THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.
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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1937 ●

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 6, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month, 87 cents; three months, $2.50; six months, $5.00; one year, $10.00.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1942

CCC Camps

Why Not Use Them For Training Troops?

Scattered across the United States are hundreds of Civilian Conservation Corps camps. When enrollment was at its peak a few years ago, these camps housed some 300,000 men. Since then some of the camps have been boarded up, some have been converted into private tourist resorts. A good many are still operating. If it is soldiers we need, and if one trained soldier this year is worth five in 1943, these CCC camps could easily be converted for use as troop conditioning centers. The barracks are there, the mess halls and, in most instances, adequate drill grounds. Moreover, they are located for the most part in healthful areas.

Since this is a time of great conversions—of shifting whole industries to war production—it would be negligent to fail to use these facilities. Millions of dollars are being spent hastily, in many instances wastefully, for the construction of new Army camps. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers are living in tents.

It is certainly not too much to ask that a non-war agency like CCC suspend its operations for the duration and move out to make way for the men we are counting on to save the Republic.

Exemption

Administration Puts Wages in Class 5-D of Price Control

It would be a dirty trick on the farmers, now that Price Administrator Leon Henderson and Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard have got together in agreement that farm prices shall not run away with the cost of living, if wages too were not held in bounds. Resolution seems to be implied in Henderson's recommendation to the National War Labor Board that it rule against the demands of the unions for general, substantial wage increases, but resolution is not enough. Wages do not come under price control.

The Price Administrator's arguments against wage increases are (1) that they will increase the danger of inflation, (2) that industry cannot absorb greater costs, and (3) that further increases would penalize consumers, especially low-income groups, by making higher prices unavoidable.

His case is a good one. Unfortunately, however, despite the critical importance of preventing inflation and higher prices, it is backed up with no authority in law. And labor is no commodity whose price may be controlled, as in the case of many farm products, by dumping surpluses on the market. There is no surplus of labor. To the contrary, there is an acute shortage in prospect for the production of war goods.

Plainly, then, both the Government and the people are, as matters stand, at the mercy of the unions. Wages alone, of all the factors which enter into price control, are without the law. Plainly, the only certain protection is to bring wages within the law.

This the Administration could do in a jiffy, if only it wanted to, and it may yet have to. There is strong sentiment in Congress for such legislation, but the Administration, clinging to its pre-war fancy of encouraging unionism as an instrument of Federal policy, shys away.

Double Cross

You Can't Do Business With Hitler—Or Hitler's Vichy

It now seems fairly certain that Vichy France has been sending supplies of food, if not transshipped American oil, to Nazi General Rommel in Africa. Admiral Darlan is suspected of ordering the shipments, probably without the knowledge or consent of Marshal Petain. However done, it was a deliberate and flagrant violation of the agreement between Vichy and the United States. We had persuaded Britain to relax her blockade of North Africa so we could send food, oil, motor trucks and other supplies to the French colony. We did so upon the positive assurance that these cargoes would not find the way into Nazi hands.

There is now reason to believe that at least a portion of Rommel's army attacking Egypt is eating American food, riding in American trucks burning American gasoline. No wonder the British are upset.

(No more upset than we Americans should be, however, after the report that the occupants of one of those two-man Jap submarines that attacked Pearl Harbor had supplies of fresh bread aboard—bread purchased a few days before in Honolulu.)

It should also be remembered that the regime our State Government recognizes as the legal government of France is the same Vichy that supinely handed over Indo China to the Japs for "protection" and thereby opened the back door to Singapore.

Does Mr. Roosevelt or Cordell Hull or Sumner Welles honestly believe that Hitler would allow Vichy to continue relations with this country for one moment after there was no percentage for him in such an arrangement? It must be to Hitler's advantage that we scorn Free France and recognize Vichy, or Vichy itself would break with us.

How much longer are we going to try to do business with Hitler—even by way of Vichy?

Epitaph

Are We Too Civilized To Wage War Ruthlessly?

Singapore's epitaph already has been written. Yates McDaniel, AP reporter, set it down as he looked out of his window this week:

- *"Along main roads . . . motor cars, trollays, and rickshaws were carrying people home after the day's work.*

"In front of the famous Raffles Hotel, cars were depositing patrons of the daily tea dance and outside the movie house immediately below people were lining up at the box office to see Josh McCrea and Ellen Drew in 'Reaching for the Sun'."

That was Singapore on Tuesday—at the height of the battle for the city. About to fall was the greatest blow against western civilization in almost a thousand years. There had been nothing to compare with it since the thirteenth century, when Ogdai, son of Genghis Khan, led his savage little horsemen through Hungary to the very banks of the Danube.

