

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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MONDAY, MAY 11, 1932

Party Formula

How To Be a Democrat In Three Easy Lessons

Being a good Democrat, you went, of course, to your precinct meeting Saturday. No? You should have gone, especially because you've been complaining recently that the party was getting out of hand. And the only way to shape up your notion is to be a part of it, and the only way to be a part of it is to become one of the boys in the wards.

Sure, we know that these precinct meetings are cut and dried affairs, purely routine. But they represent, after all, the backbone of Democratic organization. And if you had gone to the precinct meeting Saturday, you would have been named (*en masse*) a delegate to the County Democratic Convention which holds itself at the Courthouse this Saturday at 10 A. M. And by going to the County Convention, you would have heard a resolution offered and adopted to declare all Mecklenburg Democrats in good and regular standing delegates to the State Democratic Convention in Raleigh later this month, and so might have found yourself peculiarly qualified to attend and let your voice be heard. You might even have got on a committee.

But not having gone to your precinct meeting, it stands to reason that you won't go to the conventions. As a consequence, all that is left to you is the privilege of voting for men and measures which the party proprietors submit.

It's a rigamarole, sure, but so is all organization. And if you want to be a captain, you've got to serve as a private in the rear ranks to start with.

Masks Come Out

British Anner Nazi Gas Threat With Calm Caution

As late as yesterday morning, a visitor in London would have had to look long and hard before he could find a civilian carrying his gas mask. That was before Churchill spoke. Today the masks are coming out again. The people of Britain, who grew weary of juggling the little gaspaks about during 32 months of gas-free warfare, are dusting off their respirators because they believe that in his last desperate effort to win a quick victory, Hitler will stop at nothing.

Just what Hitler plans is hard to guess. The Russians declare officially that he has already used poison gas mines on an experimental scale in the Crimea. There are reports from Sweden that he has used gas tanks loaded with liquified poison gas have been seen on their way from Germany to the Russian front.

There remains the possibility that Hitler set out to start a "gas scare" as a sort of bluff. He may have believed that the British would be more receptive to his forthcoming peace offensive if he hinted that the alternative would be wholesale gas attacks on Britain.

If that was his game, he now knows the stakes. Churchill promises that gas will be answered with gas. Thus there is a mighty air fleet waiting to make good on that promise. For the moment, at least, the British are in a better position to broadcast it than the Germans. And unless the Russian front is completely broken, this relative air superiority should increase with each passing week.

And the British people have answered Hitler, too. Quietly, with that calm resolution which the dictator has never been able to understand, they have strapped on their masks again. And they didn't have to be told.

Recollection

Not All the Arguments Are For a Five-Man Council

Agitation for a change in the number of seats on Charlotte's City Council usually pops up when there is general dissatisfaction with the Councilmen themselves, not merely with the count of noses. At the moment we detect no sign of such dissatisfaction among the people of the city at large, but we can well believe Dick Young's prognosis that a move may develop in the Legislature to revise the City Charter once more and cut the eleven places on the Council to five.

Legislators from Mecklenburg County are invariably liable to be tied and true Democrats, and it is entirely likely

that, while they as neighbors approve of the present Council, as politicians they resent "those dratted Republicans" among the Iron Dukes.

On the basis of merit alone, the five-man Council has its decided purpose. The present method of electing Councilmen is cumbersome, often eliminates superior candidates, and requires so many citizens who are willing to make the sacrifice that it is difficult to get out a slate. And as for the virtue of representation by wards, it is a fallacy. Ask any citizen of no great political interest the name of a Councilman from his ward, and the chances are that he cannot even tell you what ward he himself resides in.

There is, however, a caution that should be uttered. When State Senator James A. Bell took it into his hands to change the number and the method of electing Councilmen, what urged him was a tight little split in the five-man Council of that time. The inevitable division, upon all matters ranging from the Blue Laws to budgets was there to be seen. It was a government of three individuals, and there was a good deal of wrangling, too, all the more personal in its nature because it was confined among fewer persons. Those days of five-man Councils reminds us that there is, after all, something to be said for numbers.

