

The Dry Victory In Rowan

MECKLENBURGERS, who looked upon Rowan's ABC election as a preview of their own, will read a variety of meanings into the returns. The prohibitionists of Mecklenburg will note that the Rowan voters are a great victory for their cause. The majority polled against ABC stores was certainly a substantial one—8,423 to 5,988 — and it came after a determined pre-election battle between a militant and respectable pro-ABC organization.

But Mecklenburg's ABC advocates will also find cause for encouragement in a detailed study of the returns. They cannot fail but note that every effort to keep five in Salisbury, two in Spencer and three others in smaller towns of the county— gave the ABC stores a majority. Rowan's population is more than fifty per cent rural while Mecklenburg's is more than two thirds urban; if the city-county voting proportion established in Rowan prevails in Mecklenburg an ABC victory would be assured.

A False Sense Of Values

BENJAMIN FINE, executive editor of the New York Times, is as familiar with the size and shape of the American school problem as any expert in the country. Not long ago he completed a personal nationwide school survey, and his report is one of the most shocking documents of our time.

There were only 2,300 teachers in the United States holding sub-standard teaching licenses before the war while today there are in excess of 100,000. Professional standards are skidding dangerously downward. Sixty thousand teachers in the United States have a high school education or less. I spoke to many teachers who had not gone beyond the third or fourth grade.

The Retirement Of A Pioneer

CHRONOLOGICALLY, H. L. McCrorey came to Johnson C. Smith in another country, in fact he began his career there in another age. The scars of reconstruction were still fresh in 1895, and a majority of white Southerners regarded higher education for Negroes as a dangerously radical idea.

able executive assistant. Dr. Hardy Liston, Dr. McCrorey can look back on his 52 years in the field with complete satisfaction. He has met his obligation to his students, and to the community. The physical plant of the university has been greatly expanded, and along with new buildings there has come the year classes of students who have met the high academic standards and an impressive broadening of the curriculum to meet the changing demands of the times.

Another Voice

LIKE nearly every one else who believes that the shameful and gruesome blot of the lynching tradition must be eradicated from the American scene, Attorney General Tom Clark was "shocked" at the "outrage" in South Carolina where a jury turned loose twenty-eight admitted lynchers. Not unaturally, he has thought of what might be done in his own power to stop it, and has turned to the possibility of a Federal civil action against the defendants in case. It is an understandable impulse: he is forced to ask whether, supporting legal grounds could be found, it might be helpful. Can Federal intervention or coercion of any sort hasten the development within the South itself of social attitudes which will utterly make possible not only the fair and rigorous trial of admitted lynchers but also make possible convictions?

It is not easily forgotten. On the other hand, it can be said that the acquittal was a license to future lynchers, and the attempted lynching of a Negro taken from a jail in the North Carolina town of Lenoir two days of the verdict, may seem a tragic confirmation of that view. The second case, however, is still very obscure. The State machinery appears to have moved as energetically as it could. The local authorities declare that the intended victim escaped under circumstances which, if verified, would indicate that the mob was a good deal more fearful of what it was doing than it is usually supposed to be. The two cases strongly suggest how far official and educated opinion in the South has moved against this shocking evil. The fact that a jury seemed to show that local sentiment which is the strongest cannot free itself from prejudice and evil tradition. But it is this local and backward sentiment which must be reached, for it is the best fortress of the lynchers.



People's Platform

THE "dedicated drys," aptly named in your editorial of May 28, are permanently and irrevocably dedicated to the welfare of people, and not to liquor profits for the liquor stores. You said that even those who consider liquor the greatest of social evils may not be "good consumers" for ABC stores if they decide that increased drinking caused by liquor stores will be outweighed by bringing the traffic into the open, curtailing it and using the profits for the common good. Who can resist such another's conscience? If ABC stores increase drinking where is the control?

Mr. Burke Davis in his special ABC article on your front page of May 28 said that if the Mecklenburg voters voted favorably for liquor stores on June 14, their Government would soon "quietly enact a \$200,000,000 business in exactly as if it were not liquor, were involved." County saloons ended in disaster, tumult, and broken homes.

Mr. Davis described the covered liquor stores—4 or 5 in Charlotte—with windows, the lower half painted green, bearing the ABC signs with store numbers and injurious advice—mostly out of sight—and only a few bottles of any one brand easily visible. Why all this secrecy and concealment like the old saloons and bootleggers?

Mr. Davis said that ABC customers would chase liquor clerks and bootleggers, and they converted drunkenness and drunken driving. How will the liquor clerks associate the unknown purchasers with the People's Platform? Who are bootleggers? The ABC stores would furnish the bootleggers with the necessary funds in Mecklenburg from the excluded drunks and minors.