Yet the fine ladies of Singapore and their mincing escorts (forgive them, citizens of Odessa) had nothing better to do than to attend the afternoon tea dance. And their bourgeois counterparts stood in line to get movie seats.

(Great God, was there no work to be done, no barricades to be built, no children to be comforted? Were there not enough grenades, enough rifles to go around? What manner of men were these, who saw with their own eyes the Jap dive bombers planning again and again on the defending positions—and who went to a tea dance, or the movies?)

It occurs to us that perhaps this war is too ruthless for "civilized" peoples. Every one of us who is lined up against the new tyranny had better search his mind about that. Whether we are going to fight this war with reservations and allowances—at our convenience—or whether we are going to win it by fighting it as ruthlessly and as furiously as our enemies. The decision is with the President and his subordinates and with each and every citizen.

Up to now we have barely started fighting. After more than two years of increasing belligerency and two months of actual war, our actual war effort is 10 per cent done and 90 per cent talking. We are told that conversion to war production is necessarily a gradual process. We are told to be patient, calm, optimistic, careful not to give away any military secrets.

It was apathetic patience and a false sense of security that contributed much to the defeat of France. It can lose the war for us, too. This is no time for patience or blind optimism. It is a time for speedy production and bold, aggressive fighting. Make-shift, emergency production. Fighting in the manner of MacArthur. Our existence as a free nation is at stake. We not only could lose this war—we are losing it.

Little is said in news from Norway on the nature of Quisling's illness. However, the fellow has to live with himself, and may have become infected.

From his warm reception at the hands of the brave Far Eastern Dutch, the Jap learns the meaning of the Dutch treat. You help yourself, but you pay.

To conserve rubber, New York fire chiefs will hereafter put their cars up and ride on the trucks, if La Guardia will move over.

Dark War Outlook

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON.

NO war authority here is trying to conceal his pessimism at the turn of affairs in the Far East. No official effort is being made to belittle the facts or smooth them over with self-beguiling expectations.

The swift surprise visit of General Wavell to the Moulmein battlefront furnished an indication of what may come next. The Japs have the troops and opportunity to focus their main attack, after Singapore, upon the artery of our aid to China, the Burma Road. On the Saiween River front they are only about 150 miles away.

DACCA ROAD IS UNCERTAIN ARTERY

There is another road in China for us from Dacca, India, near Calcutta, but its condition is uncertain. The most recent evidence indicates it is still merely in a proposed state. Certainly it is unfinished. If the Chinese must rely on it to any great extent for supplies from the outside world, their ability to continue forceful resistance to the Japs will immediately be called into question.

Some are finding consolation in the question of what the Japs now are going to do for the long run with their conquered territory. It is true Japan is not going to be able to sell any of her newly acquired oil, tin or rubber to the outside world, that she cannot reach her Axis partner as long as the United Nations are in control of the sea outside the Far Eastern area. Also she is short of the basic war material, iron.

JAPAN GOT NO INDUSTRIAL WINDFALLS

But Japan is operating on a war economy which does not depend on trade for the time being. She can get some item, possibly enough for a while, from Manchuria, and there is a little on Luzon Island in the Philippines which might be developed. Rice, her base food, is available in Indo-China.

From the standpoint of permanency, Japan's economic position is impossible, but from the standpoint of getting raw materials to sustain her war effort, her position is largely one of organizing facilities.

The one valid ray in the picture is that in the region she has acquired there is not an airplane, a munitions or a shipbuilding factory. She has not enjoyed the easy pickings of finished war materials that Hitler enjoyed in Europe. She will have to roll her own.

It Was Sabotage

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

FROM 1933 to 1939, three French liners caught fire in their various docks and harbors. All these catastrophes were suspected as sabotage. Now the Normandie, as I write these lines, is burning. And this is almost certainly sabotage however much the authorities choose to play it down. Victims in the Roosevelt hospital are convinced it was. They said, fires broke out all over the place at one time. They also testify that inspection has been casual—that no one on the ship had been searched for that which he might have been bringing on board in his pockets and that numerous workmen of German and Italian origin have been employed. Furthermore, this will be one of many acts to come, unless I greatly misunderstand the situation in this country.

WITCH HUNTING WOULD NOT HELP US

The Department of Justice is headed by an enlightened and humane man. Mr. Francis Biddle, who certainly wishes to avoid witch-hunting and hysterical persecutions. In this we are all to be congratulated, for hysterical persecution will get us nowhere and, indeed, spoil our cause. We do not wish to turn Nazi in order to defeat the Axis. But we have a specific problem on our hands. There are specific groups who are not quite as trustworthy as rattlesnakes. And loving kindness will not convert them.

