

EDITORIAL PAGE THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1945

Soft Pedal

The great news from Germany transal seles in these days. The former of war which gare us the bridge-last corns its Rhine provided almost incordibly good news. To civilians at least, smaller to grasp the realities of the west, writing battles inside Germany, this beidge over the Rhine was a dramatic simplification. It gave the offensive carriy. They focused their attention input that bridge. Across it, they could me their men pouring, their clattering excitoment streaming. They could understand that much over the span and into the heart-of Germany, it was a clies as Guster's Last Stand, as remembered from the gaudy, Ill-specked plicfrom the gaudy, fly-specked pic-on the general store's beer calen-

But when word came from Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, in the plain language of Com-munique No. 335, you had to look hard to see that bridge. The communique was dated March 9 (yesterday), and it open-

"Allied forces have surrounded Kanten "Allied forces have surrounced despite strong enemy resistance and are fighting in the town. Heavy fighting continues in the area of Ven." We captured foodenkirchen and enseed South near the Rhine South of "Out units have reached the Rhine and crossed it to establish a bridgehead on the East bank, South of Cologne."

The report went on for nine para-graphs, describing fighting in as many sectors, before it mentioned the bridge-head again, then saying only:

"Striking at the enemy's communica-tions leading to the area of our bridgehead over the Rhine, medium and light bomb-ers attacked targets in a number of towns."

There, if you please, is magnificent quite apart from the headlines. Almost as an afterthought, this bridge was add-It is almost fit to rank with the sic of the war's early days: "Sighted . Sank same."

Push And Pull

Our advice to any citizen who has a scheme for control of manpower is that he hurry to Washington. Whatever it be, and however it is presented, it will receive attention. For it is clear that Congress is becoming desperate, It shakes its head and bellows over; this or that plan, and votes 'em up and votes 'em down. And salmost every day, the Senate and the House come up with different answers. Yesterday, they presented us with as pretty a deadlock as we've since day before yesterday—when the Senate world down a draft for men and the House voted up a draft for muse.

The Sensite voted up a draft for nurses.

The Senate, you see, wants to enter
the manpower muddle from one end,
and the House from the other. At the
rate things are going, the twain can
never meet. The Senate idea is that employers should bear the burder of
responsibility. It set up heavy penalties
(\$4,000 fine and a year in the cooler)
for employers who hired more workers
than their quota allowed. The House
figured that the workers themselves
should be the target, find provided that
draft boards could order them wherever draft boards could order them wherever they were need. And violators would be convicted of draft dodging, and sub-jects of fines to \$10,000 and five years in jail.

Georgia's Senator Russell, who thought the Senate plan was as effective as "a resolution passed by the ladies sewing circle of Squeedunk", ahed some light on the one plan. None was needed on the other, for the House proposal was clearly more realistic.

It's a matter of approach, you see. The It's a matter or approach, you see. The problem is so complex that almost any immediate solution is going to call for some guess-work. Congress has shed away from anything approaching a la-bor draft. It holds, in effect, that draft-ing men for the armed services is harsh enough. We must not violate our demo-cratic traditions by drafting manpower at home into essential industry. And, in high dilemms, it threshes about, play-ing the oulja board — this while the Army and Navy fret and cast anxious cyes toward the fronts. Anyone with an Idea, we say, will be welcome in Washington. And time presses.

600 Grand

Adverting once again, and apologetically, to the money that would be saved Charlotte taxpayers over a period of time were the City Government to renounce bond issues and start paying as it goes, we think we have figured out a it goes, we think we have figured out a little scheme whereby it might be possible. Remembering that it cannot be painless to commence paying as we go when all álong we shall be paying for not having paid as we went (debt service was ten per cent of the 1944 tax rate) let us see if it is at all feasible to make the change-over.

to make the change-over.
The current City tax rate is \$1.30. This is levied against valuations of \$122.000.-000. The expectancy of collections is set at 90 per cent, which means that instead of budgeting \$1.586,000 in revenue, \$1,427,400 is budgeted.

revenue, 31,427,400 is budgeted.

Actually, collections are running better than 94 per cent. Step up the estimate of collections to 95, which would not only be justifiable but, have a desirable effect of forcing the prompt collection of taxes, and the bookkeeping difference would amount to 373,000.

Okay, there's 379,000 for the capital improvements kitty.

The tax rate of \$1.500 is not only moderate, it is downright low by almost any comparison. Increase it by 20 cents. Nobody would be hust. But there would be \$231,000 in revenue to be added to the \$79,000 above, making a cital of \$321,100 which could be expended ennactly for capital improvements.

Okay, there's \$321,100.

