

And Now The Consumer's Inning

IT'SN'T showing yet when the consumer adds up his bills at the end of the month, but there are definite indications that the dollar is heading to buy more than it has in quantity, but in quality. The shoddy goods that were so characteristic of the early reconversion period are gradually disappearing from the market, for the good economy reasons that the average buyer will no longer accept the first thing that comes to hand.

This has been called by *Business Week* a "hidden price increase". A man may still pay too much, by pre-war standards at least, for an automobile, a shirt, a washing machine, or a house, but he is now receiving far greater value for the money he spends than he did a year ago. This is industry's first answer to the stiffening consumer resistance reported in all parts of the country, and it's a heartening one.

The Citizens For Temperance

REMARKING upon the Mecklenburg County decision on ABC stores, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* searched its extensive memory for precedents. It came up with the "Friends of Temperance", an organization of Virginia ministers and laymen which came into being in 1885, the year of Appomattox.

The "Friends" were concerned in that distant day with the terrible and devastating evil of intemperance. They pledged themselves to, and asked the public to join them in, an effort to "stay the tide of intemperance, and in the formation of public opinion, which shall banish the use of intoxicating drinks, as a beverage, from our society." Yet these same gentlemen recognized the futility of the early prohibition efforts then making its voice. In one of their resolutions they stated flatly that "prohibitory legislation cannot effect the suppression of the evils of intemperance."

The *Times-Dispatch* finds that the resolution adopted by the "Friends" paralleled very closely the points made by Charlotte's Police Chief Littlejohn when he declared that prohibition in Charlotte has served three socially destructive purposes: (1) it has organized crime in various fields through the enormous profits of the bootleg trade, (2) the effort to enforce an un-

responding increase in cost. This has not reduced the price the consumer pays for a shirt, but it has guaranteed that the buttons will stay on it for a while.

The same thing holds true, Mr. Daly found, in the other consumer industries of the region. The furniture manufacturers have met a stiffening market by lowering prices and increasing quality. The old stamper to turn out as many chairs and tables and beds as possible to meet a seemingly endless demand is over. Manufacturers are turning their attention to workmanship in design, finish, and workmanship. At least one North Carolina company is out with a completely restyled line of medium-priced furniture—a greater value, it insists, than anything it ever offered on the pre-war market.

All of this, of course, is part of a natural economic process. Price reduction is always a last resort. The manufacturer's first effort to meet falling demand is to improve his product and increase his sales efficiency. We are in that phase now, and the adjustment, even though it isn't readily apparent, is in the consumer's favor. Most cheerful of all, however, is the certain indication that this is a prelude to a general price decline. If the weary consumer can only maintain his income in the coming period of rising values and falling costs he may finally enjoy a taste of the prosperity that, so far, has largely been reserved for the producer.

Fall Of The Invisible Empire

THE State of Georgia's long legal battle against the Ku Klux Klan ended happily enough, with the voluntary surrendering of the hooded organization's parent charter. The KKKK plainly recognized the futility of further contest. And Georgia, accepting its defeat, could claim a clear victory.

The Klan will continue, of course, secretly under their original name or publicly under some other. The revocation of a state charter does not necessarily revoke the race hatred and malice in the hearts. But the victory in Georgia has a profound significance. In this post-war period the Klan did not gain the national following it acquired in the 1920s. The money was easy and tensions high there didn't seem to be many suckers willing to pay for the Klan's brand of superstition. And so the night-shirt boys did not have the wide popular support that alone might have kept them when the State of Georgia cracked down with court action.

The New Orleans States sees the Klan's surrender of its charter in order to avoid

going into court a final, typical act of cowardice. Certainly it is in keeping with the Twentieth Century tradition of those brave patriots who hid behind masks to bully and torture the defenseless. But it was also a highly practical decision. Men who have themselves flouted the judicial concept, insisted as a matter of principle upon their right to dispense "justice" in accordance with their private beliefs, could not expect a sympathetic hearing in the courts, the final citadel of law and order.

