THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager · J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor

● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1942

Get In The Scrap

One Easy Way Is To Get the Scrap Out

The only excuse for anybody's failure to take a full part in tomorrow's "Scrap-Out Day" would be that he hadn't heard of it. These lines are not, then, aft appeal. They are only further publicity, directed in particular at those highly intelligent people who become so absorbed in the editorial page that they don't get around to the rest of the paper.

Why should anybody have to appeal for scrap? The stuff's junk, isn't it, and simply clutters up the premises? The country needs it for the manufacture of war materials, doesn't it? Sure it does. Steel mills are operating at something less than their dearly-needed capacity, all for the lack of scrap iron.

Well, then, heavens above, get the stuff out! That's little enough trouble to take. And disposing of it has been made as easy as dirt. All a householder has to do is, first, to ransack, and, second, to put his contributions on the curb in front of his house where, tomorrow, Wednesday, it will be picked up by the City's garbage trucks. (Outside the city other trucks will make rounds, and those who have large quantities with no way to have it moved can call up.)

Do it tonight, now, and have it ready in the morning. They want scrap iron and steel, scrap rubber, scrap rope, scrap woolen rags, scrap aluminum. And if you haven't got any at all, the next best thing is to put out a sign saying, "We looked but couldn't find any." For in the absence of a scrap pile or a sign people may take it that you are either unpatriotic or thoughtless, and one's about as bad as the other. Certainly neither is going to help to win the war.

No Choice

Britain Forced To Deal With India as Enemy

For a "non-violent" civil disobedience campaign, Gandhi's little demonstration in India has assumed right off the bat a remarkably close resemblance to the U. S. institution of "peaceable picketing." The Hindu "goonas" turns out to be a counterpart of the American "goon," and both are bad news to the cops.

Behind this unbecoming manifestation is, of course, a purpose which will be respected in this country: the desire of a people for independence of any authority save their own. And for the choice of the moment at which to strike for it there is a precedent of U. S. origin. Our own independence of England would not have been won with so little resistance had not the mother country been pretty well occupied in Europe throughout the period.

In an abstract sense we may grant to India what we have granted to Finland, and that is understanding of the deep-seated motives which explain unwelcome behavior. But in these times, when the all-engrossing challenge is not the liberty of nations but the liberty of the whole world, in which nations may work out their own liberty, those who impede the fight against a free world are our enemies, to be treated as such.

Time enough later for the concerns of individual countries. The war is for the world, and those who are not with us are against us.

Fair Test

Voters Name Labor Critic, Turn Down Labor Leader

In what we consider an ideal political laboratory, a boiling-hot national political theme of the day has been cooked in a test tube, and the results found satisfactory and pleasing—at least to us.

The laboratory was the nearest Congressional District to Washington, lying along the Virginia shore of the Potomac. There, in an area full of Federal employees, one Emmett Davison, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's International Association of Machinists, offered for election to Congress opposing Incumbent Howard Smith.

Davison, no political babe-in-the-woods, was a former mayor of Alexandria, Va., and his campaign made an issue clear for public and warring politicians to discern as well. A labor leader was running against a Congressman who had denounced strikes and labor racketeers—and Government employees had strong voting power, enough to influence the outcome.

Not a single precinct went to Davison, not even the ones where Federal employees were in the majority. Smith crushed him under a slide of four-to-one, and proved, to our satisfaction at any rate, that Government employees do not want a Representative with such restricted group interests at heart.

It might well have been the country speaking. The people do not want labor leaders in Congress. There are enough in the Executive branch as it is.

The Clan Medill

They May Be Counted On For a Vigorous Defense

Old Joseph Medill, publisher of the Chicago Tribune during the War Between the States and one of Lincoln's most ardent supporters, numbered among his grandchildren three who, now fully matured physically, have come to a little difficulty with the Government. They are: that great man—great by his own appraisal, at any rate—Col. Robert Rutherford McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune; Capt. Joseph Medill Patterson, for a long time co-publisher with McCormick of the Tribune, now publisher of the tabloid New York Daily News; and Eleanor Medill (Cissie) Patterson, his sister and McCormick's cousin, publisher of the Washington Times-Herald.

