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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1938

That Home Feeling

The opening of the grand new Beck's store in Charlotte tomorrow recalls a recent memory by Mr. Henry Beck, less than a year ago when the new building was not yet a blueprint. He was asked to say what underlying element of policy he had followed which had brought him such remarkable success in merchandising. "The people," he said, "have been good to us and the reason, I think, is that we always have tried to make them feel at home in our stores."

The psychologists, no doubt, have a confusing word for that, but to those who bring thousands of haranguing, individual, indefinite personal desires to the stores to be fulfilled, the comfort of it is plain and simple and understandable. They like that policy, and they come back—year after year. Because the Beck's theme is "Make yourself at home," their stores grew from a community enterprise to one of state-wide scope, then to regional. Now, in the magnificent new palace of merchandise, the fixtures are different, but the policy is the same and reflects the truth that a sound idea is the only sure foundation for any structure. It is still Henry Beck's store — his and his long-time associates.

No Auditorium

A three-to-two vote of the County Commissioners yesterday demolished, for the present at least, the proposal for an auditorium. It could have been a highly desirable addition to the civic and physical features of the town, and of course this depression is a wonderful time to build what you could not think of building in better times.

And, yet, we do not believe the three dissenting Commissioners are to be censured. It was doubtful that the venture would have been self-liquidating, in which case the County would have had to put up the difference or lose its valuable property. The benefit of the auditorium would have accrued principally to the city proper, which fact would seem to dominate the City Government as the agency to have taken the risk. And while no administration can bind a successor administration merely by verbal promises to do thus and so, the present County administration has put out in the covenant of the board that built the new Courthouse to sell the old site and apply 140 per cent on the cost of the new.

Still, we hate to give up that up-town auditorium. Do you suppose there's any possibility of the City's putting up one on the old auditorium site at Fifth and College, or trading that property to the County for a part of its more desirable Tryon and Third property?

Armistice or Lull?

Up in Washington they've begun a study, the first under the Wage-and-Hour Act, on the cotton, rayon and silk textile manufacturing industries. A committee of 21, representing manufacturers, workers and the public, has been formed. Its assignment is to determine the minimum hourly wage, not less than 25 cents, which the industry should pay, and the maximum weekly hours, not more than 44, which its employees should work.

Up in Washington, in fact, they're preparing to promulgate executive orders, having the force of law, prescribing the amount of money which a textile manufacturer must put into the pay envelope of a worker whose hours also are to be regulated. This, plainly, except for the limitation of machinery hours and rules of fair competition, will be NSA's rule again. No. 1 in both

instances. And what happened to NRA, everybody remembers. It was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, but only after hundreds of suits had been filed to restrain the Government from enforcing the act.

This time, there appear to be no distinction in anybody's part to challenge the constitutionality of the Wage-and-Hour Act. It is early yet, to be sure; a couple of months before the act even goes into effect. All the same, the general attitude, as far as it has shown itself, is to put up with the new dispensation for a while and see how it works out.

What that attitude proves we have no idea. But we think it must prove something, and in any case is worth mentioning.

Our Thieving Neighbor

The exchange of notes between Mexico and the United States over \$100,000,000 worth of American-owned farm lands expropriated by our neighbor below the Rio Grande raises the question of what action this country is going to take about the \$100,000,000 worth of expropriated lands and equipment. Secretary Hull's position will be, if it would never do, after taking different stands, make friends and customers of all Latin America, to call out the marines again on the first proclamation.

But, after all, a steal is a steal, whether it be committed by some bandit captain or a nation which has selected a new destiny for itself. The kind of social and economic system a nation prefers, is its own private business; but its relations with other powers, especially those seven or eight times as populous and infinitely stronger, have to be arranged with due consideration for customs and the safety of its own skin.

