EDITORIAL PAGE
THE CHARLOTTE NEWS
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Six Times Over

Mr. Doug Bradshaw, who handles the accounts of Mecklenburg County, must shudder a shudder every time he has to write a check to cover interest due on those $300,000 of bonds maturing in 1950. The durned things draw 6 per cent, a rate which is perhaps twice what the County would have to pay now for long-term credit, and, besides, the bonds were issued so long ago that nobody remembers exactly what for.

According to the story in Thursday's News, 1870 was the original date — 74 years ago, only five years after Appomattox. (Say, maybe they are Carpetbagger bonds.) The reason they were issued was something about a railroad, maybe to buy stock in the old North Carolina Railroad, although the records do not show.

At any rate, in the 50 years between 1870 and 1920, when the bonds first came due, the people of Mecklenburg County paid an estimated $900,000 in interest and still owed the original $300,000. The issue was refunded, again at 6 per cent, to mature in 1950. By that date another $540,000 will have been paid in interest, making a total of $1,440,000, more than six times the face of the bonds.

The present County Administration—never fear—has the money in hand to pay off the bonds when they mature in 1950, would like to have them presented for payment right now. But the bond-holders, knowing a good thing when they have it, won't turn loose except for a premium.

Fiscal practices of local governments in North Carolina have been vastly improved in the last few years, and current interest rates are decidedly lower. Furthermore, there are legitimate purposes for which bonds are going to have to be issued in this community, and we would not prejudice any cases. Even so, there is a moral in this story of the $300,000 in bonds on which $1,440,000 in interest will have been paid before we're through with them.

The moral is: Old Man Interest eats up a lot of dough. It's cheaper to increase tax rates and pay cash. If that isn't feasible, it's cheaper to borrow short-term money and pay off the notes as fast as possible. If there simply must be bond issues, make 'em short.

Substitutes

One of our most vital concerns in the job of converting to a peacetime economy must be the proper disposal of surplus war property. If that seems to be a detail, and of little moment to the run-of-mine citizen, consider that our surplus war property runs to a hundred billion dollars in equipment alone, plus a veritable empire of Government land and fifteen billion dollars in war plants.

Not long ago Will Clayton, perhaps the world's champion cotton broker, was moved out of his job as administrator of this vast second-hand arsenal. He went out automatically under the provision creating a three-man Surplus Property Board. And we played like the looks of things about that board.

Already slated to join board are two lame duck politicians, ex-Governor Hurley of Connecticut and Senator Guy Gillette of Iowa, and a wealthy Democratic kingpin in California, Lieut. Col. Edward Heller. These men are compromises between New Deal and anti-New Deal groups within the Administration. Instead of naming outstanding and well-fitted men, and hang their liberal or conservative persuasion, the powers that be simply played the old political game. This board is not to be independent; it is almost certain, we think, that it will not be particularly effective.

Membership is pretty clearly a political plum. A defeated Governor and Senator, plus a party state finance chairman don't seem to offer what we had in mind when we spoke of experienced and capable businessmen. And in addition, there's a suspicion that Mr. Hurley and Col. Heller are unfitted for this mammoth job for other reasons.

The two of them were tangled in a Senate Military Affairs Committee investigation for their connection with a Rhode Island war plant which was financed in a most unsatisfactory fashion. Col. Heller, reviewing loans to this company, was charged with acting "without sufficient care and discrimination" in approving loans—and Mr. Hurley, retiring as Governor, immediately became an official of the firm at $12,000 a year, though he had no particular duties. The company explained that Mr. Hurley was brought in to bolster "morale". We cannot know, of course, but from the facts at hand it would seem that these three men do not fill the bill.

Tax Summary

So far as we can tell, Thursday's session of the N. C. Citizens Association pretty well settled the question of North Carolina tax policy in the near future. Governor-Elect Gregg Cherry said, in so many words, that while we may offer some temporary tax relief during this time of swollen revenues, the State's tax system was sound and did not compare at all unfavorably with those of surrounding states. His statement embodied the facts we've been harping on all along.