Mr. Davis concluded that Mecklenburg's liquor business, based on population and known bootleg liquor consumption ("how is this known?") might well double the ABC sales and profits of Durham County over \$100,000 and \$500,000 profit. Is money the real goal of ABC advocates? Do people care?

The Mecklenburg ABC advocates have had the powerful influence of The News in crystallizing public opinion for liquor stores and have used special feature stories of Mr. Burke Davis and editorial foot-prints to offset dry opposition in letters in the People's Platform. Who are bootleggers or backing, could the Wets defect? Free advertisements in a great publication?

Mr. Davis' offer to the "dedicated drys" of Mecklenburg County—outstanding citizens in church, business, and civic organizations—a free front-page space to show why they oppose ABC stores in the election of June 14, one of the most important of the people's platform. Mr. Davis' history of Mecklenburg County, "New York front line news."

NOTE: Mr. Davis' articles were an accurate complete factual report on the operation of the ABC system. The facts as presented as Miss Fox demonstrates in her letter may be employed as ABC propaganda just as effectively as they have been. We remind Miss Fox that The News has always kept the news columns and this space open to the drys. In the period since the election, the ABC stores have held a series of accounts of prohibitionist meetings, speeches, etc. has been at least ten times as great as that devoted to the ABC stores. In the same period the proportion of dry letters to ABC letters in The Platform has been about three to one. No letter has been given a footnote unless as in this case it is necessary to answer a direct question raised by the writer—Edis, The News.

WASHINGTON  
THERE is no foundation for the widespread assumption that President Truman will veto the labor bill. By the efforts of Senator Irving H. Dyer and others, the bill has been straggled through the House. The odds on what the President will do have been changed, more so than in any case. And it remains the consensus of advice in his Cabinet, in which a majority still favor signing the bill and having done.

BETTING EVEN  
The betting has now been brought down to the level of the pro-faction of Presidential advisers, headed by Secretary of State Acheson. He has acquired a powerful argument. The President's signature on the labor bill would be an endorsement of the party's manifesto primarily directed at the labor unions. But it would not win one million or so votes. Democrats fear states like New York and California, which they must carry to win.

As reported in this space some time ago, the Communist Party movement has been strengthened by the wild Waller-harsh-tormenting tour of the country. The tour has obviously strengthened Waller's remaining caution. It has placed him in a relationship to the American Congress and fellow travelers hardly different from that of the ex-patriate Italian Socialist, the pitiful Communist, the ex-patriate Palmiro Togliatti. The tour has also induced financing and an "enraged" third party organization in the form

Samuel Grafton

COMMUNISM is an issue today. It is a subject which has become a major issue in our country. If it did not give it heavy and severe thought, not to mention the fact that it is a subject which has become a major issue in our country. We are entitled to be concerned about a system, rivaling the best of which gives the best of its hand to many of the freedoms we live by and which has won a curious, inverse popularity around the world over the last fifteen years more for the enemies it has made than Hitler, down that for the millions of people who have been saved by it.

THE RECORD  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Editor: The News  
I AM sending along a copy of a letter addressed to Senator H. H. Baxter by Representative John J. Rooney of New York. Because someone told me that the Associated Press carried an article which indicated that I was an angry member of our delegation were not present at the time the Rooney Amendment (restoring Federal funds for operation of airport control towers) was passed. This was entirely a mistake as I was in the Congress at the time. In restoring the appropriation for Federal operation of air-traffic control towers at pivotal airports located in different cities of the United States.

HOEVER'S REASONING  
This Mr. Herbert Hoover, pondering the question of why we must continue to send relief food abroad, reaches the conclusion that Communism, Russia is to blame, and that the United States should not give it any more. He says that the United States should not give it any more. He says that the United States should not give it any more. He says that the United States should not give it any more.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round : Rift Between Cabinet And Democratic Hq.

WASHINGTON  
IT isn't advertised outside the inner circle, but there's a real political rift between most members of the Truman Cabinet and those who guide Democratic National Headquarters. Democratic politics led by Bob Hannegan, Gael Sullivan, Ed Flynn, and various other big-city bosses left-center socialists stick diligently to the old Roosevelt belief of Truman.

Nicaragua Nepotism  
LAST month, however, he installed another President. Dr. Leonardo Arguello, generally considered a Somoma puppet. President Arguello, however, surprised folks—though not long, for he had the nerve to demand Somoma's son-in-law, Louis Beyle, a colonel in the National Guard in Washington, to be his public health. He also received Somoma's elder son as Inspector General of the National Guard and transferred him to the Leon Garrison way from the capital. King Beyle, Somoma's son was relieved as commander of the Presidential Guard.