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Vicious Intertide

The dentist, kindly soul, had a terrible sense of duty. "Uh-huh-h-h-h," said he, and his eye began to glitter. Without taking his gaze off of the offending tooth he reached for the sawing machine. We shut our eyes. There was no point in watching a man take any such grim pleasure. It might encourage him.

Not All Beer & Skittles

The conversation at dozens of gatherings and in hundreds of homes yesterday was, we dare say, all about the 1938 salaries of corporation officers, many of them in this state and some of them in this city. "Did you see where Mr. So-and-so gets a salary of \$5,000 a year?" "What do you think of old Henry Highball drawing down \$3,000 a month? Heckon he's worth it?"

Note on a Phenomenon

It was shocking information contained in the story in Sunday's News about divorces in this country. For every four marriages in 1937, there was one divorce. Every fourth time the Register of Deeds handed out a marriage license, the Clerk of the Court handed out a divorce decree.

THUNDER AT THE BOTTOM... CHICAGO—I talked to about a dozen and a half of them in Chicago last week. They came from all parts of the Union. They included some big wholesalers, but by far the bulk of them were retailers—the "little fellow in business" of purely ray sense.

And another consolation is the direct relationship between the general collapse of the economy and its divorce rate. We make no effort to explain it, but simply state the fact. Draw a line showing the wealth, health and public behavior of the various states, another showing the frequency of divorce to marriage, and the two, with the allowance for extreme like Nevada and South Carolina, will show an inseparability which ought to be, but isn't, a model for the couples along the way.

Croaking in Chorus

It seems to us that General Johnson in his column today is mistaking a general ill feeling among business men towards the administration for a reasoned opinion. He tells of speaking to a thousand furniture dealers, wholesalers and retailers, in Chicago, and being bombarded with questions which showed an almost unanimous low regard for the New Deal. From this he proceeds to give, synthetically, the explanation of their mistrust.

But he would be less than perceptive if he did not make allowance for the perfectly human trait that small business men strive earnestly to model their attitudes and opinions after those of large business men. Large business men dislike the New Deal, and we take a bet in the dark that furniture dealers, wholesalers and retailers, controlled from above, have been hammering diligently on the theme that Roosevelt is a menace, that Roosevelt's intentions toward business in general are sinister, that he will abolish the small dealer, and will make another armistice that most of these small furniture dealers, if pressed to the point of candor, would express something like this: "Sure, Roosevelt done us 'ot good, 'ot look 'ow his 'one will 'ave 'em."

Peace-Time Casualties

Most people would either not take it in or refuse to believe their ears if they heard that in this last year 1937, nineteen years after the Armistice, more American ex-soldiers of the World War were treated in Government hospitals than at any one time since the war ended. It's a fact. Added to the patients receiving treatment at the end of 1936 were 141,371 new applicants for admission.

Boycotters

(Gault Graves, Chapel Hill Weekly) My twelve-year-old niece accompanied three women on a shopping tour last week. When she came back this was her report on the expedition: "When didn't car 'em—'ese Japanese things they won't buy 'em—'ese boyroting 'ese Japanese things. And 'em, they said: 'Well, the store's already bought these, and paid the 'ese for 'em, so we might as well take 'em.'"

THUNDER AT THE BOTTOM

CHICAGO—I talked to about a dozen and a half of them in Chicago last week. They came from all parts of the Union. They included some big wholesalers, but by far the bulk of them were retailers—the "little fellow in business" of purely ray sense. The principal aim of this kind of speech for the speaker to assume the role of a African dodger as of a country fair and un-derstand to answer questions about business and government—or to say he doesn't know.

I think it is the best gauge of group opinion that could possibly be devised. You can go to a town and call on five or six big men and ask them how conditions are and what people are thinking. What you usually get are five or six dissertations on five or six individual hobbies, peccas or enthusiasms in thinking. Or you can ask cab drivers or Pullman conductors to give you a pick-up, or listen to state-of-the-Union conferences in Pullman smokers, clubs and cocktail bars. These are good but fragmentary. Also, in all these cases where you ask the other fellow the question, you put him in a miniature spotlight. More or less he has to dramatize himself and speak his little piece. This doesn't always make for frankness.

