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MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1945

A Century Of Progress

On December 15, 1945, the looms first hummed into life at the Graniteville Manufacturing Company in South Carolina, and for a hundred years now, interrupted only by such major upheavals as the Civil War, the factory has been doing business at the same old stand in the Horse Creek Valley, among the undulating hills that lie between Aiken and Augusta.

The history of Graniteville is the history of the Piedmont South. It took courage and vision to set up in the textile business in the days when the interests and energies of the South were devoted exclusively to agriculture and the proud gentlemen who planted cotton looked down their noses at the grasping New Englanders who converted the stuff into finished goods. At it took still more courage to hang on through all the bitter years of war and reconstruction until the great day came when the textile industry began to shift in wholesale fashion to the Southeast and the leadership slipped from the shoulders of the planter and settled upon the factory owner.

Year by year, the mills altered the pattern of southern life. Farmers abandoned their exhausted lands and moved to the mushroom villages, selling upon the meager wages as manna. The picture was not always a pretty one, for there was a studied exploitation of these newly-converted factory hands, but, despite all its early sins, the cotton mill showed its many years as a bright symbol of hope.

It was the Horse Creek Valley, remember, that served as the goal of Erskine Caldwell's degenerate Tobacco Road residents; Lester's girls looked upon the Valley as a promised land just short of heaven. And, perhaps, considered relatively, the Valley was as all the Lesters thought was. The cotton mill owners, clinging until this day to the low wage philosophy established when Graniteville was young, have become a favorite target of Southern liberals. It is easy to forget that their big, ugly factories have brought salvation to a desperate people struggling up from the ashes of military defeat and trapped by a failing, one-crop agricultural economy.

There wasn't anything altruistic about those early owners, the cotton mills took South because it was the logical place for them, but they came at a dark moment and they gave the region a hand-hold at a time when the rest of the nation was racing away to a new economic order.

Graniteville has, of course, long since lost its overwhelming importance; the cotton mill that was so bound up with the destiny of the South has become one plant among many, and day by day the roster of diversified industries grows. But Graniteville, and the mills that followed it, were the first milestones on the long road to Henry Grady's New South, the perilous path that has become a broad, smooth highway in the century that has slipped away since the first looms came to life in the Horse Creek Valley.

Measuring The Spiral

Fact-finding is one of the most unpopular sports in the nation at this reading, and we don't suppose anybody is going to pay much attention to the latest report of the Department of Labor, which has been in ill repute ever since the day when Madame Perkins hung her tri-corn hat in the Secretary's office.

But, for what they are worth, the Department has produced a set of figures designed to show in dollars and cents how much more it costs a city-dweller to live in that city than he could before the war. A survey conducted in 102 cities led the Labor experts to the conclusion that you will, if you are the wage earner in a family of three, go into debt in 1946 if your weekly salary is less than \$42.

There is, of course, a differential still working in the favor of consumers in the South, but the figures nevertheless should shock any local resident. In 1944, according to the survey, \$1.95 was just enough to meet the average family's living costs and pay for the usual small gifts and contributions to charity. Nothing was left for savings or insurance, and the statisticians figure that even the average family's purchase of

\$168 in War Bonds plunged it into debt. Now 1944 was the year when family incomes hit an all-time high, but even so more than one-fourth of the city families surveyed did not earn the required \$1.95. Which means, of course, that in the time of the nation's greatest prosperity the living scale of one out of four city families was above the level of subsistence.

The extent of wartime inflation was measured in the difference between 1941 and 1944 cost-of-living figures; the family that couldn't break even last year with \$1.95 could make out in 1941 with less than \$1. The difference recorded for such price increases as the 29 per cent rise in retail food costs between 1941 and 1944.

Perhaps the Labor Department's exact figures are open to question, but no middle-aged wage earner who has been brooding over his own family bills can doubt that they are generally accurate. The attempt to write off these unpleasant statistics as the meaningless manderings of a group of venal bureaucrats is whistling in the dark; we're already caught in an inflationary spiral and the effort to kick off all Federal price and production controls makes about as much sense as an attempt to put out a fire with a bucket of gasoline.

Rejected Christmas Gift

You could, if you were a cynic, write off the Senate's vote against granting itself a \$2,500 increase in expense allowances as a gesture made with one eye on the polls. Certainly political considerations were involved, but there seems to have been a good deal of statesmanship also on display.