Between them, brother and sister and cousin own two of the largest newspapers in the world. Between them, also, they share a hatred for Roosevelt which is exceeded in intensity only by the reverence they have for themselves and the awe in which they stand of their own opinions. In newspaper circles the Chicago Tribune ("World's Greatest Newspaper," owner of radio station WGN—W.G.N.—get it?) is generally looked down on, by fat and scrawny publishers alike, as one of the few continuing exhibits against the wisdom of a free press. The Tribune commits the unforgivable newspaper sin of shaping the news to suit the Colonel's purposes.

The difficulty in which old Medill's grandchildren now find themselves is that they published in their papers, all three of them, matter which the Government declares they had no right to publish. The story appeared on June 7, when the great sea battle at Midway had just been fought and won. It listed the enemy's forces in detail, and made the statement that the strength of the Jap forces was known in advance to the U. S. admirals, the story's whole information being credited to "reliable sources in Naval Intelligence."

Whether publication of the matter in question was of aid or comfort to the enemy or in violation of Federal law, we are not prepared to argue. There will be those to say, Col. McCormick prominently among them, that the New Deal is hitting below the belt at its antagonists, and that possibility is not to be ruled out until the prosecution has stated its case. But in any event there will be fireworks. The nature of old Joseph Medill's grandchildren assures it.

The consensus on the appointment of Elmer Davis as director of the Government's information services is that it couldn't have happened—tsk tsk—to a nicer fellow.

Now that terms of the coming peace are in debate, is it too early to suggest that anyone winning the African desert three times be given permanent possession?

He who lives by the sword shall perish by same, and a picture page gives us a couple of co-ed archers who have lately succumbed to cupid's darts.

If we knew of a better planet, we might consider a rocket journey thence. But it would have to have two western hemispheres.

From the rockbound coast of Maine to the sunny slopes of the Pacific, one people, one nation, one flag, and fifty solutions of a rubber shortage.

From The State Press

Editorial Comment On Morganton

A CONSTRUCTIVE REPORT

The Raleigh News & Observer

The board displayed an obvious reluctance to wound tender feelings, but did not fail to report what it found to be the facts, nor to recommend actions which it considered in the best interests of the institution, although some of the findings and some of the recommendations are couched in language so polite as to require careful reading in order to obtain its full meaning. . . . The report amply justifies the investigation. All of the charges are not sustained. Some of them were found to be without foundation and others to have been exaggerated.

But, the main issue before the board was the administration of Dr. F. P. Watkins, who became superintendent in 1938, after serving 28 years as assistant superintendent.

The board contents itself with the following finding of fact as to Dr. Watkins:

"Upon his elevation to the superintendency Dr. Watkins became almost immediately engrossed in the rebuilding program. . . . The modern condition of the plant today is a monument to his close supervision of the project."

Standing alone that would be ambiguous. It is clarified by the recommendation, the chief of which is that Dr. Watkins be made superintendent of the physical plant and farm property, and "that a young and aggressive physician, properly trained in psychiatry and with experience in treatment of mental illness, be secured to serve as chief of the medical staff and clinical director in complete control of the patients at the hospital."

Obviously, those recommendations mean that Dr. Watkins has failed in the discharge of his most important duties and should no longer be entrusted with control of wards of the State. . . .

DISGRACE TO THE STATE

The Greenville Reflector

The report made yesterday by the board appointed by the Governor to inquire into conditions surrounding the operation of our hospitals for the insane should cause North Carolina to drop its head in shame.

. . . Now that the Governor has received the facts it is to be hoped that doing something to bring about the reforms recommended by the examining board will be made a first order of business for the next Legislature.

THE HOSPITAL REPORT

The Hickory Record

(Note: L. C. Clifford, publisher of The Hickory Record, was a member of the Morganton committee, discretely limited his paper's comment to what other papers were saying and to the following.—Editors, THE NEWS.)

