The Charlotte News

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For the Winter Days

The peace conference of the sovereign powers, AFL and CIO, having gone the way of all diplomatic sessions in our time, we can at least look forward to some capital exhibitions in name-tossing and malediction with which to while away the dull winter hours now almost upon us.

For instance, take some remarks in an editorial contained in the current issue of United Mine Workers' Journal, John L. Lewis's own organ. Says the editorial:

> John P. (for Pinhead) Frey is now the general manager . . . of the AFL. . . William Green, the nominal head of the Federation, is merely a stool pigeon for Frey.
>
> Pinhead and stool pigeon. No, it is improbable that John L. himself wrote down those. They lack his verve and virility, his acquaintance with the classics, his power to fetch the blood. Some understrapper was charged with their production, undoubtedly. But all the same they augur good things to come. They suggest that John L. is probably deep in the throes of composition, and that the understrapper was merely put forth as a sort of stop-gap John the Baptist. The real John is probably in the bull pen warming up.

Brave Words

We like the way this new Federal housing fellow talks — the one who's going to administer the Wagner-Steagall Act. Secretary Ickes, himself the administrator of a vast public works program without limits as to what might be spent, is frankly skeptical that the latest slum clearance undertaking is going to get anywhere in the face of the restriction on costs to $1,250 a room ($1,000 in smaller cities), but the new fellow, Nathan Straus by name, retorts:

> "It my own project, Hillside Homes in the Bronx, for $1,045 a room. Why shouldn't I be able to do it at $1,250?"

And why not? The average home builder could do it, with hundreds of dollars to spare. A private corporation could do it and not be cramped. The government, with its quantity purchasing power and its large staffs of architects and engineers and lawyers and its non-profit-making basis of operations, ought to have plenty of leeway.

But, alas, that isn't the way it works, and the explanation isn't hard to find. The government spends other people's money. It can't be bothered with cutting corners or driving bargains, and besides, there is the political take. The politicians have to get theirs in one form or another, even if it's just a job for a constituent with the housing authority.

At that, we like the confident way Administrator Straus goes about his assignment. It will be interesting to see if he can keep the political incubus from crushing his spirit.

How Now, Ruby?

Yesterday they held an election in Harlan County, Kentucky, and to halt the high sheriff and his deputies from the systematic terrorizing of voters at the polls, militia and State police had to be ordered in and the sheriff and three of the deputies thrown into jail.

The name of this sheriff is Thomas K. Middleton, and the name of one of the deputies is Ben Unthank. Thomas K. Middleton is the man about whom the Senate Committee which investigated Harlan last April and May uncovered the following facts: that before he became sheriff of Harlan he had served five months in jail for bootlegging and "had never held any job through the influence of the Coal Operators' County Association, that he hired 279 deputies of whom all but fourteen were paid by the Coal Operators' County Association, that he used these deputies for the suppression of unionism in Harlan by the abolition of all civil rights, wholesale assault, dynamiting, terrorism, and—murder, and that at the end of two years of this his bank account had grown up to $104,000. And Ben Unthank? Ben Unthank is that deputy who was definitely pointed out by many witnesses as the chief go-between in Harlan's most notorious assaults, dynamitings, and murders — and who was shown to have been paid $5,000 by the Coal Operators' County Association in a single year for "expenses."

And Sheriff Thomas K. Middleton and Ben Unthank are also the men whom Governor Ruby LaFoon of Kentucky declined to remove from office, because, forsooth, he said, he could find no ground for it.

He Couldn't Lose

Last night when it was established that La Guardia had won the Mayoralty of New York, the President of the United States called up to congratulate him. What he said we don't positively know, but it probably ran like this: "Fine and dandy, Fiorella. I'm tickled pink you did it. Of course, I had to play along with the Democrats more or less. But all the while I really wanted you to do it, since both of us stand for Ideals and Clean Government. Great going, boy!"

The President, you comprehend, could talk that way because the President had "refused to intervene in the New York municipal election." *Refused to intervene, that is, personally.* His good men Friday, Jim Farley, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Bob Wagner, keystone of the New Deal in the Senate, had intervened, indeed, and not unobtrusively. They had gone so far as to tell the New York electorate that the contest was essentially one between the New Deal and reaction, that if the Tammany-backed Mahoney was defeated and La Guardia elected, the Democratic Party, and with it the New Deal, would be greatly weakened the country over.