The important thing is that the State of Georgia pressed the action in its own right. There was no "outside interference" involved here. This was legal action taken on behalf of the people of a state where the Twentieth Century Klan came into being and knew its greatest popularity only two decades ago. The people of Georgia were clear, were ready to repudiate the discredited order and not even the racial tensions created by Herman Talmadge's spectacular bid for power could alter their judgment.

So the Klan, as a national organization at least, is dead, dead to death by the people of Georgia. It will not be mourned.

Another Voice
Not Even As A Gift

ALTHOUGH *The News* and *Courier* has not urged or even advocated the re-absorption of the other Carolina by the South Carolina, the reunion of these dukedom or satrapies was suggested by it as feasible and as desirably economical. The hint has caused an unexpected reaction. The "Rhamkathe Roaster," of *The News* and *Observer*, Raleigh, rebuffs *The News* and *Courier*, which was only trying to be polite and neighborly. The *Observer* departs from the manner of its good heart and rejects with rudeness the offer of the consolidation. The *Fayetteville Observer* is not enthusiastic for it. The *News* and *Courier* almost say as many words that they would not take South Carolina as a gift, and our feelings, were not invulnerable and so have been about 80 years, would be hurt. The objection that the states made one two United States Senators would be lost and thereby it appears to have forgot that both states "are in the bag". We could have a Senate of 100, and the *News* and *Courier* cannot be hurt, it is laughable from disappointment. Its faith in hu-

man nature, of which North Carolina nature is a species, is impaired. We had thought that the North Carolinians would grab at our suggestion as at a straw, and though we do not long to be of North Carolina, we are sure that the "Barwell County ring" and a bonus-voting Legislature has enticed aspects. They, newspapers of our second part, led us into the error of exposing our remnant to the horrid thrush. Yes, they make it plain that they would not take South Carolina as a gift—*Charlotte News and Courier*.

Boss Ed Flynn says wherever there is politics there is a machine, and where there's a machine there's a man whose name is Boss. He says that the man in the large city. Bob Taft may not find it so in the Senate.

An actress having insured herself with Lloyd's of London against loss of sex appeal, because the time has arrived to insure Lloyd's against pre-emptory.



People's Platform
Coming Of Age

KURE BRUCH

CHARLOTTE has come of age. I am proud of being a Charlottean that I have ever been before. All honor to our Mayor who, whatever his private convictions, would not sanction a continuation of the intolerable injustice of Prohibition—a system under which one citizen is required to give to the government the financial burden of another's conscience.

All honor to Burke Davis, and his splendid educational articles, all honor to the "Five Preachers" (and especially the one who risked reprisals from his church in speaking out according to his conscience, rather than by rote), without whose fearless stand for freedom of the individual conscience intolerance would have carried the day; all honor to the fine group of citizens who donated both time and money to free our community from the rule of a religious oligarchy, and give the Government back to the people.

I sincerely hope that the Mecklenburg Ministerial Association will, with the rebuff just handed them by the voting citizens of the community, scorn further to attempt to rule the people by civil law, and will return again to preaching the Gospel, as I intend that they do by our city.

Flow can persuade his group to return to the good old ways of trying to help the drunkard instead of hurt him, and then bring them, again, in working with drunkards, instead of legislators, then I will become a subscriber.

I think that The Charlotte News, understanding the situation as it was outlined in its editorial of June 13, would have played false to its civic duty had the editorial had gone unprinted. It was the most honest, clear-cut statement of fact that could have been written. It might be that it carried the day.

—ALTON E. BASSETT.

Advertising

Editors, *The News*:

I would like to thank you, and commend you for the position you have taken concerning "liquor advertising" as set forth in the June 16th issue of *The Charlotte News*.

You have won for yourself a great company of friends in the city of Charlotte and throughout North and South Carolina by this position. This decision represents convictions for which you will be genuinely appreciated and respected. I am not unaware of the fact that this position represents an advertising revenue, however, I believe eventually it will more than compensate you in values greater than advertising.

