THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1947

A Merit System For Teachers

THE running battle over increasing takeners pay in North Carolina has attracted public attention to the inadequacy of our public school system, but it has also tended-to concentrate it upon one phase of a complex problem. Certainly the matter of salaries is fundamental, but merely making the teaching profession more attractive financially will not, in itself, guarantee a major improvement in teaching standards.

A special commission of the General As-A special commission of the General Assembly, charge with investigating the possibilities of a merit system in the public schools, has recognized this, although with considerable reluctance. In its recent report the commission makes, the excellent point that the present system, which bases pay solely upon educational background and experience, makes no allowance for the experiency latench reservers more upward in the scale as rapidly as do the genuinely talented pedagogues. And nothing short of moral turplitude proved in court is sufficient to rid the school system of an incompetent with paper qualificagitions.

The commission's conclusions in this re-gard are as important as the widely-pub-licized argument that the schools are now going to rack and ruin because pay is too low. And yet, while teachers are united be-hind the demand for higher pay, they are far from united behind the idea of a merfar from united behind the lock of a meri-tic system which would base pay upon abil-ity as well as length of service. There has been a perhaps understandable reluctance in educational circles to admit that the teaching profession probably includes, re-gardless of whose fault it, smore incom-petents than any other profession on earth.

Some of that same reluctance seems to color the commission's report. For, while the commissioners favor a merit system in

principle, they have already started throwing barriers in the way of its establishment. In a burst of that doubletalk which has long been the curse of professional educators, they speak of the need to build a program of research, select or build instruments of evaluation, determine their validity, and work out a basis for their application to a saarry schedule. This task, they estimate, will require at least three years and will cost \$50,000. And they add the hedging suggestion that the program be set up only for the next biennium so that if 'no feasible plan has been hit upon, the experiment would be discontinued and the idea of metrit rating as a basis for salary scheduling might be dropped."

We do not bee the need for research in

We do not beg the need for research in preparing a merit system, and we do not consider \$50,000 an exhorbitant sum to underwrite it. But, after all, the research-ers wouldn't be starting from scratch; others wouldn't be starting from scratch; other states have merit systems that have been in operation for years. Moreover, there is no basis for the assumption that the experiment must be worked out to its ultimate conclusion before it is instituted in the schools. Conceivably it might be years before the bugs are finally worked out of the system, if they ever are.

out of the system, if they ever are.

The people of North Carolina, we think, are willing to make a considerable sacrifice in order to give their school teachers the sort of income they deserve. But in return for it they will certainly demand a great improvement in educational standards. They will insist, once the pay is worthy of the job, that the teacher who holds the job be worthy of the pay. And we don't think they will be willing to wait evaluation? are being perfected by a commission that isn't even certain it is possible to base teachers' pay on their ability. sible to base teachers' pay on their ability to teach.

Five Public-Spirited Citizens CHARLOTTE now has a Zoning Ordi-

nance, the product of years of travail and suffering. It is, according to the exwho drafted it and defended it valiantly through months of hearings, a sound Zoning Ordinance, one that should guarantee maintenance of residential property values by restricting the town's booming business district to proper channels of

To administer the Ordinance, Council has appointed a five-man Board of Adjustment. The selections were unanimous and wise, for the board includes representatives of every class, of citizen likely to be affected by restrictive phases of the law—an architect, a banker, a grocer, a real-tor, and the president of an office supply firm.

Upon the shoulders of Messrs. Hook, Cuthbertson, Covington, Shaw and Guthery falls the full responsibility for convert-ing the legal skeleton of the Zoning Ordinance into an instrument to guarantee the orderly growth of the city. The Council has endowed them with broad powers to waive enforcement of the zoning regulations in specific cases where a property-owner might suffer undue hardship. They will function as a sort of appellate court, hearing the real or fancied grievances of all those who seek special dispensation. Their task, obviously, is not going to be an easy one.

