

## THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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## A Good Job

Rubber-Stamping Proves  
Fine Pattern for Solons

Not since colonial times has North Carolina lived under a Governor with such powers as those held by J. Melville Broughton. As an instrument for better government for the people of the State he has in the past few months. Legislators who went to Raleigh expecting to find his influence diminished because the political plums had all been picked were surprised to find that he had been his own show. What he asked was given. With one or two almost playfulness exceptions, the Assembly voted the Broughton ticket, right down the line.

That may not seem of great significance to North Carolina, but it is significant and deserves close attention. The State has come upon new times. Now, moving with a strange restlessness not wholly due to the war, its people have become aware of the consciousness of their Government. It is to be discerned in the great interest shown in improving State Hospital conditions, in spending new millions on the school systems, on killing the evil influence of the absentee ballot, on placing \$20,000,000 in a reserve fund, frozen for the biennium. And the people and their representatives, newly aware of themselves, have put their faith in Governor Broughton.

Not only do his emergency war powers testify as to the passing of the rubber-stamp program is proof because it was all-embracing. It broke records, it dug into almost every phase of the State's life, and it left little undone or unsaid. The Legislature acted swiftly, with relatively few exceptions. It turned out a sound, workmanlike job (though it put black spots before the eyes of many by refusing the absentee ballot challenge, by legislating against Graham County Republicans, and by favoring higher-bracket State employees in war bonuses). It was a good job because it had been pre-cooked and worked into an acceptable menu.

When the time comes for a look at the Legislature's work of 1943, it will likely seem less important. That it was rubber-stamped, a Governor's program than that it put into effect a sane, humane code in tune with the times, and that progress was made as it has seldom been made before in North Carolina. And, while the Assembly has its gains, it also managed to resist most of the great demands for relief from all sides. It legislated for the people.

## The Patriot

An African Lady Picked  
The British and Stayed

It's probably not important at all, but upon seeing the picture of a little white mongrel from Africa the other day, we suddenly felt much closer to the great war. She was just such a little monstrosity of careless canine breeding as often results in any American city; she was, as she looked out of the pages of a newspaper, a dog of the world. And she was all of that, too.

Small, she was, with the pointed, sharp-nosed face of a Vichy Frenchman or an Italian. Huge ears thrust up from a tiny head, a long body was incongruously mounted on strong, stubby legs. A great length of plumed—was the final giveaway on an uncertain ancestry. But she sat in the sand and posed for her picture as if she knew something. And she did. An Associated Press cameraman probably figured she'd be chased as Human Interest back home. She was.

The recorded history of her Odyssey was all too brief, but her full eyes had a look which told more. More than a year ago, the story went, she had taken up with the British Eighth Army at Benغاز. Her name was Lady, and there was no record of her German-Italian connections, if any. With the Eighth Army, she had retreated and advanced. Her tracks lay across historic sands, her whine had been heard in heavy bombardment. She had seen men die by the thousands. Perhaps, even, she had crossed the terrible Hill of Death as General Alexander opened his drive. Certainly she was along as the Eighth climbed through Hellfire Pass.

Along the route she must surely have seen prisoners from Rommel's Army who were once her friends; but if so, she gave no sign. She knew a winner when she saw one, and stuck even

through defeat. Lady was much more than a picture in a paper. She was one who knew both sides in this war, and had taken her choice. We hope her luck continues to hold.

## An Ending

No More Apprehension for  
Martinique; We Must Strike

The State Department, having revealed last the end of the unbecoming attempt to appease Vichy's Martinique into our camp, might now go the whole way and assume the initiative, almost for the first time in this war. Now that food shipments have been stopped to the pro-Axis island lying inside our Caribbean defenses, American troops might well take over the island itself, and the shipping in its harbors.

During all the long months of "negotiating" with Admiral Robert, a Fascist-minded gentleman who has spent most of the period making pro-Axis declarations and openly sneering at the United Nations, the policy of the State Department has been humiliating to many Americans. Public opinion, when it was expressed on the issue, held that the U. S., as the world's most powerful nation, would do well to speak to foreign powers large and small as at least an equal, rather than attempting to appease all, both friends, enemies and in-betweens.

It is comforting to learn that all the sly business of houndworking Laval and Petain was dropped when our troops landed in Africa; we no longer had need of the walking ghost of France. We are certain, without having been informed of present conditions in Martinique, that our cause is better served there now than in the time of feeble generosity. Now, perhaps, it will not be long until we strike to remove that source of Axis propaganda being sent into South America, and to gain shipping we so desperately need. We're finishing the job on Martinique, now.

## Wage Rise

Rep. Frank Sims Gets Paid  
At A Rate of, Er... Parity

We dare say the State of North Carolina can afford to pay Representative Frank Sims \$600 for a day's work as a legislator, the put in two days, one greeting, one "leave-taking", but—hope the scale of pay isn't here to stay. With all due respect for Mr. Sims the naval officer, the legislator and the man, we aim to do a little calculating on the money he made from the public purse just for a short, pleasant visit in Raleigh.

