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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1938

A Good Fighter

It is a strange urge that makes men leave comfortable homes and fight battles, risking their lives, in far countries.

It is men like that who have gone over to the Government's assistance, not because so much that they like the Loyalists but because of their intense hatred of Germany.

Some are putting up a good fight, those Americans and other foreigners in the International Brigade.

That was an interesting story in yesterday's report of the Los Angeles fellow who was riding up the coast on a bicycle when a party of 30 fascists behind their lines cut across the road.

"He had to stop and they captured him. But he persuaded them all to surrender."

Remember him?

The Old Capital

Mr. Vogler's scheme to build a new \$15,000,000 capitol building at Raleigh with FWA funds leaves us uncertain as to whether the capitol will be a new capital, and there are good reasons why the present building and site should remain the seat of state government.

The building is a beautiful one — one of the most beautiful of its sort in America — and the chances are that a new building wouldn't be for it is only now and then that a public building in America turns out well. Moreover, the place is rich in memories, certainly something no new building could have for a long while to come.

But it is not only that the place is beautiful and steeped in tradition, but that its beauty is exactly fitted to our ideal notion of North Carolina. Plain and noble, impressive not through ostentation or any showy ornament, but in the quietness of its innate dignity — these are qualities of the building. And they are precisely the qualities we have always liked to believe to be those of the Tar Heel State. Anyhow, the old building makes a far better face for us than any huge new building is likely to do.

Man on a Limb

Governor Nelson G. Krassheim, of Iowa, had probably never think it over. He has a perfect right to do like the Wagner Labor Relations Act and he may be right in contending that the hearings of the National Labor Relations Board are tending to hinder rather than help the settlement of the Maytag strike. More than that, he has an undoubted right to call out the Iowa militia for the maintenance of order in the strike district.

But when he assumes to prohibit the NLRB from continuing its hearings, he is clearly outside the bounds of his right and authority. It is precisely as though he had assumed to suspend a Federal district court in the performance of its functions. For, mind you, the constitutional status of the Wagner Act and the NLRB are no longer a question for dispute and doubt. The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the labor act is a proper part of the law of the land. There is therefore, no question whatever about the legal right of the labor board to continue its hearings. And when Governor Krassheim does this, he is effecting the sovereign authority of the United States — in effect attempts to make his personal judgment and his status as commander of the Iowa militia superior to the sovereign law of the United States.

He does worse, indeed. For when he assumes to suspend the law of the United States by the use of the militia — a militia which, incidentally, is armed with arms which are the property of the United States and which is a part of the National Army of the United States — he comes dangerously close to raising a rebellion against the United States.

MEMO ON THE EXPECTED

Yesterday's primary elections were a sort of orgy of the expected. Up in Virginia, Representative Howard W. Smith, blacklisted by the Non-Partisan League (N.P.L.) dominated by the Communists, and sometimes denounced by Honest Harold Ickes for his anti-New Deal record, overwhelmed William E. Dodd Jr., son of the former Secretary of the Interior, but that had been looked for. The district, which includes Alexandria (where Boss John Lewis lives in a particularly nice house) is a silk-stocking one, inhabited about equally by old conservative Virginians and the landed gentry tradition and well-bred Washingtonians who do not care for Neighbor Lewis or the New Deal. And Smith had the backing of the all-powerful Glass-Byrd machine, which was running as smoothly as a watch.

There was some comfort for anti-New Dealers in the victory of former Representative Colgate W. Darden Jr. over incumbent Norman H. Hamilton, but not a great deal, seeing that, though Hamilton campaigned as a Roosevelt man, he had some times kicked off the New Deal reservation, and local issues figured more in the campaign than national ones.

Maybe there is a crumb of comfort for the Anti in the vast lead of Sen. Bennett Champ Clark in Missouri, too. But there, again, it is small. For vast leads are natural for anybody in Missouri who has the backing of both Clark's own machine and that of Boss Pendergast of Kansas City.

