THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1942

Next Nazi Stop: England

War Correspondent Sees Eastern Threats As Red Herrings Across the Trail

At least one level-headed veteran foreign correspondent, Demaree Bess of *Saturday Evening Post*, insists that the world is looking in the wrong direction again. He suggests strongly that the Nazi menace is not directed toward the many fronts in the East, against Russia and Egypt, but against England herself. Reports that Hitler's crack shock troops are back in Europe, while older men push at Russia and only a few specialists bore at Egypt, seem to bear him out. In every Nazi drive of the past, Hitler has cleverly hidden his hand, made a threat in the opposite direction. We know that any conquests Germany is likely to make in Russia would not bring a decisive end to the war; neither would the grab of Suez. The only winning blow to be struck against the United Nations today, Bess concludes, is the invasion of England. There Hitler could knock out his only powerful European enemy, and eliminate the nearby springboard of a coming Anglo-American invasion.

In the conquered countries, the finest Nazi legions have been drilling for months on invasion tactics. Over 28,000 soldiers are known to be waiting their day. Troop transports have been the first concern of German-held aviation plants. The gray-green hordes are preparing for the biggest air-borne blow of all—and no other spot seems to fill the bill save England.

The coming of the long-dreaded thrust will find Britain as ready as she can be. The island bristles with guns, forts, armament of all types. Some three million men are under arms, waiting. They have waited through the world-wide disasters of the Empire, covering up the vital home front. There was room for criticism that countries were allowed to fall thus, but if and when invasion comes, England will thank its stars for caution.

Hitler, the theory goes, knows from his staff that if America is allowed to pile up arms and men in Britain for the next few months, a German defeat will surely follow. Sometime, and soon, he must strike to protect himself, to isolate Europe from the growing power of U. S. arms.

If Hitler comes the expedition will be the most terrible of all, aided by many a new weapon. But, even now, he must overcome considerable American help. If he is to strike he must strike soon, and upon that, not upon action in the East, will the fate of the world depend.

A-1 Foresight

With That Material Only, A Project Commends Itself

Before the City Council closes up its budget for the fiscal year which begins July 1, we should like to put in, once more, a word for progress. The times are not right, obviously, for public works necessitating construction materials. The city is going to have a time even patching its streets, much less building new ones. But there is no priority regulation to effect on foresight.

Here in Charlotte over the years since we grew out of the village class there has been built a city of some charm, considerable get-up-and-get and great prospects for the future. Aggressiveness and public-spiritedness have been responsible in large measure for its commercial attainments, but physically it has been allowed to develop haphazardly, without design and without foresight. We need a plan.

We need, specifically, to put into operation *now*, which is late already, a plan that will in time compensate for the past over-growth of the city and allow for growth in the future. There are several methods by which this may be done, the least expensive of which is the establishment of new building lines so that ultimately streets may be widened, and the opening on paper of new streets to serve whole areas which are now inaccessible.

That method will require, to begin with, the expenditure of little money and the use of no materials save blueprint paper and gray matter. It will not work any miracles overnight, but it will commence gradually to atone for lack of planning in the past and to assure some provision for the future.

The Currie Administration could make no greater contribution to progress than to put in motion, in the eleven months or so remaining of its term, the process by which the city could be unbound and grow up to its size.

A Blueprint For The South

Dr. Howard Odum Offers Dixie a Plan For Salvation—If She Will Listen

For more than 20 years one of the South's biggest, quietest men has been at hard labor in Chapel Hill, busy about the building of the Dixie of tomorrow. Dr. Howard Odum, a provincial model of seriously rumpled Wendell Willkie, has been limited in fame to sociologists and industrial thinkers of our region.

In the years to come he may well be known as the one man who saved the South from a sorry destiny, who hurried its day of real greatness. It was he, man who first said, after years of painstaking patient research, that the South lost almost as much of its income on farms (seven per cent) as on education; that the South was potentially the richest region in America.

