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And Evening Chronicle

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TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1943

Mayor Baxter

His Victory Was Minus
An "Issue" for Voters

We extend the best wishes and congratulations of *The News* to H. H. Baxter, Charlotte's new mayor as a result of one of the most remarkable municipal elections in our memory. For him, we wish co-operation at City Hall, and a highly successful tenure in office. We have faith that Mr. Baxter will, as he pledges, give the City good government, this ability to give of course, is now largely dependent upon the outcome of the run-off election for City Council next week. It will be well, in our opinion, if some sort of balance of factions is the result—but not even a balance as to being about continual deadlocks in routine affairs of government.

Yesterday's race, by the huge number of registered voters that appeared at the polls, did not stir the people. It is apparent from the photo-finish result that the ballots were cast for Mr. Baxter and Mr. Currie as men and personalities, and probably not for one cause or against another. The result also tends to show that the public was not given to see clearly that any great "issues" were at stake. Consequently, the 10,000-old voters spoke for their choice of two personalities. Just 334 votes decided the race.

Now that Mr. Baxter has been named mayor, it is likely that his entire Peoples' ticket will receive a new boost; the chances of election on day are likely to grow stronger every day as some semblance of the coming administration's machine begins to take form. The Citizens' ticket, so manfully defeated in the mayoralty race, will find an uphill battle. Already it has seen several very able men defeated, one of them a veteran who was accepted as virtually elected by political wisecracks.

The days of the new administration will be vital ones to Charlotte. There is the chance that peace will come before next elections, and that in the bustling post-war period the new mayor and his Council elected next week will shoulder the responsibility for giving the city a good start along the trail of planning and improvement. One of this administration's tasks is to be working with the City Planning Committee.

In any event, we wish Mayor Baxter well, and trust, for the good of City and Administration, that the next two years go well. *The News* offers itself to the support of the City Government in this case, as always. We bid Herb Baxter and his conferees bon voyage.

In Manhattan, the Ringling big show opens the new season with a new act, a new show. Also, clowns begin as funny as they can without debating a tax measure.

No Prisoners

Army Learns It's Better To
Shoot First, Talk Later

Whether or not the Government of the United States is represented by Secretary Hull, is prepared to meet the Axis powers in a battle of cruelty against cruelty, fighting as the enemy wants to fight, the Army of the United States seems prepared to regard the new warfare realistically. In the Southwest Pacific, for example, there have been precious few prisoners taken on either side. It was explained that "the nature of the fighting" precluded the taking of large numbers of prisoners.

Young paratroopers, for another example, tell us—at least one of them was impressive with his theories of combat—come—that they do not expect to deal with a great many prisoners. They are given to realize how troublesome wholesale captives can be, and they are often told how treacherous innocent-looking prospective prisoners can be. They are told often to shoot anything that moves on sight; they have been told by returning veterans of the trenches that the danger of turning for a moment away from comrades. There are stories of bombs strapped to dogs in forward areas, of old women halting careless sentries.

Our soldiers are being taught, both on and off the battle lines, that survival is a business of giving ruthless treatment to the enemy; that process will be continued as the war wears on, and as victory comes closer and the

enemy's resistance flags, ruthlessness will pay the United Nations greater dividends. There need be no such flaunting of the accepted international pledges as execution of prisoners, or torture. But while the decisions are being hammered out in the blood and smoke of battle, we should give them no mercy. That is the war hardest of the Army. It should become a fighting property of the nation.

Little Men

They Must Buy Bonds Now
Or the Drive Will Fail

The overwhelming success of the second war bond drive in North Carolina and the nation is only a qualified success; the bonds were bought, and the money for war is flowing into the Treasury—but the secondary purpose of bond sales was not fulfilled. The bulk of the sales is accounted for by large firms and banking houses—and the Treasury aim was to have most of the bonds bought by small investors, by the people.

The theory is—and it's considerably more than a theory at this stage of the fight against rising living costs—is that the bond drives could accomplish one of the most important tasks in helping to drain off the surplus cash at large in the country by attracting the average man to buy bonds. He has responded, but not in a way to challenge the leadership of big business. One local firm, for example, can buy more bonds than all the small investors, and a balance of it is spent kind wars against the anti-inflation procedure.

Now the scale must be more nearly balanced; the drive will not have done its work until more thousands are invested by little taxpayers who can cash on hand in these times. That is a most important feature of the war bond idea. It is well that big firms have their money in the bonds; it makes the running of the war far easier. But without the help of every man, there is still a dangerous surplus of money (some \$16 billions) in circulation. A great deal of that should have been put into bonds that is, until now, about business-as-usual. Until it changes places, there can be no success for the second war bond drive.

