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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1917

A Model for Florida
 North Carolina has renewed desire for taking pride in its people. The state is to be the model for Florida by the process of law there yesterday of three Negro men on trial charged with raping a 20-year-old white woman. The trial was fair, the evidence conclusive, the defendant's plea full opportunity to give their side.

Outside the courtroom the scene was quiet. No threats were made, no mobs formed, and the officers took their prisoners to death row in the Raleigh penitentiary without a hint of molestation. One of the defendants will be quite as complete as if performed by a mob, but Duplin County's self-possession relieved it of any such disgrace.

All too easily North Carolina could have had in this triple criminal assault another Scottsboro case on its mind. The men in the dock have not been stoned, lynched, or Florida did recently. But they didn't, and apparently it never even occurred to them.

Beat Us to It
 "If you boycott Japan," said Dr. Alfred Sze, former Chinese Ambassador to Washington, in a speech delivered in Shanghai for D. S. consumption, "you will have contributed to the greatest single step of progress in history. . . . You will usher in a new era when reason, fair play and world justice will triumph."

In the next day or two, as soon as the Ministry of Commerce completes the list, Japan will reduce to a minimum the importation of more than 300 commodities. Cotton, lumber and wool shipments will be admitted on a cargo-by-cargo basis, and only war materials will be accepted without limit. The Empire is curtailing its trade balances for that reason.

And since foreign trade is perforce a two-way transaction, and Japan, by refusing to buy, is impairing her position as seller, can it be said that the boycott will take the "water" in a new era when reason, fair play and world justice will triumph? We hardly think that was Niippon's intention, but what's the sense of declaring a boycott against Japan when she has declared the equivalent of a boycott against herself?

Amendment to the Wagner Act
 It was a long time coming, but the National Labor Relations Board has finally ruled that it would amend the Wagner Act in a manner somewhat reflecting the American conception of the rights of minorities. In a C. I. O.-organized steel plant in Granite City, Ill., with 2,000 employees, several hundred craftsmen among these fell themselves allowed up in the mass movement and demanded recognition of their identity as craftsmen, even though they were in the minority. The new ruling gives them the right to do so.

Heretofore, the general idea of the Wagner Act has been that the will of the majority was supreme and that the minority had no rights. It could act the majority fare or the fundamental traditions of labor in this country, a subversion of merit and skill. The next step, perhaps, will be a recognition that even the individual has a right or two.

Parable of the Talents, Revised
 The Commodity Credit Corporation, that other CCC in the New Deal, alchemical combinations, has amended the loan regulations to accommodate the grower of inferior cotton. Less than 75ths cotton, hitherto ineligible, will be accepted as 200ths for loans of 8 or 9 cents on the dollar, depending on grade.

More concrete, than is displayed in this collection of warlike hints.

In the Rear
 Italian farmers have been paying as much as 25 lire a day for water in their five fields. That, corresponding to the 1122, has seemed too high to them. The employers' "corporation" and the employees' "organization," both controlled by the state, met to agree on a new scale. They bargained and they bargained. And finally they have come to an agreement. The five-day wage for next year will be 1150 lire a day, or 61 cents.

THE SPEECH IN CHICAGO
 BY W. C. DAVIS

NEW YORK CITY—The whole country will be agitated by every word the President says at Chicago's caustic the treaty-breakers and with his description of the threat to peace of those powers which have openly dedicated themselves to the practice of wars to conquer weaker nations.

But the speech was deliberately timed and spoken by the "responsible head" of the nation. It therefore meant something of primary importance. But precisely what did it mean? It didn't tell us. That may have been meant to check the nation's spontaneous enthusiasm, by letting it know that the President was not so exactly what it did mean. But it also must leave the people of this nation in anxious uncertainty as to exactly what it did mean. If there is any war to be fought, it is the people of our nation who will fight. They should be free to deliberate before they are involved.

We got into a world war once through the impracticability of a resounder of high words—a great popular leader whose visions soared so far on currents of popular enthusiasm that he saw as the great not only of his country but of all mankind. He began to use cryptic sentences about the Great Heart of the World.

THE GOOD YOU ARE GOT THROUGH THE NEWS HAS FOLDED UP ON HER
 Dear Sir: Two years ago I was out of a job and very discouraged with trying to find one. I wrote you a letter which you kindly printed. That letter was indirectly the cause of my getting the best of a good record. Recently the place closed due to a change in real estate. I received a letter from the firm expressing their thanks for my loyalty and service. I am out of a job again.

