THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1947

### An Incurable North Carolinian

WE were writing a light and fancitud piece about the knee-breeches that had been presented to Ambassador O. Max Gardner when the news of his death came over the wires this morning. That piece, of course, goes by the boards now, but its concluding paragraph is worth repeating even under these tragic circumstances. We had written:

"The point is that evarenced them."

ing even united to the control of th

tioning of the usual personal maximum based on patronase.

He was, in fact, an expert in government, although he managed to earn a considerable personal fortune from his textile investments and the practice of law, he devoted the greater part of his time to public affairs. As Governor he reorganized the government of North Carolina, bringing the whole and helphany system under State. government of votal cardina, brilging the school and highway system under State control and establishing a new budgetary system. His goal was greater efficiency, and his immediate motive was the sharp

reduction in revenue brought about by the depression. In the end he managed to awe forth Carolina from hankrupicy by reducing taxes and expanding services—a feat that made him unique in a day when most public officials were trying to spend their way out of financial trouble. He was the product of an era when most public officials were trying to spend their way out of financial trouble. He was their product of an era when most politicians were readily tagged as liberal or conservative, but Max Gardner defied classification. Certainly he was conservative in money matters, and just as certainly he was liberal for expensive the was liberal in his approach to occlamence, he became a close personal friend of President Roosevelt. He could have had his choice of New Deal jobs, including those carrying Cabinet rank, but he chose instead to stay on the sidelines until the war broke. Then Max Gardner answered his country's call, serving in a varlety of the Treasury, and finally Ambassador to the Court of St. James. He was preparing to boruphly ended his brilliant career.

In 1843, when Max Gardner was planning on the trip itsix against Senator Robert Reynolds a careful campaign was launched to discredit him as an expatriate who had broken all his home ties when he opened have offices in Washington. Probably no charge ever brought against him wounded him as deeply as this. In a personal letter,

law offices in Washington. Probably no charge ser-brought against him wounded him as deeply as this. In a personal letter, he wrote to an old friend: "I keep my home open in Shelby the year around and every dollar! I have ever made is invested in North Carolina... I am an incurable North Carolinian."

Certainly that was true, and it would have remained true after he moved to London, or anywhere else in the world. Max Gardner loved his state, and he served her well.

## Redistricting Raises A Ghost

T is, of course, impossible to keep the matter of rearranging the state's solicitorial districts completely free of politics. At the local level there were some signs of dissent when the proposal to separate Mecklenburg and Gaston, making Mecklenburg a district in its own right, was Meckenoung a district in the own right, was first discussed. Most of that now seems to be troned out, with the Representatives of both counties in general agreement that the plan should go through as offered by the special redistricting commission. But it appears that trouble—plenty of it—is brewing at the state level.

The redistricting plan has now gone to the Legislature. Virtually every county in the state is affected, one way or the other, for an effort has been made to rethem in order to insure a more equitable distribution of court business. In-evitably all sorts of ancient and compli-cated political arrangements — such as the evitably all sorts of ancient and compil-cated political arrangements— such as the one under which Mecklenburg received the judge and Gaston the solicitor—are likely to be upset by this. Moreover two valuable political jobs would, vanish force as the number of solicitors is reduced from

Gene Whitman, legislative correspondent The Winsgton-Salem Journal, has also Gene writtman, legislative correspondent of The Winsigno-Salem Journal, has also turned up evidence that the ghost of the Republica Parallel and the Republica Parallel and the Republica Parallel and the to throw out the redistricting plan. It seems that many of the present districts were laid out in accordance with the gerry-mandering principle that has prevented the more than 300,000 registered Republicans. In North Carolina from electing a Congressman. Mr. Whitman notes that the redistricting plan would separate two heavily Republican counties—Wilkes and Yad-kin—and place them in districts that are now safely Democratic. Mr. Whitman quotes the cries of anguish going up from the Democratic leaders of Surry, Stokes and

Rockingham, which would be bracketed with Wilkes. "Only Heaven knows how many Republican votes can come out of Wilkes," one said, and another added glumly: "We just can't absorb Wilkes; we'll go Republican sure if they do it." All of this is extremely disheartening.

