# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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## Live-At-Home

### *Russia Ready for That As Lenin's Dream Is Killed*

Twenty years ago this month Nikolai Lenin (otherwise M. Vladimir Ilich Ulianov-Lenin) became gravely ill of a malady from which he never recovered. He saw his world movement among workers barely started, but he lingered long enough to see it strike fear in the hearts of men all over the globe—and perhaps that was enough to tell Lenin that the movement would become a great success. He died of apoplexy in January, 1924, in the town of Gorka, near Moscow, when his world-wide revolution was five years old.

After him, Russia struggled through the black years, learning by costly experience the business of translating new theories of government into the lives of men and women of flesh and blood. After him, there was Joe Stalin, whose aims were finally to settle inside Russia herself, who was, in the year of crisis of the second great war, to dissolve the Comintern, and abandon Lenin's dream.

And that line of descent of the burning Russian idea, that little snatch at the history of mankind, may actually be destined to grip and change the world. That the union of the world's working men (first formed by Karl Marx in 1863, formed again in 1889, and reborn in 1919, in Russia) is dissolved does not mark the end of Communism outside Russia's borders. It removes a threat, and leaves Germany without a red flag to wave at captive Europe; it also likely means that Russia's post-war years will be spent in rebuilding its own wreckage. But it does not mean that the Communist idea is dead in America, or in Britain, or in any other land.

The Comintern, served by hard-bitten men and women who seldom hesitated to give their lives for their revolution, did a thorough job in its years of life. Its avowed told the Russian story clearly because it was not intended to do that; it preached the coming of the day of the working man, and tried to bring that day into our times. It failed of its goal, but now at the very moment of its voluntary demise, it wins its greatest victory. It leaves the seed of an idea in fertile soil; having spread the word to all nations, it may now abandon the official organization and leave behind a hope for new forms of Communism tomorrow, in all nations.

In short, virtually every nation must some day fight its own battle over Communism. Now, after the master stroke, it will fight against itself, and not against the threat of Russia.

## 'Way Behind

### *British Food Conferees Talk More Sensibly Than Our Own*

It has been no secret these past two years that war has taught Great Britan a great deal more about government and its responsibility than that nation had known before 1939; it followed that the English were still far out in front of the United States in the matter of social gains, and increasing the gap. The difference was dramatized by the flurry of excitement caused by the Beveridge Report; it was taken for granted that Britain would move sh rply toward socialized government. That it took many long debates to bring acceptance of even minor Beveridge points was an indication that Britain was not in such a hurry for security as she seemed.

But at the Hot Springs food conference this week, Britons are proving themselves the men of wider vision than the representatives of many another land. Americans, for example, are pressed surprise that the Englishmen, old friends of private enterprise, favor the setting up of an international agency to stabilize commodity prices and supplies—thus severely handicapping private industry in international competition. Americans, indeed, weren't quite sure whether they'd go so far as that. The Britons had them open-mouthed. They needn't have.

Since '39 the English have undergone cataclysmic change, brought about by an immersion in war. Bombings destroyed more of the old England than its houses and Wren churches. Common danger tended to equalize men, and gave them a common outlook. That view is now toward collective security, and that is what England wants in the world's food supply. It would be well if American representatives could share the view of the British (already

own hold on a great part of the world surplus in certain staples makes our position unique. America can afford only the course of liberalism.

If our own representatives do not convince the men of other nations that we intend to play our fair part in the game of world food during and after the peace period, then we will have failed again in an attempt to show the world our determination to live like a good neighbor. If American can differ with the English notion of international control of food supplies, then we have gone selfishly to the conferences, and not with an open mind for the problems of the rest of the world.

## Dead Ducks

### *Over 600 Per Week Knocked Down From Axis Squadrons*

The war in the air over the Mediterranean and on the Eastern front—even granting the figures to be inaccurate—has already reached the point of disastrous losses for Germany. If Russian and British-American reports are to be credited, the Nazis lost 618 planes in the two theaters last week alone. In the same actions, the Allies lost 79; the ratio was almost 8 to 1.

And those are simple totals. Over the invasion islands below Italy, where pressure is more likely to grow than it is in Russia, the ratio was roughly 17 to 1, in the Allied favor. That is going many steps farther than a war of attrition; that is sheer disaster. Not long will Germany and Italy be able to withstand such losses. Their squadrons must be rapidly becoming depleted. The total effect will be to give the Allies wider margins of superiority, and finally, domination in the air.

Meantime, Axis pilots are assuredly suffering from cracked morale, realizing that they are flying to their death if they appear in the sky against British-American forces. The stage has come when the enemy can no longer obtain anything like an even exchange of losses. In the weeks ahead, the scales will tip still more, and the complete collapse of the war machine defending Europe will not then be far away.