Mr. Cherry did not close the door to those who would examine our tax structure. Indeed, he invited inspection, and this, of course, is always desirable. In his thorough-going presentation, these words struck us, in view of the current agitation for reduction of corporation taxes, as particularly significant:

"In the postwar period when industry will be seeking new locations and old industries will be expanding, the low property taxes existing in North Carolina cannot be duplicated or even approached anywhere else in the Southern states. In fact, it would appear that most of the Southern states are going to be forced to increase their support in one field in particular—namely, that of the public schools. In the meantime, North Carolina will be able to proceed with its present stable revenue schedules into the future, assuring business and those who would invest their capital in new enterprise in North Carolina that we have a stable tax structure, and that instead of our property taxes going up, they will constantly be coming down."

That is essentially the view expressed earlier by Governor Broughton, by Tax Research Chief Maxwell and other State officials. A North Carolina business executive took the same line, K. F. Wenz, of Canton's Champion Paper & Fiber Company, had this to say:

"If we reduce taxes now, we will pay for it later, both in higher taxes and reduced services, at a time when we can least afford it."

Those statements reflect the general position of the Citizens Association, a large group of influential businessmen in the state—and by now it seems pretty clear that this is the prevailing view.

Let's Give Up

The disheartening muddle we have made of Washington's mass sedition trial is evidence of certain shortcomings inherent in our form of democracy. We are simply not equipped to handle this prosecution, and might as well admit it now, after seven months of backing and filling. We might as well accept the fact that civil rights come so high in this country that we can't touch these alleged seditionists, and let the whole thing go.

Away back in May the circus opened with fierce scrambles through the jury panel—and things were delayed when the month's time limit ran out. Day after day there were furious, and serious, accusations tossed back and forth. It was a good deal more like an open brawl than the dignified procedure of a Federal court. In the course of events six defense attorneys and one defendant were handed fines amounting to $1,220 for contempt—and all were appealed, with the cases still hanging in the Court of Appeals.

With the death of Presiding Justice Eicher this week, it appeared that the whole exhibition would have to be thrown out hearings started all over again. And that's going to be too much. We are managing to put the courts in a ridiculous light, and accomplishing little else.

If it is so difficult to convict these 27 people of conspiring to disaffect American loyalty and set up a Nazi-style government, then let's turn them loose, and desist from this business of beating our heads against the barriers of human rights which we have set around ourselves.

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

WHEN Donald Nelson conferred with Stalin at the Kremlin during his first trip to China, he questioned Stalin at length about the Chinese Communists. He especially wanted to be able to assure Chiang Kai-shek that Chinese Communists would not try to impose a Soviet government on the rest of the country if Chiang permitted them to join his Government.

Stalin assured Nelson that, to the best of his knowledge, Chinese Reds had no intention of communizing the country as Chiang Kai-shek feared.

Quipped Stalin: "They're not real Communists, they're just margarine Communists."

The Millionaires

If newly appointed Secretary of State Ed Stettinius goes through with some of the plans discussed for new Assistant Secretaries, the State Department will really be a millionaires' club.

Here are some of the men on the list for probable appointment:

Nelson Rockefeller, now head of the Latin American cultural office, may be Assistant Secretary in charge of Latin American affairs. Rockefeller, son of one of the richest men in America, did a good job in improving wartime Pan American relations until (1) he began to close down his work, and (2) the whole Argentine mess caused such resentment.

Will Clayton, millionaire cotton broker and chief aide to Jesse Jones, may be Assistant Secretary in charge of economic maters. Clayton, who buys and sells more cotton than any man in the world, conceived the idea of boosting cotton production in Brazil, making her this country's greatest competitor. He succeeded.

Adolf Berle, whose wife recently inherited $3,000,000 in New York real estate, would remain as Assistant Secretary.

Lew Douglas, former Director of the Budget and former deputy War Shipping Administrator, may become Undersecretary. Popular with the President, Douglas was slated to become Undersecretary when Sumner Welles resigned, but FDR suddenly switched to Stettinius. Douglas is now head of Mutual Life Insurance of New York, his family own large copper mines in Arizona, and he has been close tothe J. P. Morgan firm, from which Stettinius also springs.