And on the other hand, the New Dealers can find some little solace in the returns from West Virginia where, though they seem to have lost a newly-created district, they captured seven out of ten elections.

All in all, it looks very much like a draw. If anything was proved, it is simply that the New Deal has fallen off somewhat in popularity, without falling off enough to give the Anti any great cause for confidence as to their prospects in 1940.

There was, however, one source of comfort for all same parties. The Senate election in North Carolina, defeated for the Republican nomination to the Senate from Kansas, and the Rev. Gerald, who has been accused of being financed by the Hitler regime in Germany, is an essential Kluckner, whose stock in trade is a simple, direct, and unadorned can do without more hate just now.

Glance at a Collision

Two things strike us about the story of the train and trailer truck crash at the crossing on Dowd Road near the rear of the city. One, according to his own testimony, the driver of the truck was moving too fast to stop when he saw the danger signal and heard the warning bell, that he attempted to beat the train, and that the vehicle was struck from the rear. Yet, as a matter of fact, the signal is unobstructed for some distance. How does it come, then, that the driver couldn't stop? It has been our understanding that these trucks, which used to be a sort of a killing machine, have been considerably modified since the Interstate Commerce Commission took them in charge. But this hardly looks like it. True enough, the time was 1:30 in the morning. But even so, there are other vehicles besides trains about even at that time.

The other thing we notice is that the train, Southern No. 30 coming in from Atlanta, is reported to have been traveling at "a fast rate of speed" when it struck the truck. At the same time, however, we seem to recall that there is a statute in North Carolina which has something to say about the speed with which trains are permitted to travel in cities and to pass over city crossings.

Heavy Tongues

The toast of OLIVIA De Havilland, one of the movie stars, that she carried ten pounds, is heartening. It is heartening because she is fat, while somebody admires fat in a girl's face, skininess is also ugly.

Of course here in the South people dislike to apply the term "ugly" to any woman, but why not? A woman who is fat and white, and somebody admires fat in a girl's face, skininess is also ugly.

For MAY not yet know it, but we have it on high and ancient authority that she happened to give for stretch wives. The streamlined girl may seem preferable in the courtly days, but she suffers from too much dieting and has to take her comfort out of something else. Who will that somebody be after marriage? It will be you, young fellows — so we hear.

For a few \$500 pounds of flesh and an ample supply of a willowy wand of a spouse carrying a ten-pound punch in her tongue — according to our informant.

Man Writes Headline
 (Headline in Variety)
 "FLAT FOOT FLOODING"
 CALLED BAD FOR RIZ

Visiting Around

Close's Mama Must've Been Reading
 P. O. Commenting
 (Pileville) Mrs. Elizabeth Brown-Argus
 Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Garris and daughter, Frances and niece are visiting in East Tennessee.

The Midget Trips Out
 Mrs. Agnes M. Midget
 A midget will be taken this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lydia Ray, by the women of Grace Episcopal Church Guild.

International Note
 (Colored) Mrs. Elizabeth Brown-Argus
 Mrs. Valonia Scott and Mrs. Geneva Council left Tuesday for Winston-Salem where they will attend Summer school.

Particularly the Boarding, We've
 Long Island Item, Calawha News-Enterprise
 Members of the Young Ladies' and Young Men's Classes of Concord church enjoyed a chicken fry Saturday night at the camp near the Buffalo Bridge bridge. Horse show pitching and boat-riding were also enjoyed.

ABOUT THAT SPITE CASE
 By Hugh S. Johnson

BETIANY BEACH, Del.—Like the title of Colonel O'Brien Carter forty years earlier, the court-martial of Colonel O'Brien Carter was charged with "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." It was charged that he "publicly knocked the hat off Joseph Curran — 'drunken brawl' etc. He was not found guilty of 'conduct unbecoming a gentleman' but only of 'conduct to the prejudice of good order.' Just so in Germany, but that had been looked for. The district, which includes Alexandria (where Boss John Lewis lives in a particularly nice house) is a silk-stocking one, inhabited about equally by old conservative Virginians and the landed gentry tradition and well-bred Washingtonians who do not care for Neighbor Lewis or the New Deal. And Smith had the backing of the all-powerful Glass-Byrd machine, which was running as smoothly as a watch.