We have long held that \$10,000 a year isn't enough pay for a Congressman, and in these times few members can meet their fixed expenses unless, like Representative Hoffman, they wear their own shirts and cut eating meat. But, as Senator Connally pointed out, it would be a shameful sight to see the senators coming in through the kitchen for a raise.

The argument brought in favor of the expense account increase was logical enough. Senator Bridges, arguing that a Senate seat is now a luxury that can be afforded only by those with private income, remarked: "It will be a sad day for the country when the Senate degenerates into a millionaires' club."

But there was, as Senator Byrd said, a good deal of subterfuge involved in the effort to sneak up to the back door of the Treasury. Party lines split wide open on the vote, but 47 Senators voted against the handsome little Christmas present, and only 24 arose to support it.

The time has come for a general up-revision of Federal salaries, and it's not a valid argument to point out that a good many of the present incumbents are not worth the money or drawing. You can, if care for inversion, put it this way: the job they are not doing is worth an adequate salary.

We're rather proud of the fashion in which the elder statesmen turned down the opportunity for a handsome back-stairs hand-out. We only hope they will display as much vision and courage when the President's proposed bill for higher Congressional salaries comes to a vote. Their constituents, we think, will be disappointed if the Senate doesn't vote an honest day's pay for an honest day's work.

Christmas can be accepted as the official guide to his behavior on his annual tour, there are certain passages that must be swiftly changed so that the Senator's regulations will not bring the impression of their impending visit.

The part in which he huris himself down the chimney really will not do at all, we fear. Remember: "He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot. And his clothes were all trimmed with silver and gold." Consider the condition of his beard!

Must we demand, then, that he abandon the chimney approach and enter decorously through the door? Or is there perhaps some lingering school of thought among the young which would prefer him in the fireplace, boisterous though slightly soiled, rather than at the front door, suppressed but sanitary? Here modern science has come to the rescue of hoary tradition. Santa Claus might just manage to continue his chimney tactics if the text were rewritten thus: "He was dressed all in celophane down to his feet, and his clothes were protected from ashes and soot."

And so it goes all over the land. The Santa Claus we know is clear that Santa Claus must revise his whole code of conduct. If "The Night Before

The Sanitary Santa Claus

Pity the bewilderment of poor Saint Nicholas, who must plan his visits to various American communities this year without a word from his elves. In Flint, he has been warned to avoid all risqué laughter or singing, on risk of falling afoul of an anti-noise ordinance. And so it goes all over the land.

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Drew Pearson

Bad Guessers
Get The Rank
In Our Army

JUST one year ago this morning the American public got the news of a first heavily armed attack by the German army had launched a violent and successful counter-attack.

In the battle of the Bulge which followed, 60,000 casualties resulted and the tremendous surprise now piled up in Army storehouses throughout the U. S. A. were largely acquired by frantic Army orders during those next fateful weeks.

That desperate Nazi last-gasp campaign, a desperate breach of a successful, it did not stop until 20,000 fresh American troops were flown across the Atlantic, an unheard of operation—and landed almost in the thick of battle.

While mistakes happen in war-time, it is incumbent on the Army to clean up the source of those mistakes, especially before saddling the Nation with new peace-time militarism. The War Department is not waging a fierce campaign not only to clean up the Navy, but to adopt peacetime conscription for the Army.

Before this is done, the same healthy spotlight now focused on Pearl Harbor burling ought to drive into other errors costly in American lives.

Unfortunately the Army has long followed a policy of covering up military mistakes, apparently to preserve the reputations of high-ranking generals. Not only the mistakes of World War I, but even some blunders of the Civil War still are under lock since Pearl Harbor.

Furthermore, the Army seems to follow an inexplicable policy of promoting many of these who have while those who were right either see no promotion, or are eased out of the Army.

ARMY FAVORITISM
In the Battle of the Bulge, for instance, the one man who consistently and emphatically warned his superiors that the Germans were going to attack was Col. B. A. Hooton, Chief of Intelligence for the Second Army. Based on interviews with German prisoners, he wrote a report on December 10, 1944, six days before the attack, warning that it was coming.

