

DECEMBER 9, 1944

Common Sorrow

It must have come as a shock to the community when it learned that already 230 men of Mecklenburg County have given their lives in the service of their country. In addition to these, 88 others are missing in action, and 55 are held prisoners of war by our enemies. This is a measure of sorrow which permeates this community, striking heavily in families here and there, and spreading outward among friends and relatives, who are affected only in a lesser degree. And look ye: the rolls will grow longer before the firing shall cease.

It was on November 16 that the great American offensive was catapulted at the Germans on the Western Front. In the first week of that offensive 1,725 men of the American armies were killed, tens of thousands more wounded. Since, the fighting has increased in ferocity, and we have been warned by Secretary Stimson to steel ourselves against lengthier reprisals as the weeks go by and the casualty tolls are compiled.

In those lists it is inevitable that our own boys will be named, for they are, as we would have them, strong in the fighting. And there will be, inevitably, other homes and families which feel the blighting hand of war which destroys the choice seed of our stock, and there will be sorrow.

It is, we should like to feel, no longer an individual sorrow confined among those whom it directly touches. It becomes a community sorrow, and the sharing of it may somewhat fortify us all in our common peril. It has been said in these moving words:

No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a member of thy friends or of thine own were.

A Man's Creed

In addition to the tremendous problems which the Southern textile industry must face after this war if it is to prosper, it must also steel some important defenses in thinking which have arisen in its own midst. One example of these differences is to be seen in this week's resignation of W. M. McLaughlin as secretary-treasurer of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association. We are convinced that Mr. McLaughlin, too progressive to suit some leaders in the industry, would have faced a fight to hold his position—with the chances that he would lose.

East Sumner Mr. McLaughlin wrote a series of five articles for the *Textile Bulletin* called "Thoughts On The New World," in which he revealed a grasp of the social and economic problems facing his industry, his country and his world. It was to our notion, an important statement from a spokesman for industry. Without going into the stresses within the industry, we might quote a few passages from his writing that of think which serve to indicate the kind of thinking he has been doing:

"The average industry boasts of its payroll contribution and taxes to the community, its purchases and expenditures which contribute to the community, and the industrialist rather self-righteously rests upon his laurels as having discharged his obligations and deserves to be considered a good citizen."

A president of his association had publicly commended the textile machinery to China, saying that he was willing to sell them milk, but not the cow. Mr. McLaughlin, commenting on that attitude, wrote:

"Does the textile industry of America desire to enjoy a protection that will deny other nations a privilege, so as to force them to patronize the American market? Such a policy may have an immediate appeal but its failures will finally push the temporary advantages into a confusion of disadvantages."

Though he wrote in general terms, and in a sane, dignified fashion, he was trying to say to his industry that new forces and new concepts were rising throughout the world, and that it must prepare itself. Two more examples will suffice.

Statesmen At Work

Rep. Anderson of California. Mr. Speaker, on last Saturday the traditional Army and Navy game was played with the usual ceremony in Baltimore, but unfortunately the Navy absorbed three touchdowns and the Army absorbed two, and went down with the flag flying. The usual trophies and souvenirs were distributed before the game.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder how those five American boys who played the game for Army and Navy and the fighting men out on Leyte were treated with the little trophies that were handed out were disappointed. Many of them wonder how many people who bought them, had those were made by an enemy of our country, are they fighting against today? I wonder how, under the blue sky organization or any individual had

Editors, The News  
In Tuesday's issue of the News appears a letter written by Mr. T. D. Estlin, not to join the union, but the "blessings" of the closed shop.

belong to what? The qualification is not as to race or creed, but Union Membership, and if a man prefers not to join the union, well, he just can't work. That's all, regardless of how much he desires to work, regardless of how well qualified he is, regardless of how desperately his services may be needed by his country in the present wartime emergency.

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WASHINGTON  
ADMINISTRATION leaders aren't shouting about it, but they are not at all happy over Congressional runnings of an investigation of Lend-Lease. There has been undercurrent talk of such an investigation for some time, but now it seems likely to come to a definite head sometime during the next Congress.

WASHINGTON  
The deficiency bill before the House of Representatives carries an important provision for increasing the Congressional allowance for clerk hire from \$4,500 a year to \$7,500.

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The new appropriation also permits the payment of \$5,000 a year to one deputy address the present salary limit for one individual is \$3,000. This may increase nepotism. Many Congressmen put their wives or relatives on the pay roll—sometimes with the wife more than earning her salary, but frequently with the wife or relative absent from the office most of the time.

The Defense

Whatever our feelings when we contemplate the sight of British soldiers spilling Greek blood, or the thought of British troops resting in "hated" Europe, the textile industry, apparently, is not ready to give thought to the new world of which he spoke so earnestly.

NOTE—Congressional investigators want especially to probe certain letters written by Secretary of State

Something In Return

There is a growing feeling that, with the American Army now bearing the brunt of the fighting, the pressing need for Lend-Lease to both England and Russia is diminishing and that, before we turn over Lend-Lease goods for British re-export, we should get something in return—such as a pledge that Britain will revivify its policies in Greece, Italy, Belgium and Ethiopia, where British imperialism has kept those countries in a political ferment.

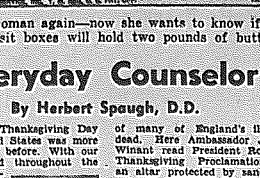
NOTE—Economy-minded Congressman Jack Cochran, chairman of the House Accounts Committee, is supporting this new provision for increasing the allowance for Congressional clerk hire. It is also being supported by the leaders of both parties. Cochran planned his strategy in consultation with Speaker Sam Rayburn and Republican leader Joe Martin after the provision had been proposed by Representative Alvin O. Thompson, ranking Republican on the Accounts Committee.

Another Unemployment Problem

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Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spough, D.D.  
The United States Thanksgiving Day is more global than ever before. With our citizens scattered throughout the world, this day has become a truly international holiday.



"It's that woman again—now she wants to know if our safety deposit boxes will hold two pounds of butter!"

A Failure In Chicago

CHICAGO  
for its own national interests. There were idealists who came here hoping we had advanced to another stage of international co-operation. They had hoped that sovereignty would not get in the way of a truly international accord.



The Dark Truth

NEW YORK  
The trouble in Italy, Greece, and Belgium is no surprise to this column. For months we have written repeatedly of the necessity to form a united democratic policy toward Europe. We have warned that any attempt to divide Europe into spheres of influence would lead to a clash in the policies of the Allies.

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The People's Platform

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