## Annihilation

### *Raids Like Dortmund's Will Finish Off Germany*

In the pall of smoke over stricken Dortmund, while history was being written, the RAF certainly brought Germany nearer to her knees. Not long will any power at war be able to stand up and fight under such paralyzing blows. The "experiment" of which Winston Churchill spoke still goes forward, and if bombing alone can put the Nazi machine out of the war, the task will soon be done. The unbelievable weight of bombs dropped into a city of 500,000 people dwarfs other horrible human experiences of this war—and the destruction of lesser raids in Britain was almost enough to end the conflict two years ago.

The price paid by the British for the heavy blow was an indication of the tremendous force of planes used in the raid: 38 of them failed to return, representing a great investment in money and lives. But the vital factor is that the objective was hit and ruined, that Dortmund has been put out of the war for a long time to come. In 41 raids, the war center has certainly been so nearly wrecked that most of the industrial plants in the vicinity are now worthless. Perhaps the Reich will be able to go on and on, though losing city after city and plant after plant to the relentless raiders—but with every passing week now its resistance is certain to decrease.

It may not be noticeable in the immediate future, but the back of the enemy is being broken now; Dortmund is a case in point, and there will be many another. In retaliation (saving the *Luftwaffe* for the time of invasion) Germany can send only ten planes over an English town for low-level bombing and machine-gunning. The Reich may be wisely conserving its strength, but if raids like that on Dortmund continue, all will be in vain.

The end will not simply follow these giant raids as one phase of war follows another. The end is on the way now, for with every blasted plant the potential of resistance against coming invasion falls, and as it does so, the power of the United Nations rises. Over Dortmund, the RAF brought to reality the unspeakable destruction of which

## Little Man's Hope

# Current Tax Payment

*By Dorothy Thompson*

WASHINGTON

CONGRESS must pass a tax bill, and the sooner the better. It is very bad for the national morale to keep the question agitated, as it has been, for many weeks, and the tax-payers speculating on what the decision may be.

**That the present system of payment needs reform is obvious. It dates from the time when relatively only a handful of people paid income taxes in the United States. Most of these bearing very high taxes derived their incomes from investments, industrial shares or industrial, banking, or Government bonds. It made little difference to them, whether that income was taxed in the year following the one in which it had been received. Men with large capital assets could always meet the tax-collector's bills. If necessary they could borrow the money; in the worst case they could liquidate sufficient capital to meet the debt.**

But today millions are paying taxes who have no capital. They pay out of earned income, whether wages, salaries, or professional fees. For all of them, whether their wages or salaries are modest, or whether they are high, the present system is one which keeps them permanently in debt to the Government. It is absolutely impossible for them ever to catch up with the tax collector. They cannot afford to retire, fall ill, or die. If they die whatever savings may be left to pay their funeral expenses and tide over their families are impounded for past taxes. And they can never get ahead enough to provide for a few years of old age.

**This is especially true for persons earning very high incomes. For the law taxes the income a man derives from the expenditure of his energies, which is his only capital, in the same proportion as it taxes the income which another derives from property, in spite of the fact that the property, with luck, pays whether he lives or dies, whether he is sick or well, whether he is young or enfeebled by old age.**

Nobody can endow his widow or minor children with the talents and experience out of the use of which he earns a living and supports them. For a professional man, artist, writer, executive or worker, to die is a family catastrophe in the material sense. And under the present taxation system, the State steps into the funeral and takes away the accumulation of his past year's earnings. The President does not want the remission of taxes for the very rich. If Congress would consider the differences in types of income, perhaps a solution could be found.

The very highest incomes, which furnish the very highest proportional taxes, are not earned incomes. They are incomes from interest and dividends on invested wealth. Nobody in the United States earns a million dollars a year by his own energies, though a number derive incomes to that amount from inherited or accumulated wealth. Under the taxes of the last ten years, not the highest salary permits a man to "save" a fortune. If he has one he has gotten it by inheritance, speculation, or profits.

**I see no reason for a pay-as-you-go arrangement for income derived from capital investments, for they continue regardless of the fate of the person. But everybody working for a living, whether his work brings him three thousand or a hundred thousand dollars a year, ought, at long last, to be given a chance to catch up with the sheriff.**

Decent responsible Americans are made miserable and wretched by the weight of debts. They don't mind paying taxes, but they find the presence of a continual sword over their heads intolerable. They want to be able to balance their budgets at the end of every year. Under the present system, the fear of illness, which might incapacitate them for six months or a year, becomes neurotic in its intensity, for such an illness would be an unmitigated financial catastrophe.

