

The Charlotte News

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We seek truth, that we may follow it.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1938

Three Cheers, Muted

Senatorial Candidate Frank Hancock has dropped his campaign in the middle and gone back to Washington to take up his duties as Representative. For, he says, the present Congress is likely to have the making of the choice as to whether the nation will go the way of state socialism or stick to democracy.

"My own position is well known. I am for democracy. I am for the rights of all rich, poor, and average, with special privileges to none. When I hear any one hold it to be a very sacred duty to be present and fight for them."

Well, we like that. We agree perfectly that the place for a Representative is in Washington. And we do not fail to observe that Mr. Hancock's action is in signal and commendable contrast with what has often been the action of his opponent, our own Senator, Robt. Taft. Hancock had been a little more explicit about the conflict he sees in Congress, we'd have liked it better. What do "democracy" and "state capitalism" and "equal liberties" and "equal privileges" mean? Nothing. Anything. In our time these words have become mere counters which all sides use, and which they make mean whatever they wish them to mean. We are not censuring Mr. Hancock, understand. All of us are in the head of the Kal-Shek scheme around to talking in specific terms in place of glittering generalities, the better we'll understand each other.

Business as Usual

It was disclosed today that the liner Coric Verde left New York for Italy with 1000 bombs from Italy which were transported by rail to Canton.

This one passage in a dispatch announcing the Chicago Kal-Shek war is now reciting large consignments of supplies through the British port of Hong Kong.

Italy, you see, is an ally of Japan in the Anti-Communism Pact. And Japan has often told us that one of the main reasons she is in China is to head off the Kal-Shek scheme to hand the country over to the Communists. And so—Italy sells Kal-Shek bombs to fight the Japanese, to kill Japanese soldiers (1400 tons of bombs should account for some thousands of them, we should guess), and, so presumably, to aid the Comintern to get control in China. It all adds up to the same kind of sense as those announcements some time ago that Italy was pouring aid to General Franco in Spain, was also shipping foodstuffs to the Spanish Loyalists, Franco's deadly enemies. And that Italy, while industriously blowing up Russian tankers carrying oil to the East, was also pouring oil from Russia and building two naval vessels for the Russian government in Italian shipyards!

There is a kind of sense in it, too—that these countries desperately need business, and that Italy, with excellent business, cash on the line.

Fewer Drunks

Arrests for drunkenness in Charlotte dropped appreciably in 1937, to 2,798 from the record total of 4,391 in 1936. Not only was there a decrease in the number of drunkards, but for drunken-and-drunks there was a decrease of 50 per cent for driving drunk too. Nor is that all. Similar arrests by the Sheriff's Police have been showing a decrease for some months, a circum-

THE TAKING OF A REBEL

WASHINGTON—This piece is written in response to several requests to "vary the pace of your column with some more old soldier, whoppers like the one about Pershing chasing Villa." This is one about another case that turned out better—Furston's capture of Aguinaldo, which was one of the most dramatic exploits of its kind in military history. It isn't a whopper, but it happens to be written in a country and away from reference books so it may be inaccurate in spots. It is the version they tell in the Army, anyway.

Overlooking Nature

Going back to the President's message at the opening of Congress, there is something we'd like to say about that part of his address which dealt with the farm problem. He said, you will remember, three possible remedies, the first of which—to cut the cost of our farm production below that of other nations—is immediately dismissed as an utter impossibility. That left two.

And the second was, to make the Government the guarantor of farm prices and the underwriter of excess farm production "without limit." He said this production "without the strongest nation in the world in a decade. That left one.

And that one was—to place the primary responsibility directly on the farmer himself, under the principle of majority rule, so that they may decide, with full knowledge of the facts of surplus, scarcity, world markets and domestic needs, what the planting of each crop should be in order to maintain a reasonably adequate supply. . . . but not!

It sounds simple and sensible, but it is not so easy as all that. Suppose that cotton farmers, for example, acting on the experience of the last ten years and estimating production of 179.3 pounds of cotton to the acre, had decided that a 12,000,000 bale crop would have been about right for 1937. And suppose that they had gone ahead and planted some 33,000,000 acres, calculated to have produced 12,000,000 bales, and suppose further that the Government had agreed either to reward them for planting more than they could sell, or to penalize any farmer who exceeded their production quotas. . . . And then suppose that instead of the average of 179.3 pounds per acre, Nature had turned to with a disconcerting wind and brought forth 264.8 pounds per acre, which is about what Nature did do in 1937. In spite of the best laid plans of the Department of Agriculture and the majority of cotton farmers, the 1937 crop would have been only a few hundred thousand bales less than it actually was. And there would still have been a surplus, and the Government would have gone broke paying premiums on the bounty of Nature, else the farmers would have had some 6,000,000 bales of cotton on their hands which they could not sell except by paying a confiscatory tax.

