THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1863-1937 ●

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1941

V For Vulgarity

The Symbol Scotty Captured May Turn and Bite Him

It must be disheartening to the poor devils of the prostrate Low Countries to learn that henceforth they must add to the *V* boldly chalked on the back of some Nazi trooper—"U. S. Pat No. 130317 by Pratho P. Scott, Tulsa, Okla." And to the terribly oppressed patriots of Norway or Greece or Yugoslavia or Poland who dare to keep the spirit of rebellion alive and to communicate it and to let it flow one to another in the mysterious form of three dots and a dash—to the citizens of such of these countries as are members of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property it must come as a shock that in the arsenal of democracy one Pratho P. Scott of Tulsa, Okla., holds a patent on the message of their despair.

It was without original design that Pratho P. Scott fell into patent rights so the code form of the world's slim hope for freedom. He had merely designed a V-for-Victory boat pennant for a customer, but it set off something in his mind. Was this enormous thing floating around without a licensed owner? He would look into it, and this looking shows him that it was. A patent attorney and $150 did the trick, whereupon the triumphant proprietor sat back and waited for propositions. *V* belonged to Scotty.

He may, at that, without meaning to, have done his countrymen a good turn, and the cause of freemen everywhere. His gross effrontery in capturing this symbol of Europe's lurking hope and courage may expose it for the plaything that was made of it in America. For here the exhibition preceded the consecration, and now that the exhibition may take place only by arrangements with the patent-holder, we are reminded of our people's pathetic unrealization of the precarious balance of their world.

Nose Dive

Tobacco Stock Decline Threatens Dividends

Surprising, even to the constantly harried band of Wall Street traders, has been the free-and-easy nose dive of tobacco stocks. In the space of a few weeks shares of the ten leading tobacco manufacturers have slid down to an average of one-third lower than their highest quotations this year. The shrinkage has cost investors in these stocks 350 cool millions. American was sold down more than 24 points; Reynolds "B" lost more than 9; Liggett & Myers, 32.

To many a North Carolina tobacco stockholder the steady decline has been bad news. In Winston-Salem, Durham, Reidsville and other tobacco centers, where even the po' people often have a few shares salted away, the dividend prospect was even more alarming. Higher taxes and costs have cut deeply into earnings, have threatened to slice into the usual Christmas dividends.

Meanwhile Wall Street heard rumors that any further substantial increases in taxes and costs would be reflected in a move that would touch the change pockets of millions: a five-cent per package increase in cigarette price.

Criticism

Our Newer Office-Holders Can't Take It

Whether NYA officials clamped down on Gaston County projects for lack of money or for spite again the *Gastonia Gazette* has not yet been definitely established. The *Gazette* quoted County School Superintendent Huss as having said that he heard County NYA Director L. Z. Hicks say at a meeting that he had been instructed by State NYA Director Lang to shut up the projects because of the *Gazette's* editorial policy. Mr. Lang, as the Senator from Bertie used to say, denies the allegation and doubts the alligator.

Taking Mr. Lang at his word, it is just possible the Mr. Hicks, having been informed of an impending NYA cut, may have seized the opportunity (without consulting his superiors) to say that the *Gazette's* criticism was the cause of it all.

This would parallel the tactics of many a politician who, when the gravy being ladled out to his district runs low, immediately blames it on the nefarious obstruction of his enemies.

In any event, whether the NYA was actually trying to hit the *Gazette* by hurting people not remotely connected with the paper, or whether a minor official was trying to do some big talking, the incident leaves no doubt of a strong disposition among our newer spoils system appointees toward an impatient seizure of power. They can't bear criticism. When anyone takes exception to their views and policies, whether it be an editor or any other taxpayer, they want to mow him down—or at least to claim that it was through their influence that the offender was mowed down.

It is a dangerous tendency and one that can give us plenty of trouble in these days when appointive political jobs are breeding and multiplying like mice.

Au Revoir

A Hopeful Rumor Predicts Another Carolina Maneuver

Spurred on by visions of long Christmas furloughs, more than a third of a million maneuver-seasoned U. S. soldiers today began striking tents in preparation for a return to their home bases. The Carolinas war games were in most respects the biggest in our history. One other maneuver out in Arkansas involved a few more men, but in machinery, air support, and scope of operations, the Carolina exercises were far and away superior.

Charlotte has been afforded the opportunity of watching our new army at first hand, of knowing its personnel intimately. We have been called on to make good on our reputation for hospitality and, according to the soldiers, we have made good.

The thing has worked both ways: soldiers got accommodations and meals but Charlotteans got a new slant—a broader outlook—on the Army. The impact of thousands of week-end soldier-visitors shook us some, but the shaking appears to have benefitted us. While other parts of the nation were speculating on Army morale and equipment, we were talking over the dinner table to soldiers whose jeeps were parked in our driveways.