In the face of this, the President called up the triumphant La Guardia, that arch threat to the New Deal, and said, Nice going, Fiorella. Down in my heart I wanted you to win. . . . What masterful strategy this was and what a hedge the President had against any eventuality! If the Tiger and the spoils system and corruption had come out on top, hadn't he allowed his right hand men to come over and work zealously for that very conclusion? And since Ideals and Clean Government prevailed, weren't they identical with the aims of the New Deal which is incarnated in the person of the President himself? Do you see?

They Shot Back

Monday at Shanghai the British shot back. Early the week before a British soldier had been killed by Japanese bullets, three others wounded. Then last Friday, three more were killed by Japanese bullets. So Monday — when Japanese bullets began once more to whiz into the British section of the International Settlement front, the Tommies loosed four volleys from their rifles. That settled that for the time.

Maybe that is what is really needed in the whole international set-up, not war but a little bit of shooting back by way of warning. Surely conferences and promises have been tried to the point where the world is almost sick of the mere mention of the words. Over and over again, it has been demonstrated that Mussolini is an unmitigated liar — that when he gives his solemn word to abandon murder and piracy as the primary base of his policy, he simply goes in for bigger and better murders and piracies. (It was shown all over again this week in the bombing of the British freighter by an Italian plane.) The same holds for Hitler. And as for the Japs, they politely laugh in the world's face.

Yet what lies behind all this is simply the belief on the part of these powers that Britain and France are so determined not to have war that they will stand for anything rather than risk war — that it is possible literally to get away with murder. In reality, however, none of the three uppity nations nor all of them together can afford actually to force a war, for, win or lose, it means their ruin as certainly as it means ruin for the democratic powers. And so — maybe a little shooting back, by way of notice that, if it must be, force will be answered with force, would be the very healthiest thing that could happen.

In Golf Terms

(Norfolk Virginian-Pilot)

As we understand the verdict in the Montague case, the jury held that no first-class golfing career should be destroyed because of an old non-replaced divot.

CUB DRIVERS AREN'T SAFE

By HUGH S. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON—The price we pay for gold is going up in London. It is at the highest point for some time. It takes more dollars and cents to buy an ounce of gold than it did.

That may or may not mean a great deal. If such a trend should continue rapidly, i. e., that a dollar will buy less and less gold, it means that, in the terms of the traditional yardstick, the dollar is less and less valuable. In other words, that it will buy fewer things, that the prices of everything and the cost of living will rise rapidly, that your wages will be worth less and less, and that savings, insurance policies, social security pensions, and all present debts and fixed incomes will also be of less and less actual worth. That would be real inflation — the fear and dread of every prudent and informed statesman — the greatest threat and danger to every man who works for a living.

* * *

IT'S A MAZE

The situation is terribly mixed and unpredictable because of a great number of artificial and arbitrary controls that Congress has granted to the Administration. We have a tremendous hoard of gold. If any such "flight from the dollar" really started on foreign exchanges, there are many things the government could try to do to stop it. Whether they would be enough to control it is anybody's guess.

If the price of gold goes high enough abroad above what we pay for it here, presumably we would export gold and sell it in sufficient quantities to try to bring the price in dollars down again to the point at which we desire to keep it stationary. That is what is called "managing the currency" or why we say we have a "managed currency."

* * *

EXPERIMENT IN CONTROL

What that means is that the President has power both directly and indirectly to regulate the purchasing power of the dollar. But since what a dollar will buy depends on the price of what it buys, that is just another way of saying that the President has the power of regulating or at least strongly affecting general price levels.

A few months ago, when the Stock Market seemed to be starting a boom, the Administration moved in to control it downward. Business began to slow up and finally the Stock Market crashed. Immediately the government again became concerned. The Federal Reserve reversed the credit controls by increasing the permitted borrowing on stocks.

Other controls directly affecting business are in the taxing system. It is admitted now by most observers out of government and — except a few influential die-hards — in government itself, that the present capital gains and undistributed profits taxes nail the feet of business expansion to the floor and will result not only in reduced revenue but also retarded recovery — or worse.

* * *

TOO MANY AMATEURS

Looking the whole situation over at this juncture, it doesn't look very well for the theories of "managed" money and "managed" economy or — perhaps more accurately — for the quality of the particular management.

What are being managed are business and financial matters of the greatest magnitude in the world, the vast business and finance of the government itself, but also, and even more important, the business and finance and jobs and wages of every person in the country. Business and finance are professions. Most of the men who are doing this mammoth management never in their lives proved any skill or showed any experience at all in either business or finance. Could that possibly be the trouble?

