

The Clinton Chronicle

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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1943

We Are All Alike

Any man who is inclined to criticize the farmer for spending his Saturday afternoons in town ought to think about the afternoons the town man might spend in the garden—and doesn't.

Two Kinds of People

There are some people who spend much of their time seeking publicity, playing to the spotlight, pushing themselves and seeking some measure of praise or notoriety for what they do. But the rest of us are satisfied if we are able to escape condemnation.

The Cotton Farmer

Another trouble about being a producer of cotton is that during the greater part of the summer you read about the prosperity of the peach industry (not this year) and the big prices coming to the tobacco farmers while the boll weevil and weather are keeping you in suspense as to whether the fall of the year will mean one or many trips to the gin.

Sugar Subsidies

The announcement from Washington that the War Food Administration has decided to suspend marketing quotas on this year's cotton crop has met with the general approval of farmers and the public. There will be ample markets for all cotton produced.

Government should remove restrictions on growing sugar instead of paying out millions to farmers not to grow it. Then it would not be necessary to ration sugar. Subsidies are handouts that must be paid for by taxpayers. The principle is wrong.

Such facts must convince every informed person that we have a bunch of crazy people in Washington handling the sugar and other production problems.

Seizing Enemy Patents

One of the major victories of this war has been won in our country as a result of the seizure of billions of dollars worth of property and patents formerly owned by citizens of enemy nations.

It is now reported by the Office of the Alien Property Custodian that every company in this country in which Nazi influence was known to have existed has been Americanized and that patents owned by enemy nationals have been made generally available to American industry.

The scope of this victory is indicated by a few figures recently released. They show that the property assets seized are worth over seven billion dollars, that over 2,000 business firms are involved and that the patents seized total nearly 50,000. The patents, it is understood, cover inventions in every field of applied science and many of them, worked out by the finest scientific minds of the Axis countries, are now being used to help beat the Axis.

The Office of the Alien Property Custodian in Chicago now has an index of these patents which can be obtained by any American manufacturer. If the applicant has the facilities for making use of any of the patents, particularly for carrying on war work, he can then, at small cost, get a license to use them. Now is a good time to use your ingenuity—if you possess such.

Blunder No. 1 Of All Times

A little over two years ago, on June 22, 1941, Adolf Hitler declared war upon Russia, and to this day no one outside of Germany—and maybe Russia—seems to know why. Of all the reasons given out by Hitler and by Ribbentrop in their proclamations of that day, there does not appear to be one of sufficient weight to have made such a hazardous step necessary to the German strategy.

Hitler claimed that the Soviet government was working to undermine Germany in the countries conquered by the Nazis, and that it was actively aiding British policies in Europe and elsewhere. Both men stated that Russia was massing vast numbers of men and armaments along the German frontier but denied that Germany was doing the same thing. The terrific power of the initial German thrust against Russia proved conclusively, however, that she was doing so and that Hitler and his master minds had lied. He had been preparing months for the attack.

The excuses are not good enough—Germany was prompted by other and more mysterious reasons. Hitler may be an ignorant man, as many think, but the men who compose the German general staff are not. We say Hitler is smart and tricky, or he could not have accomplished what he has. These men associated with him in high position certainly realized the

pitfalls of such a daredevil venture. They knew the Russian soldier was a real fighter and they should have known something of the qualifications of the Soviet's best military leaders. They should have been aware of Russia's manufacturing potential and the extent of her actual armaments. They should have known that the Russian army could fall back almost indefinitely, if necessary.

Why, then, did they take such a suicidal gamble? There are a thousand opinions, no doubt, and speculations upon the real reason for the move which will cost Germany the conquest of Europe. Some people think the general staff was opposed, but was overridden by Hitler and his power-seeking satellites. Some believe he really feared the Russians were going to attack him and that he was beating them to the punch. Some think he realized that he had a long, hard war in prospect and was not materially prepared and had to get the Russian resources or face ultimate defeat. Others advance varied reasons for his unexpected move.

