

Executive Wanted

The resignation of Mrs. Louise Nelkirk as Superintendent of Public Welfare in Mecklenburg brings to an end a ten-year career for the only lady in charge of the department who was executive in charge of the County's biggest public business, spending about half a million dollars a year on relief.

Mrs. Nelkirk has not escaped criticism, as would have been inevitable in any case. But we believe she did her job well. For one thing she has a steady hand with money, and is not given to stewing it about indiscriminately. Under her administration, relief in the county was always a thing within bounds; need of the citizen was the prime factor—and unless there was real need, there was no spending of public money.

She entered this job without training as a social worker, and learned the trade as she went along, so to speak. And as she progressed after 1935 the job grew greatly. It has grown so much in the time (and promises to grow so much more in the future) that the problem of finding Mrs. Nelkirk's successor is going to be difficult, and should be carefully considered.

Despite the valuable service Mrs. Nelkirk has rendered in building the department to its present size, we think it must be said that the new superintendent should be a person of professional training in the field. The new director of the relief program will find a sizable job to be done among Mecklenburg's numerous needy citizens. And because of the very size of the program, not to mention its social implications, he—or she—should possess high qualifications of training and experience.

Bad Example

In the case of Sewall Avery, Jr. President of the United States, which a United States Judge resolved in favor of Mr. Avery, it is well to observe that the decision rested mainly on a finding of fact, that fact, that Montgomery Ward, Inc. is a retail establishment rather than a producer, specifically, a war-producer, as the President had contended.

There were questions of law, to be sure, and they too were resolved in Mr. Avery's favor. For one, the Federal Judge found, as Mr. Avery had insisted all along, that decisions of the War Labor Board were not binding. They were not enforceable. Nobody could be put in jail or sued for not obeying them.

Altogether, we suppose that the first outcome of this famous case will have to be put down as a great victory for Mr. Avery. The President, surely, was badly advised by his obedient Attorney General proceeding on the basis that, as a fact, Ward's was a war-producer rather than a retailer and he should have been no more driven to that conclusion because of the threat of sympathy strikes in actual war-producing establishments than he should have invented it as a means of bringing a notorious enemy of organized labor to terms. But let Mr. Avery do his exulting in his soft tones.

For his successful challenge of the War Labor Board's authority to do other than arbitrate disputes between employers and employees offers a dreadful example to all those more tractable citizens who have taken WLB's advice at though it had the full force of law. The whole economy of the country has been kept in order, and case inflation held at bay, as a direct consequence of compliance with WLB's policies. By showing that WLB may safely be defied

Some Doubt

Tom Watson, Florida's Attorney General has announced that his latest anti-closed shop amendment—for which he was largely responsible—will not be invoked until it can be examined by the courts. He has heard, he says, that a good many Floridians outside the labor movement have grave doubts as to the wisdom of this amendment. And certainly the friends of labor who helped fight the amendments are still vigorous in their opposition.

Mr. Watson himself believes the amendment is constitutional, but in the face of so many expressions of the opposite view, he has wisely decided to await a judicial test. That means that no contracts concerning the closed shop amendment in Florida will be broken, and that the status quo will be maintained for several months, at least.

We recall that, when the amendment was passed, there were any number of predictions that it would be found unconstitutional, and that was not really an important barrier to improved labor-management relations. We have the opinion of a constitutional lawyer to the effect that it will be thrown out by the courts, and that labor relations in Florida as well as Arkansas will go on as before.

It is not only very difficult to control labor practices with this kind of legislation. It is also dangerous to the labor movement. There are at least two points to point out before, many ways in which irresponsible labor organizations may be called to account without resorting to any such club as this. But the chances are great that Mr. Watson's former amendment will never be put to use, anyhow. His acceptance of a waiting period is a sign.

Make It Good

We don't want to be premature with our applause for General De Gaulle's plan for keeping watch on the Rhine after this war. Not that it isn't an admirable one; that's the kind of thing we'd be thinking about. If we were supposed to put up with an invader, we'd be weeping. But we keep seeing the ghost of the Maginot Line, and the dread, depressing philosophy which was its shadow, east over France and all of Western Europe.

France will keep watch, and that is fine. The United Nations are only too anxious to see her do so. But we must remember the terrible lesson of 1940; that great fortifications, however formidable, may not suffice in a war of the future. We must remember that military aid to France has been long and heavy, but that some shrewd foe has always provided an unexpected answer to traditional means of defense.

The watch on the Rhine by France between wars was not haphazard or careless. It was kept by the enormously expensive Maginot forts, incredibly well equipped. It was kept in the ranks of the French Army, rated as the finest land army in the world. But it went for naught. That is, as we've remembered when Frenchmen under arms set out to watch the Rhine once more.