This column was warned over a month ago, on Jan. 14 to be exact, by a member of one of the unions working on the Normandie that shenanigans were going on on that ship. I advised my informant to turn his information over to the FBI, which he told me he had done.

Whether Americans know it fully or not, this is the most critical year in our entire history, and before next Summer we may know whether the United States is still a great world power or a cowering island outflanked in two oceans, and with exultant enemies right here on our soil.

Senator Soaper Says:

A number of islands in the South Pacific are known periodically to disappear, which at a time like this would be very intelligent of them.

The question of how to spot the fifth columnist becomes simpler all the while. He is now leaving sugar in the bottom of his cup.

Part of the Fifth-Column Job

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

"Injustice . . . Being Done"

Editors, THE NEWS:

I am writing in behalf of our good doctors and all employees of the State Hospital at Morganton.

I have been a patient here at the State Hospital at Morganton for most two years and under constant care of Dr. Saunders for over eighteen months. I have been in the hospital ward where he has charge and there have been some very sick patients on this ward. I have seen him work unceasingly with them to get them well. The weather never gets too bad and he never gets too tired to see his patients and administer to them what they need. He is very kind to the patients and treats them all alike. I have been in different hospitals and under different doctors and I can't recall one that could do better, if as well, as Dr. Saunders.

The whole staff of doctors here is very good. I know more of Dr. Saunders and Dr. Brown than I do of the others. Whoever says Dr. Saunders is not popular with the employees and patients just doesn't know, for he is popular with both and I don't think we could ask for better doctors, supervisors, nurses and attendants than we have here at the State Hospital at Morganton.

I have never seen a patient mistreated in any way since I have been here and I don't like to see or hear of the injustice that is being done our doctors, especially Dr. Saunders.

I will say in conclusion there could be and there would be, if they had the means, some improvement in the food line. But I think they are doing the very best they can on what they have to do with and will further say if people don't like what is being done for their people here, why don't they keep them at home?

LEONA DILLON

State Hospital
Morganton.

Sees Danger in Pasteurized Milk

Editors, THE NEWS:

If it is worth saying it is worth printing, and if it is worth printing once it is worth printing twice. I, you will then know that your desire is not to help Uncle Sam with a future large army, nor a normal one. Our State Hospitals, as well as private ones, are full of abnormal people. Not more than three per cent of all such people are in hospitals. Firstly, they do not all need to be in hospitals. Secondly, they usually drift off to the big cities where they can have plenty of like company. I could give you some rather startling figures on New York City where all milk has been pasteurized for years. Take a slow walk down Broadway some warm Summer night, and you will need no figures.

DAN HOOD

Matthews.

(Inclosure)

Monrovia, Calif., Aug. 31.—(AP)—Dr. Francis M. Pottenger Jr., physician and son of a former American College of Medicine president, declares that the human race is sterilizing itself by sterilizing more and more of its food, milk and water.

"It is a fact," he says, writing in a California and Western Medicine, "that there is a marked diminution of sex characteristics with an approach already toward sexual neutrality."

He frowns upon the tall youngmen and women of today, saying they may run faster for a short distance, but they lack endurance, solid strength and vitality.

Dr. Pottenger said he would like to see more American soldiers with heavier, if shorter, bones and with larger heads and broader jaws. Experimenting with cats, he found that those fed cooked meat developed much longer but weaker bones.

None of the third generation kittens of the cooked meat eaters lived longer than six months. Some of the cats became sterile after but two generations on cooked food diet.

"In attempting to protect the race from bacteria by sterilizing food we have also made the food incapable of producing healthy physiologic activity," he said.

"All life comes from other life and no life is more adequate and vital than the life on which it feeds or from whence it comes."

Dr. Pottenger feeds his patients, children particularly, large amounts of meats, with attention to glandular meats, especially liver, adrenals, sweetbreads, tripe, heart, kidney and brains.

A tablespoon of raw liver is given in a seasoned tomato juice cocktail twice a week. Young children, he finds, like raw meat, especially raw ground meat.

He uses raw milk from cows on green pasture, unpasteurized butter and only fertile eggs.

Twice a day there is a green salad of raw, leafy vegetables, including bean sprouts.

Dr. Pottenger said he does not expect the sterilization to come as rapidly among human beings as rats, but in reports to medical journals he notes that the cases of tardy sex development in boys appear in have increased since the World War.

Dangerous Way To Jack Up Car

Editors, THE NEWS:

I saw this picture in your paper today. (Note: Readers will recall picture of two Charlotte sisters and their jacked-up coupe after one of the tires had been stolen.—Editors, THE NEWS). There is nothing wrong with the picture; it is a beautiful picture of girls and a car.