All of this is extremely disheartening. Although the Republican problem is not involved in the case of Meckinehurg, this county affords a laboratory example of the shortcomings of the present districtions. The most competent solicitor cannot handle the volume of court business now arising in Mecklenburg and Gaston, and the inevitable result has been a steady degeneration in the quality of justice dispensed here. Virtually every judge now on the bench in North Carolina has had occasion to comment upon the appalling local crime gate while presiding here, and movement the state of the problem of the control of the control.

mission's effort to regroup the counties.

The approach of the redistricting commission was non-political. Headed by H. I.
McDougle of Charlotte, an able group of attorneys spent many months in studying and analyzing the whole problem. Then their findings and recommendations were submitted to judges but members and court officials for comment. The reaction among those most immediately concerned with the problem was generally favorable.

with the problem was generally favorable. It would be tragic indeed it all this careful work were undone by a Legislature moved by the petitest of political considerations. We are not unsympathetic to the Democratic desire to keep the Republicans gerrymandered back in their hills, or to the desire of the counties to retain present patronage, but certainly it must not be done at the expense of court efficiency, which means, simply, at the expense of justice.

#### Reflections On The Eve Of Battle

IT seems to us that the Mecklenburg County Delegation's decision to reject the City's request for a separate ABC election in Charlotte was altogether wise. It is doubtful, of course, if the necessary legislation could have passed the Legislature at all; certainly it couldn't without a fight. In any event the prigciple involved was dublous.

Local option of any kind is bad in itself, whether on the county, township, or city level, for it serves to promote bootlegging and all its attendant crime. Charlotte can and all its attendant crime. Chariotte can provide ample gvidence of the futility of trying to dry up one community when a neighbor a few miles away is selling liquor openly to all comers.

It also must be recognized that many ABC advocates, in arguing for the separate election, sought to stack the cards in their favor, a motive shared by the drys who clamored to include the county. They who clamored to include the county. They could talk of democracy or course, but their interest in democracy was incidental to their main purpose. We don't like stacked elections any better when they are ar-ranged in our favor than we do when they are rigged against us.

re rigged against us.
The delegation has now indicated that it ill introduce a bill making it mandatory or the County Commissioners to call a bunty-wide election before a specified ate-probably some time in the Spring, hat seems to us fair enough; certainly unity residents have an interest in the after and a right to vote on it.

This means that we are about to embark

once again upon a great public debate, ac-companied by recriminations and light thundershowers. This will be unpleasant, as it always is, for there are many sincere persons on both sides who feel that they persons on both sides who feel that they are engaged in a holy crusade and are therefore free of restraint. Feeling will run high, and truth and reason will be in greater jeopardy than usual.

greater Jeopardy than usual.

This is heristable, we suppose, but it is
no less regrettable. This newspaper, of
course, will be in the thick of the battle,
as it has been for some years. We consider
it appropriate, therefore, in this last full
before the opening volleys are fired, to
offer a pledge: We shall try, honestly, to
stick to the facts as well as to our guns.

Hard liquor made of soybeans is picked up in a Chardon, Ohio, raid. As we have said, one can make about anything of this versatile bean except Boston baked.

An Army-Navy merger should logically lead to something stupendous in the way of high brass—possibly a general-admiral with two chests, to hold the ribbons.

Experiments with frogs suggest a possi-bility that human hearts may be trans-planted. The Hollywood divorce procedure heretofore has been to trade the whole blonde.

You See, You Both Get The Same Thing,



People's Platform

## The Barber's Art

IT having been our duty to compile facts of the injustices caused by the North Carolina State Board of Barber Examiners, we were quite pleased to read that someone had the foresight to suggest that training for the barbers profession be put under the Department of Public Instruction.

to read that someone had the foresight to suggest to read that someone had the foresight to suggest that training for the barbers profession be put under the Department of Public Instruction.

