

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1947.

# Politics And The Solicitorship

THE Gastonia Gazette sees signs of a deep, dark political plot in the Mecklenburg County Bar Association's ef-fort to obtain a new solicitorial district which would separate this county from which would separate this county from populous Gaston. "Mecklenburg County lawyers are up to their old tricks," The Gazette thunders. "Just what is behind all these efforts of the Mecklenburgers to divorce themselves from Gaston is not known." But The Gazette goes on to hazard a guess:

a guess. The only thing we can figure out is that the professional politicians in Mecklenburg want more jobs for themselves, napure want more jobs for themselves, napure was the provided of the provided that they could out you for the provided that they could out you for more thank of the provided with the provided when the provided with the provided was the provided with the provided with the provided was the provided wa

It says.

It is a little difficult, somehow, to follow

The Gazette's reasoning. The people of the
district have never voted on the question of
separation, although they did have last

Summer, for the first time in many years,
a choice of candidates for Solicitor. They,
elected Mr. Whitener of Gaston, and we elected Mr. Whitener of Gaston, and we agree that Mr. Whitener has done an ex-cellent job. But this can hardly be construed as a mandate from the people to maintain a solicitorial district that leads the State in volume of court business, and almost doubles the state average. Mckleinburg inlawyers know that the local courts are overburdened. They supported the plan for statewards restricting, which the plan for statewards restricting, which

one pian for statewide redistricting, which would have given Mecklenburg a separate district, but that project based on six years of painstaking work, was buried in the Legislature by a strictly political vote. Now they seek, by special legislation, to

create a new district which would couple mckelenburg with the small county of Union, and Gaston with the small county of Union, and Gaston with the small county of Lincoin.

We would not depy that some members of the Bar are motivated by purely political considerations. But we don't believe the majority of them are influenced by the opportunity to add a \$5,000-a-year job, in which few have any personal interest, to the list of county offices.

In any event, it is a little difficult to see how the desire to obtain a political job for Mecklenburg is any more reprehensible than Gaston's desire to getain it. What high moral purpose lies behind the effort, to maintain the present solicitudal agreement which for more than a quarter of a century has distranchised the voters of Mecklenburg in the solicitorial election?

We are inclined to agree with The Gacette that the latest redistricting plan has no more chance to pass the Lesislature than did the first, and better, proposal. But we don't see how the coming triumph of the Gaston political bosses over the Mecklenburg political bosses can very well be regarded as a great victory for the people.

The Gacette can't understand why

Meckienburg political bosses can very weil be regarded as a great victory for the people.

The Gazette can't understand why Mecklenburg anns a divorce Well, we will be a summer of the destination of the destination and the saw worked to the detriment of the courts in both counties. The competence of Mr. Whitener does not prove the validity of the present arrangement, any more than the incompetence of his predecessor disproved it. Our argument against the system stems directly from the volume of business handled by the courts of the two counties. That volume, we believe, is beyond the capacity of a single, part-time solicitôr, no matter where he comes from. And that, so far as we are concerned, is the only pertinent issue at stake; any political advantage that might accrue to either county is, as the preface-writers say, purely coincidental.

# The Fine Art Of Lobbying

WE can understand how the Prohibitions were horrlifed when they discovered that the wine merchants of the State have been collecting a fund to finance their lobbying efforts against the various prohibition bills now in the legislative hoppers. News that the enemy is preparing to fight fire with fire is always unnerving.

The Drys, themselves, are among the most persistent lobbyists known to any legislative hall, although it must be conceded that their moral purpose is considerably higher than most, their methods more open, and their finances more modest.

ably higher than most, their methods more open, and their finances more modest. Nevertheless the wine, liquor and beer people also have a compelling reason for buttonholing legislators; it's a question of survival, for they are among the few businessmen who live under a constant threat of being driven out of business by legislative action.