Jimmy Dunn, closest friend to Mr. Hull in the Department, may now be elevated to Assistant Secretary. Dunn married into the Armour millions. He supplied the croquet field on which Mr. Hull played his favorite game when he was well.

Capital Chaff

It was Harry Hopkins who carried the promise to ex-Justice Byrnes that he could be Secretary of State if he stayed on as War Mobilizer. . . . This is the second time in three years that South Carolina has had a newspaper publisher in the U. S. Senate. When Jimmy Byrnes stepped from the Senate up to the Supreme Court in 1941, Greenville News-Piedmont publisher Roger Peace was appointed Interim Senator to take his place. New Governor Olin Johnston appointed Greenville Mail and Independent-Tribune publisher Wilton E. Hall to replace the late "Cotton Ed" Smith until Johnston himself takes office in the Senate in January.

When and if FDR looks around for a new Secretary of Labor, he ought to scan the unique record of burly, ruddy-faced Congressman "Gus" Kelly of Pennsylvania, who owns several mines outside of Pittsburgh, has two sons who carry union cards, and always gets a solid vote from the United Mine Workers. . . . De Gaulle's new Ambassador to Washington, Henri Bonnet, should not be confused with appeasing Ambassador Georges Bonnet who served here before Munich.

Latin America

Some time before Secretary of State Hull went to the hospital, plump, popular, placid Brazilian Ambassador Carlos Martins went down to the State Department to see him.

Usually Ambassador Martins is the height of charm and suave geniality. No one would ever expect him to be tough. But he can be. And in talking to Secretary Hull, Ambassador Martins politely but coldly laid it on the line that Brazil could not live in close juxtaposition with her chief neighbor, Argentina, without exchanging ambassadors and being on speaking terms. The situation would be similar to the United States and Canada breaking diplomatic relations and refusing to speak to each other, Martins hinted.

While Brazil does not at all concur with Argentina's various domestic policies, the Ambassador made it clear that the Pan American nations should at least hold a meeting to reconsider their previous policy of refusing Argentina recognition.

Secretary Hull, thumping mad, turned Ambassador Martins down cold. Since, then, it has developed that other Good Neighbors want to recognize Argentina, or at least discuss the question of recognition—including Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia.

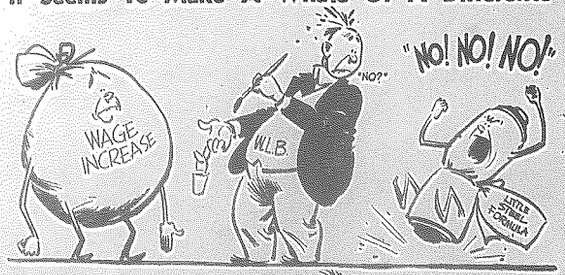
This deadlock has now become the most serious diplomatic problem facing new Secretary of State Stettinius. It was also a primary factor in the President's decision to appoint a new Secretary of State.

Our situation in regard to Latin America today is similar to that faced by Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg had landed Marines in Nicaragua, had blasted Mexico with a series of notes putting her "on trial before the world." As a result, all of Latin-America was sympathetic with those two countries and seething against us.

Secretary Kellogg could not reverse his policies without serious loss of prestige. Therefore, Coolidge shrewdly sent Henry L. Stimson to Nicaragua and Dwight Morrow to Mexico. They virtually took things out of Kellog's hands, revamped our entire policy.

Roosevelt figured that a similar clean-cut new start would have to be made in our whole Pan American relations as far as Argentina was concerned.

It Seems To Make A Whale Of A Difference

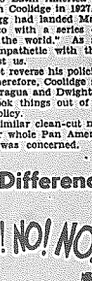


"Here's a notice our automobile insurance premium is due—you'd better pay it today because Bill will be home next week on shore leave!"

Everyday Counselor

By Herbert Spaugh, D.D.