Dr. Watkins has been praised in highest terms for his 33 years of service to the hospital, culminating in the completion of a remodeling program which has resulted in the modernization of all but a few of the buildings at the plant. It would be a gracious gesture if, as the board recommends, he could be given charge of the physical plant to which he has devoted so much painstaking attention during the four years of his superintendency.

The Record considers the recommendation that a unified board of fifteen members be established to control all State mental hospitals of such vital importance that it will be discussed subsequently.

OUR GREAT SHAME

The High Point Enterprise

. . . It is going to take money to right the wrongs of which we are guilty. It is going to take money to consolidate the three institutions, and perhaps Caswell Training School, under the direction of a top-flight psychiatrist and a single board. It is going to take money to provide patients with better food, better quarters, better doctors and attendants and more of them.

This year we have that money. It is needed, to cut taxes and increase salaries and provide better schools and for a number of things. But none of these needs is as great as the need of the wretched, mistreated, ill-fed, sick and helpless people behind the bars of the State hospitals at Morganton, Raleigh and Goldsboro.

For their sake, for our sake, for God's sake, let us at last come to the relief of our forgotten people.

TIME FOR ATONEMENT

The Elizabeth City Advance

Surplus or no, the State of North Carolina cannot afford to ignore or do other than carry out the recommendation of the special committee which has been investigating the Morganton State Hospital for mental patients for the last six months that the appropriation for State hospitals in North Carolina be increased by at least $650,000 a year, so as to bring the State spendings for its mental patients up to the national average of $291.27 for each patient.

That seems little enough in all conscience. The $178 per patient spent last year while the State was piling up a nineteen million dollar surplus in its general fund is something North Carolina should be heartily ashamed of.

The next Legislature must bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

JOB WELL DONE

The Greensboro News

. . . The scope of the committee's recommendations is attested by the fact that they deal with entry or reception of patients into the hospital, their period of confinement there and the means or methods, now sadly lacking, by which they may be returned to society after they have been satisfactorily treated. Meanwhile, that "satisfactory treatment" is one of the deficiencies to be remedied. Thus in addition to overhauling of hospital practices, equipment and personnel and assuring of badly needed funds for these State institutions, certain alteration of the statutes is also in order. Whatever the Governor can do towards remedying conditions which his own committee has found and reported should be done at once, and the remainder of the program should be put into effect as rapidly as possible. We are confident that the citizenry of North Carolina is aroused and that the chief executive can count on wholehearted public support for legislative action looking to further and more complete correction.

. . . North Carolina is greatly beholden to the committee for its work and, behind that committee, to Tom P. Jimison, who almost single-handed brought about the investigation and whatever remedial action it may inspire.

STATE HOSPITAL REPORT

The Burlington Times-News

Facts and recommendations revealed in the report of a committee appointed to investigate conditions at the State Hospital at Morganton, as submitted to Governor Broughton, are nothing new.

As regularly as the Legislature has met in the past, these facts have been presented in pleas for more financial support for the work. It is true that mistreatment of patients, improper food and so on, have not been placed on public parade. Tom P. Jimison did that.

It is a wonder that conditions were not found to be worse than reported. . . .

COURAGEOUS REPORT

The Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel

The report of the special committee assigned by Governor Broughton to investigate conditions at the Morganton hospital for the treatment of the insane is as courageous as it is startling. And startling it is, even to those who have been reading for months of the charges made by former patients and others regarding the conditions said to exist at this large State institution.

. . . It finds not only that inadequate operation appropriations leading to inadequate medical and nursing staffs have contributed to the neglect and mistreatment of patients, but that in some cases deliberate or willful mistreatment has been practiced. It finds that in "some cases men and women have been 'railroaded' into the institution at Morganton, for reasons other than treatment of mental disorders."

. . . We are certain that Governor Broughton will give this epochal and courageous report of his special board or committee that attention that it deserves and will add his own recommendations to that of the board in placing the matter before the advisory budget committee and the 1943 Legislature.