Except for money deriving from taxes on interest and dividends, the Treasury would lose nothing from the adoption of a pay-as-you-go plan, except, in the future, that last few dollars collected, like a ghoul, over the corpse of the defunct American. If it wants to collect that, it can raise the inheritance taxes.

**Even the best patriot, whatever his economic class, always has to convince himself that taxes are necessary. To make the tax system more rational and transparent by connecting it immediately with the earning of the money—so much for me, and so much for the Government—would greatly quiet discontent. It would unburden precisely that part of the population who create the wealth of America, namely the workers—whether they work for small salaries or whether their talents and energies earn them large ones.**

Then, at long last, we might change the phrase, "as sure as death and taxes", to "as sure as life and taxes." We could look forward serenely, to working and paying, and dying solvent.

## What Kind of a Game Is This?

*—By Dorman Smith*

## Run-Around

# Second Front Protests

*By Samuel Grafton*

NEW YORK

WHEN there was a great agitation for a second front last autumn, that little group of Congressmen who do not want a second front argued that such decisions must be left entirely up to military experts. What do we know about such things? they asked with mock humility. Today, when the second front seems likely to become a reality, the same group declares loudly that the plain people must begin at once to take over the control of military strategy, through their Congress.

**They don't like the experts any more, now that the experts seem to favor a second front. All of a sudden, for their money, the experts know from nothing. (This switching of arguments is what I have been calling "obscurantism." I put the word here within parentheses because some customers have objected that it is a hard word to understand. This piece can be read without it; just skip all the brackets.)**

We see now that this group is not really interested in the question of whether the experts ought to override the plain people, or whether the public ought to override the experts. It is interested in a certain policy of non-co-operation with Russia, and in pursuit of that policy it leaps lightly, like the goat, from one argument to another.

**And when, last Fall, it was argued that we ought to take the offensive at once and deliver the knockout punch against Hitler, this same Congressional bloc wagged its group finger wisely, and asked, but what about all the shipping we would need for such an operation? We were told, over and over again, how many ships it takes to carry a soldier, and so on.**

**Now, in this late Spring, the same group argues that we ought to transfer our efforts to a battle-front 6,000 miles away, rather than concentrate on one that is only 3,000 miles away. But nobody mentions shipping. Nobody has yet said "ship" in Congress, though the new strategy would obviously require many more vessels than the old.**

All of a sudden, apparently, soldiers have learned to swim to the scene of their work. (And the "ship" argument, like the "experts" argument, is obscurantism, or double-talk. There is a shipping problem when you want a shipping problem and there is no shipping problem when you don't want a shipping problem. The shipping argument is used, not to illuminate, but to obscure, which is why "obscurantism" is the only word that fits.)

**When, last Fall, it was argued that we ought to** Fuehrer's face, the objection was made that it was too early for such an enterprise, that Hitler was too strong, and that we had better wait until we had accumulated more equipment and men. Now, when American hot lead is about to fly against the best target in the world, precisely the same bloc argues that there is no point in such an endeavor because it is now too late to bother about it; Hitler has become too weak to be a menace.

Besides, it adds, we have too many men and too much equipment on the scene, and we ought to move both somewhere else. So, you see, that is how it goes; it is always too early or it is too late, or we don't have enough stuff, or we have too much: and no matter what we do, it turns out, strangely and mysteriously, that the conditions are never just right for getting rid of Hitler.

## Billy Arthur

Onslow News & Views

NOW, I have been everything: Graham Johnson working in his garden.

**They were telling a story in the barber shop the other morning about the Presbyterian minister who was here on supply work one Summer. When he got his check he went over to Jim Collins in the bank and asked that it be converted into travelers checques.**

**"What denomination?" Jim asked.**

**"Presbyterian," the minister replied unconsciously.**

**So Jim dealt the minister a package of $10 travelers checques, and he went away thinking them Presbyterian.**

Little Margaret Thompson was horrified that several girls who stay at Mrs. W. Y. Richardson's were taking a sun bath scantily clad Sunday morning.

"You'd think they'd have more priority than that," Margaret exclaimed.

**We've got to get somebody to work our garden. We're all short handed. I'm short armed and Pop McCarthy is short winded. Therefore, so far, crops are short.**

Speaking of gardens, one of the local barbers was late for work the other morning because he had been tending his.

"What are you raising?" I asked.

## Side Glances

"Wonder if we ought to tell her we used her ration book to buy these wieners for our fishing trip?" Mom hasn't much sense of humor!"