IS IT RIGHT for us to pray for victory in terms for our cause? A correspondent objects to my drawing attention to various public incidents in which officers and men in our Armed Service have prayed to God to bless their efforts. He thinks this brings God down to the level of a tribal deity. While I respect his opinion, I can't agree with him. War itself is evil, but God does not bless evil. But He permits it to come when man exercises free choice, lets the evil come into his heart and life which provokes war.



The freedom which we enjoy today was bought with the blood of our forefathers who founded this nation. They fought against selfish oppression. It is on record that many of them, including General Washington, offered humble prayer for guidance and direction.

We are fighting today to preserve that freedom and to release enslaved people. We maintain that it is right for us to ask the direction of Almighty God for our efforts in this battle, and His blessings and protection for our men and women in the Armed Service. Who would deny the right of a father or mother to pray for their boy fighting overseas? Who would deny the right of our servicemen to pray for God's direction and protection in battle?

Dare we, as it were, bow God out of our national life while we fight a war to defeat those who by announced plans would enslave us, destroy the American way of life, overthrow Christian institutions?

Recently, Captain P. R. Helander, 23, of Chicago, confidently said: "The hand of God guided the Good Shepherd, a B-24 bomber, on its 21 missions over Germany and occupied Europe. Each time the bomber prepared to take off from its base in England, the crew knelt in prayer, and at the mission's conclusion, thanks were given for safe delivery." On the plane's nose, members had painted the opening lines of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd —He leadeth me."

"Many flyers eagerly sought assignment to the Good Shepherd, for word got around that it led a charmed life," said the Captain. "Our constant prayers," I informed them, "were responsible for whatever charm we possessed."

During his last week in England before returning home on a 30 day leave, Captain Helander watched the Good Shepherd and a new crew take off on its 22nd bombing mission. Hours later over Germany, it was shot down. No information concerning the crew's safety has ever been received, said the Captain, who commented: "The new crew said no prayers, but just piled into the plane and took off."

The 21 missions with prayer and safety, the 22nd without prayer and disaster. Is that just a coincidence?

Our Doughboys

By Hal Boyle

FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS —(AP)—Harold Austin, correspondent of the Sydney, Australia, Morning News, has some interesting views on the American soldier.

Austin, known to his press colleagues as "The Kangaroo," hit the beaches with the First Infantry Division on D-Day and since has covered the advance of the American First Army through France, Belgium and into Germany.

I asked him what he thought of Americans in action. Here is his answer:

"I saw American soldiers walking in Piccadilly Circus in London and thought: 'These men are not soldiers.' I didn't admire their appearance or their bearing.

"I landed in Normandy on D-Day with them and, within a matter of minutes, changed my opinion completely. Infantrymen advancing in the face of murderous enemy fire were doing all that could be asked.

"Since D-Day, I have watched Americans fighting their way through France, Belgium and now Germany. I have not yet seen Americans fail to accomplish the task for which they were detailed.

"No more can be asked of any soldier. They have terrific pride in their country, absolute faith in their weapons and confidence in themselves. That confidence is a factor which has brought them through many tight places.

"You have asked my views on the American soldier, and I must say frankly that there are some features about him that I don't like. Firstly, his standard of discipline is not particularly high.

"I don't mean that he questions orders in the field. On the contrary, he obeys orders which require great courage. But I do say that he is an untidy soldier. Sometimes thoughtless in his behavior.

"Some men seem to have an impression that a display of respect for an officer is an admission of intellectual or social inferiority.

"That attitude of mind does not exist in combat units, where there is particularly healthy relationship between officers and men, but it is noticeable in rear echelon troops.

"The American has shown that he is more than a match for the Germans. He likes to be told what the action is all about and like to be made to feel that he is something far more important than a small cog in a very large machine. When these conditions have been satisfied, he attacks with a spirit which eliminates the possibility of defeat from his mind.

"I must reserve my judgment on the American in retreat. In this campaign he has suffered none of the major misfortunes of war, but I feel that if he can give it he can probably take it."

Behind The Justice Fight

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON

THE brief accounts that have appeared in the papers so far telling of the dismissal of Assistant Attorney General Norman Littell from the Department of Justice obviously give only fragments of the whole story.