\$321,100 which could be expended annually for capital improvements.
Okay, there's \$321,100.
Tax valuations, as we said a moment ago, are \$122,000,000. They aren't going for remain at that figure. Within two or three years after the war, which will be about as early as the City can undertake (with due regard for costs) the most expensive of its oberbinde projects, such as the new library and War Memorial, tax valuations will have spurted upward. Undoubtedly: Every time a new house or a structure of any kind is built, tax valuations on up. Let's estimate that within three years after the end of the war valuations will have increased to \$15,000,000.
New population, new residential developments, new industries require services. Right, Let's assume that half of the additional revenue will have to go for extended services. But let's earming the rest for capital outlays. A tax rate 20 cents higher than at present, based on valuations increased by \$23,000,000 and \$5 per cent collections would produce \$350,000,000. Call it \$400,000, set aside \$200,000 of it for additional services. The remainder of \$200,000 added to the \$321,000 previously carmarked makes

\$200,000 of it for additional services. The remainder of \$200,000 added to the \$321,000 previously earmarked makes a total of \$521,000 annually as a fund for capital improvements. And that's a lot of dough, annually. We could remake this town with it, given a little time and patience.

But hold on; that isn't all, Debt service, the payment of interest and principle on money borrowed and spent, is constantly going down. Between the current year and 1949-50 it will drop, in ropind numbers, by \$100,000. There's another 100 grand, 300, 400, 500 and more as we proceeded, paying as we went, all because of the simple decision to renounce borrowing for the improvements which have constantly to be made in the life of any growing city.

What this adds up to is that the taxpayers would get, by reason of the City spaying as it went, a full dollar's value for every dollar of taxes disbursed, instead of having to put out a dollar plus 400 cents, say, to cover interest on bonds. It would be a bequest instead of a bill to future generations. And it might — might, we say—be practicable.

Statesmen At Work

(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record).

D'ORING Work-or-Fight debate in the that he was giving comfort and aid to the enemy.

Mr. AIKEN (Vt.) A few minutes ago the Mr. ARKEN (VL) A few minutes ago the Semator from Remutey said that if he were in Mr. Ocebbels place he would lose no opportunity to tell our boys at the front that demorracy had failed. I rise to say that Mr. Goobbels will not have to do that, because Mr. Stimson has already done H, and I thing, his exact words should be put in the Record at this point.

Mr. CHANDLER (Ky.) I referred to that. I shall be glad to have the Senator do so. Mr. AIKEN. The Senator referred to it?
Mr. CHANDLER, Yes.

Mr. AIKEN. The exact wording is printed in the Washington Post of Feb. 10. The words are as follows:

The inevitable result of this failure of rican democracy is now become at this crisis of the war.

perent at this crisis of the war.

Those are the exact words which are expetited to Mr. Stimson. If Mr. Stimson also had been a second of the manner of the

I regret that any such statement was made, and I am quite sure the Secretary regrets it now.

Mr. Alicen. And then we are informed, according to a speech by Mr. Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, tilat—

Minufacturers, tifat—
Supparters of the May bill were pointing tilh pride a few days ago to an editorial just he had a support of the May and Kittines purporting to support the May and May and May according to an Associated Press dispatch from Parls, that the cilinoth was placed with what protesting the May and May a

retary of War.

So here we have the Secretary of War telling the boys that a democracy in their country has falled, and the Undersecretary of War attempting to affr up political discontent among the boys at the front in order to get this bill through.

Mr. CHANDLER. Of course, it is always open season on members of Congress.

Mr. Aliten. When we are talking of re-placements in the Army, I think we are speaking of replacements in the wrong place. The replacements should be made at the Participal Building is

The Merry-Go-Round

HE manner in which the Nazis have been treating American prisoners recalls an experience I had with smap prisoners last Summer.

cmap prisoners last Summer.
We were setting corn to fill the sile. It was take in season, labor was almost non-existent, and the Furn reau had efficiently arranged with Camp Meads, ryland, for 100 German prisoners to fir in batches of ten on farms in the entire of the corn and fill the eld.

They arrived by truck from Camp Meade, accompanied by one U. S. solder as guard, stowed their lunches in the shade and went to work. They worked very well, they required like direction, were given few orders, and didn't loar on the job.

direction, were given new work and didn't lost on the job.

The guard paid little stiention to them, explaining that they worked better if they felt they were not being bear and the silo, while most of the prisoners worked half a mile away in the comfield. He prisoners worked half a mile away in the comfield. He gold that few prisoners had run away, and if they did so the standard workers and the standard workers are standard workers.

prehended.

Having had 100 Bulgar prisoners under me in Sinst after the last war, I did not disagree with his had left Bulgar prisoners in groups of five or at land left Bulgar prisoners in groups of five or at land left Bulgar prisoners in groups of two or the state of the sta

were always caught.