I am sending an ad to your excellent paper and trust it will bring the same good results that it brought me in the last time. I want to thank you for your kindness once again.

I shall always try to live up to the expectations of those who have helped me and have confidence in me whenever I go.

Charlotte, N. C.
 F. S. You may print this if you like. However, I am writing just to thank you because I appreciate what you did for me.—MRS. ED.

Borah's Time
 (Columb's Record)
 Justice Black left some things unexplained in his Ku Klux Klan apology—the Klan was already condemned in the South and laws were being passed to curb it when he became a member of it. Senator Borah, however, added a new mystery.

"Justice Black," he said in comment on the Black speech, "stated the matter of his relationship with the Klan as I understood it to be when I spoke as the subject in the Senate. I understood he had been a member of the Klan but had not been a member since about 11 years."

But in the Senate—it was on August 11—Borah, opposing the suggestion that the matter should be referred back to the Judiciary committee for investigation of the charges that Black had been a member of the Klan, did not say that he understood that Black had been a Klan member.

"There has never," the Congressional Record quotes him, "been at any time any intimation that Mr. Black was a member of the Klan."

Perhaps Senator Borah should make a radio speech.

Collective Bargaining In Italy
 (New York Post)
 Italian farmers have been paying as much as 25 lire a day for water in their five fields. That, corresponding to the 1122, has seemed too high to them. The employers' "corporation" and the employees' "organization," both controlled by the state, met to agree on a new scale. They bargained and they bargained. And finally they have come to an agreement. The five-day wage for next year will be 1150 lire a day, or 61 cents.

Visiting Around
 We Didn't Know the Cards Were in This Series
 (Morgantown News-Herald)
 Dr. . . . left last night for New York where he will take a course in the use of the Electrocardiogram. He expects to be away three weeks.

Could She Be Sure the Circus Was Only Playing?
 (Monroe Enquirer)
 Olive La Verne, pregnant woman with the "Walking Brothers" band which played her funeral, was released from the local hospital that day after having a bullet removed from her head, just above the left eye. The circus was played at Rockingham when the bullet glanced from a target and hit the woman. She was not seriously hurt.

You Mean He Couldn't Take His Eye Out Of It
 (Charlotte News)
 A warrant charging him with reckless driving was signed against Albert G. . . . by representatives of the lab company.

Birth Control Defended On Rational Basis

Criticism of Catholic Women's Council At Variance With Modern Humanitarianism.

DEPT. REC.—During recent years, following much research and teaching by qualified scientists and educators, the American public has taken a more and more liberal and sympathetic attitude toward birth control. Many have been brought to the view that an additional child in a family already struggling to make ends meet causes hardship to every member of that family. Many feel that it is better to limit the family to that number which can be decently raised and educated than to reproduce without limit or regard for the welfare of the little one being brought into the world.

Some have seen that the physical condition of some women is such that child-bearing would endanger their lives. A physician here asserted that a strain susceptible to certain diseases should not reproduce itself.

But the National Council of Catholic Women have condemned our "pseudoscientific principles" of birth control, saying that they strike the "God-given right of co-existence." Certainly when God gave us minds he meant for us to use them. Modern science, medicine and humanitarianism would seem to agree that the use of birth control methods is the better part of wisdom.

MRS. S. A. R.

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT By Ripley

On request, sent with postage, address envelope, Mr. Ripley will furnish proof of anything claimed by him.

FISHERMAN'S PARADISE
WHERE DUCKS WALK ON THE BACKS OF FISH!
LINESVILLE LAKE IS SO THICKLY STOCKED WITH FISH THAT WILD DUCKS ACTUALLY WALK ON THEIR BACKS
 Linesville, Pa.

GETER & BAKER
 UNBURNERS IN JACKSONVILLE, Fla.

MIKE DURRA
 DURING THE ST. PAUL OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP WAS GIVEN LOOKER 72 AND THEN SHOT 4 (CONSECUTIVE ROUNDS OF 72 TOTAL 288) JULY, 1917

A BLACK APPLE
 IN PERFECT CONDITION Owned by MRS. H. SHERWOOD CLEVELAND, Ohio

Today's Curious Self-Explanatory

IT SEEMS TO ME
 BY HAYWOOD SWANN

ANYBODY who has ever done any housework around an army in war time learns to distrust strictly theory. Rumors travel as fast as machine gun bullets and go much further. Almost invariably it is impossible to run the tale of horror down to its original source. I still remember waiting two days along the Western Front in pursuit of the man who was supposed to have died in a machine gun. I had seen a machine gun in the German lines. There were at least a dozen British officers who assured me that the story was authentic, but the soldier who had seen it was always some captain located in a village twenty kilometers away from where I found him. He would admit that he did not exist, and that the story was a fabrication.