And yet, it is not so easily as by a resort to insistence backed up with the possibility of force that these Mexican confessions are to be set aside. Secretary Hull — the poor man is always having obstacles thrown in the way of extending American trade — plainly indicates as much when he suggests that the lands question be submitted for arbitration to a commission of Inter-American representatives. And the Mexican government as plainly indicates, that it knows where Uncle Sam's hair is shortest and that it will cry about "Gringo Imperialism" every time he shouts "Pay up!"

Juvenile Murder

In Superior Court today a 14-year-old Negro boy is to be sentenced for the knife-slaying of another 14-year-old Negro. He was booked for murder, but the Court accepted the lesser plea of guilty of manslaughter.

And last the good burghers of the town, assume that this murderous affair between boys of 14 turned up something never before heard of, beg to remind them that last year about this same time a 16-year-old Negro girl killed another two years younger. She used a pistol.

And earlier last year a 14-year-old Negro girl fired a shotgun at a girl friend with whom she had fallen out, dropping her stone dead and mutilated. They were classmates in the seventh grade at Isabella Wyche School.

Verily, when children of the species murder each other with knives and pistols and shotguns, it is time for the adults to examine their own ways. Murder may be catching.

Good Riddance

If a group of Representatives choose to spend their Summer investigating un-American activities and making headlines, and if the House request the executive departments of the Government to detail "such number of legal and expert assistants and investigators as the committee may from time to time deem necessary," and if the executive departments refuse, as the Department of Agriculture is accused of refusing — why, it is alright. The Legislative branch of the Federal Government is already mated at the smoothness of the Executive, and there is no sense in the first and second horses in this three-horse team pulling against each other.

But when it comes down to the substance of the Dies Committee's findings, the Department of Justice can't be much blamed for remaining aloof.

Now, Dies and friends have spent the last several days establishing, to their own satisfaction, at any rate, that the American Youth Congress and the World Youth Congress are communistic. In all probability this is partly so, but it is nothing to be ashamed about. Youth has always been radical, especially the type of youth which goes in for congresses and delegations, the girls among whom, old Henry Mencken once put it, need only be naked to catch the eye of the footloose team and given a good sound necking to convert them to capitalism.

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good propaganda, but most of us good Americans haven't forgotten the boy who cried, "Wolf! Wolf!" too often.

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CUTTLEFISH POLITICS

By Herbert Agar

It cannot be repeated too often that the whole issue in the so-called "purge" is a simple one. It is this: do the people in various Democratic primaries wish to support New Deal candidates? If they don't, they had obviously better not vote for New Deal candidates. And that is all there is to the purge.

It has nothing to do with the issue of white supremacy in Georgia. It has nothing to do with the taking of Atlanta by General Sherman's troops. And Mr. Roosevelt is not a carpet-bagger.

ENTER THE SHORT AND UGLY WORD

There is a number of Democrats in Georgia who are still against every recent innovation. They are Diehards. Those men, or many of them, are pretending (now that they have to ask for votes) to be New Dealers at heart, who have differed from the administration only on a few points.

That pretense is in many cases a lie. The administration is taking steps to call the people's attention to the lie. And that is all there is to the purge.

The purge is in fact a step in the direction of responsible government. No attempt is being made to prevent anybody from voting the way he wishes to vote. But the President, and other administration officials, are calling attention of the voters to the record of certain Congressmen.

Once the voters have noticed the record, they will vote exactly as they choose to vote. If they like having their Congressmen thwart the New Deal at every important point, they will vote to send the Congressmen back again. By calling wide attention to their records the President will have done these Congressmen a service.

THE PEOPLE, AFTER ALL, STILL DO THE VOTING

On the other hand, if the people do not wish to be represented by anti-New Dealers they will recall these Congressmen and send New Dealers in their places. It is impossible fully to pretend that there is anything anti-democratic about this, or anything dictatorial.

The entire purge represents an effort to get the facts to the people and to let the people decide. No honest man, we are sure, would be deluded by a lot of newspaper trash, can complain about such an effort.