But when you get a cross-section of the whole country, in a particular trade or calling, into a room and let them ask spontaneous questions without either rising or telling their names, you can tell far better from their questions in an hour, what is troubling their souls, than from all the interviews with them you could crowd into a week. This is emphasized by the fabled American trait of wanting to talk back if the answer isn't right, and also by the reaction of the crowd to both questions and answers. It is an educational experience and the best indoor sport I know.

Well, so what about this congress of little fellows? In the first place, in three years of doing this occasionally and in '44 states, I have never seen the interest in what is going on in Washington so intense. Why wouldn't it be? The people realize here that their fortunes and their livelihoods now depend on that more directly than on any other thing.

Next, their knowledge of the principal facts and figures is much better than that of some Congressmen I know. They lap up every bit of news and comment that comes through the newspapers or over the air. Whatever harm the Third New Deal has done to other businesses, it certainly has put this important racket on the map.

The important and incontestable conclusion to me was that this crowd doesn't want any part of the Third New Deal in its present aspects. If the strategy of centering attacks on big business men, was intended to retain and reassemble the support of the little fellow, it hasn't worked so far as this trade is concerned.

The feeling is not merely adverse and apprehensive; it is hostile and bitter. That may be a little exaggerated just now because business is very bad, but it was too vivid and too nearly unanimous to leave any doubt that it is a conviction. In about 100 questions covering a range of nearly as many subjects—from "to agriculture"—there was only one that indicated the slightest sympathy with recent developments of administration policy.

The outstanding impression of all was that of skepticism, suspicion or outright scoffing at the sincerity of administration promises. But do you know that is a result of being over and over again—and nearly always in an emergency—clever, clever, too damned clever.

Visiting Around

You'd Better Expect One of Her Age—(Marshall News-Record) Ethelnie Christine Johns, age 9, who married to Winalee Johns, about a year ago in Tennessee, which bride had the attracted nationwide publicity, and her husband and possibly her parents, are scheduled to be at the Princess theater, in Marshall, next Monday, November 15. Excuse the delay. The clipping was buried—Ed. The mentioned title of these characters will appear twice, in person, at night only, in connection with "Naughty Marietta," a film well worth seeing.

WPAers For Traffic Duty At Schools

It Is Suggested, Thus Freeing The Regular Patrolmen For Uptown.

Dear Sir: It is a fine thing that police officers are stationed at bus corners in the mornings and afternoons to assist school children in crossing streets. The value of this is seen by the fact there is so little accident on these streets.

But the section of Charlotte is paying these officers to patrol the streets, most of them being motor patrolmen, and in the morning rush hours they are urgently needed in this capacity. Any one who has watched the steady stream of automobiles from all directions to the business district in the morning rush hour knows that from 8 to 9 is a protracted hour of start-stop, horn-barking and traffic jams. It can easily be seen how the motorized division of the police could do a great deal here.

Now of course no one is suggesting letting the school children and assisting their shift for themselves. It has already been noted that the police do a great and necessary service in this, but with all the unemployed men in the city and county, why can't a WPA unit be secured to put these men at the schools and let them come up about their regular duties? Many of the larger cities already have this plan in effect, and are reporting satisfactory results, so if they can do it, so can we.

The traffic situation in Charlotte is pretty bad now and with the city apparently growing every day, is bound to get even worse. It is a matter which needs to be taken care of as soon as possible. If we can't afford to pay WPA men to do the job, we can't afford to pay the regular police.