Armed with a mountain of facts, he turned out his big book, *Southern Regions of The United States*, which outlined so sharply our problems of farm tenancy, poverty, hookworm, poor schools and money-cropping, that it has become a Bible to hundreds of thinking Southerners. To his disciples in many scattered professions who are helping him all over the South, he is one of the great men of our history, the first since Reconstruction to provide a Southern answer.

Dr. Odum looks upon the war as only an incident in the history of man, and believes that our victory will ultimately be won at home rather than with fancy plans for the salvation of the world. To him our soil, our neighbors, our native intelligence are the broad fields of tomorrow.

Aid To Goebbels

Senator Ellender Takes Up The Nazi Refrain

There isn't any gainsaying that in the popular mind of America the British enjoy today pathetically little military prestige. Repeated failures to hold, even to delay to any extent, have so depressed the man in the U. S. street that he is beginning to think and speak disparagingly of this allied nation. Even Winston Churchill does not engender the enthusiasm that greeted him on his last trip to these shores.

The Libyan rout is, in all truth, a ghastly development, and the battle for Egypt and Suez begins with precarious prospects for the success of the British stand. But it would be well for Americans individually and collectively to fortify themselves against any such disaster and to recognize that open derogation of the British ill serves our common cause. It more nearly aids the Nazis and precisely subscribes to the line of Dr. Goebbel's propaganda.

And if such giving way to contempt does not become the individual, how much less is it permissible in a Senator of the United States? Ellender of Louisiana is not, we concede, a Senator of such standing that he speaks for many more than himself alone, but his office assures some prominence to his words, and for him to say, as he did say this week, that he was "sick and tired" of seeing American material lost as it was at Tobruk, that he favored bringing our destroyers home to be used against "the unpardonable submarine menace," that he felt that the American people were "pretty tired of sending food and war weapons to England with an army of 4,000,000 (sic) men sitting at home on its haunches, doing nothing"—that kind of talk, messires, is nicely calculated to aid Hitler's policy of divide and conquer.

It can do no earthly good. It can do an immense amount of harm.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Go ahead and do your work, give idleness no excuse: *He that regardeth the wind shall not sow; and he that observeth the clouds shall not reap.—Eccles. 11:4.*

The Die Is Cast

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

PEOPLE may be disappointed if they try to read too much into the announcement that Maj.-Gen. Dwight Eisenhower has arrived in London to take command of the European theater for United States forces.

The move works toward the offensive in Europe that has been planned for some time. But to expect it to blossom into an all-out offensive overnight could only lead to disappointment. General Eisenhower's arrival in England does not mean that arrangements for an offensive are completed but on the contrary that the organization still is in its early stages. Work has been going on for a long time here. Forces and materials have been moving across for some time. The assignment of a commander marks another stage in the preparation.

Announcements made when our air officers were in England recently suggest that the air offensive will be opened first. British authorities have indicated that Commando operations will be increased as another preliminary phase of the offensive. American forces naturally would be expected to play an increasing part in these raids. It is possible they can be expanded to the point where they will open the way for later invasion operations. Presumably American and British forces would be made ready to take advantage of any opportunity which might appear unexpectedly from Commando activities.

But the heavy striking force that will be necessary unless air attack works a miracle must be much slower in building up. If air proves unable to smash Germany alone, then a heavy invasion attack will be necessary. Building up such a force is not an overnight job. Shipping must be available to supply the forces as they expand. Enormous reserves of tanks and other equipment must be on hand or their arrival in steady stream must be insured in advance. Our shipbuilding program ought to have a few months more to make sure that enough ships of the right types are on hand. We must be able to replace the heavy expenditure of material that would occur once fighting began on a large scale. All of that is in addition to the first task, which is the assembling and final training of sufficient numbers of troops.

What we see now is the result of past decisions and past planning. For some time military men have pointed toward action in Europe, and have hoped to be able to move forward to that end without having too much of American force scattered in other places.