What the real causes were we do not know. But whatever the reasons—real or fancied—Hitler's declaration of war against Soviet Russia will go down in history as the greatest military blunder of all time—not excepting Napoleon's same mistake. They soon discovered that Stalin was their match and more, as shown by the fact that he is the only man yet who has stopped Hitler on land.

Germany made a fatal move. It had conquered practically all of Europe and her position seemed well-nigh unassailable. Her only active opponent was Britain, which alone could never have defeated her.

What was the real reason for this fantastic blunder? Nobody knows. Only history can tell. We do know, however, that the Nazis will be conquered and the day of their final fall, in our opinion, is in the very near future.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE MCGEE

Over the Week-End In Flat Rock

dear mr. editor:
rev. will waite has just wound up a serious of 7 days protracted meetings at cedar lane. it was a fair success: he paid all expenses and cleared 4 dollars. over a dozen soles were saved, so he said.

hon. holsum moore has assigned his cotton crop to the boll weevils, bought himself 2 long fishing poles and a mattock to dig baits with, and has retired to the river banks for the duration of the summer.

mr. tom head, says good lickie is getting so scarce, it looks like he will have to swear off. he bought a quart of a new brand for 65 and before half of it was drunk, he had to retire to a bed and call in 3 doctors. it was made out of fire, brimstone, ass-fittity and t.n.t. in the candid opinion.

hon. holsum moore says he thinks the best piece of work done by congress during the past 12 months was adjourning. he hopes they can be kept at home until we get further along with winning the war. (p.s. most of them need to be talked to by their constituents).

a bad auto wreck taken place in front of the drug store last sunday when a strip-down ford met a auto head-on, and knocked 4 teeth out of bert skinner's mouth, bent his axle, busted a collar bone, mashed his radiator, jolted his carby-retter off, sprung his ankle, and killed 2 dogs.

dr. hubbert green says practice is very poor. his patience have not got enough gass to send for him with, so they seem to be using old remedies. his drug store trade is off 50 per cent onner count of the o.p.a. he has had a hard time keeping sody jerkers. by the time they learn how to jerk, uncle sam calls them to the front.

yores trulie,
mike lark, rfd,

School Days

My third years in school, which consisted of about 4 months, found me in the Third Reader, but I still studied spelling in my blue back speller. I was "turned back" every now and then in both of my studies. It took me a long time to learn how to spell "incomprehensibility" off the book. As a matter of fact, it's still rather hard to spell that word.

I was frequently honored with the duty of going to the spring for water, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile. When we found a pig in the spring we had to wait till the water

became "settled" before filling our bucket. When the teacher got to where she wouldn't believe our pig tale, we fetched muddy water. It was the pig's fault, not ours; about the water being muddy. The boy who always went to the spring with me was just as mean and as lazy as I was.

I fell in love with Judy Smith during this school term. She was a nice girl but was sort of pigeon-toed and cross-eyed, but even then she looked better than the rest of the girls. She wore shoes very often, her daddy being rather rich; they owned a top buggy. She fetched egg custard to school pretty often; once she gave me a slice of that pretty yellow food and I loved her more than ever after that. She had red hair and oodlings of freckles. Bert Jones cut me out before the session ended.

Our teacher would sleep a right smart. Whoever woke her up got a thumping at recess. We had things our way during her snoozes, but were quiet about it. . . . She was never known to sleep over 2 hours at any single nap. Once while she was wrapped in the arms of Morpheus, two or three of us boys fell out of the school house loft right ker-dab on her. She would have whipped us if she had been physically able. She limped for several days after that.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

As Washington Sees It

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, D. C., July 20. — The President has shown no signs of being in a hurry for the return of congress from the recess which it expects to enjoy until September 14. In fact, he is probably breathing a lot easier, as he tries to cope with the problems of our domestic economy, by knowing that congress won't change his plans.

However, congress is recessing under different rules than usually apply to recesses. Ordinarily the members can only be called back by the President; but this recess was taken under a special arrangement by which congress could be called back by the vice-president, the speaker or the majority or minority leaders. Thus, if congressional leaders don't like the way things are going in Washington, they can reopen this session at any time.