When college graduates and medical students unable to depart the season of the season that the season there must be a flaw in our Public Educational set-up, or in the Barber Board of Examiners method of qualifying people to teach this art. We can not see why an institution or a college operate a school, when the board is supported by license fees paid by individuals practicing barbering, especially when the college has to pay City and State license to operate. We believe that the initial license is operated as the season of the sea

pose of supporting the State Board of Barber Examinerations. As the State Board of Barber Examiners was created by a legislative act it seems very fitting and proper that the Legislative amend or abolish one of its own acts by placing all Barber Schools under the Department of Pablic Instruction. On the City of County Health Authorities. We of by the City or County Health Authorities who hope that this suggestion will not be a mere gather, but will have careful consideration by those men hands has been veted the privilege and authority to see that justice is done to those who have chosen them to be their representative.

The Citteens Committee.

#### Norm

EVERYONE in uniform knew Kilroy, the subject.

Let the context referred to in your story, Who IdKilroy?" and Gis in the British Isles met his counterpart, Chad, conclume and the subject of the context of the contex

gentsia.

While Kilroy chalked his name wherever he went
and Chad peered over fences, Norm allegedly said
things—invariably the most commonplace, the most

bear's Art

banal comment his sevoices could apply to any person street the sevoices of the sevoice of the sevo

Two days after his discharge, a many off asked Norm why he wann't in uniform, and Norm replied with becoming dignity, "Two used more ink signing payrolis than you've drunk Of coffee." Or, "Two cold in more pay lines than you've stood in chew lines. However, and the control of the cold in the will be the cold in the c

gang."

Norm is back in the civilian sroove now, and his wike has taught him bridge. When an opponient trumps with a low card and Norm puts a higher trump on it, he slyly remarks, "Never send bigher trump on it, he slyly remarks, "Never send Digher trump on it, he slyly remarks, "Never send Digher trump on it, he slyly remarks, "Never send Digher trump on it, he slyly remarks, "Never send OI poker game. "As much as I dislike the Army," he says, "I sure had lots of laughs."

—GERALD GREENBERG, in a letter to the New York Times Magazine.

Samuel Grafton

## Parisian Approach

THERE is an indescribable lifting of the spirit on reaching
first him might be a personal spirit, and the feelings of others. It is most into their restant but it checks strongly with
the feelings of others. The most into the results of the feelings of others. It is most into the results of others, the second of the control of the second of the control of the last partly before school begins.

INTEGENERO PROBLEMS

One does not discuss existential into making some control of the c

the last party before school begins. UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS

One feels at first that the difference must be due to physical things. Most American Inysteers where the property of the party of

NATIONAL DIFFERENCES

NATIONAL DIFFERENCES

Thus the French keep the day moving, and all possibilities open while the Bittish serve time as if it serve a penalty, putting every and more expects. As to which approach is based on a deeper of the expects of the end o

## Harold Ickes

## Arabian Lend-Lease

MAZING situations are sometimes disclosed when an insider of a corporation goes in the tagainst other members of the case in the Pederal courts of New Case in the Pederal Court of New Case in the New Case in INTERESTING CHARGES

Mr. Moffett makes some interesting charges. The most startling

Mr. Moffett makes some interseting charges. The most starting
is that when he was working for
the United States Government, as
a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration and later,
when he was Pederal Housing Addmine, an adviser of the Standard
Oil Co. of California, From the
atory in the New York Times of
the Pederal Government knew of
his business relationship with
the Pederal Government knew of
his business relationship.
A collier and his oil company did
know about Mr. Moffetts relationship
when Mr. Moffett departed from
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heavily upon that relationship
when Mr. Moffett departed from
his appears that he was calmining
for expenses of \$35,000. Some six
months later, when he resigned as
estimed his former side sagreement
with that company: that js, he
continued to be an addivise
with the former side sagreement
with that company: that js, he
continued to be an addivised
that the working for the Government, Mr. Moffett altered thas
he ran up a bill of \$13,000 for 02.

