THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1942

Up Harry

In the Shake-Up Lord Portal Has Good News To Take Home

It must have been a thrilling homecoming, that of Lord Portal in London earlier this week. Lord Portal is Churchill's Minister of Works and Planning. We can see him now, striding along the street doing his best to preserve a proper British unconcern but positively churning inside with the good news that he carried. Imagination follows him as he turns into his residence, sternly suppressing a desire to take two steps at a time.

"Ah, well, yes, Hawkins," he says as he hands his hat and stick to the man Hawkins. "Where's Lady Portal?"

And to the drawing room he goes, straightaway for all that he pretends to pause on the way to look over the evening paper on the hall table. He enters. "Good evening, my dear," he says, and walks over to implant a lordly kiss on madam's brow.

"Well, Harry," madam says. "What's the latest from Egypt?"

"H-up, what's that?—oh, Egypt. Not so good."

Lady Portal, sensing something unsaid, tries another tack. "And how went Works and Planning today?"

"Well, now," his Lordship responds after a decent interval; "that's something I had to tell you. I had it to tell you yesterday but it had to be announced first."

"Announced?" says Lady Portal. "What had to be announced?"

"Well, you know," said Lord Portal, "the Cabinet met yesterday, and I got a bit of a bigger job out of it."

"Oh, Harry, how wonderful," madam exclaimed. "Tell me what happened."

"Well, you see, my dear, Churchill was back and things obviously had to be shaken up a bit, and there was a lot of discussion about Works and Planning—all of it, I'm bound to say, complimentary to me. Oh, well, the long and short of it is that your husband is no longer Minister of Works and Planning but Minister of Works and Building."

"Good boy, Harry!" says madam. "Good boy!"

No Ending

The Little Taxpayer Is Invited To Write His Own

Here's a funny thing. Most people, asked pop-out-of-the-box if their opinion of the Civilian Conservation Corps was favorable or unfavorable, would answer, "Favorable." Substitute the National Youth Administration and put the same question to the same people, and the answers would show a decided disapproval. Yet it is CCC that Congress has abolished lock, stock and barrel. NYA has had its appropriation cut from 80 millions to 55 millions.

Congress's reason was that NYA was training young people for war work in industry, and on its face that looks like a good enough reason. But let the little taxpayer hope (and aren't we all?) that NYA's war training is not on the order of the "war morale" project of a sister agency, WPA, which Senator Byrd tells about.

It happened in February of this year. A WPA representative in West Virginia asked for $123,747 to organize bands, choruses and orchestras among WPA workers, to furnish—as Senator Byrd puts it—"sliphorns, bull fiddles and bass drums to those who hadn't any." This, the representatives explained, was "war work."

And did he get his authorization? Well, in a way. WPA in Washington looked over this application for $123,747, and shook its head. "Nope," it said, and again, "Nope. That isn't enough." So WPA raised it to $405,107.

The little taxpayer may insert his own asterisks and profane symbols in his own code.

Help Wanted

Our State Advertises To Cover a Weakness

Few readers of the national magazines can have missed the fact that North Carolina has stepped into big league advertising. A series of impressive glorified want ads, complete with pictures of Governor Broughton, has pecked at the nation's consciousness. The Old North State wants a share of the war business, and isn't backward in saying so.

In other years we cast the twin lures of mountain and shore before the tourist trade. Now our state has become, as the advertisements say, a vast storehouse of the basic materials of war. Of that statement, however bold it might seem, we express no doubt. What intrigues us is the need for the wide-open campaign.

Among the items North Carolina offers to war industry: The largest known reserves of magnesium in the world (in olivine deposits), a great store of iron ore suitable for sponge iron manufacturing, millions of tons of manganese ore, extensive copper ore deposits, unlimited quantities of vermiculite, a concrete aggregate. In addition: power, abundant native labor, plant facilities.

Not in all the peace years has the state been able to attract a major industry in those listed fields. And in war, she has profited considerably less than other states in the area. Huge service camps and forts are no substitute for war industry, as everyone knows, and therefore our state speaks.

What we have all known for years is that Tar Heels, if they could manifest a little less devotion to the Democratic party, would gather huge benefits. Counted now as in the bag on any issue, down-the-line North Carolina has never a chance for Government patronage, must advertise in blasts to try and keep up with the Jones states who refuse to wear their hearts on their sleeves.

Early Joy

Egyptian Returns May Be More Complete, Later

The Egypt of sixty centuries, ever a land of mysteries, seems at her best today. Months of war which apparently defies understanding of military expert and layman alike have swirled over her sands. Today it came to another climax of unbelief. The British say, almost without a reservation, that they have stopped Erwin Rommel.