The fact that these gentlemen have been willing to a c c e p t appointment, without compensation, to a municipal board that is likely to have more than its share of head-aches beepsaks their public-spiritedness. They are not seekers after glory, for little glory is likely to come of their exactling assignment. They are, we gather, citizens who are willing to shoulder a heavy burden of responsibility for making Charlotte the sort of city they would like to live in. They have as great an opportunity to accomplish that end as any group we know. We wish them well. The fact that these gentlemen have been

The Dimes Are Marching Again

If he had lived, Frankijn Delano Roosevelt would have been 65 years old today. In death, as in life, he is a controversal figure, and there are many who
recall his memory only for purposes of
vilitying it. But his birthady has a special
importance unrelated to his ideology. It
marks the climax of the annual March of
Dimes campaign.

Dimes campaign.

There is an area where all citizens can find agreement in their estimate of Frank-lin Roosevel.—the personal courage of the man who fought off one of the dread diseases of our time and surmounted the handicap of twisted limbs that beest him in the prime of life. The long struggle that took him from a hospital bed at Warm Springs to the White House has served as an inspiration to hundreds of thousands of polio sufferers—and it has also served to call the public's attention to their great need.

The symbol of the March of Dimes is the crippled child—and certainly the symbol is appealing. But polio is no respecter of age. At Memorial Hospital's polio ward there are patients of all ages and of every there are patients of all ages and of every economic degree. The treatment is lengthy and expensive; some can afford it but most cannot. And it is for these, the helpless, that the March of Dimes has its greatest meaning. At Memorial, and hundreds of other hospitals over the country, genuine miracles are made possible by the gen-eralty of the public.

The Dimes are marching this week—the dimes and the dollars. The little receptacles stud cashiers' desks all over town, voluntary workers are making personal solicitations. In a season of great causes this one stands out, for the money donated this week goes to restore wasted bodies, and, most important, hope.

Another Voice

On Loving Our 'Enemies'

entertaining if not amusing in the admiration expressed by John Temple Graves for Senator Taft and his views. It quotes Mr. Graves as saying that:

". . I, for one, continue to find much that answers the nation's present need in the intelligence, courage, honesty and ex-perience of Senator Taft."

Mr. Graves says this while conceding that Dixie, of course, will go Democratic as usual unless Wallace, or Pepper is the Democratic Nominee. The News comments: "This, as we understand it, is an admonition to give careful attention to those Republican Presidential possibilities we are all going to vote against in 1948 because one of them is going to be elected in spite of us, and we're all going to be much better off anyway.

"Who said the one-party system doesn't make sense?"

This whimsy is probably deserved. But if our friend, the enemy, is bound to win to '48, perhaps Mr. Graves is right in the initiation that we Southern Democrats out to know a bit more about the Republican candidates than the color of their

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS finds something eyes and hair. Forewarned is forearmed; and to see the cyclone coming may enable us to stand from under. And if perchance it is a good wind which threatens to blow us good fortune, haply we ought to place ourselves in position to grab it as it races

But Mr. Graves, we suspect, is read by a good many Southern Republicans, and the South is about as well represented in the G. O. P. national convention as any other section of the country. Some of the seed he, is sowing with respect to Senator Taft, therefore, may be falling in fertile soil.—Winston-Salem Journal.

G-Man Hoover warns that feminine crime is on the rise; and here in another column we have a St. Louis woman in a fur coat sticking up a bank cashier for the next payment.

Those who know him best say George Allen is funnier in person. It was prob-ably a mistake of his well-heeled sponsor, the RFC, that it didn't save Georgie for television.

'Just Some Slight Tokens Of My Affection, Dear'



People's Platform

Two-Sided Question

ROCKINGHAM Authentic & Permanent

Editors, The News: * ROCKINGHAM*

I WOULD like to write to-your paper to say that there are two sides to everything. I have the habit of looking at both aides.

The state of looking at both aides to the state of looking at both aides now trying to organize Saffe Manufacturing Co's employees. They have writen all kinds of pamphiets that can be thought of to low-rate the side that done look in the union just utter one word to show their side of the matter the union says the mill company has the people laried to slander their mour mill say that the mill company has bought the women clothes and all kinds of things, and think that they are just supposed to sit back sider; Suppose you pay \$26 a year to belong to a union of 1.50 people and then the mill company turns against you and so the state of the stat

Where's Clarence? DORCHESTER, MASS.