penses in his expectly as adviser of Standard Oil. Now, from every point of view, this is what might be called "a serving as Tederal Housing Administrator and earning a salary from the Federal Government, apparaintance and earning a salary from the Federal Government, apparaintance and earning a salary from the Federal Government, apparaintance and the Standard Oil Co. of California with the Anowieders of the said demands 573,000 for expenses. He complains in his suit that, when he was thought to be on his deather than the said of the said

# Drew Pearson's: Death Robs Gardner Of Greatest Chance Merry-Go-Round

(The following column on ex-Governor, O. Max Gardner was written before his death in New York early today.—Eds., The News).

Gardner was written before his death in New York early today—Eds. The News)

[PODAY, ex-Governor O. Max Gardner of North Carolina sails, for his new post as American Ambassador to the sails, or his new post as American Ambassador to the of warted and differuit things in his life, from heeing contruming the United States Treasure, but this is the first time he has tried his hand at diplomacy. Exactly 43 years ago. Max landed in England under somewhat different circumstances. He had crossed on a cattle boat as "nursemaid" to 500 sea-cite steers, (illie old friend, cruited Max as a cattlehand and then bossed the job.)

Arriving in London on the day the British were holding memorial services for the late U. S. Ambassador John Hoy.

Polit Carlotted is stilled the ceremony. En route he got into conversation with the cab driver who inquired Cardner might have explained.

"Hay is the man who wrote Little Breeches."

Losfing Around Throne

Loafing Around Throne

Losfing Around Throne
THEN the future U. S. Ambasaador to Great Britain reTeited from memory John Hay's famous poem. "Little
Breeches, the story of an indiana soungaier who got lost
Breeches, the story of an indiana soungaier who got lost
Great and the story of an indiana soungaier who got lost
Great and the story of the story of the story
Thow did he get get thart? Angels.
They jest accoped down and toted his form:
To whar it was safe and warm.
And I think that saying a little child,
and folching him to his own,
Than loating around the throne.
Little did the 22-year-00d Cardinar dream, as he recited

"Little Breeches" to that London hansom driver, that 42 years later he was to be selected, as he now describes it, to "loaf around the throne."

Jeans anset me wages to be selected, as he now described II. to Josa around the throne.

The fact that Ambassader Cardner has the sense of humor to tell this story on himself, however, indicates that of St. James.

Bern in the same general backbope part of the nation as John Hay, Ambassador Gardner probably would prefer to st on in front porch at Schely, N. C. in the old rocking chair given him by the Negrees of the bar the state of the state

CONTINUE AND A CONTIN

them.

For the new Ambassador is proud of his background,
And while he aiready has received 2500 applications from
American society matrons asking that their daughters be
presented at the Court of St. James, it is a 100-to-1 bet
that Max will get a lot more fun entertaining of friends
from North Carolina than "losfing around the throne."

Righting An Old Wrong

to make it up to the GIs and the special board to revamp the caste system was one result. Earlier, the Army made a bad minists on long-range pursuing the cast system was one with the same property of the same state of the same property of the same state of the same property of the

Later, Pearl Harbor caught us with no long-range tigni-ers and with only a start toward putting armor plate on bombers. The mistake not only delayed the war, but can the Secretary Patterson was not responsible for that mistake but realizing it had been made, he set out to rectify it Toward the end of the war he called in Major de Severaixy asked him to undertake an all-battle-front study of U. Si ar service.

saked nim to undertake an all-new parts and the parts of the kicking around given to de Sevenky. Patterson today is giving him the Medal of Meril for "exceptionally mentionlous conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the United States." Proceedings of the Company of the Company

Bilbo's Next Move

CENATOR-ELECT Theodore G. Bilbo, of Mississippl

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Cenator Electronial and description of the control of