To hoping, open-mouthed watchers from afar, the news was almost too good. A battered army and hastily-assembled reserves had stood with its back against the last barrier to control of the Mediterranean area, with a crafty enemy hammering hard out front. Suddenly, after two weeks of disaster, a flanking counter attack was painted in the dark picture.

Half a world away, the fluid lines of battle could not be followed, but the course of communiques, in light of the past, could be traced all too well. The thinly-disguised hope of complete Allied victory seemed premature — at least carried that danger. It appeared to be too early for big talk.

Only a few days ago General Robert Stone of the Egyptian garrison force had made a statement: "The position seems pretty satisfactory. We scored several successes yesterday." For a man near the end of a rope, he was, apparently, easily satisfied. As against that type of encouragement, the Germans, for once, turned in factual reports of progress—all confirmed by the British.

For all we know, the tide in Egypt may actually be turning today, as it has turned before. But we can make sure, from memory of defeats still fresh, that we may speak and hope too soon. And make doubly sure that there is only one man who can speak without fear: the victor. And the victor has never needed to make talk.

Taking his first railway trip in ten years, a local traveler is amazed to discover that passengers now outnumber the train crew.

Passenger rail traffic has come back with a bang, an observer lately returned from Washington reporting seven inventors in one washroom.

So far in the war one hears little of the dum-dum—the bullet that is hollow and flattens out, like a Rome radio claim.

Slow Going In Pacific

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

THE smashing Army bomber attack upon Wake Island does not necessarily forecast the opening of our counter-march westward across the Pacific to Japan.

True, when we get ready for that march we may soften up Wake and other advance Jap bases with heavy bombing, as a preliminary step. But we will not be ready until we are prepared to go beyond Wake into the Marshall and Marianas Islands as well.

Wake is within land-based bomber range of Jap bases in the Marshalls and Marianas, and hence can be held only with difficulty unless they are also taken. In fact, Wake should fall into the lap of whomever can hold these two other groups, so we might take them first.

Meanwhile, we can make it as uncomfortable for Japs there as they could make it for us, if we tried to seize it alone.

PREPARE TO WALK FOR THE DURATION

Private Government figures on the probable future of motor-riding Americans are almost unbelievably dismal. When Mr. Ickes whispered in Mr. Roosevelt's ear urging a rubber collection campaign, he submitted certain figures which were not made public.

These showed that if the war lasted three years more, hardly an American private car would be left on the road, even if mileage was reduced 25 per cent and a 40-mile speed limit enforced.

They predicted 4,000,000 cars would go off the road this year, 6,000,000 next, 7,000,00 in 1944, leaving only 5,600,000 cars riding in 1945; 1,600,000 riding in 1946 and none in 1947.

If a program for recapping 60 per cent of civilian tires could be effected as a result of this rubber drive, the situation would become fairly satisfactory. Less than half as many cars would have to be abandoned—only about 3,000,000 a year.

To support such a program, the United States would have to provide 5,000 tons of crude rubber annually and collect 48,000 tons of scrap this year; 71,000 in 1943, 67,600 in 1944, 55,000 in 1945.

While the current drive is officially being called deficient, it shows enough scrap rubber is being obtained to run practically that whole period if the crude rubber could be spared.

Political potentialities of gas rationing are not being overlooked.

Republican Representative Stevenson of Wisconsin wrote Administrator Leon Henderson asking that gas allowance be made for rural voters to go to the polls in the East on election day. He got a letter back promising only that if Mr. Roosevelt decides on national gas rationing, provision would be made.

No allowances will be made for primaries.

WE CAN'T KEEP THE BIG SECRET

Skittish citizens have been wondering why Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill have been telling Hitler they will start a second front, if they really intended to do it. The element of surprise has been lost, they fear.

Not at all. Hitler has been able to observe the preparations in Britain, just as Holland, Belgium and France were able to observe his preparations for the invasion that struck them as a surprise when it fell.

Some things cannot be kept secret in war. Collection of hundreds of thousands of troops is one.

But Hitler can will recall, staged fake alarms and otherwise confused his foes by cross-crossing rumors to such an extent, they hardly believed the final alarm when it came.

The current confusion as to whether one not there will be a second front this year is already serving a similar purpose for us.

Most Washingtonians are even now betting there will not be a second front this year. To them, certainly it will come as a surprise.

Don't Wait for Us

Nation's Business

A convoy preparing to sail from San Francisco needed life rafts and blankets being made in New England. But previous trucking time would delay sailing 36 hours.

"We'll have 'em there."

Rafts and blankets went into trucks off the New England assembly line. As each truck was loaded, "Roll it."