This is the first formal recess congress has had since 1933. During that time there has been a great change in the politics and the activity of congress. Until the last election, congress was thought of more and more as merely a "rubber stamp" body which would give its approval to anything the President requested.

Recently, however, it has demonstrated its independence of the administration on several occasions. It put through pay-as-you-go tax legislation which was contrary to the administration's plan; it passed anti-strike legislation over the President's veto and it gave him the power to grant subsidies to keep food prices down by only one vote. Now, after rebelling against an administration-dictated home economic program, the congressmen will have an opportunity to check with their home folks on what they think of it all.

In most sections of the country it is expected that the people will make it clear to their congressmen that they heartily endorse their recent activities. If that is true, we can then expect to find the returning congress even more ready to buck the administration on any proposals which do not directly affect the war effort. So far congress has continued to leave the war program under the direction of the President and will probably continue to grant whatever appropriations he says are needed to keep our armed forces and those of our allies functioning with maximum efficiency.

Some political experts believe that the President's popularity rating with the people will take a jump while congress is away. They point out that the limelight has been on congress rather than on the President during recent months and, with congressmen away from Washington, the President's activities will once more be the center of attention. They predict further that if some of our domestic problems, such as food production, turn out better than expected, the President is now more apt to get the credit. And if the war outlook is still brighter by September, and it looks as though it will be, the President

"Meet the People..."

(Each week in this space will be presented a picture and word portrait of someone whose name is news.)

•The new war food administrator, Judge Marvin Jones, has long been considered a "natural" for that position by many Washington observers.

•He is a Texas farmer. In early New Deal days he was chairman of the agricultural committee, was a sponsor or author of much New Deal farm legislation, and once was considered for the post of secretary of agriculture. Added to his agricultural background is 36 years of legal and legislative experience.

•In 1907 he received a law degree from the University of Texas. Ten years later he was elected to the United States house of representatives, where he remained for two decades until 1940, when President Roosevelt appointed him a judge of the United States Court of Claims.

•In Washington he is known for his capable diplomacy and deft handling of delicate situations. As chairman of the United Nations food conference, it was his job to keep the delegates from running into dead end disagreements. His work at that first international conference of post war questions should well qualify him for the difficult food problems that will follow the armistice.



Judge Marvin Jones

and cabinet officers will enjoy greater public approval.

So it is more or less of a tossup as to whether the President or congress will gain a stronger position as a result of the present recess, but it is likely that there will be a considerable shift in the present delicate relationship between the executive and legislative branches when congress reconvenes. And it is expected that by September the fourth term talk will be given increased consideration with politics more dominant than ever in the activities of both departments of government.

A Private Citizen Speaks His Mind

Spectator Comments On Men and Things

Those who remember their Roman history will recall that stern old character, the statesman, Cato—the censor, who was implacably resolved to arouse his countrymen against the great rival city of Carthage. We may regard Cato as a statesman; he has been dead two thousand years. The word "rival," you know, really tells the story, for the word itself originally meant men living on opposite banks of a stream, and who would inevitably have a clash of interest growing out of the use of the water. So it was between Rome and Carthage; they were living across from each other and disputing the control of the Mediterranean. Singularly enough, our troops have recently fought in the land made forever memorable because it gave to the world the military genius Hannibal, a veritable plague to the Roman generals: And now from Tunisia, the site of ancient Carthage, are coming planes to strike at the military power of Rome. Cato, fearing the power of Carthage, never let up in his call to the Romans to destroy the big rival on the tip of Northern Africa. Whenever and wherever Cato spoke, regardless of the occasion, or the topic of the moment, the fierce old Roman would say, "And moreover, Carthage must be destroyed."

A friend says that I have one habit that makes him hark back to the days of his youth, and that is the practice of talking about punitive damages, taxes, and some other themes.