In fairness both to Littell and to Attorney General Francis Biddle, the War Investigating Committee should look into this thoroughly. It may develop that, from an administrative point of view, the head of the Department of Justice was justified in calling on his aide to quit. But the public has a right to the truth.

Some interesting facts that have a direct bearing on the case have not yet come to light. About two years ago, the White House ordered a complete investigation into the Savannah Shipyards case, the focus of the quarrel between Littell and Biddle, as well as other activities of the men who promoted that company.

To make sure the investigation would be impartial, the White House ordered the Securities and Exchange Commission, which had had no previous connection with the matter, to make the inquiry. The SEC named a capable group of investigators, who spent months digging into the angled records of Savannah Shipyards and the high-powered promotions that preceded it.

When they finally completed their report, they met with the commissioners to discuss their recommendations. One question thoroughly threshed out concerned Thomas G. Corcoran and the part he played—or did not play—as a lawyer-lobbyist in getting war contracts for the Savannah Shipyards group. Corcoran had testified before the Truman Committee that he had no real connection with the enterprise.

Finally, after a heated argument, the commissioners ruled that the facts, as disclosed by the investigation, should stand without comment or recommendation. The younger men who had pieced the story together were outraged by this decision, but there was nothing they could do in the face of the ruling by their superiors.

The report was turned over to the White House, and shortly afterward passed on to the Department of Justice for action. After some delay the Department of Justice recommended, on the basis of the SEC findings, that the District Attorney in New York take action before a grand jury.

In due time this was done. In spite of the voluminous findings of the SEC, the Grand Jury failed to return any indictments. The whole matter was dropped.

I believe the War Investigating Committee would discover that that report was most interesting reading. It bears directly on the war effort, and therefore the committee has every right to ask for the document. And, of course, it is directly related to the dispute in the Department of Justice.

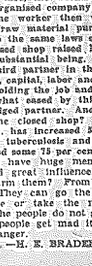
The Hitler Legend

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

FRIEDRICH BARBAROSSA German Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, a real person, is also a German myth and folk-tale. Friedrich I, called "Barbarossa" or "Red Beard" led the third crusade and on July 10, 1190, either in bathing, or in crossing a river in Asia Minor was drowned. The place of his burial is unknown.

But as generations passed and the German states went through hard times, a legend grew up, that he still lived, hidden away in an underground castle in the Kyffhaeuser mountains in central Germany, where he waited to rise and lead his people to new grandeurs.



Like all myths of this kind, the Barbarossa story became interwoven with older and more primitive tribal mythologies. Barbarossa is really an incarnation of Wotan — including the ravens, "Wotan's birds." Wotan and Barbarossa jointly became German gods joining pagan and early Christian ages.

Knowing something of the Nazi mentality, I suspect that a new Barbarossa legend is in the making. I doubt whether we will ever lay hands on Adolph Hitler, or if we do, get him to be able to prove conclusively that it is he. He has always had doubles. Goebbel's story of the attempt upon his life on July 20th, is that one of these doubles, a man named Berger, was killed. But we don't know what happened to Hitler. Since then he has spoken once, over the radio, on the evening following the attack. The voice in the short speech sounded like Hitler's—but Hitler's voice is not difficult of imitation by an accomplished actor.

To prove that he lives, German newspapers have published photographs. It has been noted that none of these shows him in full face, but always from the side, taken from behind, so that one sees his ear, his cheek, and a bit of the profile of the nose—never the eyes.

Is it Hitler or is it a double? When Hitler failed to make his usual speech on November 9th, and the proclamation was read two days later by Himmler, world suspicion became aroused. Stories came out of Germany through neutrals, that he was dead, and that he had gone raving mad and was confined in a straight jacket.

Now, scientists in England, in possession of many old photographs of Hitler, together with the latest ones, have been taking microscopic measurements of the ears.