They rolled 'em. Through to Chicago without stops for meals or inspection. There other trucks took over. They rolled them through a middle western blizzard clear to the Rocky Mountains. At Denver new trucks started rolling, found an important bridge out, swung wide in a 200 mile detour.

The convoy sailed on schedule—with life rafts and blankets.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Martha was troubled about a great many things, but many non-essentials sometimes divert us from the main issue. Don't miss the main thing because of trifles: *But one thing is needful, for Mary hath chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.—Luke 10:42.*

Fortune Teller

—By Herblock

Army Moves On Supply

By Raymond Clapper

A. U. S. ARMY PORT OF EMBARKATION

FROM two previous dispatches some idea may be gathered of the enormous detail job which must be carried on by the Army's Services of Supply in equipping troops for movement overseas.

The job begins with the railroads bringing in materials from the factories. This problem became so acute in the last World War that the Government was compelled to take over the railroads. Congestion had paralyzed many of our ports. Trainloads of freight would be moved up to the port of embarkation and then could not be unloaded because no storage facilities were available. The result was that railroad sidings were packed with dead freight for hundreds of miles.

Profiting by that experience the railroads are co-operating with the Army in a way that leads some high officers in the Services of Supply to believe it will not be necessary in this war for the Government to take over the railroads.

The Association of American Railroads is operating in conjunction with the Army in moving traffic. The Government determines what should move and when, and the railroads through their own centralized operation provide the transportation.

There have been some instances of congestion. On one occasion the Government suddenly decided to speed up Russian Lend-Lease material, and this began moving into the ports without regard to the capacity of ships to carry it away. Most Lend-Lease material is now moved under schedules worked out in co-operation with the Army Services of Supply so that congestion has been fairly well eliminated at the ports.

Another factor which has relieved the situation has been the creation of enormous reserve storage facilities, located usually about an overnight train run back from the port. When there seems danger of port congestion, shipments are flagged and laid up in these reserve stations. This keeps the port area clear, and also releases rolling stock at once.

In addition, the Army S.O.S. usually operates its daily schedule of cars into a given port of embarkation somewhat under track capacity, so as to leave a safety margin. That is necessary in these days when submarine activity or other war conditions unexpectedly delay the arrival or departure of ships.

S.O.S. officers said they had no complaint about dock labor and found on the whole that it was working efficiently. The Army has been conducting its own campaign to reduce the turnaround time, and thereby increase the capacity of available shipping.

We hear usually about the fighting branches of the service. But the Services of Supply control what the fighting services can do. For example, the Transportation Service of the S.O.S. stands between the training camps and the overseas destination of the troops. It stands between the war factory and the battle line. Only as it moves men and material through can the fighting go ahead. In a war of this size scattered all over the world this requires an enormous organization which serves no other purpose than that of transportation.

When you read of American troops in action in some far place you know that they got there and got their weapons and supplies only because the S.O.S. was functioning all along the line.

In The Hills Of Ten-O-See

Where Pies Pay Taxes

The Christian Science Monitor

UP IN the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee is Spencer, a town without taxes, operated entirely by women.

Instead of running things in this Utopian mountain community, as is customary elsewhere over the country, the men simply have a hand in paying the bills.

Here is how the town is financed. The petticoat officials hold a cake or pie sale. The men are invited to participate. When the sale is over, the money goes into the city treasury. The first such sale netted $25, and the women leaders were proud!

The inspiring leader behind the whole program is Mrs. J. M. Gordon—or rather, to be absolutely correct, Mayor Gordon. She is surrounded by her petticoat officials, Chief of Police Laura Cook and Councilwomen Page, Lewis, Roscoe, Shackley, and Bouldin. And if you think these women can't run a town, drop down on your vacation and see them in action around their council table.

The movement started about two years ago when Mrs. Gordon and her former husband moved up from Pikeville to the mountain village of Spencer. Mrs. Gordon found that the 450 residents of Spencer were somewhat confused over what should become of the community corporation following the passing of its Mayor, J. F. Kell. The men thought that perhaps the corporation should be done away with, said Mrs. Gordon. "We women thought differently."

It was then that members of the Better Homes and Garden Clubs got together and decided to do something about it. They consulted a lawyer, and then posted a notice for an election.

The men didn't pay much attention to what their women folk were up to—at first they were little interested. But now they work about as hard as the women to make the feminine government a success.

When the petticoat leaders took the reins, there was $260 in the treasury. In a year's time the balance had been increased to $1,000 with all bills paid.

The women's city council has decided to build a community building for which native stone already has been quarried.

The town has built a high school building at a cost of approximately $15,000, which the State Department of Education has valued at approximately $90,000. This was made possible by the entire town turning out to help construct the school. Even the seats were made by the citizens. Plumbing and steel were the only major costs.