At noon the ten German prisoners sat under a tree, at their lunch and sang songs. The guard did not so mear them, After one hour they went back to work. At hour for each prisoner, or 33 an hour for the ten. The prisoners in turn received 80 cents a day, the amount set by the Geneva convention. The Government kept he rest to pay for hauling, feeding and handling prising the prisoners of the contraction of th

The whole thing worked out well, so well that a week later when the Farm Bureau could spare additional prisoners I had ten more.

. But this time it was different. The first lot had been captured in Normandy, the second lot had been

taken in Storte Africa. They were a part of Romand's Afrika Kerpa. I don't knew what the difference is follower find pleasance taken in Africa and those share in Pracos, utilize if who that Januara's troops were now resident, but I do knew these the second group was in-board, key, impossible to manage and more brooks than they were word.

They were given: exactly the same job on the other primaters, but they still about half as much work. Two or three institute as stiting in the stands whenever they felt like it. When I railed this to the attention of the grand he owned helpiese. He said that if he, ordered then arcund it would be wires.

them are the different and the worse.

The guard, dicidentally, had hung his tifle on the truck which my wife was driving between the cornfleid and the slip, and eventually it bounced off and fell on the ground. A prisoner picked it up, looked to see if it was loaded (it wasn't), and threw it beach on the truck.

At noon hour they put early and wouldn's go beek to work until they felt like it, which was ten minutes late. They complained that some applie we save them were wormy. The Geneva convention, they said, paid them 80 cents a day, and they were going to give us 80 cents worth of worth.

Toward the end of the day they again quit early. The guard had no control over them and dishr reshy try to exercise any. When I saked him to get the names of those who had spent part of the atternous sitting in the shade, he tried, but they refused to give their names.

I wrote a report to the Provost Marshal's office at Camp Meade, and they investigated the matter, but in the end they acted as if it were my fault. They white-washed, the prisoners, did not even put them on bread and water.

Maryland farmers around me suggested that I not do anything more about the matter for fear the Army would take the prisoners away from the country where they were badly needed. In view of the manpower short-age on all the farms I said nothing.

For This Relief Much Thanks-Hamlet



Life Comes Back In Belgrade

By Marauis Childs

BELGRADE THIS battered capital of Yugoslavia has suffered three bilghts. First came the German conquest, then occupation by the Nazis, and finally the Alifed bombings preceding the liberation of the city.

The people have suffered terribly and you see evidences of it everywhere. Less hardy people than the Serbs and Croats, who have endured so much war, could scarcely have survived.

The Germans titled to whee out every vestige of national culture. On the day before they were forced to excuents the city, they burned the University and the National Library, thereby, destroying nut merely a price-tress collection of Slavie Ricerature but manuscripts on which scholars had bren working for years.

On the cdge of the city, I visited what had been, at the outbreak of the war, one of the must midden hospitals and clines in Europe. In the battered structure, looted of much of its equipment by the Germans, the staff is trying to carry on. Through the bitter Winter, there has been no heat, even in wards where children have pneumonia and tuberculosis.

counters may pneumonia and tuberculosis. The number of civilina victims of the war during the past four years is put at more than 20,000, Several thousand were killed in the first American hombins, which occurred on the Serblau-Easter and is a bitterly trapic memory. Those who speak of it add, however, that it disapanized life so completely that the Germans got no further benefit from local industry.

Belgrade is still a military city, with revolutionary

overtones. Young Partisans with tommy guns patrol the principal streets and stand guard at Government buildings.

one principal streets and stand guard at Government buildings.

Only one restaurant with music is open, and it is packed every night. On a recent evening, a group of American officers from the small military mission here are not stated to the United States. Then the American officers proposed a load to the Red Army. The Rusians came back with a toast to Reosevell, and the American officers proposed a load to the Red Army. The Rusians came back with a toast to Roosevell, and the Americans with one to the Red Army. The Rusians came back with a toast to Roosevell, and the Americans with one to the state of the Rusians. Who finited that each toast must be drunk hottoms up, this could have become a strenuous business. But the restaurant stopped serving at 0 and the patrons left soon afterward, as the 10 ofdeek currew is strictly observed.

If you are on the circuits after that me and do not the street of the restaurant of

following the liberations are sense as the entry Gay's
Thoushouth and the control of the contours term of
address. "Generade" is the contoursy term of
address. "Sometimes it is used with the rank of an
officer, sometimes without. It is in itself almost a password. Likewise, the initiant form of the personal prenoun is used freely, as the old formal barriers fall away.
The Yugolaw concumy is only just beginning to recover from the effects of the German occupation, which
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Oh Yes. Those Prices

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

TWIERR is almost no public controversy about prices at

It the moment. Our heads are in the stars. The price
lease is perhaps too small, too humble for the professionals of debate at a time like this. There is lots of
table talk; but there is very tertilizen took and kitchentable talk; but there is very tertilizen took and kitchentable talk; but there is very
table talk, when down to
a Senate committee meeting hast week, and asked for
mare power over prices. There has caused a great
silicisc. It is as if he had drapped a penny down a well,
heard a fluid, and nothing more.

