

THOMAS L. ROBINSON Publisher J. E. DOWD General Manager HARRY S. ASHMORE Editor TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1947.

Carolina Shares Britain's Troubles

IN 1946 the British consumed 364,000,000 pounds of American tobacco, sending to the United States \$220,000,000 to pay for it.

But the British Government is now moving, and with good reason, to slash Britain's tobacco bill. Chancellor of the Exchequer Dalton has pointed out to the House of Commons that the United States has been the largest single source of the cost of the American tobacco import.

It isn't hard to see what this does to Britain's dollar credit, nor how desperately needed for the purchase of industrial equipment. Parliament the other day approved an increase in the tobacco import duty from \$7.15 a pound to \$11.04. This means that the British smoker will have to pay \$4.89 for a pack of cigarettes.

This is bad news for North Carolina's tobacco farmers. Last year 45 per cent of the total American tobacco crop went to Great Britain. This country exports 85 per cent of its tobacco to Britain.

Stassen Cross-Examines

THE division of American opinion over Soviet Russia is so sharp as almost to preclude intelligent debate on the Truman Doctrine. The man who criticizes any move in this direction is immediately open to charges of undue sympathy for Soviet Russia—with results that were apparent in Congress where only the most outspoken and independent members dared stand out.

This course is a vastly oversimplified attitude. A man may criticize the Truman Doctrine on many grounds without climbing into bed with Josef Stalin, or even with Hitler. It is possible to take issue with the point to the vote against it cast in the House by Representative Doughton of North Carolina. Mr. Doughton is an opposer of crypto-Communism.

Some of the most significant criticism of the Doctrine has been raised by Harold Stassen, the Republican Presidential hopeful. Mr. Stassen accepts the need for unilateral action in the world to bolster the American position.

The Veterans Hospital Program

EARLY in 1946 a Veterans Hospital building program was approved by Congress and funds appropriated. Construction of 75 hospitals, including one in Charlotte, was scheduled. But now, more than a year later, not a single hospital has been completed.

It is true that the Veterans Administration has pressed various temporary army hospitals into service to greatly expand the services available to veterans. But, according to DAV calculations, almost 23,000 veterans are at this moment awaiting hospital admission.

There is, then, no good excuse for the delay in finishing these hospitals. The usual arguments against Government spending for hospitals are in this case, it would seem, a supplementary appropriation for veterans hospitals if it is necessary to meet higher construction costs.

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appropriate funds to finance Federal research into new uses for tobacco.

Mr. Deane also sees some hope in the International Trade Conference now under way in Geneva. Undersecretary of State Clayton is working for a major reduction in international trade barriers, and tobacco is coming in for special attention.

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County Electrical Inspection

THE electrical examination and become a qualified electrician. Would you ever see some one who wanted to be an electrician but who was not qualified to do the job?

Some well-meaning folks say that a farmer should have the right to use his house if he chooses, because he is a mile or more from his nearest neighbor and if his house should burn, well, he'll have to live in a tent.

My own idea is that Mr. Stassen—who cannot be dismissed in the airy fashion Henry Wallace invites—may render a considerable service to his country if he continues in the role of foreign policy critic.

Program for Greece

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People's Platform

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Can We Do the Job?

THE infinite boredom in a little room which trans-Atlantic plane travel provides leaves the traveler traveling traveler little alternative to sleep. But sleep is not always possible, however briefly, something of the contrast between the Soviet Union and the United States is apparent throughout the Near and Middle East.

One condition is painfully obvious. That is that Great Britain remains the major power in the American policy in the Middle East is based squarely on the assumption that Great Britain remains a good long-term bet.

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Samuel Gratton

The Right To Work

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