These bodies thus will have it in their power to redeem the good name of North Carolina in the field of mental disease treatment and ameliorate those conditions which have brought suffering and wretchedness upon many and disrepute upon the commonwealth.

REPORT ON MORGANTON

The Asheville Times

Press summaries of the report of Governor Broughton's special board on conditions at Morganton State Hospital for patients suffering from nervous and mental disorders are bound to make a deep impression on the Governor, the Legislature and the citizenship in general. It is a condemnation of conditions and practices that cry aloud for correction.

. . . That state is under deep obligation to this committee for its faithful and non-hysterical labors in a field delicate and complex. This survey surely will pave the way for a revolution in the State's intelligent and successful treatment of patients in all these institutions. Governor Broughton announces that some of the recommendations will be at once carried into reality and the rest presented to the General Assembly.

APPLAUSE FOR A "CRAZY" MAN

The Fayetteville Observer

. . . To our way of thinking the real meat of the report made to Governor Broughton is to be found in the following paragraph: "That the law on committing persons to mental hospitals be amended to permit observation and that the hospital staff should be the final judge of the patients sanity."

That recommendation would not have been made had not the investigators found that some "patients" had been admitted at times through political pull, or on orders from persons not associated with the hospital staff. It is gratifying to know that the brakes will be applied to the "railroading" of human beings into places of confinement—if the members of the 1943 General Assembly are the high type of citizens they pretended to be when running for election.

The investigating board is to be congratulated on the report submitted, but the real applause, indeed a medal, is due, to one Tom P. Jimison, former Charlotte newspaper man, who was a patient in the hospital at Morganton, who had the nerve and was man enough to write a number of newspaper articles describing conditions he said he found there.

We salute "crazy" Tom.

STATE'S MENTAL PATIENTS IN LINE FOR CONSIDERATION

The Raleigh Times

In brief words, the Morganton Hospital, like many other similar institutions, needs materials, men and money—more and more of each, and its directors need also sober recognition of their responsibilities that carry the State's obligation to see that they are carried out. The General Assembly next January will unquestionably go fully into these conditions.

Rubber Reasons

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON—Before Mr. Roosevelt sat down to write his veto of the farm bloc's rubber bill, he was advised by his Congressional lieutenants that he must make some effort to satisfy farm anger or his veto would be over-ridden.

This, no doubt, is at least one reason why the President named an impartial and aggressive man like Bernard Baruch to head an inquiry into his own WPB's rubber policy.

The Congressional leaders thought that without some such concession by the White House, they could not quell the Congressional rubber stampede. Their quelling efforts were further aided by the fact that Congress is in virtual recess until September, and many Administration representatives were ready to change their votes for the sake of avoiding a disunifying action if provided with a reasonable out.

One who did not change was Senator Gillette, who has been telling friends for some days that he has uncovered leads in his subcommittee rubber investigation which will make a bigger explosion than Teapot Dome—if proven true.

Congressmen are particularly irked at WPB by evidence of the black market in steel. The Truman committee received reports privately about the situation months ago and notified WPB. It seems WPB penalized some firms for violating priorities, but the Congressmen now say WPB action was not sufficiently vigorous to stop the stealthy law violations.

Mr. Roosevelt's generous gesture in transferring a subchaser to Queen Wilhelmina when this particular type of ship is most needed in the Atlantic and Caribbean, where we wage a losing fight against Nazi subs, has caused uninformed people to ask questions, especially as the Netherlands has no merchant marine now needing subchaser protection.

No official answer could be given to these inquiries at the time of the transfer, but an ample explanation can be made. The sub-chaser unquestionably is to be used in our service, or the service of the British.

Visitin' Round

Now, You Take Visitors From Charlotte—

(Davie Record)

Fred Trivette, of Winston-Salem, was a Mocksville visitor one day last week. As far as we could find out he didn't have any frog skins on his person.

Okay, Then, Let's Talk About Something' Else

(Dudley Shoals Item, Lenoir News-Topic)

We are having some awful hot weather at present but the time of the year is here for hot days and nights.