For their part, the soldiers surprised many pessimists by their good manners, helpfulness and law-abiding behavior.

There would be a certain amount of sadness in our farewell, were it not for a persistent and general rumor spreading through the Army. According to this report—for which authority certainly is lacking—it is not goodbye at all: next Spring, there will be a bigger and better maneuver in this same area. On that hopeful note we take this last opportunity of wishing our departing guests a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Strategy

General Summerall Doesn't Respond to Frontal Attack

Was there, perchance, a subtle undertone of sarcasm in General Charles Summerall's statement to the press during his visit here? In response to a reporter's question concerning military affairs, the former U. S. Chief of Staff remarked:

"I stepped down ten years ago. General MacArthur and General Marshall, present Chief of Staff, succeeded me. It is they who have the authority to predict the destiny of this nation, not me."

Perhaps the General was not properly approached. An alumnus of The Citadel, where General Summerall is affectionately known as Old Gimlet-Eye, would have eschewed a frontal attack in favor of a more devious strategy. The alumnus would have let drop a casual remark about the Summerall Barrage.

And, in all probability the General would have asked, "Young man, where did you ever hear of the Summerall Barrage?"

Taking the cue, the alumnus would have replied, quite accurately, that military men are quite familiar with the effective pattern of artillery drum-fire which the General originated and used successfully on the Western Front during the World War.

Thus having established himself as a person of some military interest and discrimination, the rest of the interview should have been pie. As it is, we shall probably never know how General Summerall thinks the war is going until he writes his memoirs. Then it might be too late to matter.

Anti-War Party Talk

By Hugh S. Johnson

THERE have been a good many rumors and reports and, recently, a widely syndicated gossip column to the effect that leaders of the America First Committee have been planning or preparing the organization of a new or anti-war third party.

I hesitate to believe this, because, while my name is still on the letterheads of that committee, I have disavowed the doctrine and statements of several of its spokesmen, and no longer receive any communications from it, nor am I considered in its councils. My reasons for this have been sufficiently stated. But I have never heard of any purpose within that committee to start a new political party. In fact, I have always understood that its objects were entirely non-partisan.

ANTI-WAR PARTY IS USELESS IN ANY EVENT

Any other course would be almost lunatic. If we do not go to outright war, there would be no reason for an anti-war party because the decision for non-belligerency would be a registration of majority opinion in the two old parties. If we do go to outright war, an anti-war party could not be tolerated because of the necessity for national unity in war.

In this intermediate period, it is a right, as well as a duty, to discuss broad-long action in the direction of involvement of our country unfruitfully and unwisely in military operations beyond the scope of our national interests. Even if war approaches much closer or actually engulfs us, it would be a dangerous state of affairs if blundering and improper military and naval operations were not subject to criticism here as they are in England.

HUGH DIDN'T SEE THE POINT SOON ENOUGH

Along these lines there is a sufficient scope for the activities of the America First Committee and for independent commentators. A distinction should be made between the two however. Independent personal analyses of the writer's own responsibility are a proper function of a newspaper man in a free press, even in time of war. The organization of popular groups swayed by oratory and emotional appeal stands on a slightly different footing, especially in time of war.

Because I did not recognize this difference soon enough, I thoughtlessly allowed my name to be used in connection with America First. Because I recognize it now, I am taking my present position.

That is a consideration, however, which applies with equal force to organized groups as it does to war as well as to organized groups to keep us out of war and, in my opinion, the former have been even less discreet and objective than the latter.

PLENTY OF ROOM IN THE OLD PARTIES

Apart from these later remarks, the organization of either a war party or a peace party is not consistent with the free principles of our form of government. There is room enough within the old parties for the people to register their determination. Regardless of recent apparent developments to the contrary, I still do not believe that any administration can force this country into outright war without the approval of Congress, and the Congress cannot be persuaded or compelled to give that approval in the absence of the approval of most of our citizens.

Senator Soaper Says:

Gradually the Fuehrer's dream of a Nazi-operated world becomes as unreal as that sequence in the heavy film drama where Edward Arnold used to buy the "Big Four" Railroad over a dead phone.

In a barracks game at Newmarket (Ontario), a mere private held 13 hearts at bridge. There are better ways to get along with a sergeant.

Of course, the appearance of women's fur coats on Nazi soldiers in the eastern fighting clears up many Norwegian burglaries. Elementary, my dear Himmler.

The naturalists who put the bee and the beaver down as loafers might take up the case of the owl. We never thought the owl looked wise; it looks drunk.