Where S Cran
Editors, The News:

I AM very much interested in locating an Army,
and very much interested in locating an Army,
and your readers could help me.

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Old Story

Old Story

CHARLOTTE

Editors. The News:

FROM the newspaper reports concerning the attractive property of the property of the

Authentic & Permanent

T SEE in the pa-pers—that's all I know—that some feller in the Legislature wants the law-makers to study the authentity of the Twentieth of May Declaration's aid the Old Codger this morning.

"They might jest as well appoint a committee to investigate the authentity over Declaration of Independence. Them there things air fixed and Immovable." so spoke the Old Codger this morning.

"Nobody doubted the May Twentieth Declaration—it's on the North Caliny flag and ef ambody tries to take it out, shoot 'em on the spot. It wuzent on takel some feller who thought the Socioth Irish Presbyteriam suz, gittin too much they wuzent, so shore it wuz OK bekaz John McNitt Alexander, one ov the Big Boys, years after sed the original had go burned in a fire and he swit it from recollection, wanted to polim off somethin that wuzent real, he'd not have sed no paper wuz burnt. It air bekase he was so truthful and honest that some fellers callind to the sed of paper wuz burnt. It air bekase he was so truthful and honest that some fellers callind the second of the

down, shoot him on the spot.

"There sir some North Caliny highbrows who hain't got nothin better to do than try to turn double not Virginia Dare, the Halifax Resolution, the Meck-lenburg Declaration, the John Paul Jones residence in North Caroliny and Moore's Creek, Guijford Court House. Ef they'd work as hard to make some glorious history they'd be better employed "—The Rhamkatte

Senator Soaper Says:

"MILK price war looms in N. Y." Who now re-members the old-time price war that threat-ened the ruin of our economy, as thousands cheered?

Atom control is deferred, thanks to well-timed obstacles interposed by the red chum. For one understanding nothing about machinery, the dreamy Slav certainly knows where to drop the wrench.

Janis Carter, film cutie, is named Cifrus Queen of 1947 because she "embodies the health, beauty and richness of California grapefruit" besides being an eyeful.

How to train gunners without having it look military is the crux of the Universal Training Pro-gram. Perhaps the lads should practice in the woods, shooting bears by mistake for people.

"On. yes." said the child in the fairy store. "We ickly learned how to play the game we received r Christmas by reading the directions that came the box."

If the class in grammar will come to order, we shall now parse the Wisconsin dispatch on labor trouble: "In case the J. I. Case case is settled—"

It is recalled that Harold Ickes at one time functioned simultaneously in 18 jobs, though not operating a pharmacy with short-order grill and postal substation in conjunction.

when it came to sabotaging wison Wyart's far-dighted housing program.

Lafest demonstration of harmony between the Legion and the real estate interests came at å housing meeting in the Statler Hotel here. Wesley Pearce, VPW housing offer, showed up at the meeting, thinking it was open-aim and chatted in, the corridor for a few minutes with Arthur Marcus, a member of the Legion's seven-man, World War II Veterant' Housing Committee.

"It is all right for nome in?" asked Pearce.

"Statler Hotel and make yourself at home," replied and the seven provided that the might be able to pick up some rewiseds to help housing; so Marcus scorred not everybody. Pearce explained that he might be able to pick up some rew ideas to help housing; so Marcus scorred pines in the two men awapped stories about their experiences in the Next think Pearce Knew, Legion lobbysts John Thomas

Navy.

Next think Pearce knew, Legion lobbyist John Thomas
Taylor was pointing in his direction and sputtering furlously.

"Oct him off of here!" he shouted.

"Oct him off of here!" he shouted.

acting impulsively tried to dissuade him, but Taylor con-

acting impulsively tried to dissuade him, but Taylor con-tinued to store." he yelled. "I'm running this meeting and I want him out of her." Turning again to Pearce, Taylor deed to the tried of the tried of the tried of the "I'm sorry; I thought it was open," apologized Pearce, as he left the room.