France, and the Allied world, must devise a means of watching Germany which does not depend upon the weapons of the moment, which cannot be replaced in the development of new tanks, new planes, new robot bombs. We must begin far beyond the Rhine, in the vitals of Germany itself. We must pull the enemy's teeth, and keep them pulled. And in the event we do that, the Allies must watch on the Rhine in calm and safety.

The French comrade-in-arms will please stand by till he receives the arms. In this new warfare it is not enough to enter the fray equipped only with a cudgel.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record.)
SENATOR PEPPER (Florida) speaking against Senator Wheeler's proposition: I wish to repeat what I said in my speech over the radio yesterday, namely, that within the confines of these four walls is where the peace of the nation and the future will be kept or lost. What the able Senator has said is the best evidence of my own knowledge of the hearts and minds of Floridians that the last war and its victory were peace lost, but in this Chamber.
MR. MILLIKIN (Ohio) I challenge that statement, and I should like to have a demonstration of it.
SEN. PEPPER: History demonstrates it.
MR. MILLIKIN: Mr. President, do you not care about the Senator's notions of history. I think that is a terrible accusation to make against this country and the Senate.
In what way was the peace of the world lost on the floor of the Senate? Let us have a demonstration of it.
MR. PEPPER: Very well. It was because of my humble effort the Senate failed to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, and to provide for our part in the League of Nations. Senators who have the point of view of the able Senator from Montana, if there are a sufficient number of them, and if we do not change the rules of the Senate so

WASHINGTON
The fight over Jesse Jones and Henry Wallace today is not only a thing: control of the tremendous war machinery of the U. S. A. after the war is over.

It is a repetition of World War I all over again on a much greater scale, a scale that will affect the lives of the American people for years to come.
With the beginning of World War I, Woodrow Wilson's reforms—the income tax, the Federal Reserve, the Federal Trade Commission—were frozen. They gave way to the war. And after the armistice, Wilson, buoyed by the Versailles conference and the League of Nations, left the war factories of the country by private industry to their own use, or in some cases reamplified.

The nitrogen-fertilizer plant at Wilson Dam, north part of the Tennessee Valley Authority, inaugurated for twelve long years—the years of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover—during which they were the center of a bitter controversy between Government and private operation, until finally Roosevelt established the TVA.

At the end of the last war, the nation had enough gun-powder plants to manufacture a billion pounds of powder. But they were all turned over to private industry and converted. At the beginning of this war in 1939, the U. S. Army had only two weeks' supply of gun-powder on hand. All the powder factories had to be built up over again.

Wealth Concentrated
With the beginning of World War II, Roosevelt's New Deal reforms, like Wilson's, stopped. But in addition to war business and accompanying wealth were concentrated as never before in the hands of Roosevelt's old enemies—big business. Six companies got more than 60 per cent of the war orders. General Motors, DuPont, Newport News Shipbuilding, Bethlehem Shipbuilding, Curtiss-Wright, The Aluminum Corp. In addition, 400 companies got 50 per cent of the war orders. Instead of dispersing business, the war did exactly the opposite.

Today the biggest question in the minds of business and of the conservative Senators who conscientiously represent them in the fight against Wallace is: Who will get these war plants after the war?
Jesse Jones up until Jan. 20 was in general charge of their disposition—subject to certain counter-checks by

the War Surplus Property Board. He also was completely in charge of the sale of the surplus. Economically, he was the most powerful man in the world, and the amazing thing about it was that he was a private citizen of the State. He was able to maintain that power despite the fact that he receded for shrewdness in creating vital war supplies.

For instance, Jesse waited until March 5, three months after Pearl Harbor, the day before Batista, captain of the Dutch East Indies, fell to the Japs before trying to order all the quinine remaining in that area. This was the only remaining source of quinine. And when before the State Department had warned Jones that the Dutch East Indies were in danger and he must buy quinine.

In regard to tin, Jones was asked by the State Department and the National Defense Council as early as two years before Pearl Harbor to grant a loan to build a tin smelter in the U. S. A. They were afraid our normal tin would be cut off from Singapore. But Jesse refused to budge. And in fact, housewives today are still salvaging their tin cans.

72-Year-Old Banker

Part of the trouble was that Jesse has spent most of his 72 years as a banker, not as a planner. He almost seemed more interested in saving pennies rather than saving the nation. For instance when the War Department finally demanded that rubber be bought from the Dutch East Indies in the Summer of 1941, the Navy wanted to unload rubber-laden ships at San Francisco, instead of taking them all the way through the Panama Canal to New York. This meant a more expensive rail haul over the Rockies, but it also meant saving about a month in getting the ships back to Singapore. Lack of shipping was the big bottleneck.