How To Win An Argument

Austin V. Butcher in The Altoona Tribune:

This writer has done a lot of loafing around on the streets and has had numerous arguments. We have learned this: When you get into an argument on the street and a crowd is listening, don't weaken; if necessary, cuss a little and take a couple of chewing tobacco often, and try to talk faster and louder than the other fellow. If you run short of talk and facts, pull out your pocketbook and offer to bet $10 that what you say are facts. And chances are the fellow who is fool enough to spend his time arguing with you hasn't $10—and you have him faded.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

But no one can take spiritual prosperity from us, even if we are imprisoned: *The Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man.—Genesis 39:2.*

A Kiss for Cinderella

—By Berlack

A Conscientious Objector

From Baltimore Evening Sun

IN general the problem of conscientious objectors seems to have been handled pretty well by the administrators of the Selective Service Act. But the case of Henry Welty Kuhns, a 22-year-old conscientious objector, who is now in jail out here, must be set down as an exception to the general statement. His case has caused a great deal of excitement out here in the Bible belt of Southern California. Possibly, before it has definitely closed, it will become as well-known as the trial of a certain Tennessee school teacher named Scopes.

KUHNS SENT TO PRISON FOR TWO YEARS

Kuhns has been imprisoned by the Federal Government, under a two-year sentence, having been convicted of refusing to serve in the Army. But the facts behind this conviction are not so simple as that statement might lead the reader to believe. And though he is convicted, his case is far from finished. The Methodist Church has attacked his conviction, and a United States District Attorney has in turn replied that he is going to turn the FBI loose on the Methodist Church to ascertain if any action was taken in this case or others to advise young men about complying with the Selective Service Act. Religious leaders of many denominations, and liberals of all shades, are rushing to the support of the Methodists. The American Civil Liberties Union has plunged into the fray with a number of questions aimed at the Attorney General of the United States.

That Kuhns was legally sent to jail is not disputed. He had entered a plea of nolo contendere when brought to trial. And after trying to "reason with him" Judge Benjamin Harrison had no recourse but to impose a jail sentence.

But that Kuhns is actually "a draft dodger" is contradicted by all the facts, at least, as they are set forth by his defenders. Kuhns is a resident of Redlands, a city of about 20,000 people which is located 60 miles east of Los Angeles and is the site of Redlands College, a Baptist institution attended by Kuhns.

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PRELIMINARY investigation this committee published a statement that:

"We are convinced that there has been a gross miscalculation of justice somewhere along the line."

Its position has been further amplified by one eminent clergyman, as follows:

"All that the Methodist Church and pastors of other denominations are contending is that the plain intent of the law has been defeated in this case and that justice demands that this boy be released from prison and be assigned to some work of national importance in accordance with law. Our contention is not with the Federal Court which apparently had no alternative in the case, but with the draft machinery which has tossed aside unimpeachable evidence of conscience and defeated the law's effort to protect such a conscience."

This stand was immediately supported by 21 other Los Angeles pastors of Protestant churches other than Methodist, who signed a statement declaring in conclusion:

This issue, in all its far-reaching implications, was considered with care by Congress. It is not part of the duty of local administrative officials to set aside, through misunderstanding or prejudice, provisions set up for the protection of this minority.

STATEMENT ABOUT FBI WAS ILL-ADVISED

The district attorney in the dispute is William Fleet Palmer, recently appointed after satisfactory service as a deputy, when his superior, Benjamin Harrison, was elevated to the Federal bench. Many observers believe it was a mistaken sense of loyalty to his late chief who had tried the case and on he felt was being unjustly criticized, which led Palmer to make his ill-advised threat about sicking the FBI on the Methodist Church. Even his adversaries admit that he is not ordinarily addicted to "popping-off." The fact remains, however, that he did allow himself to be quoted as saying that the FBI would investigate the actions of Bishop James C. Baker and other members of the Methodist Church to see if they were seeking to defy the law.

It was this which raised the Kuhns' case from local to national importance. It led the American Civil Liberties Union, which is headed in Los Angeles by another clergyman, not a Methodist, to dispatch a spirited demand that Attorney General Biddle investigate Palmer's pronouncements and repudiate his statements "as without authority from the department and not in accordance with the department's policy."

Banker Stallions Fight for Supremacy

The Ocracoke Island Beacon.

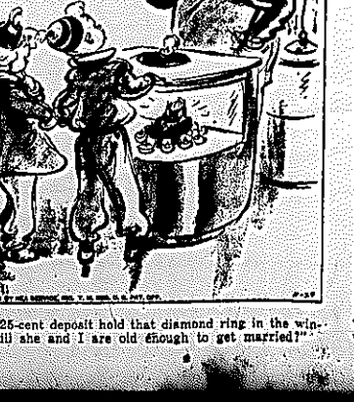
If it had not been for Ansley O'Neil, the Banker pony herd roaming wild down below would probably be minus one stallion.