But this confusion is exactly what the Nazis would think up. These doubts—Is he dead or alive? —Is he confined somewhere insane? —Has he disappeared?—could confuse any capture and trial of him. There would always be thousands who could say: "That was not Hitler." Then, five or ten years later, people would appear who had seen him: "He lives in our midst, a simple man; he is waiting the day."

Statesmen At Work

(Excerpts From The Congressional Record)

DURING Senate debate on the proposed Missouri Valley Authority, Senator Murray of Montana proclaimed that his state was unable to control private power companies, that they watered their capital stock and then charged high rates. Whereupon Senator Maloney of Connecticut rose to quiz him and North Carolina's Senator Bailey chimed in, as follows:

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. President, I should like to ask the Senator from Montana whether there is a regulatory body in his State.

Mr. MURRAY. Yes; there is. But it seems powerless to control the power interests.

Mr. MALONEY. Does the Senator say it is under the control of the power interests in his State?

Mr. MURRAY. Well, the power interests dominate the situation and seem to prevent any relief to the public.

Mr. MALONEY. I find that very difficult to believe.

Mr. MURRAY. The situation is a very peculiar one, but I will explain it.

Mr. BAILEY. Let me ask the Senator whether the members of the power commission in his State are elected by the people?

Mr. MURRAY. Yes; they are.

Mr. BAILEY. Did not the people of Montana elect the Senator?

Mr. MURRAY. Yes.

Mr. BAILEY. By the same power they might elect a good power commission.

Mr. MURRAY. It sometimes happens that persons they do not want are elected.

Mr. BAILEY. I am sure that was not so in the case of the Senator.

Mr. MURRAY. Of course, I was elected in spite of the opposition of the power interests.

But let me say that virtually every newspaper in the State is owned by the Montana Power Co. and the Anaconda Copper Co., and in that way they are able to deceive the public. We have very few independent papers to make the fight in the public interest.

Mr. MALONEY. Mr. President, I would not trade the two liberal Senators from Montana for all the reactionary press men that may operate in his State.

Labor Must Bear The Blame

Editor, The News:

The labor unions would indeed be benighted if they refused to share some of the blame for the vote in Florida and in Arkansas against the closed shop.

Some years ago members of the New York Stock Exchange stubbornly refused to regulate themselves and to remove the abuses of speculation from within, and finally, it was done from without, with the clamping down of the strictest kind of regulation. It is silly to say it was the work of "new dealers," when not one Republican spokesman or candidate in three Presidential campaigns even dropped the slightest hint that those regulations would be relaxed.

Labor organizations should take a lesson from that, and it is equally silly to say that labor-baiters and unfriendly newspapers brought about the vote in these states. Nothing of the kind. You cannot say in one breath that unfriendly newspapers and Roosevelt-baiters could not stop Roosevelt's re-election and then say that these same forces did prove effective in a union amendment.

It is nothing against labor organizations to say that in their upward climb to great effectiveness, many undesirable and many undegrable standards and methods climbed along with them, but it should be their business to adopt the necessary measures and take the necessary steps to eliminate any possibility of criticism, otherwise many of the hard-earned gains which have come to industrial workers as a matter of right would be swept away in a tide of anger.

The closed shop is one of these rightful gains of the worker, and is as much a magna carta for the working man as is free speech and free religious worship. At the point of hire, the worker would stand alone as against an organized company in the form of his employer. The worker then was in the same position as the raw material purchased by the employer, subject to the same laws of supply and demand. The closed shop raised him to status of a human and substantial being, taking his rightful place as one-third partner in the process of accumulating wealth, capital, labor and land. The terrific tension about holding the job and earning some living was somewhat eased by this substantial status as a full-fledged partner. And what has been the result of the closed shop? Since 1910 education in the U. S. has increased 54 percent, the death rate from tuberculosis and other sweat shop diseases decreased some 75 per cent.

Labor organizations now have huge membership, tremendous liquid assets and great influence. What can a "labor-baiter" do to harm them? From now on it is up to them entirely. They can go the way of the stubborn Stock Exchange or take the necessary measures themselves so that the people do not get mad, because when the American people get mad it is very bad for the object of their anger.

—H. E. BRADERMAN

Charlotte.