of cening curves of the opinion that formal lob-bying — regardless of the purpose of the lobbyist — is essentially futile. The right of any group to organize and argue its case before its representatives is beyond ques-tion, but we doubt if many syptes are changed by such tactics. Decisions, in most cases, are reached well in advance, and the arguments that weigh heaviest with the legislator are those he hears at home, not those that are hurled at him in a commit-

tee hearing or conveyed to him through the cigar smoke in a hotel room. Lobbying, as a matter of fact, is well on the way to becoming something of a racket in every capital. By playing upon the apprehensions of an interested party, and posing as a man of great influence, almost any unemployed lawyer, newspaper man or promoter can pick up a retainer, "expense account," or annual salary. There is even more even help inspire legislation detrimental to their clients in order to turnish an excuse for their existence. The highest

men even help inspire legislation detrimental to their cilents in nofer to furnish
an excuse for their existence. The highest
usefulness of most of them lifes in their
ability to obtain hotel reservations.
It is noteworthy that the most remarkable lobby of the season has already gone
down in defeat in Raleigh. The North
Garolina Symphony Orchestra, all hundredodd members of it, moved into the Capitol
not long ago, set up its instruments, and
sought to soothe the savage eigsislator with
Brahms and Beethoven. Under Benjamin
Swalin's direction, the orchestra fiddled,
plucked, blew, and beat out an impressive
argument for increasing the \$11,000 appropriation recommended by the Budget
Commission. The members liked the music
too, and said so. But this week the Joint
Appropriations Committee voted to give
the orchestra, \$12,000.

#### Ancient And Dishonorable Relationship

THERE is a movement afoot in South
Carolina to put Sunday blue laws on
a county-option basis, spearheaded by the
Charleston delegation which seeks special
dispensation for movies and commercial
sports events on the Sabbath. In discussing
this project The Charleston Neus &
Courier demonstrates its usual ability to
see all sides of a question, including several
not visible to less talented observers. Says

see all sides of a question, including several, not visible to less talented observers. Says: The Courier: "Sunday theatres open in Fort Mill might draw large audiences from the straight-laced town of Charlotte 10 or 12 miles, or 20 minutes, distant." Well, the towns of Charlotte and Fort Mill are some distance from the confluence of the Ashley and the Cooper, and both are in the remote frontier district which has never been a major concern of The Courier. Its rather peculiar conception of the geography hereabouts is understandable.

It is also proper, we suppose, to call our to a siso proper, we suppose, to can our town straight-laced. But for some six years now (only a fleeting moment in Charleston eyes, we know) the Queen's laces have been loose enough to permit Sunday movies, baseball, football, etc.

ouncay movies, baseoal, rootball, etc.
These diversions, as a matter of fact, have become an integral part of the reciprocal trade agreement maintained by the border towns of the two states. North Carolina provides South Carolina with Sunday entertainment and hasty divorces, in exchange for liquor and hasty marriages.

There are indications in both states — a

There are indications in both states — a divorce law in the South Carolina Legislature, a prohibition referendum in Mecklenburg — that the old balance may be seriously disturbed in the near future. If anything comes of either project we shall try to keep The News & Courier informed, communications permitting.

#### Another Voice

#### **Purveyors Of Food And Drink**

IN North Carolina's bright dawn of post-I war industrial boom and expanding business opportunity, our hat is off to the great county of Mecklenburg and the not considerable City of Charlotte-

Mecklenburg, says State Representative Harvey Morris, has no less than 2,600 boot-leggers operating within its dry confines and Charlotte has no less than 250 speak-

casies.

Comparisons, we have heard, are odious. The Citizen would make none as they affect famously dry Buncombe and Asheville. The only statistics we possess are, roughly,

these.—
In Buncombe there are approximately 300 retail food stores, and of these 162 are in the City of Asheville. Counting chain stores and small, neighborhood groceries alike, the retail food employment figure for the edunty of Buncombe may average

about four hands per store, or 1,200 per-

Since Mecklenburg is not twice as large as Buncombe, this comparison is truly re-markable. Our neighbor is to be congratu-lated on its thriving business enterprise. We would not be surprised if the Tipsy Queen had as many liquor handlers as it has green grocers.—Asheville Citizen.

What is meant by every cloud having a silver lining is that an England without fuel can't boil the daylights out of the Brussels sprouts and mutton.

#### You Looking For A Communist Organizer, Mister?"



#### People's Platform

# The Park Situation

Editors, Thu News:

FUHE greatest unmet need in Charlotte is recreations from the control of the

Bonnie Brae Gelf Course came within a few dollars of paying for the costs of operations and maintenance.

The Charter of the Park Commission states that is the duty of the Commission mouse make reasonable charkes for the use of its facilities.