Samuel Grafton

Change Of Status

rite about Pranklin and Eleanor Roosevelk which used to appread across. Americal parlors of Claredge and Control of Claredge and Control of Claredge and Englishwoman will take a stay as friend, never the raconcture and saw two costs she liked. They came to 4,500 pounds but she told she could not have them because to 4,500 pounds but she we told she could not have them because to 4,500 pounds but she will be to the could not have them because the could not have them to the could not have them because the could not have the control of the could not have the hardy for a Labor Minister. Or sometimes it turns out to be the last three control of the could not have the could not have the could not have the could not have the could not be the could not have the could not be could

the emotion behind them is real-mouthed an observant English-man why the Conservatives were so annry and he looked at me blantly and said: "They've look that the conservative were in England means more than to that the ansare but to lose power in England means more than to conserve the conservative of the pracedime that a famous tailor's aut lengths of cloth in stock be-cause in metals and the said to easily the conservative of the power than the conservative of the specific that is reserved for ex-port, where one a town is reserved for export where one a town it means in

ANSWER SIMPLE

Harold Ickes

Morgenthau's Diary

DURING his lifetime, a school of columnists made a living out of attacks upon President Roose-bid, and the school of columnists and a living out of a litacks upon President Roose-bid, either because they were too saturated with their own bids of pieled to change their views or too saturated with their own bids. A living the state of the schoolsh living—by continuing their attacks upon President Roosevelt. The latest such assault upon a uncritical acceptance of certain statements that are alleged to have been set forth in the astonishing kept when he was Secretary of the Treasury, With happy avidity, these frarders journalists have taken additionally the school of th upper lip. TWINKLE MISSED

upper lip.

TWINKLE MISSED

According to Mr. Morgenthau, as reported in the press, President expected by the press of the press of each by 21 cents. We are asked to believe that Mr. Roosevel to the above the factor of the all processed the factor of the fact

number" or by gazing intently into a crystal ball for a portent of the future. I have been supported by the control of the future. I have been supported by the control of the future been supported by the control of the future. I have been supported by the future by the future been supported by the future by the future been supported by the future been supported by the future by the future

Drew Pearson's : Arnall Gains Stature From Georgia Mess Merry-Go-Round : Arnall Gains Stature From Georgia

FINE one Georgian who increased his stature in the current political tug of war now raging over the State Capitol in Atlanta is sex-dovernor Ellis Arnall. but Arnall sea almost bother of the control of

back. Finally, Assessment Collins urged Arnau to successful Grand Commander Collins urged Arnau to successful Grand Commander Collins (and the Collins of th

Georgia."

Those who were with Arnall consider it a miracle that he wasn't subjected to physical violence. His own secretary wound up in the hospital after righting off the Taimadee hoodstime. Next only Arnalls righting the results of the results

American Legion's Lobby

ALL veterans organizations are supposed to be interested in housing, but an interesting tip-off on the American Le-

gion's position occurred the other day when Legion Lobbyist John Thomas Taylor kicked a Veteran of Foreign Wars rep-resentative out of a meeting while permitting real estate lobbyists to remain. The Legion long has been accused of playing hand-in-grove with the real estate boys, especially when it came to sabolaging Wilson Wyatt's far-sighted

Behind him in the so-called closed meeting remained a number of real estate lobbyists, including Frank Coartright, vice-president of the National Association of Home Builders.

number of real estate lobbysts, inclusing Train.

Newsprint Monopoly

Conclusive evidence of conspiraly to Jack up the price of newsprint to American newspapers over a long period of the price of newsprint to American newspapers over a long period to being studied by the Senate Small Business Committee. The report shows how the hig paper commission report now being studied by the Senate Small Business Committee. The report shows how the hig paper companies, most of them operating in Canada but partly controlled by American bankers, have illegally put their heads together to charge the same price for newsprint and to keep the price high control of the price of