Speaking of the method of financing these projects, Mayor Gordon said, "We decided early that nobody liked the tax assessor or taxes. That's the first thing we did—got rid of those things." She said the system had worked perfectly, that the city treasury is in the best shape it ever has been and that many improvements have been made.

The money, said Mayor Gordon, has been raised from cake and pie suppers, fiddlers' conventions, and shows staged by local talent. The men come, pay their part, and get a lot of fun out of doing it, declared the Mayor.

Located on the uppermost tip of the Cumberland Mountains, Spencer has neither railroad nor bus service and little other means of connection with the outside world. The visitor, however, is first impressed by the beautiful flower gardens and well-kept lawns. These have been made possible by the interest of members of the City Council in a city-wide beautification program.

"To have each house kept well-painted and spotless is the present ambition of members of the administration. To us it is only right that a city government should be interested in the beauty of the city," said Mayor Gordon.

Platform Of The People

Church, School And State

Editors, THE NEWS:

Kentucky's already enacted rule provides that busses for public school make room, as well, for lads and lassies, attending parochial classes. Obedience to GOD there to learn, and righteous living the chief concern; fundamental to every race, beside which all else is commonplace. And lack of which, historians tell, finally rings a nation's death-knell.

The separation of Church and State is America's accepted fate, in the Public School, where it's enforced; where GOD from text books has been divorced; but to complete the separation would be a Godless innovation; ere the State, from Church, wholly withdraws, it must kill all Sabbath-keeping laws, "IN GOD WE TRUST," on coins, not a stamp out, for State to keep Church strictly without. All Army and Navy chaplains, now duly commissioned must disavow. In every law-making body, too, ousting all chaplains there, would ensue, our court and elected oaths revise; in the Bible's stead, some book devise, and some one other than GOD invoke. If all Church ties must go up in smoke.

When, State separation, thus we get, we will have a full-fledged Soviet. Church persecution will be the rule, primarily caused by Godless school.

Yours truly,
—L. A. TATUM.

Laurinburg, N. C.

"Of any and all denominations, and including private schools.

Lincoln's Way With Government Money

Editors, THE NEWS:

Thomas Edison said if the Government could issue a dollar bond it could issue a dollar bill. What makes the bond good makes the bill good. The difference: one lets the money gambler collect two times the face value, plus, the other pays only the fellow who gives equal value to the Government in goods and services.

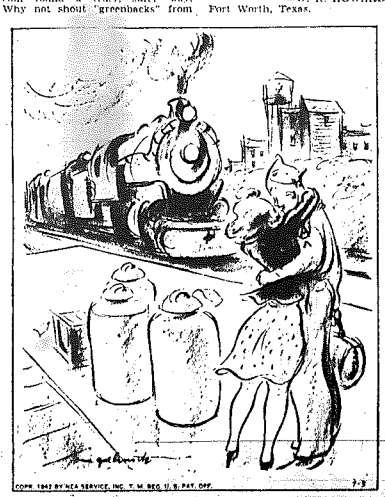
Now absurd to say that our nation can issue bonds to fight this war, but cannot issue bills to win victory! Both are promises to pay. But one fattens the usurer, the other helps the people, the nation, the victory we want.

So why all the shouting about defense bonds and stamps? Abe Lincoln was up against it as much as President Roosevelt. But Lincoln found a truer, surer way. Why not shout "greenbacks" from the housetops, over the radio, in the press?

Greenbacks need not be paid off as bonds must be, at interest, after the war. To save the peace we must have billions of money outstanding to give full employment to all. Bonds, debts, interest and taxes won't do this; but sound money in circulation will.

—W. R. HOWARD.

Fort Worth, Texas.



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"Don't worry about me—think of that real Japanese kimono you'll be showing your friends in a couple of months!"

Visitin' Around

The Weaker Sex
(Drexel Item,
Morganton News-Herald)

Henry Harris, who has been in the merchandise business here for some time, turned his store over to the care of his wife Sunday and left for Baltimore, Md., to take a job in defense work. His friends wish him luck. The business will continue unchanged, the only difference being that it opens early and stays a little later.

The Weaker Sex
(Center View Items,
Monroe Journal)

Mr. Jack Knight will return to his position with Lance Packing Co., at Charlotte this week after spending a month at home recuperating from a serious appendectomy.

Miss Doris Jones returned last Tuesday from Mercy Hospital where she underwent an operation for appendicitis. She expects to be able to return to her work at Lance Packing Co. next Monday.

He Misses That Good Ol' Mountain Water
(Drexel Item
Morganton News-Herald)

Kelly Reese, who is at work on a defense job at Baltimore, spent the week-end here with his family. He says he likes his job fine but says the water there is not very good, nothing to compare with good Burke County water.