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THIS SORT OF THING IS DANGEROUS

The principal part of an Army officer's official compensation is his retirement pay. It takes from 30 to 43 years of honorable service to earn that. O'Brien had almost won it. Yet, depending on what interpretation the court-martial case in this case will bring, O'Brien could have lost his lifetime annuity in the "knocking of an eye." Was a particular bit of rough-house off duty and not in uniform "wrongfully taking a hat off" or "maliciously knocking it off?" Did this buffoonery constitute "conduct unbecoming" or "conduct to the prejudice?" One decision could mean the ruin of a life and a family—the other a slap on the wrist—either on exactly the same set of facts.

It is a devil that makes it possible to "get" any denizen of the dog-inches of official dependence. As I said in an earlier column on court-martial, injustice through such devices rarely appears, but that isn't the point. The point is that such injustice is possible.

THE CASE OUGHT NEVER TO HAVE BEEN TRIED

This was shown to be a suit on flimsy pretext. Some of the evidence was false. Plainly the court-martial system was permitted to be used to advance a private end and vent a private grudge. Sen. Bennett Champ Clark was permitted to go to trial. It was clearly stoppy, careless and incompetent pre-trial investigation. But the court-martial itself fumbled as badly as the staff judge-advocate.

The finding of a "plea included offense" in circumstances as readily as these is a result of another shortcoming of the court-martial system. Courts-martial are not composed of judges but only of officers temporarily assigned who act as both judge and jury—and then go back to their military duties. It is a system that is not permitted to get charges approved by the commanding general, they don't like to "let the Old Man completely down" O'Brien should have been instantly and indignantly acquitted instead of having his long record smirched with this "scap on the wall" to stain somebody's face.

Pumbling about in the indignation which most commentators have felt. It has been stated that all army officers drink. Formerly, yes—perhaps. Now, in the critical world situation, the profession is seriously regarding itself that its responsibility to higher authority. When they get charges approved by the commanding general, they don't like to "let the Old Man completely down" O'Brien should have been instantly and indignantly acquitted instead of having his long record smirched with this "scap on the wall" to stain somebody's face.

A Last Year's Editorial CLIMAX OF THE BILLY SEASON
 (From The News of August 3, 1937)

Strike the pink if the strip trace, that nation was of unending white brought great fun and a Hollywood contract to Miss Gypsy Rose Lee, hasn't been called an unfair labor practice. The charge, made by a United Mine Workers' local in Harlan County, Kentucky, is that a coal company did, among other things, erect a bar and immoral women to get the strip trace and otherwise drive the boys on meeting nights. The National Labor Relations Board is looking into it.

Surely this caps the climax of the Billy Season, old times of which we have never forgotten from time to time. And, yet, silly as it may seem, if the charge is true that the company did set up a counter attraction to union meetings, it could turn out to be anything but a laughing matter. It could put the company to some extent and expense. The Wagner Act is specific on the point that it shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer to interfere with the formation of any labor organization.

Even so, it is a bit grotesque for the National Labor Relations Board to have to concern itself with the strip trace, just as it is beneath the dignity of a coal mining company to put on such performances in an effort to discourage unionization. It all comes about, quite inevitably, because this nation has begun to insist on acting individually like a bunch of spoiled children and collectively like a stern papa. There ain't no bears out tonight, but Uncle Sam'll get you if you don't watch out.

Fishing Worms

(Here and There, Sanford Herald)
 Mainly in the hills, the Ralph Merks started fishing the other day, but couldn't find any worms. He then hiked out to a corn field and shucked roasting ears 'til he got enough worms.