But on December 12, Colonel Hooton's superior intelligence officer, who had been told of his report, said that no such attack was possible. The man responsible for this report was Gen. Edwin L. Sibert.

If the gallant 16th division had been informed of SHAEF's and reinforcements opposite the German lines, the 60,000 U. S. casualties might have been a different story.

DICKSON IS OUT
Today, Colonel Dickson, the man who was right, is out of the Army. He played because he wasn't getting anywhere. He quit.

Right people, and General Sibert, the man who was wrong, has been promoted to be top-ranking intelligence officer for the entire U. S. Army in Germany.

Again Col. O. K. Sadler and Col. R. S. Bratton, the two colonels who urged and begged that the 16th division be sent to Pearl Harbor just before the Japs struck, never got one single promotion.

Colonel Sadler and Bratton's suggestions are now to be deputy chief of staff. But the colonels who were right stood still.

The Army owes it not only to the public but to the convention of the public to rectify this favoritism before asking Congress to vote more money for the Army, or the swallowing up of the Navy.

RAMROD TOM CLARK
During the first few months of popular Tom Clark's regime as Attorney General, Capitol Hill was a hotbed of criticism.

They have now quietly discovered that the Attorney General is a genial smile and easy-going man and some ramrod convictions are easily swayed by political sympathies.

For instance, Clark bearded the lion to its den the other day by appearing before the Jacksonville, Fla., convention of state attorneys general and finally offering their ideas on submerged oil lands.

This subject is dynamic in many states, including Texas. Forty-five state attorneys general had publicly demanded the submerged oil lands.

Clark, on the other hand, maintained that the U. S. Supreme Court should decide the question. In taking this position, he was going directly counter to Ed Butler, close friend of Truman and Clark, who gets most of his high oil income from lands under the Pacific.

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Hold Your Horses, Here Comes The Elephant!



The People's Platform

A Great Regiment Is Disappointed

By LT. COL. MELVIN ZAIS
517th PARACHUTE INFANTRY

FOR BRAGG
On 7 December 1945 in memory of a day which will live long in the annals of the 517th Parachute Infantry, the men of this unit were surprised by a critical shortage in the United States—gasoline.

The men awakened at 4 o'clock in the morning in order to eat breakfast and proceed on the cold 120 mile trip to Charlotte in the back of a truck. Immediately after the parade they loaded in trucks, stopped at Camp Sutton to eat and did not arrive at Fort Bragg until after one o'clock the following morning.

All this to further the sale of war bonds and gasoline therefore. The presence of this unit in Charlotte did not aid in the sale of war bonds sufficiently to warrant the expenditure of the gasoline utilized.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE
The lack of knowledge on the part of the citizenry of Charlotte as to the purpose and objective of the parade. The people only know what they read in the papers or see in posters or hear over the radio.

On 3 December 1945 the Junior Chamber of Commerce received information that the 517th Parachute Infantry was coming to the city for a parade. The people only know what they read in the papers or see in posters or hear over the radio.

THE ENTIRE COMMAND
I can feel the feelings of the entire command when I state that we were disappointed and quite bitter on our return from our Queen City.

I should like to enumerate the reasons in order that you may correct a misunderstanding. The constructive criticism and pattern your future conduct along different lines.

In opening my I include a brief history of the Regiment, which item was forwarded to the Charlotte News and Charlotte Observer at least two days prior to the parade.

This Regiment fought as ground troops in Italy, jumped into Southern France four months ago, and the beach elements, struck east into the Maritime Alps, fought through the entire winter, and was prepared to jump across the Rhine before hostilities ceased. Many men are former members of the 17th Airborne Division which had jumped into Europe.

The Regiment was awarded battle participation stars for five major campaigns in a period of less than eleven months.

MANY PREPARATIONS
Preparations for the parade in Charlotte included arrangement for feeding of 170 men and officers, and Camp Sutton—practice formations.

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LONG RANGE RESULTS
Long range results of this apathy on the part of the community and the newspapers and radio resulted in the following:

There was a very small audience at the parade.

The group was composed mostly of high school students and people who happened to be shopping downtown at the scheduled hour of the parade.

The people were not cognizant of the record of the unit in combat; therefore the marching soldiers were in numerous instances the recipients of catcalls including "My Heroes" and "I'll take the Navy."

There were little if any war bonds sold as a direct result of the parading troops.