City Hall Today:

Iron Dukes Lose Grip

By Dick Young

IN TIMES like these when Nazi hordes are thrusting deep into Egypt and the hard-pressed Russians are being still harder pressed my eyes turn constantly toward a card which was given to me by Printer Burton Smith and which hangs on the wall of my office. It's good philosophy for these days:

It's easy to smile,
When Life goes on the level;
But, it's easier still
To cuss like hell,
When everything goes to the devil.

I didn't recognize myself when I received a letter from Chester Nixon, whose salutation read: "To my friend, Dick Young, the most agonizingly sensitive yet brilliant, courageous columnist of Versatile Charlotte News writer at the City Hall." Now ain't that sumpin? After tossing a few bouquets my way, Brother Nixon hurls barbs at the Seven Iron Dukes and declares fallacious the premise that the Dukes will continue to wield the majority influence on the Council.

He asks, "Is it not a fact that the Four Blocks of Granite were vindicated in the last election? The Post Office bunch didn't lose a man although the voice and influence of Paul Younts were silenced and submerged in his patriotism for this country. The Seven Iron Dukes perhaps are the handwriting on the wall."

There are in the Charlotte school system, 30 buildings with a total of 538 rooms and a realty valuation of $3,683,633 . . . The City School Board was saved the annual obligation (now totaling $15,000 but increasing each year) of paying the Government's contribution for teacher retirement. The Supreme Court this week said such payment is the responsibility of the Municipal Government . . . Mrs. Lillian Holtzman, executive secretary, is under treatment for pleurisy at Presbyterian Hospital. Substituting for her is Mrs. Mary Cobb Hutchins.

Working on Him

—By Herblock

Platform Of The People

Weather Stocking Tales

NOTE TO READERS

Miss Ferguson, we think, has opened a season-long controversy. Do you think girls should be able to wear stockings to work—or allowed to save money and discomfort as they please? We welcome the signed letters of man or woman on the subject, for The Platform of The People.—Editors, The News.

Editors, THE NEWS:

It's time, I think, that we face the bare facts.

We've tortured every silk worm and shorn him of his last vestige of this year's product, we've blown coal dust into the last pair of nylon leg decorations, we've accepted grimly the announcement that cotton and rayon are here for the duration.

We have accepted, all right, but have you ever seen the expression on men's faces when a pair of cotton-adorned legs goes by?

Ribbing aside, I think someone should tell the employers of working girls how much it costs to keep them in stockings. I think they should know that, when they decree that their employees must wear stockings, they're taking away some of the freedom America is fighting for, speaking patriotically.

I should explain that I work for a firm which allows its girls, hundreds of them, to wear stockings, to go without stockings, to wear socks, to go without socks, to paint their legs if they like, anything for comfort and economy. My best friend works in a store where a girl was sent home recently for arriving at work, her legs neatly tanned but without benefit of covering.

It has my Irish up, to think that there are, still, men who want to continue business as usual. Her employer should know, if he is up on the business in his store, that stockings are harder to get now than a retread. Nice stockings, that is.

Do you know that, in one bottle or jar of stocking make-up (which costs $1) there are 30 pairs of stockings? Getting right down to it, a working girl can bathe one morning, smooth on a pair of the cream or liquid stockings, and wear them through the evening and until she bathes again, if she wears a pair of real stockings, she feels obliged to change every time she changes her dress.

At that, one bottle or jar would last over a month. Few pairs of stockings last longer than that.

And a pair of stockings, silk or nylon (if you can find them) costs not less than $1.75, some of them as much as $2.25. That's a nice-sized hunk from most girls' salaries.

Yet employers insist that legs be covered.

I don't like to see white bare legs, either, but girls who tan easily or wear the cremo stockings shouldn't be made to suffer in hot weather.

I might say that we certainly could contribute more each week toward buying war bonds if all employers were as lenient toward stockingless legs as mine are. They met the emergency early and faced the issue roundly.

How about making bare-legged girls the fifth item in your News hope-chest?