Well, what do you think of this? Five men are arrested for being just convivially over the line, let us say; not stupidly drunk, nor brutally sozzled; but just in that condition of fellowship which makes them demonstrably affectionate toward everybody on the street—just loving everybody. All are the same, in the same condition. Understanding, patient policemen probably try to shoo them off, not wishing to lock them up. But even the toleration of the police can't permit much of this, so, at length, the men are arrested and held over for the police court. The next morning the police court has them up. The city judge looks them over and says: "\$10 or so many days." Of course, if the men have been too demonstrative the court may go to \$25, if no harm has been done and nobody offended. But can you conceive of the judge saying "Four of you are fined \$25 each, but X Y is fined \$25,000"—all having been exactly in the same condition? Our city courts don't do that; nor do our state courts make such discriminations in criminal cases. As you know, the trial judge has a limit to guide him. But that is what we do in suits for damages. Our criminal courts impose sentences based on the ACT of the offender, varying somewhat, it is true, but within defined limitations; in actions for damages the offense or transgression, negligence, or what not, is frequently a minor consideration in determining the amount of damages to be asked; what counts supremely is how much is the defendant able to pay out of his own property; or how much can

he squeeze out of his brothers, sisters, friends and money-lenders? That is why we say that the practice of punitive damages has become more of a legalized racket than a judicial determination of right and justice. It is the very essence of justice that punishment should be fitted to the offense; that damages shall be a fair compensation for injuries suffered. But the practice is to regard the wealth of the party who is sued, rather than the offense he has committed, or the damages suffered through him, or because of him, or because of somebody working for him, or employed by him.

There are occasions for punitive damages, but usually the actual damages should be sufficient. Some cases arise in which the actual damages cannot be proved though the offense is one which should not be overlooked. Such actions as those for libel and slander. You cannot prove how much one is injured, so you ask for punitive damages. Even here we have a peculiar condition. Most men in business are courteous, though a crusty fellow looms up occasionally. Most people everywhere are pleasant and courteous; but if I ask a man on the street for the time of day, and he, with his mind on the heat, suggests that I might make a trip to a still warmer place, there is nothing to do about it unless we square off like a pair of game-cocks; but if I receive that suggestion from a bus-driver, whose dinner didn't agree with him, I rush off to sue "the Company" for thousands of dollars, though "the Company" has tried by every means to employ courteous men. So the discourteous man is overlooked, while I pile a burden on the stockholders of "the Company"! As you see, I'll sue him for a big sum, because they are able to pay—or can borrow the money.

Not all the cases appear on the dockets for trial. The fact that such a practice is permitted brings about many settlements out of court, but oppressive just the same.

While there may be occasions for punitive damages, there should be limits set, just as we've established limits for our courts in criminal cases. The action or suit for \$500 against X, but \$50,000 against Y, on identically the same facts, is clearly not giving to all the equal protection of the law—a fundamental guarantee of our jurisprudence.

WITH THE PRESS

Editorial Comment From Various Papers.

The Real Inflation Question

The President says the question is, "Are you in favor of inflation or aren't you?"

Nobody who knows what inflation is wants it. The President knows that. Nobody who has heard what inflation is from those who profess to know what it is wants it, if they have any sense.

And the President knows that, too. He knows still more,—he knows that the real question is not the one he asked, but rather as to the means of preventing inflation.

That's what he, and others in Washington, are in such a stew about. They are trying to find the way to head inflation off.

Nobody wants inflation, but everybody is not in agreement as to how to avoid it.

There is a theory by which it can

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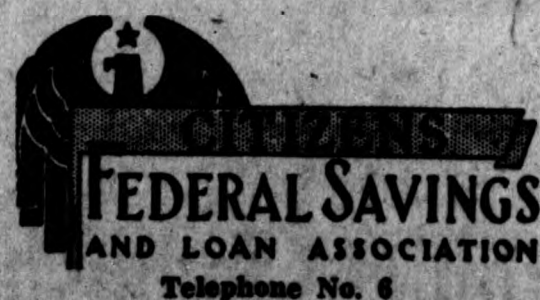
Own Your Own Home

WHEN YOU SO DECIDE, YOU HAVE MADE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION

You probably know that you can afford to buy a more modern home than you can afford to rent. That is true because of the modern method of financing the mortgage on a monthly budget plan. Such a plan is geared to fit your income and still leave a margin for those comforts and pleasures you need.

If you are thinking along those lines, it will pay to get acquainted with the Citizens Federal program for better living through home ownership.

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