

The Clinton Chronicle

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The Chronicle seeks the cooperation of its subscribers and readers—the publisher will at all times appreciate wise suggestions and kindly advice. The Chronicle will publish letters of general interest when they are not of a defamatory nature. Anonymous communications will not be noticed. This paper is not responsible for the views or opinions of its correspondents.

CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1943

A Real Optimist

Another example of optimism is furnished by the man who buys a lawn mower which he thinks is peculiarly fitted for giving his son exercise.

Putting Profits First

Those who seek peace and disarmament among nations must not only combat the natural tendencies of men to resort to peace, but they must also face such obstacles as the desire of professional soldiers and sailors to hold on to their jobs, and the aversion of shipbuilders and munition manufacturers who are behind the plea for preparedness in order to perpetuate their profits.

These are activities which the world should have outgrown long ago and their common presence among us is an accusation against the standards of our time.

Down With the Sob-Sisters

The winning of the war being now only a matter of time coupled with continued effort of the home and battle fronts, we should keep firm in our resolve not to lose the peace. Sympathy for a conquered nation may weaken our conception of the past crimes of that nation, as has been cogently pointed out in the case of Italy in connection with her treatment of Ethiopia and France.

There will no doubt be a large crop of sob-sisters after the war, seeking to bring about a display of leniency which would fail to keep criminals from fomenting another war when the time for preparation had elapsed. There should be no leniency, no weak knees, no compromise. Those guilty of the dastardly crimes of the past few years should be punished—and that severely.

A Ticket To Peace—We Hope

A new ration book, known as Ration Book 4, which is now being distributed, is made up so that it will last for a period of two years.

There is every reason to hope, therefore, that this will be the last of ration books. By October, 1945, when this new ration book will expire, Germany and Japan will have been defeated and we will be at peace. There is a good chance also that we will still be shipping enormous quantities of food to the people of foreign lands who will still be struggling to get back on their feet.

But no matter how great the demands on our supplies may be by the end of 1945, by that time our domestic economy should be better organized and our farm and transportation problems smoothed out, though this will be a big job. We should by then be able to send quantities of supplies abroad and still have an ample supply of food and goods to take care of the needs of the people of this country.

It may be a little optimistic to expect rationing to terminate when Ration Book 4 expires; but it would at least be a pleasant pastime, and with some possibility of it being true, to think of the new ration book as a sort of ticket of peace—to think that, as the coupons are gradually removed, we are approaching closer to the end of war, and when the last ticket expires, we will have reached our destination of a peaceful world.

Our Overseas Mailing

Christmas presents for army men and women overseas must be mailed by October 15. For naval personnel, including marines and coast guardsmen the deadline is November 1. This is the warning given us by postal officials. This means that we have only a few days left in which to attend to this mailing job if we want our fighting men overseas—our relatives and friends—to get their Christmas package and mail on time this year.

The post office department lists six don'ts for the mailing-public—Don't send perishable goods. Don't send anything breakable. Don't include any form of intoxicants.

Don't send anything inflammable, like matches or lighting fluid. Don't send sharp-pointed or sharp-edged instruments, like razors or knives, unless they are safely and securely wrapped.

Don't send bulky items. Service men want small gifts that can be easily packaged and carried. We are requested to send only useful gifts to our boys overseas. A survey just completed by the office of war information furnishes first-hand information as to what the men in service prize, and what they do not desire. They don't want food—they get plenty where they are. From all theatres of war there is a unanimous opinion on the two things most desired; first, a long, newsy letter from home; second, recent photographs of sweetheart, wife or family in small

folding frames. Packages must not exceed five pounds in weight—they must not be more than 15 inches long. All must be securely wrapped in strong paper and tied with twine. They should be clearly labeled "Christmas Parcel."

The important thing to remember is the mailing deadlines. Negligence or putting-off until the last minute may spell disappointment on Christmas morning for that loved one or friend. October 15 is just around the corner.

Our Life-Saving Record

It is a matter of record that medical service for our American armed forces is unequaled throughout the world, and fatalities among our wounded are unbelievably low.