Regardless of any publicity that this unit might have received to the benefit of the men participating and regardless of the lack of attention paid the unit commander on his arrival in Charlotte, the issue is the fact that this unit went to Charlotte to aid in the sale of war bonds and if war bonds were sold, and I'm sure they were, the sales could not be attributed to the presence of this unit in Charlotte.

This letter is personal in nature and is not to be construed as an official communication. I am expressing the views of a citizen and a fellow officer about to be separated from the service.

NOTE: Some part of Colonel Zais' criticism is based on misunderstanding; an early edition of The News is circulated at Fort Bragg, and because it is designed largely for our more distant southern friends, it is normally played down. We believe we gave the parade adequate publicity in the Charlotte News and Charlotte Observer.

Immediate results of this effort to prepare Charlotte for the parade and to increase the sale of war bonds were as follows:

A one paragraph blurb in the Observer about the impending parade in the Friday morning city edition only.

A one paragraph blurb in the Charlotte News about the Grand Marshalls selected for the parade.

A long distance call to the Observer about the parade on Thursday night.

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Marquis Childs

Bad News Ails
For Congress

WHEN members of Congress went home on holiday last Summer, they heard a never-ending clamor from fathers and mothers about bringing the boys home. It was so insistent that some Congressmen sought refuge in the seclusion of Washington or in remote vacation retreats.

A Tally sheet of the brief Christmas recess, they will hear news about bringing the boys home. It was so insistent that some Congressmen sought refuge in the seclusion of Washington or in remote vacation retreats.

It explains why the Truman Administration has hastily back-tracked to apply controls on building materials again. The other controls were taken off too heedlessly in response to pressure lobbyists.

It explains the Senate's hasty action in voting \$100,000,000 to be used to adapt emergency wartime housing for the veterans in cities and college towns. Made-over barracks will not be ideal by any means but some such makeshift is necessary for the moment, at least.

Reports reaching OPA show that in almost every city and town across the entire country the situation is the same. They show, too, that the talk of self-reliance in the building industry to justify removal of controls was largely nonsense.

A study of OPA reports makes plain what a grim story it is. "Thousands of families have been evicted. Hundreds of thousands are living in cellars and garages which are damp and unsanitary."

The headlines from city to city are monotonously repetitious. They tell human interest stories of veterans related from two, three and four years of service to find that they must live separately from their wives and children, doubling up with in-laws who are already crowded.

The vacancy rate on rented dwellings, perhaps the best barometer of the housing shortage, has moved downward in most cities almost to zero. The contrast with 1940 when the crowding had just begun is striking.

In San Francisco the gross vacancy rate five years ago was nearly 7 per cent. In May of this year it was 1 per cent and it is probably less than that today. Detroit it was 3.3 in 1940 and less than 1 per cent in July of this year. The percentages for 1945 are deceptive only in the vacuum which do exist are largely sub-standard dwellings.

A SMALL BOOM
V-J Day released a small building boom. But it is not in the apartment houses, says Michael, for example, that the 1,000,000 of new construction and exactly 36,000 houses going up. The construction was in the industrial and commercial fields, a type of what is happening around the country.

The grim facts of life are certain to intrude on the holiday cheer of many a Congressman. The idea of going back into the service to help the war effort is not appealing to family units will not appeal to G.I. Joe and if he can find some way to Washington to tell his troubles, he'll do it.

But he will take that barracks if it comes down in clouds of dust or more separation from the family he would not continue the war's end.

THE FATE OF EUROPE
At this point a remarkable separation of sheep from goats takes place; for the Communists and the Hitlerites who pull the longest faces about Germany's dismal prospects, about Russian "looting," about "harsh" Allied policy, about the "mad" Morgenthau plan, and so on, are also among the millions who are fed while the continent is hungry.

A plea that we give a German more is almost universal. It is to be expected, for the very same commentator who is eloquent in his praise for the Morgenthau plan, and removed by the Germans. Germany is only a place on the continent, which they happen to stand the best of Europe's surviving factories.

The answer to the man who talks about Germany is to talk to the man who makes him focus on Europe, and think Europe, but the very same commentator who is eloquent in his praise for the Morgenthau plan, and removed by the Germans. Germany is only a place on the continent, which they happen to stand the best of Europe's surviving factories.

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