Not Much Help

—By Herblock

On Russia Hangs All

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

MILITARY experts here give us a pessimistic estimate of the immediate situation. I suppose there is no harm in being frank about it since Gardner Cowles, director of domestic operations for the Office of War Information, says newspapers should tell the public that the war must be won but that it is not being won at this time.

In the Caucasus the Russians are retreating as rapidly as is possible. The big pipeline from Baku to Rostoc is no longer able to feed the Russian oil needs. The Volga is still available for shipping but it is threatened, and if the fight to save Stalingrad falls, the Russians will be thrown back on round-about routes further east.

There may be news at any time, even before this gets into print, about an attempt in the far north to cut the northern Russian lines by driving against Murmansk and Archangel. The Germans are trying desperately to isolate Russia and seal her up.

Reports from London about strategy conferences in Moscow suggest the gravity of the moment. Undoubtedly the Russians, unable to wait for the effect of land operations against Germany on the west, would welcome an Allied supporting expedition driving up through the Middle East. But Rommel is being reinforced in Egypt for a new attempt to reach Alexandria, and the need is to break that up quickly. If the Allies attempted both they might not be strong enough to win in either direction. A risk in one direction or the other is felt advisable by some.

All of this is unsatisfactory, but the peril that would result from a military paralysis in Russia overshadows all other considerations now. If Hitler hammers the Russians beyond the point where they can successfully counter-attack, he then becomes relatively free to turn his full attention to the west, or toward closing his pincers in the Middle East by crossing Suez. That would add years, perhaps, to the length of the war. It would make more difficult than ever a direct Allied attack on western Europe.

In America, far removed from the active fronts, we have allowed ourselves to think that the war could not be lost and that we had all the time we wanted, during which possibly some miracle would win the war for us.

Military men who know the facts do not subscribe to that. They are sure that war can be won if adequate effort is made. What the rest of us need to bear in mind now, in planning our affairs for the future, is that events now taking place may lengthen the war and require of the United States far heavier sacrifice than might have seemed probable a few months ago.

Platform Of The People

A Pink Slip For Drummers

Editors, THE NEWS:

Any man who spends his time selling things is a salesman; and if he goes from place to place in order to sell he is a traveling salesman. The number of miles he travels or the volume of goods he sells does not change that. But let us forget the house to house canvasser and consider only what we used to call a "drummer"; one who takes orders from merchants.

A challenge has been made in THE NEWS by a salesman for a substitute plan for moving goods from producer through wholesale and retail stores to the consumer, without the traveling salesman.

Now, we admit that traveling salesmen have been very useful in normal times. They are the most effective, or one of the most effective, agencies of competition between big producers, between jobbers, and between different kinds of goods. They have helped to introduce and advertise many new and better articles. Thus they have contributed both to the higher standard of living and to the prevention of monopoly.

But these are not normal times. It is not competition but the law on ceiling prices which must be relied on to hold prices down, because the demand for consumer goods is coming to exceed the supply. Competition would be between buyers, not sellers. Neither are new goods being introduced. Rather everything but bare essentials is being taken out of production for civilian use.

I do not pose as an expert on commerce. But I know of at least four systems of handling goods which are not dependent on the traveling salesman:

Mail order stores;

Chain stores;

Small independent merchants who drive a truck or wagon to the wholesale house and load up with just what he thinks his own customers will buy and not what someone unloads on him by a line of high-pressure talk;

Co-operative groups such as farmers' markets and consumer buying groups.

I like the traveling salesmen. They are a fine lot of smart gentlemen. They are useful. Useful also are shaving cream, electric coffee pots and many other things. But it is not now a question of what we want or need but of what we must have and what we can do without. We can do without traveling salesmen for the duration. Sellers can advertise their stuff in the papers. Then the buyer need not say "The salesman told me," but "I saw it in THE NEWS."

Respectfully,

DAVID R. HARRELSON.

Cordova.

(Note: THE NEWS would not be pleased to gain advertising which represented other persons' distress. —Editors, THE NEWS.)