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And Evening Chronicle

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1942

How The Japs Won

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON. JAP success in the "impenetrable" jungles of Malaya is hard to understand. Their tactics have contributed nothing new to warfare. No new weapons have been unveiled.

To get a notion of what happened, one must turn to the jungle. The jungle is a place where the victor is not always the strongest.

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Two Schools Of Criticism

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK. THE war is developing two types of critics, and it is important that the public learn to distinguish between them. The one type directs all criticism, however sharp, to the business of making war. The other type directs all criticism to the business of making peace.

The other type of criticism is a mask for denouncing the war itself, for denouncing the President, for denouncing the British, for denouncing the Japanese, for denouncing the American people.

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Be Wary Of Lewis

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON. PEACE between the AFL and the CIO has been widely desired. But the offer by John L. Lewis to begin it is a move that is arousing much suspicion.

Most of the interest in the Lewis move is in the fact that Lewis is trying to get out of it. His sudden interest in labor peace is a move that is arousing much suspicion.

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Just Desserts

Seditious Pelley Gets Prison Term He Deserved

William Dudley Pelley got what was coming to him. In Asheville this week Judge Don Phillips sentenced him to serve from two to three years in prison.

He was convicted of making false and libelous statements about several persons, including the President of the United States, of advertising fraudulently, of being in contempt of court, and of one or two other pieces of misbehavior.

We have the findings of the court to substantiate his overt actions in the above violations. But beyond that, it becomes more certain with every passing day that this man who chose to use his tongue to make his headquarters in North Carolina is a seditious and a traitor.

Tangible evidence of his conspiracy may be lacking, but Pelley stands indicted by his own words.

Reprinted on this page is an excerpt from the fortnightly bulletin *The Hour*, a publication which keeps its eye on men and events that are making headlines in the North Carolina. It is a seditious and a traitor.

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Solidarity

Prato, Change!—and Argentina's on Our Side

Three days ago the President of Argentina declared that under no circumstances would his nation enter a state of "belligerence" against the Axis.

The implication was that Argentine neutrality would be preserved independently, regardless of what other American nations did. It was a denial of any intention of breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, Japan or Italy.

Yet today we learn that Western Hemisphere solidarity has been achieved. Not only Argentina, but reluctant Chile has joined in an agreement to break with the Axis.

It was, as Raymond Clapper pointed out a few days ago, a matter of heart. If Argentina's heart were in the right place, the declarations of her diplomats would make little difference at the Rio conference. If, on the other hand, her rulers were sympathetic toward the Axis, any pledges of solidarity that she might make were worthless.

Newspaper reporters in South America have attempted to differentiate between the sentiment of the Argentine people and the hacendado aristocrats who seem to be the real rulers of the country. The people, they say, favor full co-operation with the other nations in breaking with the Axis. But the rich landowners seemed to be reluctant to make such a move until they were assured that the Axis would be defeated.

Perhaps the indefatigable Foreign Minister Arana of Brazil and our Mr. Sumner Welles were able to convince the Argentine representative that Germany and Japan would be defeated. But it stands to reason that the ruling caste of Argentina has not been persuaded.

Whatever the consequences of Argentina's sudden surrender to hemisphere solidarity, she will never be one of us until her heart is in the battle against tyranny.

Wastefulness

It Is Time the County Went After Its Bad Debt

If the citizens of this community look on their local governments as corporations in which they are stockholders, it might not be a bad idea for them to call a stockholders' meeting and inquire into the accumulation of bad debts and accounts which both the City and County have on their books. There is a great deal of money represented in these items, some of which is uncollectible, much of which is in arrears so small that it is hardly worth the trouble and expense of collecting, and all of which is getting less collectible day by day.

The County is a worse offender, proportionately, than the City, and inasmuch as the County's figures as of Dec. 31 are at hand, they will suffice for the purpose of showing the extent to which taxpayers have been allowed to fall behind.

The total of uncollected County taxes at that time, exclusive of taxes for the current fiscal year, was \$22,728. More than half of this sum represented unpaid taxes for 1937 and prior years, a good third of it for 1934 and prior years.

When a debt gets to be eight years old and older, chances of collection are slim. For taxes on real estate, the County holds, to be sure, some security in the form of a lien, but failure to force the payment of taxes (and interest) over a period of years will certainly lead to many instances where the debt far exceeds the security.

What's worse, a large part (about 45 per cent) of the County's uncollected accounts arose from personal property taxes, and is therefore unsecured. The mere record-keeping of these thousands of small accounts for all the years gone by is in itself a considerable task. The collection of them would be a project of the first magnitude.

The Public Work has been concerning itself with unpaid taxes, but so far has got nowhere with the County Commission. Nevertheless, the amount of the delinquency calls for action in the interest of those taxpayers who are still marching down to the Courthouse and forking over their money. It is time for such action to be taken.

Cole Blease

South Carolina Loses a Product of Reconstruction

Cole Blease of South Carolina was old enough to remember Reconstruction. His formative years were spent during a time when, as William Ball of Charleston wrote:

"Government, protected by imported soldiers, was in the hands of a few hundred or a thousand predatory white scoundrels marauding and using a horde of ignorant, childlike, docile blacks to loot a people conceiving from ignorance, so blind, so groggy, so menacing that the white people finally revolted and fought."

Cole Blease was too young to resist or join in the revolution. But the events of those early years marked him; indeed it might almost be said that he was their product.

That, we believe, is the key to Cole Blease's personality and career. He made no pretense at statesmanship; he saw how political power was to be had and he contrived to seize it. When he stood before a gathering of South Carolina farmers, he discarded the cultured accents of a college-educated lawyer and talked their own language. Perhaps he waved the blood-stained flag of the "modern" Southerners would say he appealed to race prejudices. But remember that Cole Blease was a man asking for the support of a people still suffering from the consequences of military defeat and the loss of a "home" of occupation. Such a speaker cannot always refrain from voicing the sentiment of his audience, even if he does not share it.

Call him a demagogue, then. But give him his dues; admit that he was the first of his breed in the South. Cole Blease gave pardons to 3,000 poor whites and Negroes while he was governor; the Talmadge machine in Georgia put its persons on sale. Cole Blease was never accused of stealing money from the State; Huey Long and his fellow gangster looted Louisiana millions.

The trouble with Cole Blease was, he didn't know when he was licked. After serving two terms as governor (ending in 1915) and a six-year term in the U. S. Senate (1915-21), he kept right on running. The newspapers began to call him a "perennial candidate" and referred to him as the "perennial loser" in the "one-time stormy petrel of South Carolina politics." Even so, he gave Olin Johnson a narrow squeak in the 1934 race for governor. Burnet Maybank defeated him soundly four years ago. But who can say the loss of the gubernatorial would not have found him running against the field, predicting confidently in every speech that he would return to the State House in Columbia?

This week death came to Cole Blease, a product of Reconstruction. And when South Carolina voters go to the polls this Summer one name will be conspicuous by its absence.

Until Adolf called them all fanatics, we had thought of the mad Russian as someone who met the terrible Turk in the feature sketch on the wrestling card.

Pelley Speaks For Japan

The Hour

Silver Shifter William Dudley Pelley, whose connections with the Japanese Government were revealed in *The Hour* on Dec. 7, 1940, is currently publishing a new magazine, *The Hour*, which is a product of the United States and Great Britain, and proclaims the inevitable victory of the Axis.

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