There is a secondary cause, incidentally, for which "excess income" can be spent. The President moved recently at this contributing factor with the new Henderson price ceiling and a promise of increased rationing.

But the price ceiling will not recapture the money. It will still remain in circulation seeking other outlets. It will still exist as a monthly tax on the consumer.

Perhaps the fault can better be described by citing the plans which the President has announced. He did not propose broadening the income tax base further. He also did not propose generalizing the existing surtaxes which would be generalized impositions on all groups and not specifically on those who have the excess money.

He chose a method the British are now putting into effect—a 2-3 per cent tax on luxuries such as furs, jewelry, etc.

He also discarded one specific reason. He did not want to increase the 40-hour work week as a basis for pay to work workers. Substituting a 40-hour week for their income—the very income which is causing most of the war. Now, contrary to what you might think, a 40-hour week would in effect be an excess profits tax on labor, not nearly as onerous as the excess profits tax on industry.

In The News

A Tar Heel Born Giver The State Another "First"

A plurality of the most essential airplane instruments (including bomb sights and robot pilots) are manufactured by the Sperry Corporation. When the Government embarked on the vast expansion of plane production, Army and Navy contracts were piled on Sperry so fast that it became impossible for the company to make any accurate cost estimates. No American concern had ever done what Sperry was being asked to do. There was no reliable yardstick.

To the Government's question of "how much?" Sperry might have set an outside price on its product, naming a figure that would have assured the company a fat profit.

Instead, the company said to heck with the money. They'd talk about that later. The important thing was to get the critical instruments in production.

Okay, the Government said, if you trust us, we'll trust you.

So Sperry rolled up its sleeves and went to work. As production got underway, cost estimating became easier and the company set a tentative price which was far lower than the Government had expected. But that wasn't all. A few days ago Sperry notified the Government that it was returning the sum of \$100,000 "too much profit." Mass production had cut costs below earlier estimates.

The man who had been talking for Sperry was the company's president, T. A. Morgan. His behavior in this instance is typical of this man who was born on a farm near Henderson, N. C., and by a genius for machinery and hard work became what Fortune magazine calls "one of the nation's greatest human engineers."

Alongside Tom Morgan, Horatio Alger's heroes would be pikers. He began his career 40 years ago as a Navy recruit. Today he heads the Sperry Corporation and is chairman of the board for Pan-American Airways. From Sperry in 1941 he drew a salary of \$181,420.

All of this has not turned his head away from North Carolina. He spends every available week-end in his solidly comfortable cabin near Henderson. His son, Tom Jr., has been graduated from the University of North Carolina and is now living on the modest salary of a newspaper reporter in Mount Airy. And T. A. M. himself is reported to have said on several occasions that the only thing he dislikes about his work is that it keeps him away from home so much.

North Carolina is proud to be home to a man like T. A. M. He's given the state another "first." We think we can say without fear of contradiction that the first man to give the Government \$100,000 to keep from losing "too much profit" was a Tar Heel born and a Tar Heel bred.

Gas rationing is impossible. If the Government is not careful, the rationing is likely to prove a failure.

Just as much gas, as well as other necessities, might be saved by rationing. The rationing theory entirely and devoted itself strictly to outlawing pleasure driving and night work on Sundays without a business necessity permit.

BRITISH OFFERED INDIANS INDEPENDENCE IN 1917

A debate in the House of Commons, June 10, 1917, promised "increasing the association of Indians in every branch of administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realization of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire."

This was accepted without contradiction at the time as an offer of Dominion status after the World War.