But Banker Jones wouldn't pay the extra rail charge from San Francisco to New York. He insisted that the ships go all the way through the canal. He had made the loan to buy the rubber, and so he was boss. As a result, he saved 6 cents a pound on the rubber. But he cost the American people thousands of lives in an enemy country where munitions are likely to be even heavier.

Again in Mexico, Banker Jones refused to pay more than \$100 a flask for mercury. Japan was paying as high as \$200 a flask, and mercury was vitally needed for the war effort. But Jesse wouldn't pay a cent higher. Furthermore, Jesse wouldn't buy the mercury except through the banks in Mexico City, with the result that the natives preferred to sell direct to the Japs. So until Mexico declared war, the Japs got more of Mexico's mercury.

That Silly Man's Here Again!



Split In The Labor Party

LONDON
The political split over Greece is not so much between the Conservatives and the Laborites as it is one within the Labor Party itself.

For inside the Labor Party is very bitter. I got a curious insight into it quite by accident when I was being chauffeured around the House of Commons by a Labor M.P.
I had him to arrange a meeting for me with Aneurin Bevan, the Welsh miner who has been one of the more active opponents of the Government's Mediterranean policy. My guide replied that he would not speak to "that man," but that he would get a message to him through a second party.

Bevan is a dramatic-looking figure, and he knows how to dramatize himself to the greatest political advantage. His thick, graying black hair which is inclined to fall across his high forehead. With his dark eyes and thick-lipped face, he has an ardent, fiery look.

His life story is like that of the hero of the play, "The Corn Is Green," in which Ethel Barrymore had such success in America several years ago. He cannot do the things as an underdog, struggling with an immense drive for knowledge and self-improvement. Like the hero of the play, he has had continual struggles. He has pulled himself up to his present position and overcome all handicaps by his own brilliance and shrewdness.

When he sits on the Opposition benches facing the architect (Churchill), the contrast is stronger than any

Worse To Come

By Dorothy Thompson

REPORTS from France of black-market racketeering, involving thousands of A.W.O.L. American soldiers, and even high officers, are dismaying. There were previous reports from Italy and even from North Africa but the extent to which the black-market crimes have spread in France is alarming.

Admitted that the French situation is not yet a well-organized racketeering operation. Shortages of commodities, black-market operations in Europe have conducted black-market operations as a means of survival. There is no doubt that it is a sabotage of the German war organization. It is a sabotage of our own war effort.

I am not only concerned about this from an Army viewpoint, but also from a civilian standpoint. Racketeering is not confined to the army. It is a symptom of a general breakdown in the moral structure of our country. The circumstances here are less extensive than in Germany, but they are in an enemy country where munitions are likely to be even heavier.

What binds a society together is common endeavor for a common aim. A soldier who does not understand and for the purpose for which he is fighting is a dubious soldier. And a civilian who thinks of himself as a citizen of a country which guarantees him a remunerative living, but who does not have a commensurate sense of responsibility, does not understand the meaning of citizenship.

The common enemy is primarily impelled by the work, not by the remuneration, but by pride in his own work. He is a citizen of a country which is a part of the world. He is a citizen of a country which is a part of the world. He is a citizen of a country which is a part of the world.

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We're Begining To Think

By Samuel Grafton

specifically our American problem) to keep all the nations of the world equal, to sit on Britain with the crown, to apply to Russia the same standard the same double view of Russia's foreign policy as of Japan's.

It is not so long since our conception of the world was in a state of confusion, full of rascals, in which it was our duty of we had a duty to mount a seaport and read the urthina a lecture on economic freedom, and so on.

We seem now vaguely to comprehend that the rest of the world is not exactly a reform school. It is not that we are against the reforms of the world, but that we are less inclined to clap our hands and demand medals and start foreign conversations more in man-to-man style, with some casual remark like: "Cold day, isn't it?" And of course, freedom, and so on.



Haircuts At War

By Hal Boyle

Little if any hair survives. The Japs and the barber has completed one side of the head and then is called away on another job. He never comes back and the victim sports a split personality.

The haircut is a popular American beginning. This consists of hot irons on the part of the barber but usually winds up with a razor and a bald patch.

Down around for a haircut another the barbers aren't fighting. This consists of hot irons on the part of the barber but usually winds up with a razor and a bald patch.

Back in Belgium recently on a base from the front, the battle of the Ardennes was in progress. The French, our German and had a hard time getting the barber to understand him. But finally he obtained his haircut. Then he was called away on another job and the victim sports a split personality.

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