Yet the price less than a great deal to do with making this a better world; maybe not so much as Dunito barredo Oaks, but more than you might suppose. A the in prices, for example, would virtually repeal the "GI 30H of Right-Ray"

That bill is written throughout in money terms, dollar terms; a veteran gets \$28 for this and \$75 for

By Samuel Grofton

NEW YORK
bloott prices at the profession of the length of acrivice. And so on. What will be profession of the professio



"This is the fourth cake she has baked this week for that corporal she met on furlough—you say not to worry, but I remember it was after about my sixth cake that you proposed!"

City Hall Today By Dick Young

TALL tales grow out of lively of the continuous produces and the continuous produces and a bunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and a bunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and a bunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and the sunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and the sunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and the sunch of detectives fell to the continuous produces and the sunch was a being a fell to the continuous produces and the sunch was a being stretched to the continuous produces and for a moment I couldn't recall where a being stretched to the continuous produces and for a moment I couldn't recall where the stretched to the continuous produces and for a moment I couldn't recall where I had been for a moment I couldn't recall where the stretched to the continuous produces when the short the sun as the sun was a being a fell to say the stretched to the continuous produces a beautiful stretched to the continuous produces and the ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were hence the ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were hence the ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were hence the ship were being entertained with moving pictures. He declared, "The ship were hence

Cologne's Fall

By Darothy Thompson

NEW YORK ceived plan, we are not even profit-ie, Germany's ing by the results of experience. THE fall of Cologne, Germany's

TWE fall of Cologne, German fourth harpest city and a largest German city yet to taken by the Allied armies, is one of the most important military events in the post of the cost in portant military events by reaching war. By reaching war, By reaching the cologne of the cologn

sects are bright.

But as we smore into Germany, eccupying ever wide and more important stretches of territory, another problem arties. In the Anchen area out of 165,000 population only 12,000 remained. But you we are moving—and have more problem arties only 12,000 remained areas with bundreds of thousands areas with bundreds of thousands areas with bundreds of thousands of civilians still there. The millitary occupation and administration of Germany begins to earnest. And a with could believe that prepared for it as we have been for the military campaign.

Every report we have had from

the military campaign.

Every report we have had from
the Aachen area and the newlycecupied areas, from correspondents with the Army, reveals an allbut total lack of political preparation, clarity of objective, standards
administrative personnel, logother
with improvisation, heeltancy and
uncertainty, and apparently even the
absence of central directives, or
flaten.

ing by the results of experience.
And, our experience of military government did not begin in Germany either. The AMG flas been operating in Haly since autumn 1943. Conditions in Italy are not the same as in Germany, but the same as in Germany, but cut, and the problem facing us in both cases was basically the same, we are picked to the utiler extinguish of Fascium and Nazism. To realize that pickers in foreign responsibility.

The Liellan expecters has

Valley.

The last protection now of the Reich. Is the Rhine River. Bernell to the Rhine River. Bernell to the Rhine River. Bernell to the Rhine cannot be compared with the West Wall as a means of defense. And although we falled to trap the German armies, which to a large extending the Rhine, and the Rhine Rhine

country is, in liself, a predigious responsibility.

The Italian experience has a target section of the population is very sage to participate in this process. But in fact, the real problem of the population is very section of the population is very section of the population is very section of the population to make a much more thorough table rise of Packetin their the little with the production of the Italian population to make a much more thorough table rise of Packetin their their countries will permit.

Right now there are riols in Rome directed against the Italian courselves, which is now accused by the Italians of having failed to prevent the escape of a leading war criminal Ceneral Rosalt bills escape did not come from the Milliary Government of the Alilea. Up to now we have no proof that the same mood prevails in Germany, but there are some indications that it might. German Nacis whom we have kept—or even put—into positions of responsibility, and the hostillty of German anti-Nazis in the Aachen areas administration to change the local administration to change the local administration to change the local administration to AMS officers wish

administration.

Now there is no reason to believe that the AMG officers wish
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occupying iroops.

I know the time is late. Nevertheless, it must again be recorded—as it has been in this column repeatedly during the last two years—that we must organize the Oerman democratic emigree and their skills and seek counsel and all from the wideat circles here at home.

Before history, it is that we have undertaken the most difficult natu we have undertaken it.