Happy Birthday Purred To Youse

The New Yorker

There's a married couple whose birthday fall on the same date, they naturally celebrate pretty lavishly. Just before their birthday, the lady slipped in at her neighborhood bakeshop and ordered a cake with "Happy Birthdays" on it. You see, two of us are having a birthday," she explained to the clerk. "So I want to say 'Happy Birthdays' to both of us." The clerk wrote the instructions down carefully, and sure enough when the cake was delivered, it had "Happy Birthdays Plural" on it.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

We must live in the spirit of Christ, our first goal in life: Thou shalt love one of the things that be of God, but of those that be of men—Matt. 16:23.

Weak Curb On Prices

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

The President said he is spending \$100,000,000 a day, will spend \$200,000,000 daily before the end of the year and that this sum will cause inflation unless he acts.

Yet, only two steps in his plan are directed toward the cause, he wants to draw back an indefinite sum by having war workers (who are getting most of it) buy bonds voluntarily.

A confederacy excess profits tax on corporations, such as he mentioned would recapture some.

But these two methods will not recapture more than a small fraction of \$100,000,000 or \$200,000,000 a day. Average daily sales the first twenty-seven days of April amounted to \$17,000,000. The July goal is \$32,000,000. Daily excess profits tax income cannot be calculated, but it will not raise much.

SUCCESS OF INFLATION CURB IS DOUBTFUL

Thus when the plan goes into effect, the great bulk of the money will remain outstanding, mainly in the hands of war workers and corporations. That is why so many economic authorities outside the Government doubt that Mr. Roosevelt's course can be successful in curbing the inflation evil he sees.

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GAS RATIONING HOWLS EXPECTED

Most worrisome thing to the Government is that it is expected that the rationing of gasoline will be the earliest possible moment for wartime use, and work goes on seven days a week. Undoubtedly there are TVA cars in use on Sunday in connection with these jobs.

As a matter of fact, the Authority has established rigid restrictions on the use of motor vehicles in order to conserve trucks and cars and their tires. For example, cars may be used between 6 and 8 A. M. and between 2 and 4 P. M. in the few instances of extreme emergency. A close check is maintained on all cars carried out to eliminate unnecessary use.

It is true, as the column states, that TVA burns a considerable amount of wood and timber, but only when it cannot be disposed of in some other manner. In its reservoir clearing operations, TVA first uses wood needed in its own operations, secondly, sells all merchantable timber, and thirdly, offers the balance free to anyone who will haul it away. Although some have been disposed of this way, those who might have used it from the reservoir areas would be more expensive than purchasing wood somewhere else. If none can

The Siren Waits Thee, Singing Song for Song—WALTER S. LANDOR



Letters to the Editors:

TVA Explains Scrap Policy

Editors, The News:

Some several weeks ago our attention was called to an article which was published in the News, and which since has apparently been widely distributed by various postholders in North Carolina. The article was principally to the effect that TVA had made scrap metal available to the Boy Scouts, but had, in fact, allowed it to be covered by water being backed up behind dams in the area. There is no truth in the reports, and in view of the fact that some persons seem to be persisting in spreading them, we thought it would be well to address you.

Even before the war it was the policy of the Authority to save all scrap from its construction jobs, and the policy has been followed even more stringently since the war commenced. In the construction of Chatauge, all scrap iron was gathered and hauled to Murphy, and some 60 tons were piled in the TVA yard there to be sold. D. C. Norris, assistant construction superintendent at Chatauge Project last December received a request for the scrap on behalf of the Boy Scouts, but their representative was informed that TVA could not give away the scrap, but would sell it since it was the policy to advertise and sell all scrap.

As for cars being in use on Sunday, all of the construction projects of the TVA, as you know, are on extremely tight emergency schedules, in order to provide power for the earliest possible moment for wartime use, and work goes on seven days a week. Undoubtedly there are TVA cars in use on Sunday in connection with these jobs.

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be found to haul it away when offered without charge, it usually is burned since it is timber which cannot be economically sold by TVA.