C. W. EMERY, Charlotte.

IT COMFORTS HIM THAT HIGHER COURTS RULE THE BUREAUS

Dear Sir: I feel better about those funny little Federal courts that are called "Administrative tribunals." They include such sessions as those held here by the National Labor Relations Board and various others built on the same pattern. In them—no little judges, all, meticulous—very meticulous—about the rules and regulations and do their damndest to make human beings fit into the forms which Congress made.

They, these administrative tribunals, looked dangerous to me, for all the evidence went into the record and the record was sacrosanct. By it, apparently, all sides lived or died. And the record was such a rigid, unending thing of law and governmental regulation. It went to a far off board for consideration and decision. It seemed to me that we were lost on the way of being ruled by a bloodless bureaucracy which had neither proper understanding nor complete information and, like as not, too much of it.

What makes me happy about it is that the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Charlotte some days ago took apart the findings of the National Labor Relations Board in the Moorecase and went fully into the judgment. It applied the law and the law lifted the whole proceeding up to the dignity of legal tradition. It changed the ruling and made it conform to the higher court's sense of law and justice. As long as the regular courts can take jurisdiction and give their own decisions, then we are not in such bad shape. I feel better about it now.

UNOLOOKER, Charlotte.

ILL VETERAN WHO FOUND HIS DAUGHTER EXPRESSES THANKS

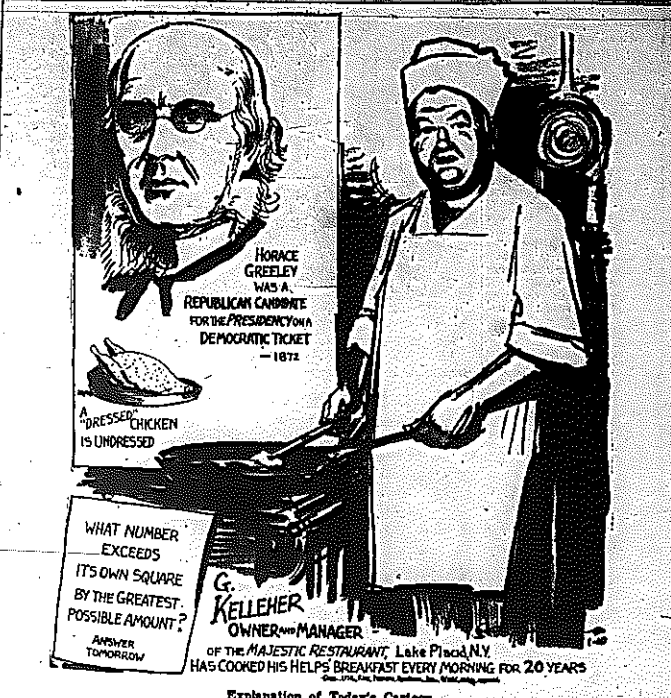
Dear Sir: I wish to thank you and whatever veterans' post it was that put the notice in the paper for me, as my daughter saw it and wrote to me. I got an air mail letter from her on New Year's Day. When I wrote I sent a letter to the postmaster and asked him to give to one of the relatives of my daughter, but do you know she saw it in The News, so she must be a customer of yours.

Again I thank you and wish you every success for the New Year and every year. Veterans' Hospital, Livermore, Calif.

Two on the Head

(Baltimore Evening Sun) Dr. Glenn Frank has accepted the offer offered him by Johnny Hamilton, of the New York Times, to be the head of the Republican party, and by his acceptance he has conferred a boon on The Evening Sun. When he took the job, he fulfilled the second prophecy of this paper within the last two months. The President-elect Stalin would win in the Russian election and we predicted that Glenn Frank would take the job, and being right twice on political prophecies is an astonishing record for any man.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Ripley



Explanation of Today's Cartoon THE REPUBLICAN-DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE—Horace Greeley (1811-1872) was over his conviction of right and duty. And so we find this Republican nominee at candidate for the Free Labor Central Bureau ticket in 1872, in opposition to a second term for the regular President Grant. THE COOK'S COOK—For 20 years G. Kelleher has operated the Majestic Hotel and restaurant at Lake Placid, N. Y., employing an average of 40 people the year around. Just to be sure they get good food and are satisfied the entire staff, he also likes to know they are all on time for work, and not having to cook their own breakfast is an added incentive to be on time.