It is Spring that a young man's fancy turns to love—but here on the banks it is autumn that a young stallion's thoughts turn to love or to herd leadership. That is probably why these two animals, one Rainbow, son of Beeswax, the pole stud which David Keppel sent to the island several years ago to interbreed with the wild Banker ponies, and the other an unnamed stallion, were fighting.

Ansley drives the station wagon from this village to Hatteras Inlet each day, carrying the mail and passengers. On this particular trip he had passengers aboard. Making a swing around a sand dune on the sandy trail, the fighting stallions came in view. They kicked, pawed each other, reared on their hind legs, struck with full force with their hoofs, and then both were down, still fighting, still snapping at each other.

Ansley then did what no other person on this island has ever done—he jumped from the bus, ran to the fighting animals and with a piece of driftwood from an old shipwreck, frightened the animals until they came out of their clinch. One had a two-foot scar, a couple of inches wide across its hind quarters. Both were limping as they parted and the herd leadership is probably still undecided.

Side Glances



"Will a 25-cent deposit hold that diamond ring in the window till she and I are old enough to get married?"

Turn Back The Pages

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON.

THE United States has turned back the pages four and a half years to offer Japan again an opportunity to make a peaceful restatement of the basis of the principles outlined by Secretary Hull on July 16, 1937.

The present war on China had begun less than two weeks before Secretary Hull addressed a statement of general principles of international conduct to every government in the world. It was provoked, however, by Japanese aggression in China.

Some 60 states replied. The Japanese Government never gave a clear-cut acceptance. It concurred in principle but stated a reservation to the effect that the objectives sought by Secretary Hull could be obtained in the Far East only "by a full recognition and practical consideration of the actual particular circumstances of that region." In other words, Japan insisted upon being allowed to go on her own in China.

SAME PRINCIPLES USED IN CURRENT OFFER

Because these principles appear to embody the basic conditions of a peace settlement now, it is worthwhile going over them again. Secretary Hull's statement of our principles can be condensed as follows:

We advocate self-restraint, abstinence from force and from interference with internal affairs of other nations. We advocate settlement of problems by negotiation. We uphold the sanctity of treaties, recognizing occasions for modification by peaceful methods. We advocate steps to promote economic security and stability the world over, and the lowering or removing of excessive barriers in international trade. We seek effective equality of commercial opportunity, and urge upon all nations equality of treatment. We believe in limitation and reduction of armament.

HULL MADE NO EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY

To Japan's attempt to set up an exception in the Far East, Secretary Hull was firm. He replied that there could not be one code for one part of the world and a different one for another part. He urged Japan and China to settle their differences in accordance with the principles already stated. But about that time the Japanese extended hostilities to Shanghai, and thereafter the war continued to spread.

On Oct. 6, 1937, Secretary Hull said the American Government had been forced to the conclusion that the action of Japan in China was inconsistent with the principles that should govern relations between nations. He said Japan's action was a violation of the nine-power treaty of 1922, and of the Kellogg-Briand pact by which nations pledged themselves not to resort to war.

PROTEST AFTER PROTEST FAILED TO IMPRESS JAPAN

The history of Japan's present march in the Far East shows this government continually protesting—it began with the Manchukuo affair in 1931, under the Hoover administration. Protest after protest was made. But Japan never has stood always there was the breathing spell and then a forward march, until now she is in Indo-China, with only another move or two intervening before directly threatening not only the immediate supply line into China, the Burma road, but the whole southern Archipelago, the rich storehouse of raw materials used by the entire world.

Throughout all this period the United States has relied upon persuasion and protest until recently when a series of economic measures were put into effect. Not until a few months ago did we effectively cut off war materials which had been going from this country to Japan, with which she waged the war that we were denouncing so vehemently.

Visitin' Around

Only A Poor Weak Mortal After All.
(Marshville Rt. 1 item, Monroe Journal)

Can you beat this record? Mr. Frank Thomas is about sixty-two years young. He tells me that he has never chewed a cud of tobacco, taken a dip of snuff, or smoked a pipe or cigar or cigarette. He said he wished he could say he had never tasted a drop of liquor. He hasn't done that on many occasions, but he wishes he had made the record on the drink habit that he has with the chewing habit.

Gosh, You Had Us.
Worried There For A Moment
(Davie Record)

The Winston-Salem Journal tells a story of a Brooklyn newspaper printing a picture of a New York soldier being kilted by a young lady in Winston-Salem. When it comes to Southern hospitality this section seems to be at the head of the class. Wonder if a New York girl would have her picture taken while kissing a Winston-Salem soldier?