—MAURICE HENLE, Chief, Information Service Staff, Tennessee Valley Authority.

(NOTE: The article referred to contained in Raleigh and represented the opinion of officials there who should have been in position to know whereof they spoke. However, further investigation has shown us that TVA management in Western North Carolina is co-operating wholeheartedly in all salvage and conservation measures, and we are glad to add to this letter a note of explanation and apology for the original misstatements.—Editors, The News.)

Baruch's Plan for "Flexible Ceiling"

Editors, The News:

I appreciate the compliment paid me by your editorial of April 8th, headed "Canada's Plan."

It is true that I have been a front-rank crusader for nearly a quarter of a century in behalf of a thorough-going mobilization of the United States economy to obtain victory.

We need more editorial or articles of the sort you print. The more we emphasize the success that Canada has had, the greater we increase the demand in this country for a similar remedy. We must stop the on-rush towards ruinous inflation.

As you are aware, price control must be a part of industrial mobilization. The latter contemplates rationing of short supplies, control of producers and distributors, an effort to increase supply, finding substitutes, standardization and simplification. All of these must be in with a tax program which will establish, as far as possible, pay-as-you-go method of carrying on a war. Then, too, through a system of taxation, non-essential luxuries must be eliminated. We must be careful not to be too radical for we must not go to the point of stopping the flow of munitions or neglecting the needs of our civilian.

Remember, the price control ceiling which I have advocated does not mean freezing prices. The ceiling would not be a rigid one. It would be capable of adjustment to meet inequalities and remedy inequities. We must not crush labor or the farmer but they must be included if we are to succeed. If we maintain a low price struc-

ture, we cannot only win the war but as I have often remarked, survive the peace.

—BERNARD M. BARUCH, 307 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

"What Is the Negro Fighting For?"

Editors, The News:

Today this country is spending untold thousands in dollars and lives (many of them Negro) to insure the survival of democratic principles and ideals. Yes, it seems incredible, Union County, S. C., "Innocent" have taken steps to bar the Negro from voting within the state.

That action poses the question for the "ninth" time: What is the Negro fighting for? We are called to fight for the U. S. A., but what is our stake? Are we fighting to make it safe for the white man to take away our right to vote and discriminate against us, to intimidate us, to exploit us, to "keep the nigger in his place"? We would get that from Hitler without fighting.

Does the resolution of Union County have the approval of the people of the country? If the answer is no, let them be removed from their political jobs and denounced. If yes—well—as Patrick Henry would say: I know many other ways may have been as for me, to hell with the U. S. A. —LEANDER DERR, Box 311, Monroe.

The Wagnerian Aleutian Islands

Gilbert Grosvener in National Geographic

The Aleutian Islands, south and west of Alaska, where United States forces are being rushed to completion, extend within about 750 miles of Japan's northern islands.

The normal Great Circle steamer route between northwestern United States ports and Japan passes within 200 miles south of the long, curving chain.

Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island, the largest of the islands, lies between San Francisco and the same distance from Honolulu.

The Aleutians form a sort of "key" of United States territory, with volcanoes puffing steam rings, with chilled popping out of the sea and vaulting again, and with fog-shrouded, howling over grassy moors.

Largest is Unalaska Island, which measures 65 by 22 miles. Unimak also has the highest peak—the summit is 9,247 feet above sea level.

Most of the islands are bold and rocky. Not a tree grows in the group; native vegetation is limited to low-lying shrubs and grasses and flowering plants, however, and the Aleutians are an American operates a sheep ranch with 15,000 head.

Average annual temperatures are around 50 degrees Fahrenheit because of the warm Japan Current. The warm air from the Japan Current, mixing with the cold air from Bering Sea makes the Aleutians a "northern weather-kitchen" where storm clouds that affect the climate of the United States.

The Aleutians in the eastern Aleutians, across one's nostrils before it is seen; it has a big shadow, and vaulting again, and with fog-shrouded, howling over grassy moors.

Westward from Unimak Island lie the islands of the Four Mountains and the long, Andreanof Islands, which extend for 500 miles to Attu, western-most of the American Aleutians.

Side Glances



WNC's Flax Goes To Market

Tide

The Coast Paper Corp. in North Carolina, started less than five years ago by a wealthy French manufacturer, has raised its production of cigarette paper to the point where it can supply all the U. S. tobacco industry's needs, with some left over for export. Before the war, the U. S. imported most of its cigarette paper.

"My wife used to buy out a whole store in one afternoon before this 'carry your bundles and help national defense' idea came along."

The Perils Of Peace

By Herblock

WASHINGTON

WE have seen in the last few months how costly was our unpreparedness for war. We shall also find it costly if we are not prepared for the victory.

The victory is not here yet by a long shot, but it will come in time, and unless the United Nations are prepared for it we are likely to pay dearly. A victory that we are not prepared to handle will be victory that will quickly turn to ashes on a pyre of civil war, massacre and economic chaos the world over, and bitter disappointment that even in our own country might give rise to violent upheavals and peril to democratic government.

FAILURE TO CLARIFY OUR ENDS HAS FINGERED US

That is the danger that comes of our highest officials see and is prompting them, even in the midst of furious war preparations, to give thought to what must be done afterward. Some of them think it is important to face these questions now and to make more definite the purpose to which the United Nations intended to put the victory.

They see that our failure to do that has already had devastating effects in Asia. Cynical suspicion of our purposes have caused the Japanese forces. They have caused the Hindus to question our assistance to India, as possibly being for the purpose of holding them under an imperialistic yoke.

None of us has given sufficient thought to the damage that has been done to us in Asia by lack of clear war aims. The most aggressive and specific program for the post-war world has been that long advocated by Clarence Streit through his federal union plan.

"UNION NOW" HAS SILENT ON FAR EAST

But that program has been regarded as a very distant plan for an Anglo-American union. It has been silent regarding the place of China, India and other countries, lacking democratic government. Russia has become a major force in the United Nations but it has not been included hitherto in the federal union scheme because it was not a democracy.

That exclusive approach has been characteristic of much post-war thinking. We have tended to look at the future world as the pet oyster of America and Britain, plus such small democracies as manage to come out of the war, chiefly the Scandinavians.

Now, however, the federal union group has broadened its program. That change may be indicative of a general tendency to broaden the base of all post-war thinking. Certainly some of our high Government officials have broadened their eyes to reach out to all corners of the earth in trying to reconstruct a world community.

PLAN SUGGESTED FOR ALL-EMBRACING UNION

Federal Union now suggests a union that would embrace all people, not just those who have compelling national ties with us. Federal Union says the world needs an all-inclusive international in which the United States, Great Britain, China, Russia, India and other powers known as the United Nations should take the lead.

To argue that such an association be organized immediately, and that it should include in its membership as many countries as can be induced to join.

Such an organization already is in existence, the United Nations. The next step is to make the United Nations the living force in this. At the moment it is a skeleton, and is actually little more than a label for military alliances. It is giving no attention to post-war preparations.

UNITED NATIONS UNITY IS ONLY IN MILITARY TIES

Except in the military effort we are not the United Nations at all but are state powers each eyeing the other a little suspiciously, and wondering what the other will demand after the victory.

If the United Nations had made their purposes clear in a binding program, there could be no room for Indian independence leaders to accuse the United States of interfering to assist British imperialism. The cause of the United Nations would become infinitely stronger if it were made clear that the old nineteenth century world was considered dead, and that victory at all but at the cost of constructing a new era in which self-government and collective security would go hand in hand with the new economic opportunity.

The Gentle Hint (Walnut Items, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. David Thornburgh and family of Hixville, Tenn., have been visiting Mrs. Ellen Thornburgh over the week-end.

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