All out of stockings,

—JEAN FERGUSON
2115 Dilworth Road West.
Charlotte.

Business Is Better In

Our Vittles For Victory

By Burke Davis

Eating in Charlotte isn't what it used to be. Some foods have disappeared entirely; others have bobbed up in new garb; meal-times have changed, and eating habits with them. And, if you can believe the city's restaurant men, we're all the better for the Victory Victuals and all that they have brought us.

In other years, an estimated 10,000 hungry souls lunched uptown every day. Now the results of our gastronomic survey show that their ranks have increased about twenty per cent. Rationing has made the difference. Hundreds of working men and women who once slipped home at noon now take their meals where they can find 'em — and other hundreds who formerly supped in the city make early tracks for home.

Suspecting some such change, we queried managers of the four busiest restaurants in the city (who between them serve 3,000 lunches daily) and do herewith sketch our findings:

The Big Four now feeds crowds which have increased on an average of nineteen per cent over a year ago. They have lost much out-of-town business, but have replaced that and made their gains with local customers who remain uptown throughout the day. The rush hours now come earlier, beginning at 11:30 in some cases, lasting through to 3 in others.

More than half of the day's business is done at noon (in the case of a hotel restaurant, commercial business was off 40 per cent, but volume was up to normal at noon). In every case crowds at the evening meal had decreased—though more money is being spent for food than a year ago.

In serve-yourself establishments, business was up in a very satisfactory way—but losing out-of-town trade had cut down on the money spent per customer in some periods. Regulars have learned to keep their eyes down to stomach-size, visitors never have.

Differences in foods, as at home, are showing up. One chef reported, for instance, that he had completely forgotten candied yams for the duration. The manager of another firm said that he had discovered that yams taste better when cooked with less sugar. In another, chiffon pies, fancy pastries are out (and rolls formerly cooked with sugar to improve looks are passe).

In two cases, the ingenuity of cooks and managers has actually improved meals. One reported that its apple pie was more popular with diners than it had ever been. Its delectable new flavor comes from corn syrup used as a sweetening in lieu of sugar. Another reports that whipped cream excels all culinary delights when made with honey.

All restaurants have cut down 50 per cent on sugar, and many of them are experiencing trouble in making the present supply last. In one case the manager planned to supplement his stock with a surplus he had at home. Waitresses and other employees bring their own sugar, or do without.

But in eating places where originality, corn syrup and, honey are being used, they are getting along. Sugar has been cut down in desserts, when used at all, about fifteen per cent. The substitutes do the rest. One manager who formerly offered a variety of over a dozen desserts daily has cut down to three, features ice cream, stewed prunes, fruits.

One manager complained that the sugar season was at its height just now, with fresh peaches and berries demanding more than other foods. Rich desserts, in every case, are losing out. And to a man, the restaurateurs agreed with the medicos that the less-sweet meals of today are better for the customers. There was, apparently, no way to note any improvement in customer morale, but at least there has been little criticism.

The managers themselves are learning new tricks, aside from sending revised menus back to their kitchens. One told us: "We'll all be better off for this. I know I've saved waste in my kitchen that I didn't dream could exist. After the war is over I won't forget that lesson. We won't ration sugar to the customers any more, of course, but we'll all be a whole lot smarter in the kitchen."

Anything Can Happen

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALTON, Ill. — The man who collects coins from Alton parking meters isn't surprised at an occasional odd coin, token or telephone slug.

But he complained bitterly when someone parked an hour, using a ten pfennig German coin.

The Latest: Sugar Storm

BLACK RIVER FALLS, Wis. — Antone Erickson has regained possession of the sugar rationing card which was carried away by a tornado two weeks ago. H. R. Baird found the card on his farm, 45 miles north of here.

Now They Chug for Doug

OMAHA. — The Union Pacific's 361 "Mikado" type locomotives have been renamed "MacArthurs."

President William Jeffers said employees requested the change because "they didn't want to work around anything that reminded them of the Japs."