"Truth will not stand the strain of being passed through half a hundred mouths," says a French proverb. Today Spain stands as a particularly fertile field for the manufacture of strictly stories. No one doubts that the conflict has been extraordinarily brutal, and certain aspects of the campaign constitute a bona fide tragedy. But the strictness of the censorship and the difficulties of news coverage practically preclude a reliable check-up on very many of the most blood-curdling yarns which are current among the sympathizers on either side.

IT PARENED THE CENSOR
 But I feel that an exception must be made for the latest report upon the progress of Franco's crusade to civilize Spain. The story in question comes from a large news agency and carries the caption, "With Spanish Insurgent the capture," which would mean that it emanated from an accredited reporter with Franco's forces, and that the story had been duly read and passed by the Spanish Rebel Censorship.

I saw the story in New York Herald Tribune, which has not been accused of being overly partisan to the loyalist side. Moreover, the episode described did not occur in the heat of battle, but as a formal review.

FRANCO'S CODE OF DISCIPLINE
 Franco's Foreign Legion is made up of Italian and German volunteers and men of many other nations. By chance the organization also included a sergeant who happened to be Spanish. He decided to go back to his own people, and during the fighting around Madrid he slipped across the lines and joined the loyalists. A few days later he was captured. Here is the story as passed by Franco's censor:

"His regiment was called out on parade and he was marched the length of the ranks. When his battalion was called forward, and in front of the company under the command of the sergeant, he was taken to the men by their hob-

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

OCTOBER 4, 1842
 18 YEARS AGO
STUART'S PENNSYLVANIA EXPEDITION
 General Stuart had just returned from another grand round of McClellan's army, with a force of cavalry sent to the Potomac to cut his way through Gen. Stone's division, and crossed the river without the loss of a man.—Poyntelle Observer.

JER STUART
 The last movement of the gallant officer whose name is placed at the head of this article, seems to have produced great consternation among the Yankees. It is not surpassed in brilliancy, by anything that has been done during the whole war, even by himself. Besides the fighting at Pennsylvania, Yankees out of their wits it must have been a prodigious sum of money. We hope Dept. Stuart made ample reprisals for the damage inflicted by Pope's three upon the inhabitants of the Piedmont regions and McClellan's marauders on those of the Pamunkey.

But independently of the property which may be taken, it is a great success. The Yankees have been at enormous expense in preparing the militia for the field. From their papers, we should suppose that the whole force of the State was to be brought out to oppose Stuart and his three thousand cavalry. It is surprising to us that any persons should be so dependent upon us, as to see such deeds as these continually performed by our men. They indicated a valor which cannot be repressed and an enterprise from which it is impossible to draw any but ominous success. Never can we be so sure while we have been drilled like these to uphold our banner and strike for our independence.—Richmond Dispatch.

Modern Catechism
 (Greenboro News)
 Let the public know that the customary procedure in a lynching, the Daily News offers a catechism in brief on the mobbery this week in Milton, Fla. From a long history of such events one should know the answers long before they are read.

Was the victim charged with a serious crime?
 Yes. This is considered almost always essential to a bona fide lynching.

Did the sheriff (Joe Allen, on this occasion) have any warning of his feelings in the community against his prisoner?
 Yes. He had previously transported him to a safer jail.

Did he follow this up with a sufficient guard, to guarantee the prisoner's safety while being transported to place of trial?
 A sheriff and one deputy were considered sufficient.

What steps were necessary to get the victim away from his official escort?
 Nothing but the demand, "We want that nigger," as was told in the dispatches.

Did the officers show any resistance?
 None was recorded.

Did they recognize any member of the mob?
 This is very rare.

Did the coroner's jury make an investigation?
 Did it discover any evidence pertaining to identity of the mobsters or recommend any indictments?
 Don't be silly.

Did the governor of the state promise an investigation?
 Of course, that is considered the usual thing to do.

Does anyone expect anything to come of this?
 Ha, ha, ha!

Note to Wally
 (Montgomery Advertiser)
 If it's all the same to Wally, we don't like that turned-back hat he was wearing when he posed for that picture that The Advertiser printed yesterday. It's goofy. A turned-down hat would be more becoming to her.

The Give-Away
 (Richmond Times-Dispatch)
 The nationality of that private who was affirmed, but we understand the crew liked to sing, "To be or not to be, and a bottle of chloroform."