The foundation for such a service for which we should be profoundly grateful, was an independent American medical system and a privately-supported and operated American Red Cross. This combination was ready to give medical care which could not have been secured in any other way.

The blood plasma service of the American Red Cross will go down in history as one of the most remarkable life-saving activities ever recorded. Without it, countless thousands of American soldiers and sailors would never return home.

One of the things to be proud of about American medical service and Red Cross service is that it is a testimonial to the superiority of private initiative and enterprise in science and relief work, as contrasted with the ideals of the totalitarian state in controlling and dominating the lives of all the people.

Blood plasma ranks as the foremost saver of lives in our army and navy. The job of the Red Cross, we are told—and it is a big one—is to secure 4,000,000 additional pints of blood during this year. The citizen, therefore, who gives his blood should remember he is doing two things. First, he is probably saving the life of a wounded service man and, second, he is demonstrating the superiority of the American system of individual enterprise and opportunity which our armed forces scattered over all parts of the world are fighting to preserve.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE McGEE

The Other Side of Washington
Washington, D. C.—Folks, if you are expecting to find out something about Washington's fuses and messes, her politics and her politicians, or what's going on in the congress, you needn't be looking for it in this column. It is our intention to write about "the other side of Washington." There are already two or three hundred persons, all more or less human beings, writing stuff about what we are not going to write about. We will try to depict the human side of the capital, and nothing more.

If you want to find out what the WPB is doing, or what the OPA expects to do and when and why, or what congress has in its mind as to post-war plans, or why Mr. Jeffers left us, you'll have to look in some other fellow's column, and even then you won't know the answers to many of these things: most writers guess at 50 per cent of the things they put down and all the rest of it, more or less as well as pro and con, is plucked from their diversified imaginations.

It is our purpose and desire to find out enough things each day about Washington . . . that nobody else ever pays any attention to . . . and spread it out in my pieces. We are not going to take Washington seriously . . . like we have been accustomed to doing when we were residing 500 miles due south, as the railroad twines. It simply won't do to think folks mean everything they say in this great city: half of them don't even mean what they do—they are only rehearsing.

So, friends, don't count on us for any news or advice or suggestions or donations. We will, however, try to bring to your notice from time to time the overlooked little things and the forgotten big things that the newspapers have never cared to bother about. For instance—the game of football that we witnessed this afternoon in Capital park between about 12 white boys and black boys and a few girls of various colors, was interesting. The kids enjoyed it and not a single one of them was worrying about the war or the bond drive. We hope "The Other Side of Washington" will please you a little bit at least.

It's only 8:30 a.m. but I'm all tired

out. As the weather was cool and brisk and unusual this morning, I decided to walk from my hotel to my office, and walk I did. I feel like I'm taking lumbago or something. I don't know how many blocks it is from my hotel to my office: we ain't much for blocks in Washington.

As the worm would crawl, if he cared to crawl that far, it is 2 parks, 3 circles, 6 fountains, 1 lily pool, 9 monuments, 6 car-stops, 1 congressional library and 17 street intersections between my hotel and the House Office building where I work. If I could come straight from pillow to post, the distance would be reduced by at least 50 per cent. But a fellow has to walk around everything to get anywhere in this town.

My breakfast wasn't quite what I expected. The little glass of orange juice was entirely too small to sit around by itself. The eggs I ordered "turned over" were not turned over until they were baked and brown. The toast was good but thin; however, the coffee was OK. For my cereal, the waitress asked me if I wanted "milk or half-and-half." I told her I'd take half-and-half. That's what I go: it was half milk and half water.

I was rather hungry by dinner time (luncheon here). I ordered shipped beef with some kind of salad-gravy spilt all over it. Friends, if you ever come to Washington, don't order any chipped beef. It's apparently made of red inner tubes, sliced thin, and seasoned to taste. Of course, if you like something to shew on, this chipped beef mess will appeal to you. I am still very "country" even if I do live in Washington. I get up at 6 or 6:15 a.m. But it's a pleasure to find the streets and coffee shops sort of deserted. The folks don't begin to swarm here until about 8:00 a.m.