## Gift For Hate

# The Supermen

*By Raymond Clapper*

STOCKHOLM

LOOKING out this window to the east, one sees another appalling example of how the Nazis miss their opportunities. This is in connection with their occupation of the three Baltic states—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

**When the Germans drove the Russians out of these countries the people hailed the Nazis as liberators. That lasted about a month. The conduct of the Germans quickly chilled the population, and provided another example of the remarkable gift of the Nazis for making themselves the most hated people in Europe. The Russians treated the Baltic peoples badly. The Germans took up where the Russians had left off. They didn't give back the property taken away by the Russians. Soon the people began saying the Nazis were just Russians in another uniform. They called the Nazi officials "brown commissars."**

There seems to have been even less excuse for the Germans alienating these peoples than some of the others, since they put the administration of the Baltic states under Alfred Rosenberg, who, though an original Nazi, was born in Estonia.

The Russians had instituted a brutal regime when they got into the Baltic states soon after the outbreak of the war in Europe. They took over industries, making the former owners their temporary managers. There were heavy deportations. For instance, Estonia, having a population of 1,100,000, had 50,000 deported. And that phase had just begun when the Germans moved in. The Russians' control in the Baltic states was used by the Swedes as an example of how Russia would behave if she became a permanent neighbor. Thus Swedish fears were aggravated and Swedish sympathies for Finland strengthened. Why won't nations learn that they do not get lasting results by pushing people around?

The Nazis were aware of the effect the Russian treatment of the Baltic peoples had had in Sweden. Yet when the Nazis drove the Russians out in the Summer of 1941 they repeated the same blunders.

**The Germans hold onto property that the Russians had confiscated, on the theory that it belonged to the German state after the capture from the Russian state. Instead of restoring it to the original owners, the Germans are distributing the property to their own people as a means of establishing complete economic control. They have taken over textile factories, 22 distilling and alcohol plants, the entire tobacco industry, electrical utilities, mortes, dairies, co-operatives—in short, the main industries. The Jews were driven out. It was rather bad treatment all around, with heavy labor drafts. Estonia is regarded as the closest to Germany among the Baltic states, so the Nazis have granted the Estonians the right to intermarry with German citizens.**

Here again it is the story of Holland and Norway and all the other occupied countries except Denmark, which—in spite of the Nazi effort to make the Danes into model teachers' pets, allowing them more meat than the Germans get—has increasing sabotage and ever more grudging co-operation.

**Only Finland seems to be a willing captive. The Finnish people are friendly enough to us, but so long as we are on the same side as Russia there is not much chance that the Finns will break away from Germany to help us. One wing of the Finnish Labor Party has been arguing that Germany is losing the war and that Finland should change her policy, but the Premier's latest statement ends that agitation, while the political police, headed by an imitation of the Nazi Himmler, probably will continue intimidating friends of the Allies.**

Arguments evidently are futile with the Finnish authorities, who are putting all their chips on Germany.

# Quote, Unquote

MAN for man, Canada's production of the vital materials needed for war exceeds that of the United States.
—Joseph M. Tucker, director WPB's Canadian division.

**By singleness of purpose, by steadfastness of conduct, by tenacity and endurance, by these and only by these can we discharge our duty to the future of the world and to the destiny of man.**
—Winston Churchill.

We must keep prices down. Those who run black markets must be regarded as traitors. The enormous scope of the war explains why there is an insufficiency of funds no matter how great an amount we may muster.
—Tokyo radio.

**The people of Argentina are very pro-Allied and in the near future there are prospects for a change (to pro-Ally Government action). I am sure that it will be entirely different following the September elections.**
—Prof. Hugo F. Ariucio of the U. of Montevideo (Uruguay).

Every report that resistance shall cease is false. We will fight for our country and all that is most valuable to us. Concerning this we are all united.
—Premier Per Albin Hansson of Sweden.

**What are the terms Washington and London might be prepared to offer us in exchange for "unconditional surrender?"**
—Virginio Gayda, Italian editor.

We Americans have had to learn a lesson in modern warfare. The Japs surrendered with their hands to lower them, they pulled off hand grenades on a belt cord, tossed them among their captors without warning. Now we don't bother to take them as prisoners.
—Capt. Gerald J. Crosson, back from the South Pacific.

**Germany is being bombed not only around the clock but around the map.**
—British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

The person who must heal the body must minister to the whole personality. To be the bringer of comfort in a day of bombs and blood-letting, that is the privilege of your profession in your time.
—Dr. Ralph W. Sockman of New York to graduating nurses.

**The English have had it their own way in Essex. It is a simply horrible. The raids become more and more intense every month. Houses are crushed like matchboxes.**
—Letter from home found on German in Russia.

Man's mind has opened up more frontiers than his labor has exhausted. The challenge of the new and the novel is more present than ever before in history. These are terrible times to live in, yet they are times that every courageous person would not miss.
—President John S. Mills of U of Vermont.

**It is my personal belief that before long Hitler will abandon Italy. There is not much more that he can get out of it.**
—Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia of New York.

The day will come when the United Nations will surely drive the Japanese invader from the soil