Triumph of the Oboe

(George Beasley Jr., Monroe Journal)

Average people like us are usually uninformed about most music and musical instruments except, of course, hymns, ballads and popular tunes. And so when one of our prodigies settles all his talents on what appears to be a simple little clarinet played through a pipe stem, we have to be told why. After hearing Henry Wall Wilson play his oboe at church Sunday morning we asked one of his fellow musicians in the high school band to explain if he could, why so much ability should be concentrated on one horn, and a long, slim one at that. However, we did admit that the instrument had quality of tone we had seldom heard before.

We began to understand the situation better when we were told that the oboe was extremely difficult to master, almost as difficult as it is to make it. For instance, the oboe which Henry Hall played Sunday, a new one, had been in the process of manufacture for 75 years, that much time being required to properly season the wood. It cost $500—more than a good piano, and a good nest egg in case one finds himself becoming short of breath. Now we shall have to study up on the oboe, so we can better appreciate the career of young Mr. Wilson, which gives every promise of being brilliant.

Mission Folk Have No Right To Take Sides

Preachers of Christian Faith In China May Be Forcing War In Urging Boycott.

Dear Sir:

America's unofficial ambassadors to the heathen have spoken. The missionaries in China are writing their government in stirring action. The officers of the Prince of Peace are instructing the people back home what steps to take in the Sino-Japanese situation. A letter received by Dr. Frank S. Hickman of the Duke School of Religion from a group of American and British missionaries says:

> "Let us carry out a voluntary boycott of all Japanese goods, and urge everyone not to buy the article made in Japan."

This country is doing its level best to act sensibly and muddle through the Oriental crisis without spilling a lot of American blood. Its government is dedicated to that end and its people are in earnest support of the idea. The missionaries are supported by the citizens of this country through their churches to go into non-Christian lands and Christianize the natives. Their positions certainly do not include duties beyond the realm of the spiritual. For the preachers to the Chinese to foment sentiment on either one side or the other is beyond their purpose and is none of their business. It would be helpful if the churches at home would instruct them to mind their own affairs and not interfere.

R. BRANTWELL DAWSON.
Charlotte.

OPEN LETTER TO ARAKI ADVISES HIM HE CAN'T ACHIEVE ENDS BY FORCE

Dear Sir:

I appeal to General Araki. General, I am not positive whether or not you have a heart. When I look at your picture, I notice that the place where your heart should be is covered with metal. Your appeal to the United States and England to support you and help you to destroy Russia makes me believe the metal over your chest is a protection against a Russian bullet. I don't blame you — safety first! I am sorry, General to bother you, but I am so used to talking to generals, and since you have started it, I hate to miss a chance to answer you. I believe that your appeal is wasted energy, because those who would be interested in your idea did not wait for your appeal, but they are not on the firing lines, and the masses who are on the firing line are not with you.

It is easy to see from your appeal that you are afraid. Yes, General, you have a good reason for that. If anyone plans to make the old world think the way he wants it to by force, he must surely lose, because the countries on which you are depending for assistance, Germany and Italy, are not safe themselves from their own inside troubles. Even if they could, they would not give you a chance to be the ruler. If you really think you can take the job of being the world's educator by force, there is something the matter with you. You can't poison the public mind with foolishness, and if you will take my advice, take a nap and when you wake up you will feel better and take the poor soldiers back home to their parents who love them so much, and let your dream pass by.

THE UNNAMED AUTHOR.

KEEP KICKING

By Frances Moses

When the blues are here they'll go away —
KEEP KICKING!
When the groans are here they'll go astray —
KEEP KICKING!
Kick down low; kick up high,
Throw your cares up to the sky.
Troubles, they will pass you by — If you —
KEEP KICKING!
Show them that you still can
KEEP KICKING!
Show them that you steady stand;
KEEP KICKING!
Show them that you've just begun,
You sleep with the moon, and rise with the sun —
And the blues they too will run —
KEEP KICKING!