TODAY . . . TOMORROW

By Don Robinson

STRIKES—England

On the theory that misery loves company, people in our country may get some comfort out of the fact that England doesn't seem to know how to handle labor much better than we do.

Whenever there is a coal strike, or a strike in a shipyard or an airplane factory here, most of us can't understand it. We feel that the strikers must be totally lacking in any spark of patriotism. We can't conceive of how a group of thousands of men, many of whom have sons and relatives fighting for their country, will agree to lay down their tools and interrupt the flow of needed equipment to those men.

But in this country we can fall back on the possible explanation that it is difficult for some Americans to realize there is a war going on. We read about it, we know that millions of our men are fighting on foreign fronts, but we have never heard a bomb drop, seen a soldier shot or felt, personally, the real bitterness of war.

If we want to try to make excuses for labor in this country, we can refer to that absence of personal contact with the war.

But Britain's experience proves this isn't the true answer. For, after going through terrible bombings, seeing homes destroyed and friends killed, labor in England is still willing to stop war production in an attempt to get a few more shillings a week or to protest some minor grievance between a worker and an employer.

NEWS—Sabotage

Somehow a lot of us think of the English as having everything pretty well in hand.

I admit that I had forgotten about the possibility of labor problems in England until I happened to run into a whole slew of cabled messages from London on the subject.

One message said that 23,000 miners had quit work in protest because an 18-year-old surface worker was imprisoned when he refused to take an underground job.

Another said that 1,200 additional miners were on strike awaiting assurance of better pay.

And still another report started that a third group of 2,000 miners were "unable to work" because haulage men considered a fine imposed on a fellow worker for fighting to be "unfair."

And then there was a report of 1,500 shipwrights who were striking and were gradually gaining the support of thousands of other shipwrights on the Clyde river.

And, to go on a little further, 8,000 welders staged a two-hour "token" strike to bring attention to their demand for a pay increase.

I won't go into the unrest in England's airplane industry, which has been definitely handicapped by labor troubles. But it is interesting to note that these troubles exist in spite of the fact that Sir Stafford Cripps, minister of aircraft production, has termed all strikes to be sabotage.

SOLDIERS—Warning

In spite of labor troubles, both in this country and in England we seem to be able to increase production of war equipment each month. Actually the hours lost through strikes in both countries are an infinitesimal fraction of the hours worked.

But those lost hours are the ones which stand out like a sore thumb when they are reported in newspaper headlines—and they are the ones which make our soldiers on foreign

fronts fighting mad when they hear about them.

It may be that labor unions will continue to get away with making more and more demands throughout the war. The government and employers seem to have decided that the best way to prevent strikes is to give in to labor whenever necessary.

But the real fight for the unions will come after the war when millions of men who have learned to hate the word "strike" and think of it as being synonymous with "treason" come home to this country and demand an explanation.

It is true that American soldiers forget and forgive easily, but it will probably be a long time before the word "strike" will cease to be a fighting word. And when the soldiers come home what they say will go.

If the unions, both in this country and England, want to survive after the war they would do well to start now to try to get back in the good graces of the men in uniform.

A Private Citizen Speaks His Mind

Spectator Comments On Men and Things

Employers:

In 1935 the old-age insurance program became a law and imposed a tax of 2 per cent on payrolls, 1 per cent being paid by you and 1 per cent by the employee. You and the employee still pay 1 per cent each. Under the law the tax was to be raised to 2 per cent on each on January 1, 1943. So much money had accumulated in the trust fund that congress postponed the increase. Unless congress acts promptly, however, that increase will become effective January 1, 1944.

There is no necessity for an increase. The secretary of the treasury stated officially that the trust fund should always be three times more than the average yearly withdrawals. Well, here's how the whole matter stands, as of July 1, 1943: total receipts from the present tax (1 per cent on employers and 1 per cent on employees) for the year ending June 30, 1943, was \$1,130,000,000. Amount paid out in benefits was \$176,000,000 (including administration).