The Oppressed
 (Winston-Salem Journal)
 But there can be no happiness for printers and proofreaders until the war in China and Spain are settled.

Letters To The Editor:
Juvenile Job Needs Trained Case Worker

The Place Is Too Important To Be Turned Over To A Mere Political Appointee

Dear Sir:

I understand that the City and County officials have appropriated money for a case worker for the Juvenile Court who will go into the homes and communities of these young law-breakers and strive to find the reason for their anti-social behavior.

To my mind the money is well spent, but this worker should be a trained person, someone with wide educational background and experience in handling children and one who has studied social welfare and the teenage boy and girl.

This will just be more public money thrown to the wind if a person is chosen merely because he has political pull, but a case worker would naturally perform the task in a very hit-or-miss manner and would not greatly benefit the welfare of the city.

M. R. B.
 Charlotte.

One Is Defended Against Heywood
 Dear Sir:

Mr. Heywood Brown recently took our First Lady to task for having made the statement that "if she lived in some other country she would develop the philosophy of Omar Khayyam and live only for the day and its pleasures."

Are there not thousands in this country that follow the same philosophy? They give no thought of the morrow, but live only for the day. Look at the WPA and relief rolls!

After a long absence in eternity can we claim for our own? There is no yesterday; no tomorrow—there is only now.

"Alike for those who for today prepare. And those that after some tomorrow stare."

A Muzium from the Tower of Darkness
 Pooled your reward is neither here nor there!

"Yesterday this day's madness did prepare. Tomorrow, Silence, Triumph, or Deceit!"

Drink! for you know not whence you came, nor why.

Drink! for you know not why you go, nor where."

Mr. Brown claims to have given the philosophy of Omar a trial, but that soft drink satily him as much as do wines and beer. Perhaps he could influence some millionaire to endow part of his fortune to the search of a better drink. That would indeed be a service to man. Think of it, a drink with the same effect as no harmful effects. Even dry Mecklenburg would benefit and no longer:

"Wonder often what the Vinters buy One half so precious as the stuff they sell."

AMATEUR PHILOSOPHER.
 Charlotte.

More On Pump-Priming
 By HERBERT AGAR

Yesterday I raised the question whether it is just to say that pump-priming has been discontinued. The original New Deal priming procedure was necessary, but the recovery did not last.

Critics of the New Deal say the Roosevelt depression is a sign that pump-priming is no good. But it may just as well be a sign that the pump itself (that is, the economic system) is out of order. If the pump is out of order, priming may be necessary, but priming will never bring the pump in good condition again.

If the pump itself is not of order, the New Deal diagnosis may be correct—the trouble may lie in maldistribution of income. Labor may be getting too small a share of the national income, capital too large a share.

Yesterday I quoted the figures for income distribution. The figures show that during the depression labor's share of the national income fell off. They also show that during the best New Deal year labor's share was very little larger than it had been in 1929.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION IS SOURCE OF THE TROUBLE

These figures suggest that the trouble with the New Deal may be that it has not been quite all right as a device for starting the machine going. But along with pump-priming, we may have to do a considerable repair-job on the pump itself.

If the fundamental trouble is maldistribution of income, and if the New Deal has not yet been able to alter the distribution of income, there is no reason why the pump should work better today than it worked in 1929. And we all know that in 1929 it didn't work well enough.

What can we do to change the distribution of income? Labor, in 1928, received 65.3 per cent of the national income; capital received 34.7 per cent. If we could lift labor's share to somewhere between 70 and 75 per cent, labor's purchasing power would be raised by more than three billion dollars.

Probably the whole of this money would be used by bus consumers' goods. An extra three billion dollars in sales of consumers' goods would mean a lot of men put back to work. It seems more reasonable to use the money this way, rather than to let it pile up as capital, to be invested in more factories to make more goods which people cannot afford to buy.