Army's Food

Soldiers' Appetites Twice
Size of Hungry Civilians'

In a recent discussion of the Army and its food, we fearlessly indicated frank amazement at the size of the task of feeding our fighting men. The simple fact that an overseas force of two million men means setting up food supplies for about 60 million was enough for astonishment. It now develops that even those yawning figures were insufficient. From a new source we learned that the Government must not only provide for all types of emergencies—and make sure that fighters have five times as much food as they would ordinarily need. We learn that soldiers eat so much more than civilians that comparisons are futile.

From OWI, this news:

Those who wonder where the food supply in this country is going to come from, what it takes to feed a modern Army.

The War Department estimates that a soldier eats twice as much as a civilian. Included in the 5-12 pounds of food that the average soldier gets daily are a pound of meat; 12 ounces of grain and cereal products; 12 ounces of potatoes; a pint of milk; 3 ounces of sugar; 19 ounces of fruits and vegetables. Coffee is brewed on the basis of 3 pounds to each 100 men.

Submarine rations are even higher. A recent survey showed that one submarine supplies the crew with 5,700 calories a day. The lowest calorie content was found in the rations served by a submarine which had suffered a breakdown in its refrigerating system, resulting in a loss of perishable foods. Even that vessel fed its men 3,800 calories a day, as compared to the average of about 3,000 calories a day which will be available for civilians in 1943.

That should explain, in a manner satisfactory to all except chronic complainers through war and peace, the state of the grocery shelves.

An Old Story

The Japanese Atrocities

By Dorothy Thompson

WE ARE all excited and outraged by the American films, prisoners of war, have been executed by the Japanese in violation of international conventions respecting prisoners. Our very indignation is understandable. But our surprise is not. It is perfectly futile to expect the Japanese to observe any conventions, because from the beginning of their war, they never have.

The bombardment of open towns is prohibited by international convention. Since 1937 the Japanese have been bombing Chinese open towns continually. And Japan is not even officially at war with China. Because of the mysterious killing of Japanese officer in Manchuria, they invaded Manchuria as a "police action," to restore order, and followed this by war against the whole of China. But the war is not officially, a police action to liquidate an incident. It isn't a war and therefore none of the conventions of war apply.

The whole Japanese war in China has been one series of atrocities. City after city, absolutely defenseless, has been bombed and burned. Shanghai was bombed in the middle of August, 1937, and then Japanese fliers moved up the Yangtze River bombing everything in sight, and especially the big towns of Soochow and Nanking. In Soochow they destroyed the university. Then came repeated bombings of Nanking. The bombing of Nanking was followed by the wholesale slaughter of the population to the number of tens of thousands.

Then they went south and bombed Hankow and Chungking. From the latter, a city of 600,000, the Japanese fliers were machine-gunning the population to death from the air. They left the roads for the rice fields where they drowned in water and mud. Then the Japanese bombed Chungking, which has the honor of being after Malta, the most bombed city on the earth. But the Japanese are not at war with the Chinese.

The Japanese had such air superiority that their war was an entirely one-sided action. The Chinese could not retaliate. And that is the history of the whole air war. Nations with vast superior air power set out to destroy their enemies with the instrument of terror. This was the history of Ethiopia, where Mussolini's son expressed his pleasure in the fountains of blood that sprang from the ground and in chasing the population "like rabbits." This was the history of the civil war in Spain, where the Italians and

German "non-intervent" by bombing the open city of Guernica, holy town of the Basques.

At the outset of this war the Axis powers never made any apology for the terror against civilians from the air. They never even attempted to claim that they were observing international conventions. They began to worry about them when other people got air forces. Furthermore Germany attempted this tactic of "terror from air" in the last war. In August, 1917, a squadron of planes was sent from Osnabrück to bomb London with the object of frightening the population into a peace.

And this concept of frightening the opponent into a peace has been a repeated tactic of this war. The Hoss mission coincided with the two most terrible bombings of London in May, 1941, bombings which were completely hit or miss. Hoss descended from the clouds in the midst of a country full of dead, maimed, and wounded, to "save humanity."

And this leads us to a peculiar aspect of the Japanese affair. For a few weeks after the notification of us through the Swiss legation, that they had executed American pilot-prisoners, the Japanese appointed the more moderate foreign minister, Hirogami, replacing General Tani, who is responsible for the all-out war against the Western powers, and the change has been generally interpreted as a peace feeling. It's the old bully concept of terror plus seduction.