Initials on the sides of the engines were changed from MK to MacA. The Mikados were so named because they were built originally for the Japanese Government by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1897.

Eccles And Our Shekels

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

THE House Banking and Currency Committee has been in a state of stupefaction since hearing recent testimony by Federal Reserve Chairman Eccles.

He announced officially and persistently that our gold reserves have nothing whatever to do with the value of our currency, that we are completely off the gold standard.

If there was stupefaction in Congress, there must have been conniption fits around the Treasury at such a plain official suggestion that the gold (and silver) buying policy was a flop, that the value of the dollar is really only what the Government says it is.

Representative Frederick Smith, an Ohio Republican, led Mr. Eccles up to the subject, suggesting that the country is getting near flat money; that the war might cost $300,000,000,000; that even if the cost only gets up to $200,000,000,000 (appropriations already have reached $208,000,000,000) the question of the gold reserve becomes important.

"No," said Mr. Eccles, "there was a feeling that by increasing the price of gold, you recall, that the increase would be immediately reflected in increasing the price of goods. Well, of course, that, we all know, didn't work, so I say the question of the gold reserve doesn't have any relationship to the stability of value of the currency."

Mr. Smith: "Either bank currency or circulating currency?"

Mr. Eccles: "No, I don't think so."

Mr. Smith: "What then is the fundamental principle of the Federal Reserve Banking Act?"

Mr. Eccles: "Well, it isn't that."

Mr. Smith was obviously flabbergasted. He pleaded:

"I don't believe you want to go on record as saying that. I don't believe you want to do that."

Mr. Eccles: "That is right, yes I do."

Then later on: "I do deny that the amount of the gold reserve, or the gold requirements have anything to do with the price level, which means they have nothing to do with the value of currency."

Mr. Smith: "Aren't you, in effect, saying there is no relation whatever of gold in this country to our currency?"

Mr. Eccles: "That is right."

Mr. Smith: "There is no relation whatever?"

Mr. Eccles: "That is right."

Mr. Smith: "You then take the attitude we are completely off the gold standard?"

Mr. Eccles: "Yes, certainly."

Mr. Smith: "I am rather astonished. It makes no difference then whether we have an ounce of gold or whether we have 700,000,000 ounces?"

Mr. Eccles: "It has made no difference to Russia for twenty years; no difference to Germany for a long while. Most of the countries of Europe had to give up the the idea of the gold reserve. Their currencies have gone into managed currencies. . . . The Russians have mined gold as a commodity to sell to the democracies and get foods that they wanted to get and they haven't looked upon gold as a necessary item to support their currency."

In other words, gold is good for teeth and for selling to Mr. Morgenthau at the arbitrarily inflated figure of $35 an ounce, not much otherwise.

Mr. Morgenthau is sitting on the world's largest amassed pile of it, and there is nothing he can do with it, except to increase the problem by buying some more from Britain or Russia, which means giving away public money for gold.

Thus has the cut from old ties now been officially conceded for the first time by the head of the banking system. Mr. Eccles has merely recognized the obvious effects of Administration policy, which any reader of this column will recall having read from time to time for years back.

The important point is that it is now official. No one can be accused of being against the Administration for saying the policy was a failure. The value of currency, it appears, is not in the hands of Mr. Eccles or Mr. Morgenthau, but in the hands of Leon Henderson. When you read the prices of food in your grocery, you will find out the real value of the dollar these days.

What this portends for post-war policies, domestic and international, cannot be foretold yet, but they are all rooted in the basic gold theory.

Certainly this seems to mark an official end of the New Deal era of grand mechanical economic formulas to control prices indirectly by taxation, by the Warren theory, by gold or silver.

Visitin' Around

More'n They Were Used To, Eh?
(Pines Creek Item, Waynesville Mountaineer)

The second sugar rationing for canning last week gave the people much concern as to how much they would be allowed and when they learned just how it was they were greatly pleased with the outcome.