The Park Commission must maintain its reputation as a satisfactory employer by giving regular tion as a satisfactory employer by giving regular wages. It must maintain a full saff to continue to render the services due the people of our community. The people of this city will probably have the opportunity to vote next year on a Constitutional on the basis of the normal, insteaded a special registryfion, by which the majority of the votes cast will setermine the results of the election, instead of voting setermine the results of the election, instead of voting setermine the results of the election instead of voting setermines. In the opportunity to vote for such an amendment comes, it should be supported and adopted without fail, or we should cease to use the work of the control of the

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications possible, and on only one side of the paper Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything ones. Bach letter must be sipned although, in exceptional cares and soon request. This News.

#### Marquis Childs

## Division Of Power

WASHINGTON

UNDERLYING time-tenins of the contribution manual recognition and, after a recognition today is one central, paramount fact that almost no espeaks about or thinks about. It is espiracy existed to prevent use from considering it.

When the two cotollary powers. When the two cotollary powers will be the composition of the contribution of the cotollary powers. When the two cotollary powers will be the composition of the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The powers will be the cotollary powers. The powers will be the cotollary powers. The powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers. The cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the cotollary powers will be the c

potomac.

the landslide of last Novemthe Republicans won majorini both Houses of Congress. If Presidency had been at issue, Republican would be in the te House today.

# **Harold Ickes**

# Federal School Aid

### GROWING SENTIMENT

Growing Sentiment

Of course teachers ought to be paid enough to support them in decency and comfort. They should have a second to support them in decency and comfort. They should have an adequate pension system and should be given. They should have an adequate pension system and should be givenly conscious private employer gives, as a matter of course, to his employees. A growing pills considered the property of the property

#### EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY

# Drew Pearson's: Experts Ponder Reasons For Mexican Trip

story of how the trip originated.

Several months ago the new Mexican Ambassador, Harrard-trained Antonio Spinosa de los Monteros, called at the
White House to present his credentials. Truman was taken
with the charm of the Mexican training the work of the
Monteros told the President how he had spent a lot of time
in New York, had been educated at Harvard, had a wide
sequintanceship in Washington.

Ambassador. "All right, I will." said Truman, who so frequently acts an the spur of the moment. "How about arranging it? I would like to go during early March." "Moreova assured Truman there would not be no trouble at the contract of the state of the s

Housing Program Vanishes

This seem just sout a year-sequence President Truman summoned Wilson Wysat, ex-Mayor of Louisville, to Washinigon and told inin to make "no small plans" for yeterans'
housing. Wysat was instricted to push housing as we
pushed the war. Instead of chonoles, veterans were promised;
they, would goon has block as if the last feeble attempt to
earry out this promise is about to go up in smoke.

Little by little the real-estate and construction lobbles
have whittled the program down. Little by little, the puny
men around President Truman have yielded. Even the
tingmakers of the American Legion.

The construction of the American ched up on the side of
the real-estate lobby.

Climax came last week when Michigan's Congressman

the real-estate lobby.

Climax came last week when Michigan's Congressman Jesse Wolcotf, Republican Chairman of the House Banking & Currency Committee, announced that he would move to repeal the Patman Act. This is the basic law which permits the Government to control non-residential building, allocate materials, and give preference to veterans. If this are repealed, not one vettige of the original housing program will repealed, not one vettige of the original housing program will

State of tags as real battle.

"I am no crusader" Oreedon told his friends last week. Therefore unless homeless veterans hombard Congress, arteularly Republican leaders, the basic legislation for the number of the control of the co

bring exorbiant press, and sold ft.
Following publication of this column, Admiral Cooks was
ordered to Washington and akked for an explanation. All
the facts as published in the column were admirted by the
Nary, but in the end the old Annapolis tradition of admiral
protects admiral was too much, and Admiral Nimitz issued a
whitewash.

facilities for personal messages provided they do not in-terfere with official business. during his projection in protecting his fellows. One was that Admiral Nim-sultaneously as seen at Covernment expense to Shanghal, whereas Cooke's base was Thington. Therefore, he did not nansport his property from one permanents base of Shanghal, whereas Cooke's base was Thington. Therefore, he did not consuper the property from one permanents base of Covernment messages. Shanghal, where the company of the Covernment messages, therefore rated shead of Covernment messages. Another inderesting fact was that the executive officer of the ship that transported Admiral Cooke's car was his son-in-law. Also there seemed to be something rather unusual port facilities in Shanghal, would not have wired the Admiral's add iff Thington.

"First deal fell through, Meyer working on another."