We're not the ones to say he couldn't (or didn't) contribute more to the welfare of the State in his brief stay than many a man among his colleagues. We're not the ones to say he should have refused the proffered salary. We're not the ones to charge that our Representative profits too much in these times by drawing double pay. We're not the ones to hold that members of the General Assembly are overpaid; often we're relieved that the pay was low, putting that public service on a plane of service alone.

If we have a point in mind, it's that Frank had a pretty good thing, the two days he did his stint. They nicked him for \$24 in Victory Tax, to be sure, but he was in a position to stand that. After seeing the story of his record here, we couldn't wait to get down to figuring just what kind of biography that amounted to. Giving Rep. Sims the benefit of one full day's work as an Assemblyman, he was making money at the rate of about \$180,000 a year, plus Navy pay. Is that bad?

A full explanation by Ruml, of the Ruml Plan, leaves Chairman Doughton and his committee quite unmoved. The owe-as-you-go-plan is their baby, and they love it.

One hears less these days of strength-through-jog. The last photos showed the Fuehrer flabby and feeble, and obviously behind in his laughter.

In the East, a postcard mailed in 1911 arrives at its destination. It is believed this clears up the unfinished business of the Taft Administration.

## Confession Or Hoax?

## Just Call Him Cassandra Of Agriculture

By Dorothy Thompson

IF Secretary of Agriculture Wickard now warns that "we are approaching a level of nutrition such as we have in Great Britain," he is either painting a bogey on the wall for the sake of forcing greater co-operation with the rationing schemes, or he is describing the worst disorganization in the history of the war.

The British nutrition level is that of a country that supports 46 million people on a territory approximately the size of New England and that consumes more than 50 per cent of its food. Today, with a maximum intensification of agriculture it still imports 40 per cent.

Our own food shortages are not due to Lend-Lease shipments to either Britain or Russia. We are normally good exporters of food, and we are canalizing exports to our allies. But Britain still gets an enormous percentage of her imports from the Commonwealth. The Lend-Lease hearings and the Stettinius report dispel any illusion that Americans may go hungry because our allies are doing well. For instance we have not sent an ounce of butter to Britain.

If we go hungry, or fall to the nutrition level of Britain, it will be wholly because of abominable planning in agriculture. But now it is fashionable to attack "planners." But the truth is that our whole war effort is screaming aloud for really efficient planning. In agriculture we have had lack of foresight, knowledge, and above all, lack of courage. As for foresight, it is only a few months since Secretary Wickard was gaily carolling that there were no food shortages whatever in sight, although the vetted amateurs with some knowledge of the farm situation were already deeply perturbed.

As for knowledge, the misstatement of stocks and the misunderstandings of connections between various price ceilings,

food production and labor shortages and labor prices still persist.

As for courage—instead of making an overall production plan, at the outset, in which all factors could be taken into account—a publicly announced plan, furthermore, so that every farmer in the country would know what the problem was and what the demands upon him, we have met every emergency as it arose. The authorities were apparently afraid of telling the whole truth, and have chosen to wait until the facts were so obvious that public pressure would support measures taken.

Now there is a crisis—a genuine crisis. And Spring is here and still there is no considered and comprehensive planning.

We should have this Summer an army of at least a hundred thousand women, and three or four hundred thousand high school boys and high school and college girls working on the land, with some previous basic training or at least mental conditioning for the tasks.

But that would have involved getting busy last Fall, not in the middle of March. The Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture has had a good program, based on well-tested experience, for the recruiting, placement, and supervision of youth. In which the Department of Education and the Federal Employment Service could have performed an appropriate function. But Congress has not yet passed the appropriation, because there are other things in the Farm Bill that it does not like.

To turn loose thousands of hastily recruited high school students without careful selection and adequate supervision will accomplish very little. The time is too late.

Trained farmers are still leaving farms for the higher wages of industries, and being accepted unquestioningly by the industries. The priority system through which a farmer has

to pass in order to get the simplest replacements for machinery or which is unbelievably cumbersome, and wasteful of time and energy. And it is ridiculously centralized. Decisions that could be made by a bright schoolboy in the country, according to clear standards and rules, have to pass through three or four bureaucracies and be settled finally in Washington.

The price ceilings are a chaos. For instance, the price ceiling on eggs is radically reduced, but the price of chicken feed is going up. Apparently no one sees a connection between the price of the grain fed to hens and the price at which eggs can be sold without loss.

The waste of food in restaurants—where fifteen to twenty million people eat daily—should be reduced. In New York, for instance, an individual can still gobble down a full pound of beefsteak as one portion, and bread and butter are served to people who eat no other food. Under the rationing laws this uneaten bread and butter is then shoveled into the garbage.

The distribution of food stocks complicates the problem. Huge amounts of grain are stored in the Middle West, and there is no transportation for it to the East. One wonders why these stocks were not redistributed at the outbreak of the war, as they would be if there had been. People with brains, authority, and the courage to make decisions.