The question which should be asked of Senator George is this: why is he ashamed to stand on his record? In the past two years he has opposed the major New Deal policies. Why doesn't he defend his opposition? why doesn't he glory in it, instead of pretending that the President has been misinformed?

IT'S UP TO GEORGE TO DEFEND HIMSELF

Nobody has been transformed. The record is clear for all men to read. Senator Roosevelt's first term friend Senator George was a fairly consistent friend of the New Deal. During the last eighteen months he has been an important enemy of the New Deal.

It would seem that as the reforms began to hurt, as it became clear that the New Deal meant business, Senator George went into opposition. That is his affair. He may have been right to do so. He may find that his people love him for having done so. But why pretend that he has done nothing of the sort?

Why not stand up to the President's honest effort to have a showdown on what the people really want? Why behave like a cuttlet-fish, and fight by splitting blackness and confusion?

The President states that Senator George is a "honest" Senator. George replies, "The executive and legislative powers were exercised entirely dependent of each other." The President points out that Senator George voted against the wage-and-hour bill. Senator George replies that this is a "second march through Georgia."

The man ought to be purged, if for no other reason, because he can't stick to the point.

What are we going to do about it?

Letters To The Editor:

The South's Greatest Need Is Capital

And The First Step In Solving The South's Problem Is To Accept The Factual Statement Of The Problem

Dear Sir:

The recent report which dubbed fair Dixie the "Economic Problem of the Nation" could have gone much further in detail with a background of the underlying causes that made the South poverty-stricken. The report was correct; we cannot deny that the people of the South suffer from greed, avarice, unfair cut-throat competition, high railroad freight rates, enormous interest rates on borrowed capital, inadequate health and preventive medicine services, a huge Negro population—with the attendant low wage earnings and with no educational opportunities to educate and govern them. Our tenant farmers, exploitation by political factions; ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

We can, to be sure, regard the report in the same light as we did the article in Collier's Magazine last year, which was an exposé of the textile workers' conditions, and which you will recall caused quite a flurry of protestations, denials and counter-denials. It made interesting reading—especially the sore spots spotlighted to add color and spice. But the report giving the South the title of Economic Problem No. 1, written by Southerners, is not hirsute. Neither is it horrible slander, libel, or defamation of character. It is a statement of facts, and now that the facts have been compiled, what?

The Southern gentleman reads the report if he can read and murmur, "Ain't that sumpin?" and sinks back into his lethargy. Or perhaps he labels it Republican propaganda, or doesn't even give it a second thought.

Well, what are we going to do about it?

Is the report going to be buried in an inconsequential, and laid aside to gather dust in some obscure corner at Washington along with a considerable pile of other reports, data, statistics and treatises which have been written for many years, and probably will continue to be written for many years to come?

We have in the South an abundance of natural resources that would make Hitler and Mussolini sick with envy. We have climatic conditions that are favorable to the greatest food producing section in the world. We have the soil and the labor to produce it. We have minerals, coal, iron, gas, petroleum, lumber—everything to make a Utopian Empire here in the South, except for one thing.

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R. B. OSBORNE

Wadsworth.

Just Babies

(Atlanta Constitution)

An old one, but still as good as new:

The wife of a Western candidate is going along to see how big the babies are like his.

What a swell Political Butler Would Make!

One, Lewis Item, Smithfield Herald

A real nose item created much fun,

the contestants first running forward

and then backward.

Butler Holt won both forward and

backward racing.

That Was Washaw

(Around Town, Washaw Enterprise)

Mr. Sam Bone is the happiest man

in Washaw right now. For years he

had wanted the Robert E. Lee to stop in

Washaw, but last Mr. Sam's hope

has been realized.

He is looking forward to the

inauguration of the Bell Wreck the last

Robert E. Lee that makes no stops in North

Carolina, passes in Washaw long enough

to sell it a stop.

That was Washaw

That was Wash