NEW DEAL POLICIES NEED TIME FOR PROVING

What can be done to secure a more reasonable distribution of income? The method adopted by the New Deal has not yet had much effect—in some cases because they have not yet had time to work, in other cases because they have been sabotaged by capital.

One aim of the new farm program is a better distribution of farm income. There has not been time for this program to show what it can do. The war on monopoles is another attempt, by preventing excessive prices, to secure a better income distribution. But this war has barely started.

The wages-and-hours bill is a major effort in this direction. The bill was so emasculated by Congress that it will be several years before it does much good. But at least a beginning has been made. And the most important effect of all is the Wagner Labor Relations Act.

In time the labor relations act will be obeyed with as little excitement as are the ordinary police regulations. When that time comes, labor itself will be able to secure a redistribution of the national income. But for the time being the labor relations act is only half-obeyed.

Pump-priming can start the industrial system going. A fairer distribution of income can keep it going. It is the big industrialists who are opposing this fairer distribution.

Biblical Humor
 (Mrs. Thos. R. Bar, Zebulon Record)

Occasionally I wonder whether the writers of the Bible meant to be funny in some of the things they said. Or it may be the translators are partially responsible. I wouldn't know; Hebrew is all Greek to me.

In preparing the lesson assigned for Sunday School last Sunday I went past the portion printed in the quarterly and read where Gideon with his three hundred, "fairly set pursuing" the Midianites, asked the men of Succoth for bread, explaining that he and they were after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian? They refused, fearing that Gideon might meet defeat instead of being victorious. The men of Succoth also refused food to the soldiers, and both they and the men of Succoth were led by Gideon something of how he would deal with them on his return. Sure enough, he came back before sunrise with Zebah and Zalmunna, caught a Succoth youth and made him describe the prisoners and the elders of his town. Then Gideon took those seventy-seven men and "thorns of the wilderness and briars, and with them he taught the men of Succoth." After that he went to Peniel and tore down a tower, but that didn't sound as funny to me as did the laconic description of thrashing those nobles.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT U. S. Patent Office **By Ripley**

On request, sent with stamped, addressed envelope, Mr Ripley will furnish proof of anything depicted by him.

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Earlier Days
 News of 75 and 100 Years Ago From Files in the State Library at Raleigh

AUGUST 3, 1843
 75 YEARS AGO

FROM MEXICO

In an arrival at New Orleans advices have been received from the City of Mexico. The Council of Nobilities acting under French influence had declared that the Mexicans desire an empire as a form of government, and Emperor Maximilian of Austria, as Emperor, in the event of his not accepting, Napoleon is to select a person.

—Fayetteville Observer.

THE HOSTAGE OFFICERS

In response to the announcement that General Wm H. F. Lee and Capt. Winfield Scott had been placed in confinement at Old Point as hostages for the two Yankee officers Flynn and Sawyer, condemned to be shot by the Confederate authorities, our Commissioner has informed the Federal Government that the Confederate Government will not be intimidated by any such threats and that the execution of the said officers will take place as soon as the President may see fit.

—Fayetteville Observer.

LAND SALES
 AUGUST 2, 1838
 100 YEARS AGO

Upwards of 15,000,000 acres of land in the Western and Northwestern states are offered to be sold previous to the first of January next, principally in Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. The amount of money estimated to be paid is \$100,000,000. The payment of so large an amount into the hands of the treasury in so short a time and where it must remain for some time before it can reach the treasury may be again disbursed will have a tendency still further to unseat the currency of the country.

—Fayetteville Observer.

Peculiarities Of People
 By F. Romer

ELIAS HOWE

The inventor of the sewing machine claimed to have gotten the idea for the all-important eye in the needle, which made mechanical sewing possible, from a dream. Howe said he dreamed painted savages were attacking him, with spears having eye-shaped holes in one end.