And the net effect of all the bureaucratic rules is to dampen and strangle the enterprise of the individual in stead of releasing it into creative, productive channels.

What we need is an overall, long-range plan, based upon facts and not upon propaganda, and then the mobilization of all the farming people and communities of the country to realize it. Instead of releasing creative energy, the whole machinery of farm production is slowing down from confusion and discouragement.

## Poor Timing

## Allied Break

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON  
MOST of the comment here is that Ambassador Standley's remarks at Moscow were unfortunate. Acting Secretary of State Welles said that the ambassador spoke without Washington's knowledge. The incident very much disturbs this Government because of discussions that may take place before long concerning the United States, Great Britain and Moscow.

As it is the atmosphere is not too good so far as the United States and Russia are concerned. Ambassador Litvinov, the Soviet representative here, is withdrawing more and more into seclusion. He is seldom seen and participates little in the activities of Washington now although for a while after his arrival he and Madame Litvinov mingled everywhere and everything was extremely cordial.

I don't mean to say that there is any other. Under the Soviet Vice-President of the United States gets up in public meeting and answers as Mr. Wallace did at Delaware, Ohio, this week, that there will be another war if we double-cross Russia, there is something wrong with the relations between us. You don't talk about such things when feeling is all right.

Conversations are planned to try to clear up any possible causes of this drifting apart of the United States and our Soviet ally. Some of the most responsible persons in this Government deeply hope that the discussions will be successful. It is unfortunate to inject into such a delicate situation the petty controversy over whether the Russians are showing enough appreciation of our help. The fact that there is an underlying uneasiness here concerning Russian high policy adds additional explosive power to the incident which is actually a trivial one.

As one reads the various dispatches, there is some doubt as to whether Ambassador Standley was in effect charging the Soviet Government with duplicity, or whether he said that he had withheld information in order to make the Russian people think they were pulling themselves by their own bootstraps. On the other hand, The New York Times correspondent in Moscow, Ralph Parks, sent a dispatch which was based by his paper but which puts a considerably different light, and a softer light, on Ambassador Standley's remarks.

The Times correspondent gave the impression that Admiral Standley was not rebuking Moscow but was arguing for more publicity as a good way to further American sentiment especially in Congress, for more Lend-Lease to Russia. Anyway it is much ado about nothing. State Department information is that statements about the volume of Russian Lend-Lease material have been printed in Pravda, USSR official newspaper. Henry Cassidy, for and Press correspondent just back from Moscow, said in a recent dispatch that the Russian people know a good deal about American material, and that many had spoken to him about it. Mr. Parker of The Times says the same thing.

What's Pressure?  
Greenhouse Daily News  
HON. GREGG CHERY only few weeks ago spoke out before a Raleigh civic club against pressure groups, citing how they approached and how they worked; how great appropriations sooner or later from little requests grew.

Well, during the final days of the Assembly—on Tuesday to be exact—there was what many may be prone to term an illustration of the process to which the Gaston honorable referred. Last year the Assembly, also in its final days, as we all heard, a request for \$50,000 with which to establish a vocational textile school, subsequently located and built in the Belmont environs, with the assurance, in the opinion of listening honorables not a few, that no more funds would be asked of the State.

But Tuesday came another request for \$75,000 with which to buy machinery for the school; and it managed to get by too, despite a commendably vigorous opposition.

But after all, maybe this illustration shouldn't count, or at least ought not to be cited, since its political genesis lies over in Mr. Chery's own billbook.

## Side Glances



"He'll come back—and then you'll have him and a better world to live in."

## Quote, Unquote

WE feel that an absentee is a slacker working in a defense plant to keep from going into the service.

—Philadelphia draft board official. Axis capitulation would mean heavy territorial losses and impoverishment of the people. The single way out is to continue resistance even if it appears completely hopeless.

—Virginia Gayda, Mussolini's official spokesman.

We must never underestimate the lightning ability of the enemy as a foe or as an individual. But in my short experience with them, there is no Gouda-gouda found nothing to build up a bogey as to invincibility.

—Maj.-Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift.

Liberal education will have to survive and be strengthened if we are to meet the demands of a victory which will impose upon us.

—President Everett Case of Polkale U.

The whole objective of the manpower program is to have the right workers in the right war jobs at the right time. It is not helping our Government reach that objective if you leave a job which is useful to the war to find a place doing something for which you have no skill.

—Mangover, Director Paul V. McNutt.

Some people are busily concerned about the past records

of various French functionaries whom the Americans have deemed it prudent to employ. For my part, I must confess I am more interested in the safety of the armies and in the success of the operations.

—Winston Churchill.

In time of danger we turn to our young and we do not fail us. When the call is for action and attack, youth responds.—George D. C. C., New York Commissioner of Education.

To plan form and institutions now for the fast moving world is speculative. The people have their own ideas, which are not our ideas. Our paternalism was not make us any too popular.—Alf M. London.