IT SEEMS TO ME

OF late the War College of Washington Correspondents has been somewhat critical of Franklin D. Roosevelt as a field general. Even his warm supporters have expressed the opinion that his old touch for political tactics was wanting. He has been accused of fumbling inside the five-year line. And there is this: within the year the President has suffered defeat in numerous skirmishes and even met reverses in a few major engagements.

But I think the experts lose sight of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has always had a tendency to lose all the battles but the last one. Naturally I have the Supreme Court fight primarily in mind. Who won the war? It is beyond argument that the Congress killed all but a minor part of the out of the New York Aqueduct and the High Court are neither good nor brilliant. But Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives like all the rest of us.

There is only one more river to be crossed. Now that the President has won, I hope he will keep it won. If he smoothes a narrow-party liberal in a gesture of conciliation, he will sacrifice some of the fruits of victory. Now is the time to run a good man down the throats of the reactionaries. How about Felix Frankfurter, of Harvard; Charles Garrison, of Wisconsin; J. Warren Madden, of the National Labor Relations Board, or Jerome N. Frank, of the BEC?

On Second Glance (Fayetteville Observer) Eminent statesman who are in charge of the New York Aqueduct are delighted to report that they have acquired a couple of "amalgamite amphibias which have neither legs nor tail but which are possessed of the ability to travel backward or forward with equal ease and hard to catch than an eel's ghost."

Another 'CCG (Christina Science Monitor) A euphemistic substitute for the copious term "dog-catcher" is sought by the American Humane Society. How about "Commissioner of Canine Correction?"

A 940-0 Decision (Norfolk Virginian-Pilot) When a conservative Justice can have no quarrel with a liberal retirement allowance.

Earlier Days

News of 75 and 100 Years Ago From Files in the State Library at Raleigh

PREPARATIONS OF THE KNICKY Charlotte.—The following has just been received from Kinloch, N. C. dated today: The enemy beyond doubt is making immense preparations for an advance. Reinforcements are daily arriving from Suffolk. The Yankees at Moreshead City and Newbern are 60,000 strong under command of Foster. They will probably attack Charleston, Wilmington, Weldon and Goldsboro simultaneously to prevent reinforcements leaving either place. It is reported that they are now cooking marching ration.

The Passaic (Ironclad) was towed into the harbor at Beaufort, N. C., disabled, having lost her turret and guns, and leaking so badly that the pumps were kept going constantly. The steamer which towed the Monitor has been heard from. The conservation at the loss of vessels is great. —Fayetteville Observer.

YANKEE FORCE AT NEWBERN We learn from a perfectly reliable source that there were in the waters of Newbern on Wednesday last, no fewer than 35 transports. The forces there included the commands of three Major-General usually in the Yankee Army, 15,000 each which gives the full force there at some 45,000 to 50,000 at least; as we before stated, this intelligence is reliable. —State Journal.

You Mean Geography, Don't You, Billy? (Billy Archer, New Bern Tribune) I'm all for making a cyprus course in North Carolina history compulsory in high school. It's a shame that residents of the state know as little of it as they do. It's no end of a warty up-state having to answer questions about what resources Eastern North Carolina has. They grow tobacco down there, don't they? A prominent man asked me in Charlotte the other day. "How far is it from the coast?" another inquired. "What river runs to New Bern? Does it empty in the coast?" still another asked. "And when I told them about Pamlico sound, how big it is, they thought I was fooling. So I went for the map and showed it to them. Two admitted they had not looked at the Carolina coast, and looking on both sides they said they believe it, and the fourth, who has just been abroad, said he was coming down to Eastern Carolina sometime just to see what it's like."