The Nazi atrocities in this war are too well known to need captioning. The Axis powers have continually learned from each other, and each has driven the other into new phases. It is half-splitting to say that the one is more cruel and ruthless than the other. If the Nazis do not follow the Japanese example in respect to our prisoners of war, it is probably for practical reasons—that too many of their own soldiers are now in our hands. Actually it was reported, via Switzerland last week, that they are still shackling British prisoners.

Mr. Cordell Hull is, however, right. We are not Japanese and we are not Nazis, and we must hold to the principles regarding prisoners of war, as established by the International Red Cross, no matter what the other. Our objective is to defeat the enemy and punish the guilty, and we must stick to that, because we are fighting a just war and clean war. We would not further the objective one bit by taking a few Jap prisoners and shooting them. We can put our rage and fury into much more constructive channels if we keep it cold as ice, and buy some more Victory bonds.

—By Dorman Smith

Even the Master Is Appalled



Wellman's Pardon

The Governor's Mistake?

Editors, The News:

Governor Broughton accepted the signed payroll receipt and the affidavit of the two inspectors at the Governor's newly discovered evidence during the trials in Washington and Fred County, we must know about it for sometime before and two weeks January 1943 term of the Superior Court in Fred County, which began on January 26, at which time, under State evidence, the Governor's pardon Wellman could have made a motion at any time during the two weeks, for a new trial on the grounds of this newly discovered evidence. As the matter troubled the Governor so much and so vital to the public interest, it would have been appropriate for a learned lawyer like the Governor to have insisted that this motion for a new trial be filed so that Wellman's guilt or innocence could again be determined upon all the evidence, including this newly discovered evidence in the judicial tribunal established by our Constitution and Laws to pass upon such issues. Had the presiding Judge declined the motion the Governor could have still acted.

But the high pressure groups, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which have backed Wellman's fight from the beginning, did not want the Courts to pass upon Wellman's guilt or innocence. They had seen the alibi witnesses who testified in court destroyed through the cross examination. Very probably the manipulation of the signed ally would have been exposed and the affidavits of the two inspectors impeached through cross examination. Had the Governor thoroughly investigated the activities of these high pressure groups at the same time he was investigating in behalf of Well-

man, he might have discovered much.

In his concluding statement the Governor might have given his effort, to apprehend and punish the individual guilty of this shocking crime. The pardon is unnecessary. The search for the perpetrator of this shocking crime was further considered, the Governor could have any should have required that his attorneys exhaust his legal remedies by moving in court for a new trial. But the Governor opened the door through the Pardoning Power and gave him his freedom. Verily the Pardoning Power can destroy the orderly process of the Court, his threatening and discouraging all citizens who earnestly believe in punishing criminals. Lawmen and judges of our Courts and NOT OTHERWISE, we ended the way into a new era. He has made a tragic mistake. N. M. Land, Attorney, Statesville, N. C.

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A Union Grows

By Leaps and Bounds

Editors, The News:

One of the largest and fastest growing unions in the world is the United Automobile and Aircraft Workers of America, CIO. The UAW fills the double role of improving the status of working men and women, and at the same time notably contributing to victory.

On April 1 the union had a membership of 97,257. By the million mark has probably been passed. During March membership grew by 16,000. All automobiles manufactured in the United States were in the hands of UAW employees of companies under contract with the UAW. This membership is now being used in the conversion of automobile plants to mass production of aircraft.

—LUCY RANDOLPH MASON.

Side Glances



"Good thing you took that first aid course, mother, before I started going to the USO dances!"

Hitler's Wall

Still Building

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK
PESTUNG Europa: The Germans have taken a large district in Western Europe, and converted it into a fortress. The Dutch owners thereof have been tossed out, paid off in paper. This is part of the process now going on in the "new French" in the Balkans, on the Riviera. Hitler is completing "Pestung Europa," his Fortress of Europe. The man who proved that yalis are no good is building a wall around a continent.

And only now there is released a secret speech which Prime Minister Churchill delivered to the coal miners of Great Britain that a German attack on the Prime Minister cited "stalemate" in the war as one of the chief dangers facing Britain. Mr. Churchill said that Hitler was building his European fortress, hoping it would hold for years, until the grand alliance would disintegrate, until the Allies would grow tired, fall out among themselves, and make a compromise peace.

