of our Government as above outlined. I deplore the cost, the risk and the sacrifices entailed, but they seem to me to be necessary to the security and welfare of the people of the United States. Having stated my position, let me add that I shall be utterly tolerant of those who differ with me and give appropriate consideration to their representations. My decision, as above set out, has been reached not suddenly, but after prolonged consideration.

JOSIAH W. BAILEY
United States Senator

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Employment

The Blue Ridge Parkway is seeking workmen and application blanks for employment are available at Sparta Post Office, according to Postmaster G. Glenn Nichols.

Also an Army Enlistment office has been established at Wytheville, and any who wish to join but are under age may get the parent's consent blanks at the Sparta Post Office.

Rev. Gwynn Blackburn has moved from Mouth of Wilson to the Baptist parsonage at Whitehead.

visited in this community last Tuesday and were supper guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Smith.

Mrs. W. F. Pugh visited her daughter, Mrs. J. R. Cox Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. S. E. Smith visited Mrs. T. E. Pugh Tuesday, this being the first time Mrs. Smith had been out since December 21st, due to illness.