Jim Shows Ability

Three years ago, when Jim Farley announced that his Post Office Department had ended the twelve months with a \$12,000,000 surplus. It moved one of The News readers to satire, and in rhyme, at that. He wrote it:

General Jim, the Juggler, is big Post Office boss. Is certainly a genius at wiping out a loss. Although expenses topped receipts some 40 million dollars. "We have lost \$12,000,000," says our Big Jim huggers. The country-wide ribbing Jim took because of his vaunted "surplus" was that really a whopping deficit taught him a lesson. Nowadays he always puts the deficit first, and ending brightly that he had been for having to carry the mail of Federal departments and Congress for nothing, the deficit would have been a tidy cash surplus. Furthermore, Jim, approval of him for some thousands of them, we should guess, and, so presumably, to aid the Comintern to get control in China. It all adds up to the same kind of sense as those announcements some time ago that Italy was pouring aid to General Franco in Spain, was also shipping foodstuffs to the Spanish Loyalists, Franco's deadly enemies. And that Italy, while industriously blowing up Russian tankers carrying oil to the East, was also pouring oil from Russia and building two naval vessels for the Russian government in Italian shipyards!

Printers' Relief

(Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch) Commentors of newspapers will doubtless tender Great Britain a vote of thanks for appointing Sir Archibald Kerr Ambassador to China. . . . place of Sir Hugh Montgomery Macphail-Hughes.

Huge Deficit Sets Off Few Outcries Now

WASHINGTON—The Federal Government ended the year with a deficit of—the best of my memory, less than a billion dollars? And what a good excuse Mr. Hoover had? A world-wide depression had been going on for years, for nearly two years in the United States. The deficit was caused not by greater expenditures but by the falling off of revenue. And as a result of this and succeeding deficits, Mr. Hoover went out of office a thoroughly discredited President.

It Seems To Me

I LIKED the speech of Secretary Ickes. I believe in the development of industrial democracy will have to fight. And they will have to protect themselves at all times, for in this bout the rule about breaking been respected. If I am asked whether the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of the Treasury is more competent to handle the problem of a poisoned olive leaf.

Gerrie Looks At Chapel Hill

Gertrude Stein publicizes North Carolina history in her latest book, "Anybody's Autobiography," by telling of her visit to Chapel Hill.

Visiting Around

"Community Chaff" item, Mooreville Rounders

Not Bad

(Edinburg Dispatch) A city teacher came upon the following while correcting exercise-books recently:

He Has Been Called Many Hard Names

Even when the captions of finance were in the quicksand "to their eyeballs they manifested a keen desire to bite the hand which pulled them out."

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Sugar failed to hide his bitter pill. The Manufacturers' association in its recent coated some of its phrases, but its message was instantly suspended.

It's Still Being Printed

(Montgomery Advertiser) The fat newspaper known as the Congressional Record, which reports every word that is said on the floor of the House and Senate, continues to carry large quantities of extra-Congressional material, the quality of which is not so high.

Such a Coincidence

(Neal O'Hara, New York Post) It happened in Chicago: At a busy corner a traffic officer saw an old lady beckon to him. He held up two dozen cars, trucks and taxicabs to get to her side and inquire, "What is it, ma'am?"

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Ripley

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

Cartoon titled "RED" BURGENDORF IS SCOUT FOR THE ST. LOUIS RED BIRDS. Sells RED CROWN GASOLINE AT RED BUD, ILLINOIS AND HAS RED HAIR. Includes a drawing of a man and a cooking pot with text: "COOKING POT IN USE 207 YRS. OWNED BY LENOR BURKS Poulva, Polys, Okla." Below the drawing is the text: "The FALLING SPRING - Near Covington, Miss. INSTEAD OF RISING FROM THE GROUND THIS SPRING FALLS FROM THE GROUND! Today's Cartoon Self-Explanatory"

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Earlier Days

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

OUR CANADIAN RELATIONS

It will be seen by the extracts we give from the Rochester papers that the dispatch of Col. McNabb avowing that the capture of the Caroline was authorized by him, has greatly excited the indignation of the citizens of the United States upon the borders of the river and lakes. It is from this excitement rather than from anything that has occurred that we have reason to apprehend consequences dangerous to the good understanding between Great Britain and the United States.

Hersey

(Cavalier, Richmond Times-Dispatch) Today it seems highly improbable that the Spaniards bar up the Maine in Havana Harbor, but I can remember the time when it would have been regarded as treason to doubt it.

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