—HOWARD F. POWELL, D.D.,
Pastor, Dilworth Methodist Church.

Congratulations

Editors, *The News*:

If I may, I want to congratulate your paper for having "GOUTS" enough to express your opinion regarding the political issue pertaining to the ABC Stores.

—J. ALLISON DAVANT.

Message

Editors, *The News*:

I WANT you to know that I appreciate the excellent editorial on a "20th Century Congress" which appeared in your issue of June 13, 1947. I am sure it will be helpful in getting our message across.

—ESTES KEFAUVER,
Member of Congress.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round : New Germany May Feel a St. Influence

PRESIDENT TRUMAN has selected another Wall Street banker and military man to be the new Assistant Secretary of State in charge of rebuilding Germany.

Since the end of the war, the New York Stock Exchange has been a hotbed of speculation and the Assistant Secretary of State, Robert Lovett, is also a Wall Street banker (Brown Brothers-Harriman) and because of the various other Wall Streeters in the Truman administration, the New York Stock Exchange has been under the microscope.

General Marshall, however, has had a tendency to lean toward the Central Bank of the World Point guard, resigned from the Army in 1930, re-entered in 1940, and rose rapidly to the rank of brigadier general. Gen. Marshall, who was in the Army, later spent his life in the Army, later being appointed by Roosevelt to the old shipping board, where he had an excellent record. He was the Assistant Secretary of State, has been on leave from the New York Stock Exchange since he entered the Army.

Criticism of Wall Street appointments to the State Department is based not on anything against the individuals, but on the fact of the State Department's role in the war, and on the fact that it was Wall Street which helped build up the Army and Navy after World War I. The banking interests of Brown Brothers-Harriman, of which New Undersecretary Lovett is a partner, made heavy loans to Germany prior to Hitler, while Secretary of the Navy Forrestal's banking firm, Dillon-Read, did likewise.

"He's been out of public favor so long that he's trying desperately to get back again. I'm afraid also that he's heading back toward isolation."

Exit Klux Klan?

THERE was some eyebrow raising over the dissolution of the Klux Klan at Atlanta the other day. One thing that was not understood was the cordial relations between Grand Dragon Dr. Samuel Green and Georgia's attorney general, Eugene Cook, plus the dropping of several charges against the Klan.

The original charges to dissolve the Klan were drawn up by two-faced Dan Duke, former assistant to Cook. They included charges of conspiracy, of conspiracy to violate constitutional rights, of interference with free movement of citizens; (2) exposing history and racial relations; (3) exposing the "benevolent character" of the Klan by making money on the sale of robes, hoods and paraphernalia.

Last week, however, Attorney General Cook informed Judge Bond Almond that the State of Georgia has no longer interested in the first three points against the Klan, but solely in its alleged financial dealings. The first three charges involved criminal penalties.

This compromise was exactly what the Klan wanted. To many it added up to a whitewash. So Grand Dragon Green quickly moved for dissolution.

After the court acted, Grand Dragon Green and Prosecutor Cook put on a display of camaraderie. They shook hands tenderly. Ex-prosecutor Dan Duke, fifteen feet away, glowered at them.

Note—The Klan is free to reincorporate and continue business in Georgia.

Lobbying Pays

INTERNATIONAL Telephone & Telegraph, which seems to be the most potent lobby group in Washington, is now hard at work in Puerto Rico putting across another interesting deal.

The amazing thing is how International T & T gets away with it. Despite the fact that the charter of the Export-Import Bank clearly states that no more than 10 per cent of the bank's funds shall be loaned to any one company, 14 per cent at one time were lent to ITTET.

Small Business' Case

WASHINGTON

UNDER the shadow of the giants of big business and the glanks of big labor, the small business man is wondering what his future may be. That is true in particular of the manufacturer who competes in a small way with one of the giants.

