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The Lynching In South Carolina

THE first lynching of 1947 was reported yesterday in South Carolina. It is stated that, in the pride of most of her citizens, had been free of the crime for several years. The circumstances, as reported by Pickens County officials, leave little doubt that it was a classic example of mob violence. A Negro man in the Pickens jail, held on suspicion of assaulting a white taxi driver, was taken by a gang of 25 armed, unmasked men and brutally murdered. The jailer, who released his prisoner at gun-point, recognized none of them.

It is sometimes argued that lynching increases in proportion to Negro population, those who defend the crime do so on the ground that it is necessary to keep an aroused and dangerous Negro population "in its place." This is ironic in any circumstance, and it is particularly so in this instance, since the county in which probably the lowest percentage of Negro population in any in the state. It would be a physical impossibility to stage a race riot in the county seat; in the town of Pickens there is, for all practical purposes, only one race and it is white, of the purest Anglo-Saxon stock.

Josiah Bailey's Last Testament

JOSIAH BAILEY was an able and perceptive public servant and, although we had occasion to disagree with him, we never had occasion to question his sincerity. He was something of a philosopher, given to examining current events in long perspective, and this is the quality that characterizes his posthumous letter to the people of North Carolina. It is a most interestingly written last Summer after the shadow of death had already touched him and he had quietly accepted the fact that his long career in the Senate was at an end. We find a man who, down to his last breath, is nothing less in his lengthy discussion of domestic affairs; his attitude toward organized labor, for instance, had long been a matter of record. But in his discussion of foreign affairs, and particularly in the light of what he had come to place his full faith in extremely limited nationalism.

True, the Senator began by declaring: "Isolation is obsolete." And he reaffirmed his faith in the principles of the great internationalist, Woodrow Wilson. But he also expressed doubts as to the future of the United Nations and stated flatly: "This country can get along in the existing circumstances only by way of being armed to the teeth. We must have... everything in armaments that will give us superiority. The way to peace for America in such a world is by way of being so strong that we will be able to stand up to just as we beat Japan down and Germany down... This is a hard doctrine but it is necessary." Explaining his vote against the British loan, he went on to say: "I question whether it is wise to give our money to help pay the American people for the sake of the economy of any other nation." Here is his version of the international role America should play in the future:

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One of the curious aspects of this is that Senator Bailey, like so many of those who share the views he expressed, was a determined advocate of economy. Indeed, the basis of his opposition to American loans to foreign nations was his conviction that the Federal Treasury cannot stand the strain. He concluded his letter with the recommendation that North Carolinians elect no man to Congress "until he has pledged that he will reduce expenditures and balance our budget and keep it balanced." Yet the Senator, at the same time, would have committed his country to a permanent armament race, and retained its military establishment on virtually a wartime basis. If we accept his doctrine, America must "remain so strong that we will be able to beat down into ruin any nation that attacks us." We will, in effect, invite the Russian Government to set the pace in the armament race. If the balance only if the USSR reduces her armaments sufficiently to permit us to curtail our own military expenditures.

The Case Of The Two Governors

THE box score on Georgia's gubernatorial election is a record of confusion. It is the result of two Superior Court decisions. The one for Herman Talmadge to one for M. E. Thompson. This, we suspect, must be written off as the reaction of a bad loser.

open defiance of the courts finally forced Herman into an about-face. He reluctantly accepted the decision of the court. The suit filed by the Attorney General on Arnall's behalf.

Moore on the tracks were responsible for four-day delays in one's schedule of the Alaskan Railroad, and the time seems ripe for the backwards inventor to come up with the better moonstrapper.

one wishes the Byrd party could tell us more of life in the Antarctic on those occasions when the penguin had a dinner at 39. Does the penguin shed the dinner jacket and sit around in the dicky?



People's Platform

In Defense Of HB 167

ROCKINGHAM Editors, THE NEWS: In one of your editorials of Friday, Feb. 15, 1947, you criticized House Bill 167 without sufficient information as to the present state of the law and the object of the bill.

As the law now stands, the plaintiff in an affidavit for divorce must file with his complaint an affidavit setting forth, among other things, that the complaint is not made out of levity, or by collusion between husband and wife and "not for the mere purpose of being freed and separated from each other, but in sincerity and truth for the cause mentioned in the complaint." General Statutes, 50-8. This provision is back at least to 1918 in Porter's code, Chapter 869, Sec. 2, p. 1292) when there were but two grounds for divorce, impotency and living in adultery as a single act of adultery was not sufficient.

At the present time, practically all divorces are obtained for the purpose of being freed and separated from the other spouse, and it is the clause "not for the mere purpose of being freed and separated from each other" which is the purpose of being freed and separated from the defendant, when his lawyer, the judge and the jury know that is the very reason he is suing for divorce.