Why increase this to 4 per cent (2 per cent on you and 2 per cent on employees)? The social security board has estimated that if all those who (because of age, etc.) may be eligible to receive benefits for the next five years, were paid such benefits, the total benefits would amount to a sum ranging from \$450,000,000 to as high as \$900,000,000 a year, with the probability that the payments would be nearer to \$500,000,000 a year.

Organized Business, Incorporated, cooperating with other trade groups, had a part in saving you from a 2 per cent tax increase in January, 1943. In other words, it saved you 1 per cent on your entire payroll for twelve months.

How does the trust fund of this old-age insurance stand as of July 1, 1943? It was \$4,268,000,000. Mark you the test of an adequate reserve trust fund has always been three times as much as the largest probable amount which would be drawn out in one year. By that test even if \$900,000,000 were paid out in one year the reserve today is nearly five times that amount, though nothing more were paid in. If, on the contrary, not a single dollar were paid in during this fiscal year, and \$500,000,000 were withdrawn, the reserve would be more than eight times the amount withdrawn. But I call your attention to this, that the reserve as of July 1, 1943, will be increased very considerably during the year. If employment continues at the present rate, until next June, the trust fund will exceed \$5,000,000,000, because the income would be an additional \$1,130,000,000 with benefit payments of less than \$200,000,000 a year. In view of that what argument can there be for increasing the tax load on business?

Employees:
Would it be all right with you for your employer to turn over all your pay to the government and let the government send you some clothing and food? A sort of "government issue" arrangement" as in the army, you know. Is the government trying to pay your doctor and tell you which doctor you may call; which hospital you may go to—and when; what medicine to get—and where to get it? Do you want a government to run all your business for you? Or do you prefer to decide some things for yourself?

Shall we tax ourselves and develop a point system for life—under worse blunders than those of the O.P.A.? You pay just 1 per cent now; that is enough, as you will see by reading all the figures.

Read the part for the "employers" and you will see something more exact, as to the money involved.

I'm a working man, too, and entitled to everything offered to employees, but I would rather have one dollar of my own, to spend as I please, than two dollars from the

government, bowing and scraping to a two-by-four official for it. How about you?

If the government continues to swell in power it will soon have the power to compel us to work, as the officials may decide. We who work for a living have the same interest as others: we must keep the government out of our private living, unless we are willing for a multitude of government officials to control us—lock, stock and barrel. You are paying 21 per cent of your wages to the federal government now in direct taxes—20 per cent income tax (over certain exemptions) and 1 per cent on the whole wage for old-age. The idea now is to increase this 1 per cent on the whole income to 2 per cent, unless congress acts now to freeze the old-age insurance at 1 per cent.

But the worst is yet to come: I have been talking about holding this down to 1 per cent on employers and 1 per cent on employees by freezing the present rate. And I urge you most vigorously to write to Senators Smith and Maybank and to your congressmen. The President, however, not only insists that the 2 per cent shall become effective, but he supports with all his influence the Wagner bill which would raise the rates to 6 per cent on the employer and 6 per cent on the employee. What do you say to that? If you do not wish the government to do all these things and charge all this tax to us, then now is the time to speak out. If this 6 per cent were enacted into law, 26 per cent would be held out of your pay—20 per cent as now, and 6 per cent on all your wages, without exemptions or deductions.

Take note that there are two matters deserving your attention:

1. To ask congress to freeze the old-age tax at 1 per cent (on employers and employees) at least until the war is over.

2. Speak out boldly against the Wagner bill which would impose a tax of 12 per cent on payrolls (6 per cent on employers and 6 per cent on employees) without deductions.

There is no time to spare; better write, telephone or telegraph now.

I need not argue the political motive nor the political appeal in this. Both are evident, but if the American voter is made of the same quality as his father, he will not sell his independence for political handouts. This is a trap to catch voters.

SPECIAL—AMERICAN HOME
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Call Tea Room at 1:30
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FINAL SETTLEMENT
Take notice that on the 28th day of October, 1943, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administrator of the estate of Robert Y. Copeland in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens County, at 10 o'clock a.m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administrator.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on or before that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven, or be forever barred.

T. G. MURPHY,
Administrator.
Sept. 24, 1943.—21-4p

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