I am not criticizing anyone for what they have done, but I do say this way of jacking up a car is wrong, and at the same time very dangerous, especially for the kids that may play nearby. The theft of tires will be nothing compared with the little life of some child.

So let us try and do things the safest way.

This is a Marine giving this warning. Let us play safe; we can win this war better.

Once a Marine, always one. I was in the Marine Expeditionary Forces in Nicaragua in 1928-29.

I have been out twelve years, but the Marines don't out of me, and won't ever be. I want to avenge my pals at Wake Island yet.

—W. F. ABEE.

Belmont.

The Sheriff Marked 'Em "P-a-d-e"

David Sink in
Lexington Dispatch

The late Sheriff P. Dave Leonard once receipted a bill, marking it "Pade" and signing his name thereto. "Why, Sheriff," remonstrated the late Lawyer Emory Raper, who looked after a lot of legal business for the County official, "you know better than that. You know that 'pa-a-de' doesn't spell 'paid'." "Well," was Mr. Leonard's reply, "if 'pa-a-de' don't spell 'paid', what in hell does it spell?"

You had him there, Sheriff.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

The divine heart understands and sympathizes with us: *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.—Hebrews 4:15.*

Side Glances

"You're the prettiest, so when we start our war I'll be the general and you can be the spy!"

Don't Let It Get Us Down

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

MANY letters and telegrams reflect the discouragement of this one from a Southern city:

"Please advise me if I should keep on buying defense stamps. I am a colored orphan girl sixteen years. I work after school and buy 50 cents in stamps each week. That is so hard for me. Is it true that Mrs. Roosevelt is giving our money away for foolishness?"

Here is a telegram from the Middle West that answers the main question of this bewildered girl:

"Volunteer loyal Americans giving their time and money in teaching first aid, home nursing and like civil defense projects resent the high salaries paid to Eleanor's friends. Volunteers won't strike because the job must be done."

WE MUST GO RIGHT ON

To stop buying bonds or stamps, or to stop volunteer civilian defense work through disgust with what may have happened here, would be to do the country serious harm. We would be hurting ourselves.

We must go right on. And we must go harder, because the war is going against us in the Pacific and we are suffering serious losses of ships in the Atlantic from submarines off our coasts. We are fighting a defensive war in both directions.

More effort is needed. More defense bonds and stamps must be bought. Our effort must be pushed with everything we have.

Loyal Americans won't go on strike. They will do just the reverse. They also will hope that the conditions at the Office of Civilian Defense which have so shaken public morale will be corrected soon so that they can have more confidence in the direction at the top.

That it will be corrected seems to be open to some question. Mrs. Roosevelt's dancer protege, who was put on the OCD payroll at $4,600 a year to encourage rhythmic dancing among children, says she is going to stick. Mrs. Roosevelt herself says whether she remains or not will be up to whoever succeeds Mayor La Guardia as director of OCD. Can you imagine any director of OCD firing Mrs. Roosevelt? There you get at the heart of the situation. She is a subordinate employee of OCD. But she is the wife of the President of the United States. The boss of OCD obviously is the lady under Mrs. Roosevelt's hat, no matter who holds the title.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR MRS. ROOSEVELT—NOT IN OCD

There is, as there has been in the past, a wide and useful field for Mrs. Roosevelt outside of direct Governmental activities. She has done a vast amount of good and can continue to do so, going about the country, turning public attention to conditions that need it.

But it should be obvious to anyone now that public sentiment is bitterly resentful of petticoat government such as has prevailed at OCD. Telegrams and letters show plainly how this situation has shaken the confidence of many people who are working earnestly to do their part in helping the national effort.

The essential facts are that Mrs. Roosevelt has exerted her influence in OCD and that a number of her personal favorites are there in OCD. These are the facts that are being so widely resented, to the point of damaging public morale. The way to cure the situation is not to suppress the facts but to remove the causes.

Checking Up On Bossy

The California Dairyman

A Cornell University student recently used his stop watch to observe a small herd of beef cattle through a 24-hour period. In this way he learned that a cow grazes about eight hours, spends some twelve lying down and loafs the remaining four hours. He also noted that the average grazing speed is from 50 to 70 bites, but that the top speed is 90 bites a minute.

Visitin' Around

All Present and Accounted For But Two

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. David Wright, son of the late C. C. Wright, is in a camp in Georgia; of the other three brothers, Mr. Carr Wright, continues his teaching in the teachers training school at Boone.

Aw Come On, Will, Tell Us Her Name

(Gonzo Ridge Item, Morganton News-Herald)

Wilbur Franklin of Boone and a friend spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Salem Franklin.