As for the clause relating to collusion, it is difficult to see how it does any good. There are very few cases where collusion exists, and it is the clause "and, irrespective of that clause in the statute (whether or not it is there), the law does not allow a divorce where there is collusion."

But, you may say, in those few cases where it does exist, the law should be able to punish the offender for perjury. Perhaps it should, but the affidavit does not help in that respect, for not one per cent of the divorce affidavits are in truth affidavits. The usual procedure is for the plaintiff to appear before the notary public and sign the affidavit. Then the notary fills in the jurat reciting that it was sworn to and subscribed before him in the presence of the plaintiff if he swears that the matter is true. There, there has been no swearing for perjury, for there has been no false swearing.

Instead of criticizing House Bill 167, which is remedial in nature, THE NEWS should advocate legislation requiring that all notaries public be educated in their duties, or perhaps better, legislation dispensing with the necessity that affidavits be sworn to and that the Chief Executive be signed under the penalties of perjury as is now done for Federal Income Tax Returns.

NOTE: We would not oppose an amendment which would strike out the phrase "for the mere purpose of being freed and separated from each other" which is the purpose of being freed and separated from the defendant, when his lawyer, the judge and the jury know that is the very reason he is suing for divorce.

Drew Pearson's President Truman Dislikes Modern Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT TRUMAN is strictly a conservative when it comes to modern art. "Ham and Eggs" art he calls the painting which is the picture of a man in a suit. The Chief Executive wants his art down-to-earth and easy to understand. He likes it to be beautiful, not shocking, and not too modern.

In Great Britain, Sam replied: "Well, it will have to be one of us rich boys." BRASS BATS Fight Atom One thing to be said for the political generals in the Senate is that they are not so stupid as they are usually represented—especially when it comes to a seige of Capitol Hill.

Our Mineral Reserve

WASHINGTON IN his annual report to the President on the Interior Department, A. Krug recommended a survey of America's mineral resources. The purpose was to find out how nearly this country is dependent on foreign supply for minerals vital to our industrial life.

Certainly the old days of squandering waste are over. In World War II, we poured out our resources with prodigal disregard for the future. We are now in a position to do better. But now is the time for an accounting. The iron ore essential to our innumerable stores is running out. One group of geologists estimates that our oil supply is within twenty years of exhaustion. Our reserves of other metals besides iron are dangerously low.

A thorough survey, Krug said in his report, would cost about a billion dollars spread over a period of twenty years. Some objection of this nature is necessary. In preparing estimates of constructive governmental spending, the President's Council of Economic Advisors said the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey to present maximum figures.

The bill also includes a thorough inquiry into ways for refining low-grade ore. It includes study of low-grade ores. It also includes a study of the real wealth that is left to us. Such a survey should be conducted under conditions of strict objectivity. Whenever I have mentioned in this column the need for a certain vital area are dwindling, I have included the fact that it is not a matter of when it happens but how often than not, they are talking about low-grade ores. It is available if the Government will subsidize their production with a high tariff by the Government.

British Coal Crisis

WASHINGTON IN A VERY real sense we are our own worst enemy. It is understood that in this country, there are lacking today in Great Britain are economic and social defects without which a modern economic system as ours could not exist. The grave danger is that if the latter is not corrected, further to the left than Great Britain would be such a threat to our own economic system as it has never been called upon to meet.

DESPERATE BATTLE Today, Great Britain is fighting just as desperate a battle as it has ever able to wage. Cold and desolate, it is being greatly depleting the war while here we felt few deprivations. It cannot be denied that if England had not withstood the Nazis during those terrible days when she fought alone with determination and fortitude, our States would have found itself with its back to the wall, facing the inroads of a foreign invader.

AS BRITAIN GOES And so it behooves us, both as Christians and as Americans, to give the help that we are able to give. A paragon of English statesmen, Lord Halifax, once said: "The United States economy, sooner or later, will be ruined by the economic depression which is now ravaging Europe. In their inevitable course, turn their horrid visages in our direction. And we shall have to have a very especially sorry one for us if we have caused to remember that in this day of Great Britain's extremity, all that we could say was: 'I am not my brother's keeper.'"

Paradoxical fact, however, is that 90 per cent of the so-called atom's secret was contained in the new famous report which the Army itself released to the public just after Hiroshima. And the man responsible for the release was none other than Leslie R. Groves, Jr., who was previously opposed civilian control of the atom.

ROYALTY OF WHICH GENERAL GROVES made a mistake in releasing the Smythe Report, the fact remains that the atom has yet come.