The other day, the Committee for Economic Development put out a detailed program of reform in finance intended to help small business men meet the competition of big business. This organization of concessions business men are praising a similar program for tax reform.

Industry-wide collective bargaining, which sets an industry-wide wage pattern is a source of worry among executives of small corporations. I have just had an interesting series of letters from a manufacturer in an Eastern city who expresses what is plainly a real fear that the uniform wage demand on the smaller manufacturer will prompt a similar demand on the growth of monopoly. He writes:

MARGINAL MILLS

"In this city there are fifteen or twenty manufacturers who employ anywhere from 100 to 1,000 employees each, and whose employees are members of the United Steel Workers Union. Some of these companies are a few years old and are prosperous. Many of them are not prosperous and are what might be termed marginal mills. I am sure that whatever the basic steel fabrication. Their competition lies in entirely new fields. If they are to be subject to decisions made by Pittsburgh in negotiations between the U. S. Steel Co. and Philip Murray, many of them are going to be hurt. Obviously the weakest will fold first, which means unemployment and the loss of production."

It is a very powerful point. In reply, however, I asked the manufacturer whether it was not true that the nature of modern monopoly prices in the steel industry had not worked to eliminate the small business long before the labor monopoly came into being. In his fair and judicious reply he said:

"The reason for the existence of large basic corporations is not generally due to monopolistic acquisition; in the industry, it is because the

Samuel Gratton

Mr. Hoover's Plan

MR. HERBERT HOOVER'S plan for foreign trade expansion is thoughtful, carefully considered, conservative and terribly dangerous.

It is a plan, says Mr. Hoover, to stick out in this way, for I realize that Mr. Hoover is one of those three or four old-fashioned men who are so customarily admired the functional criticism of his plan which need making.

The President's plan warns us gravely that there are limits beyond which we cannot safely go. It is a plan, I am sure, but it is also a plan, for continuing aid.

LIMITS TO AID

On the question of these limits, Mr. Hoover's plan is too far, the result must be enormous taxes and a perilous loss in actual physical assets, in steel, in metals, etc. leave our shores for the rest of the world. It is, properly, it is dangerous to a free economy and to our standard of living. It is a plan to force us to push our prices up, to balance our economy, to stabilize the hard for everyone, including the rest of the world. We can paraphrase Mr. Hoover's plan by saying that he wants us to be in danger of chaos.

And when Mr. Hoover, by his plan, but he adds that there are limits beyond which we cannot safely go. But isn't this another way of saying that at some point in the near future, our situation may arise which we will, conceivably, simply have to back down to? Or will we have to go down to it? Or will we be "united" to do otherwise?

One possible alternative, under certain conditions, is that of a safe United States, a safe world. And when Mr. Hoover, by his plan, of limited aid, raises this possibility, it is a plan to raise the possibility of a safe world. But even give up a leg to be safe in this world, though such a move might be a step toward safety.

What Mr. Hoover's report fails to say is that the United States

Manchurian Republics are beginning a new

Page, son of the late Walter Hines Page, was chosen William Ambassador to Great Britain. More recently, and rather suddenly, he was named as Ambassador to the Soviet Union. He immediately after he resigned as head of the same Export-Import Bank.

Now ITTET plans to take over the entire Puerto Rican telephone system, hitherto jointly owned by ITT and the Puerto Rican government. The telephone and telegraph were operated jointly. But now a deal has been worked out whereby ITTET takes over all the telephones—while the telegraph is left with the telephone lines—which take a loss.

It's a great game if you have the right kind of lobbyists to play by the rules.

Under the Dome

Manchurian Republics are beginning a new "MacArthur for President" boom on the theory that if war with Russia is inevitable a strong military man is needed. Correction: Through an editorial error, the name of the man was given as General John J. Pershing. It should have read Transcontinental Telephone Co. While the name of the man was given as General John J. Pershing, it should have read Transcontinental Telephone Co. While the name of the man was given as General John J. Pershing, it should have read Transcontinental Telephone Co.