Visiting Around

We Knew You Had It in You, Boys
(Headline, Sanford Herald)
AT LAST, OFFICERS GET LIQUOR STILL

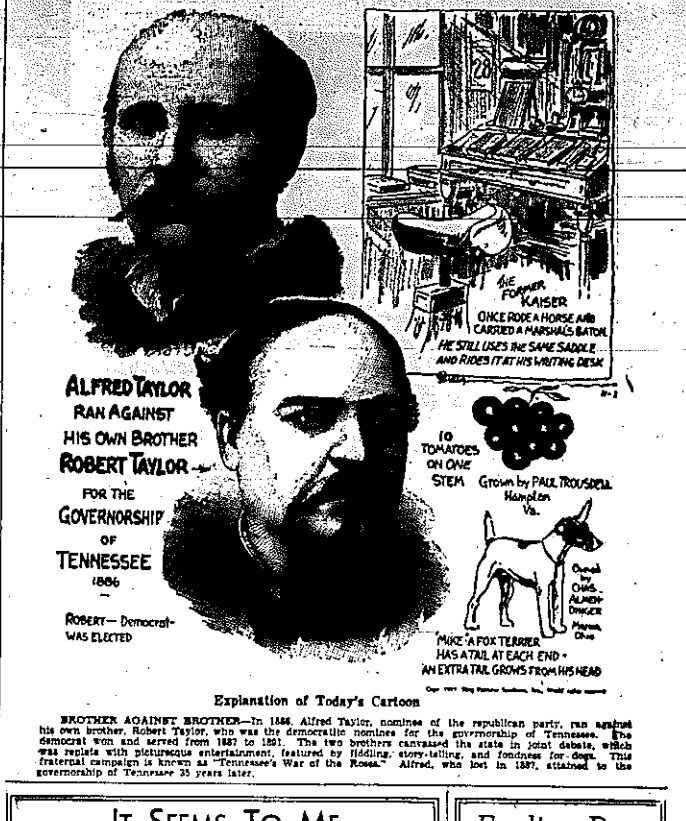
How to Get Your Name in the Paper—any Paper—The Charlotte News.
for Instances
(Lumberton Robesonian)

Members of The Robesonian force were remembered today with the gift of a big armful of nice turnips by J. A. Floyd of Fairmont.

It Even Burned Down the Real Estate
(Ararat Item, Mt. Airy Times)

Elmer Slaughter had the misfortune to lose his home by fire last week with all of the house property.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT — By Ripley



Explanation of Today's Cartoon

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER—In 1886, Alfred Taylor, nominee of the republican party, ran against his own brother, Robert Taylor, who was the democratic nominee for the governorship of Tennessee. The democrat won and served from 1887 to 1891. The two brothers canvassed the state in joint debate, which was replete with picturesque entertainment, featured by fiddling, story-telling, and fondness for dogs. This fraternal campaign is known as "Tennessee's War of the Roses." Alfred, who lost in 1887, attained to the governorship of Tennessee 35 years later.

IT SEEMS TO ME

By HEYWOOD BROUN

I WANT to address a few mild remarks to those who say that every worker has a right to a job, and that no outside agency whether that of capital or labor shall ever be allowed to stop him in his God-given privilege. This was pretty much the philosophy of rugged individualism voiced by Tom Girdler before the Senate Post Office Committee. But under questioning by Senator Green, of Rhode Island, Girdler took a good deal of it back. He professed to be puzzled when the Senator wanted to know whether unemployed men for whom there was no opening also possessed a God-given right to a job. Under cross-examination Mr. Girdler admitted that he did not think the government should undertake the responsibility of furnishing jobs to the jobless. So there in the philosophy of rugged individualism we may note exception number one in the right to work.

* * *

WHAT ABOUT LAYOFFS?

Henry Ford is another industrialist who is quite articulate in talking about the right of the individual to have a free choice as to whether to work or not. But part of the system of Ford and other large companies is based upon seasonal layoffs, and even the complete shutting down of a plant when it is not economical to keep it open. And what does the employee do with his right to work when he comes to the plant and finds the gates are locked? Can he put that right in his pipe and smoke it or broil it to keep his family from hunger?

Some will say that he can go elsewhere and take another job until times improve. But that may be a very long walk, a walk right to the edge of the world and over. The mechanical cotton picker is now only a few steps away from being practical. When it is put into use, more than a million men will be thrown out of employment, and all that will remain with them will be the God-given right to work. God undoubtedly did establish such a principle, but the machine age has snatched it away. If men laid off in factories start to march they may find the men no longer needed in cotton fields meeting them half way. And I suppose that community might set up a trading post and exist by taking in each other's right to work, and it is only fair to note that the rugged individualist in labor often preserves his right only at the expense of his fellows. Very often he sits in the boat without pulling an oar, and at the end of the race, when victory is won, he demands his share of the laurels.

* * *

IT ISN'T FAIR

Is that fair? I'll do my own answering and say, "No!" And it's even more unfair when the worker who has not lifted a finger to better the conditions in his shop receives all the gains while the union men who forced the benefits are thrown out on their ear.

I might instance a present case concerning a chain of stores in New York. Some four hundred out of seven hundred employees organized a union and entered into collective bargaining with the employer, the employer agreed to a wage increase, a year's contract and two weeks' vacation with pay, but he would not grant the union shop, and so a strike was called. Thereupon the company telegraphed to all its employees that in spite of the strike the wage increase and two weeks' vacation would be granted to all loyal workers who remained on the job. Accordingly, three hundred men got benefits for which they did not work. Indeed, they worked against them by refusing to be represented in the bargaining. I do not think it can fairly be said that those who are willing to reap where they have not sown are truly rugged and heroic individuals. There must be some more appropriate name — parasites will do for a start.

A King's Slaves

(Charleston News & Courier)

Since the coming of the boll weevil with a large migration of Negroes consequent upon it, the annual cotton crop of South Carolina has been reduced 33 per cent or more. South Carolina could live and prosper without producing a pound of cotton were its labor supply more skilful and intelligent. The gross value in dollars of this year's cotton crop in the State if it should be, with the subsidies added, $58,000,000, would scarcely pay its total Federal, State and local tax bills and not one-half its automobile bill.

The abandonment of cotton planting in South Carolina was forecast by James H. Hammond nearly ninety years ago. The use of commercial fertilizers prolonged its life, but its persistence is in the main due to the character of the labor supply. Cotton continues as the principal crop of South Carolina because the labor that produces most of it cannot easily be taught to produce other crops. This labor has got to live, in a manner of rather low living, and cotton is its way. In short, the average Negro does not easily acquire and practice the ways of horsemen, herdsmen, horticulturists, orchardists.

The Retort Courteous

(Zoe Kincaid Brockman in Gastonia Gazette)

"Pork sausage," I complained, looking askance at what the scales were telling me, "and ribs and backbones—that's what does the damage!"

"Yas'm," agreed the colored man who'd come into the office with "fresh yard algs" to sell. "Effen a body'd look plumb good at a hawg he'd know not t' eat too big a belt of him effen he dean wanna git t' look lo' lak him. Yas'm."

Earlier Days

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

NOVEMBER 3, 1862
75 YEARS AGO

FROM THE NORTH

Northern papers of the 20th and 21st have been received in Richmond. They report no movements or incidents of interest in the army of Gen. McClellan.

General Banks, it is stated, has left Washington for New York to take charge of an important expedition against the South. General Curtis telegraphs from St. Louis of another "complete victory" in Arkansas on the 28th ult. He says that 1,000 Yankees attacked 2,000 rebels and "completely routed them." The rebels lost eight and the Yankees five! Truly a wonderful victory.

The following dispatch appears in the Baltimore American of the 30th:

New York, Oct. 29:—The 21st Maine regiment was stopped between here and Philadelphia and sent back to Fort Schuyler in this harbor. The 21st Maine is expected here tomorrow, to go no further. Several other regiments from the east will also be detained here."

(This was to affect the New York election which took place Tuesday, and the bayonets of the Administration have been deemed necessary to help out the result. The gentleman who brought the papers says that bloody scenes were expected at the polls.)

—Fayetteville Observer.

* * *

BROTHER AGAINST BROTHER

This war is full of sad instances of brother arrayed against brother in deadly strife. A letter from Harper's Ferry, published in the Northern papers, states one instance which we copy for the purpose of saying that we think the writer is mistaken as to the nativity (if he means the nativity) of the brothers. They are, we think, natives of a Northern state, though for part of their lives residents of North Carolina. The following is an extract to which we allude:

"I refer to Gen. Gibbon's brigade, which from 4,000 has been reduced to little more than 820 effective men. One regiment lost 47% of its numbers in the single battle of Antietam; and others have a nearly similar story to tell. The brigade is composed of Wisconsin and Indiana troops. It is a curious circumstance that its commander (a North Carolinian) was actually engaged that day in fighting his own brother who was in command of a Confederate battery, and who is alleged to have avowed his determination to capture his loyal brother at all sacrifices. He has not yet succeeded."

—Fayetteville Observer.

Maybe That Explains It

(Statesville Daily)

As we understand it, Japan claims that the nine-power treaty was constructed with a slipper.