

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Hearing Chronicle

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Look Here

A Poll Says County Is Barely Safe For FDR!

The Constitutional Democrats have discovered, by means of a poll of 600 Mecklenburg citizens of all classes and creeds, that the County is about 53 per cent for Roosevelt, and about 46 per cent for Dewey. This is compared with the 1940 results of 80 per cent for Roosevelt, as against almost 20 per cent for Wilkie.

That's a gain of 250 per cent for anti-New Deal forces hereabouts, and a decline of more than 33 per cent in Mr. Roosevelt's strength in Mecklenburg.

We'll accept the poll at face value, but we've got to have some of that. If there's any money going begging, we'll take anything up to a dollar.

Out Of Place

Constitution Not Meant As Legislative Device

In our capacity as takers of the public pulse, we detect among the people at large no quickening excitement over the question of whether to adopt or reject the proposed amendment to the State constitution which would provide for the reorganization of the State Board of Education. We believe it is a fair statement to say that the attitude of the people at large toward public education is already expressed in the constitution, specifically in Article IX, Section 2.

The General Assembly... shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of public schools, wherein tuition shall be free of charge to all the children of the State between the ages of six and twenty-one years.

This would seem to cover the case, directing (1) that North Carolinians shall have a free and uniform school system; (2) the Legislature shall provide a sufficient utterance of a broad principle and a directive as to the means by which it is to be carried out. But North Carolinians are noted for an extraordinary reluctance to trust broad principles to their elected representatives, or vice versa. They gotta hedge 'em about.

Thus it was in 1942 that was adopted, under the aegis of those who more especially concerned themselves, a constitutional amendment which would give the State's free school system to be operated, how board members should be appointed, what occupations they should represent, etc. Two years later, the same interests, who were then obliged to redefine that definitive amendment, and a typical North Carolina controversy has been brought about. The people of the State are being urged on the one hand to kill the amending amendment, and on the other are being advised that there is nothing wrong with it. Our opinion is that in either case, the children of North Carolina would continue to receive their education very much as in the past, but since one must vote either yes or nay, and since there is a decided difference of opinion about the amendment, perhaps the best thing to do would be to let it go by default this time and send its sponsors to the conference room with instructions to produce next time something on which they themselves can get and stay together. Maybe they could be persuaded to stick to the broad principle which they deserve a place in the constitution.

A Trade?

We May Be Working Up Post-War China Puzzle

The situation in China has an ugly look. At the moment when the Japanese threat to that nation is being met by a call of General Stilwell brings a crisis. Lacking any official explanation of this move, beyond the fact that the General has been marked for an important new assignment, we must assume that it has some political significance.

The most enlightening comment yet made upon the withdrawal of General Stilwell from China is that it is a move to bring about a change of making power. Are you tired of winning the war?

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The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

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Additional attention was focused on the unhappy situation with Argentina's bid for a conference of Pan-American foreign ministers on an obvious move to put the U. S. A. on the spot and force recognition of the Fascist Peronist government in Argentina.

The whole tangled diplomatic controversy between Argentina and the United States and other neighbors is so involved that it takes an expert to understand it. But out of the mess emerges these basic and alarming facts:

1—Argentina is rushing to get Hedy Lamarr's former husband, Fritz Mandel, the Austrian munitions king, about whom "Fido's Delight" was written, is busy building airplanes for Argentina night and day.

2—Argentina could bomb Santiago, capital of Chile, from Mendoza, just across the Andes, in 40 minutes. It would take five hours for Chile to bomb Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina.

3—The people of Chile today are worried sick over Argentina. The Socialists, Communists and Conservative parties, usually vigorously divergent, are united in their fear that the Argentine Fascists, looking for means of keeping themselves in power, as Hitler did with the German people, will make a Czechoslovakia out of Chile.

4—If it is true that Chiang Kai-shek is the one man capable of leading China, then that must be regarded as part of our global strategy. But if, as Mr. Atkinson says, we have made a trade with anti-democratic forces in China, we will hear more from this later.

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New York's Idea

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"Have you seen the literary test asked by New York State of first voters?"

"No," replied Stettin.

"Argentina is the country in South America most like the United States," the newsmaster replied.

Stettin laughed good-naturedly. "Let me see that," he said. "I'd like to have it."

Dulles & America First

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