That speech was delivered during the very week in which the clamor for a second front was at its height. Eight days later, American forces invaded French North Africa. That action hushed the second front debate for the Winter. There is no explanation as to why the speech is released now. It could be an indirect reply to Soviet suggestion for a negotiated peace. Citing something somebody said 20 weeks or 20 years ago is a favorite diplomatic device.

Mr. Churchill has recently lunched in state at the Spanish Embassy in London, thereby rather putting himself out of position for telling the Spanish Government that it knows what it can do. But now it goes into the record that Mr. Churchill, glaring into the future as recently as last October, foresaw a stalemate as in some respects the most "invidious" danger facing the Allies. First invasion was our danger; invasion of England, of the Western Hemisphere. Now our prospects have improved to the point where stalemate is the danger. And Pestung Europa is being built, and Hitler is waiting for certain processes to take effect in the West; weariness, political disagreement, perhaps change of administration; he is hoping a full, long, slow dose of time, taken raw, may alter some of our ideas.

At this point, we have to take stock to see which processes in American life (it will tell the English speak for themselves) aid in the creation of stalemate. There are so many of them that they hit the anxious searcher after truth full in the face.

One is that persistent endeavor to turn our attention away from Europe to far greater concentration on the war in the Pacific. The war in the Pacific deserves our most anxious attention. The writer of these lines was, in fact, bewailing our sale of oil to Japan at a time when the "pro-British" isolationists of today were wholly uninterested in either war. But to pull our resources away from Europe now is exactly what the Pestung Europa needs. It is startling that some opinioners have even used the word "stalemate" to describe the situation. The war in Europe is a battle for the greater share of our attention to the lesser of our enemies. These aviators, whose names will always be great, deserve a better fate than to be used as a wedge for point.

Among other unconsciously stalemate tendencies might be cited the big move to keep more men at home to raise food. And also, the Navy's slowness in building ocean vessels for forcing cargo past the submarine blockade, as revealed by the Truman Committee; the Navy is charged with giving precedence to large warships.

And also the Army's revelation of the fact that we are so concerned about civilian feelings that we have used machinery for synthetic rubber that might have been used for gasoline. The appalling result is that some Army planes were actually grounded for want of gas last month. These are stalemate tendencies.

The motive does not matter. Only the objective result counts. If the result be to give Hitler more time to complete Fortress Europe, it is bad. The Fortress stands. We must crack it. In what other terms can our problem be honorably stated?

How'll He Die?

Hate And Hitler

ONE of the war's most ghastly aspects is revealed in an article by Hendrik Willem van Loon, famous author, in the May Reader Digest condensed from Liberty. This is the deep and burning hatred which the German occupation of Holland has inspired in the Dutch people, and which in Mr. van Loon's opinion will ultimately have the most terrible consequences.

What the nature of Dutch vengeance may likely be is reflected in a gruesome folk story now current in Holland which, Mr. van Loon says was told him by a Dutch physician, who recently effected an escape from that country. That is the story:

Suddenly the war is over and Hitler has been captured and imprisoned in Amsterdam. Burning the stake is considered the most fitting punishment for him. But how accomplish this so that all the Dutch people can witness it and experience the satisfaction of it? After the nightfall it was decided that Hitler's funeral pyre be set up in a long Amsterdam and be ignited by a long fuse starting in Rotterdam and following the main road to Amsterdam. Millions of people along the highway would run through Delft, The Hague, Leiden and Haarlem and then watch the fuse burn its way to the longed-for point.

On the day of the great auto da fe, gaping crowds filled the avenue through which the fuse ran. Crowds that burst into the night and were so thick that they could not see the pyre. A long yellow strip of fuse, lit at one end, stretched along the avenue, and the yellow strip and the fuse were lit at the other end. The Dutch people, and of innocent people overcame homes and miserable by Hitler's unslashed fury.

When the spark was only a few inches away from the pyre, a witness, a little man, wriggled through the crowd and deliberately stamped out the fuse that was the last of Hitler's life. He was merely a dead and sad remembrance of the man who had been so hated, and he was lifted both arms toward heaven and in a voice charged with fury, he said:

"Now let us do it all over again!"

Van Loon writes in the Digest that he shuddered when he heard this story. "For a hatred that will give birth to such a story is the most terrible thing in the world. He looks forward to a day when this hatred will be merely a dead and sad remembrance of the man who had been so hated, and he was lifted both arms toward heaven and in a voice charged with fury, he said: