THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday by The News Publishing Company, Inc.

W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager — J. E. Dowd, Vice-President and Editor

● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established in 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By mail: One month, 87 cents; three months, $2.60; six months, $5.20; one year, $10.40.

By carrier in the city of Charlotte: 15 cents a week; one month, 65 cents; three months, $1.95; six months, $3.90; one year, $7.80.

For home-delivered rates outside the city of Charlotte, see your local carrier.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1941

Presto Change

FDR Fires Another Billion At the Quivering Naxis

"Of all the ills that men endure," 'tis money, in the lexicon of FDR, not Hope, that is "the only cheap and universal cure."

Do the Russians quail before the blows of the Nazi fighting machine? Well, give them some money, sirs, and it shall stimulate their will to win.

Is Archangel harbor blocked with ice? A fat appropriation, friends, and it is open in a trice.

And add a few brave words—they shall not pass; freedom must prevail. We'll pile the credits up and swamp the foe in kale. And if *x* billions ain't enough, we'll hand them trillions of the stuff.

Money miracles.

Two In One

Joint City-County Collector Of Taxes an Obvious Move

The County Commissioners may have some difficulty finding a new Tax Collector at a salary of $200 a month to oversee the collection of $1,400,000 a year (the decimal figures out to about .00068). This is an important job. It involves accurate accounting and record-keeping, responsibility for money, handling the public. What's more, the diligence and conscientiousness of the Tax Collector, or the lack of those qualities, has a direct effect upon the tax rate which all property-owners must pay. More than $600,000 in delinquent taxes for 1940 and prior years is standing on the County's books. With that money in hand, tax reduction would be automatic.

The City's books are in somewhat better shape, and that brings up a suggestion which the County Commissioners probably would not be inclined to accept. Even so, why not establish one collection office for both City and County taxes?

It would be economical; four out of five County taxpayers pay City taxes on the same property. It would be convenient; City and County taxes could be paid at one office instead of at two. It would be business-like; and both our local governments esteem efficiency.

The experiment was tried some years ago and ostensibly did not work satisfactorily. Maybe some of the political powers didn't want it to work and so to reduce the number of paying jobs. Or maybe the combined office wasn't set up on the right basis and under the right man.

But there is no evident reason why a joint tax-collection agency shouldn't be a distinct advantage, so plain an advantage, in fact, that we put the suggestion in the form of a motion. Is there a second?

U. S. Optimism

If the British Don't Like It, Why the Glad Tidings?

Sometimes it is dreadfully difficult to understand the British.

One day somebody like Senator Nye tells them clever and insidious propagandists, crafty plotters who are contriving to get America to fight "their war." Another time Raymond Clapper, fresh from a visit to Britain, declares that their efforts to mould public opinion in this country are far to honest and much too clumsy to be called dangerous.

On other occasions British "sources"—official spokesmen—have rather severely criticized the American Government for giving out too much news too soon. These sources have deplored the "unfortunate and undue optimism" in the American attitude about the war. They have reminded us frequently that we aren't taking this war seriously enough.

Criticism or American newspaper reports sounds downright silly when one considers that Churchill carried a dozen of an English reporters and cameramen on the historic Atlantic conference with President, while FDR, taking the British pose for secrecy at face value, left our news sharing on the docks. It was strictly an English "beat."

Now British attitude toward undue American optimism also sounds a bit narrow when tapped by yesterday's Londoners comment on the Russian War. The news was considered good enough for a banner headline on Page 1. It was built around the statement of an official British spokesman who declared categorically that Hitler has now abandoned all hope of taking Moscow or Leningrad this Winter. The Germans had been stopped cold, said the source, and are preparing to fight a defensive war until Spring.

Without questioning the accuracy of these statements—and we pray that they are true—would you say that they inspired optimism or pessimism in America?

If the British don't want us to be optimistic, they ought to stop sending us so much good news.

The Spiral

Railroad Wages Can't Be Separated From Prices

Settlement of the railroad dispute may turn out to be a tremendous example of how it is impossible to control prices and the cost of living when no provision is made to regulate wages.

The Presidential Fact Finding Board has recommended pay increases averaging 12 per cent for all railroad employees. Added cost to the railroads is estimated at $270,000,000—about one-third as much as the unions demanded.

Railroad officials are saying that they probably will agree to the wage increases—provided the Interstate Commerce Commission allows them to raise their freight rates proportionately. They don't plan to bother with passenger fare schedules. But they point out that if they tried to pay the wage increases without upward revision of freight charges, virtually every railroad in the nation would have to operate at a loss. They have their balance sheets to prove it.

Everything is ready for the spiral. Wages are increased; freight rates go up; the price of everything that is distributed by rail or manufactured from raw materials collected by rail also are stepped up.

And the railroad employees, while the flush of victory is still in their faces, find that their wage boosts have been nullified because nearly everything they buy costs more. So, unless their policy is radically altered, they demand another wage increase. This can go on and on until the people whose wages don't keep up with the trend are squeezed to the consistency of apple butter.

Bootlegging

Retail Price-Fixing Would Revive It on a Huge Scale

While the Price Control Bill languishes under the spell of Congressional pressure groups, the Office of Price Administration is going right ahead on its own.

Latest OPA move, says the Wall Street Journal, is a decision to freeze by decree the prices which manufacturers of radios, electric refrigerators, perhaps furniture and other consumer durable goods quote to retailers.

After that, it is presumed, the next step would be a freezing of retail prices on these articles.

Already OPA is expanding its personnel in order to police and enforce the frozen manufacturers' prices. If it attempts to go further and put a ceiling on retail prices, they'd probably have to pass another draft act to get enough men to peer at every price tag.

This has always been a great nation for bootlegging. We started smuggling English tea and ended up running Scotch liquor through our own Coast Guard. Whenever we have felt imposed upon by undue tariffs and restrictions, we have evaded them. In a certain sense, bootlegging is one of our few distinguishing national characteristics.

If this country ever finds itself with such a shortage of household durable goods that the Government feels obliged to keep prices down by freezing them, we are going to have the worst era of bootlegging yet.

The tragedy of such a situation would be that it could have been avoided. If it weren't for a few selfish lobbies in Washington, Congress would have long since passed a bill putting price ceilings on all of the basic raw materials and commodities—and on wages. With all the factors of cost controlled, there would be no necessity for fixing the prices of radios or refrigerators or anything else. Control costs and competition will take care of prices. Try to freeze prices without controlling even one or two principal cost factors and the result is bound to be bootlegging on a scale Capone never dreamed of.

Among other things, Herr Hitler is the all-time reply to those who think it sobers the yahoo to give him political responsibility.

Deflating A Slogan

By Hugh S. Johnson

THERE were three things that Solomon could not understand and three million times three million that I can't.

Among these are the arguments of some of my tolumnist confreres that it was lack of peace-time access to the world's raw materials that caused the war, that post-war peace depends on giving all nations equal access to such raw materials and that, among many other things that we must do to reconstruct the world, after we have financed the winning of the war, is to insure this universal access of all nations to raw materials.

WHO DIDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO MATERIALS?

When in peace time was there any lack of access, especially to such strategic raw materials as copper rubber, steel and oil? It is true that tariff systems, walling off world commerce into water-tight trade compartments, had much to do with the dislocation of free economic intercourse. But these were restrictions on imports—not on exports—and we were one of the greatest offenders of the lot.

It is true also that in some important commodities—at one time or another, rubber, tin and farm products — attempts were made, either nationally or internationally, to restrict production. This was done in every case to maintain high prices, and in farm products, again we were the worst offenders and we did it by Governmental action.

In other products, about which the greatest howl now rises—tin, rubber, copper and some chemicals—it was done by private individuals or corporations operating through cartels and other trade agreements.

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS SHOOK DOWN EVERYBODY

In many cases these capitalists were British, Dutch, American, French and even German. Generally speaking, they held up everybody, their own nationals as well as the rest of the world. They were just trying to keep prices up against seasonal and other gluts. Frequently their efforts did their own countries more harm than good.

Regardless of this, just how we are going to move in at the conclusion of this war, assuming complete victory, and restrain commercial individual practices as old as Tyre and Sidon is something I would like to have explained.

The truth of the matter is that the fight for access to raw materials is not for the purposes of peace but for those of war. Nations, including Germany, have had free peace-time access to the vast general excess of raw materials as long as they had the money to pay for them. They always will have this access because the raw material nations produce to sell and not to hoard. Customers are not turned away because of the shape of their heads.

TWO PURPOSES OF OUR WAR EFFORT

But, in war, all this changes. Raw material is war material. The avowed object of Britain and of us who echo her policy is to dominate the seas against any other combination of powers whatever. That does and could have only one object. It is to withhold strategic war materials from any potential enemy. Would we change that purpose?

In the light of these which I believe are fair statements or even understatements of the controlling facts, this stuff about assuring equal access to all nations to the world's supplies of raw materials seems to be just a little bit more of the same sort of ill-informed or actually hypocritical war-sloganeering of the present unfortunate epoch.

We are going into this war not for any such purposes, but for two other purposes and only two: (1) To keep any other nations from imposing their ideas and systems upon the world—including us; (2) To impose our own instead.

Persimmon Eaters: Beware the Dread Bezoar

The New Yorker

The heading on a column of syndicated medical intelligence in the News one day last week was a sentence of mysterious beauty: "A Heavy Diet of Persimmons Brings on the Dread Bezoar." Many latent poets, it seems to us, have lived and died without leaving the world a line so haunting, so scrupulously balanced or so strange. There is probably a ballad in it, something ironical and sad that might conceivably end:

Not for him the glorious battle, not
for him the cannon's roar;
His diet was persimmons, and he
died of dread bezoar.

Bezoar, for the information of any poet who may feel inclined to go on with this project, is a hard accumulation of persimmon rind in the stomach, not unlike a hair ball in a cat. We assume arbitrarily that the accent is on the second syllable.

We had the queerest dream, about John Lewis being brought to time by Madame Perkins, looking up from her knitting and saying "Now, now."

With the Army, the Navy and civilian statesmen all taking a hand, running a Japanese Government must be much like driving away from the bear garden.

Speaking of Shooting—

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

How To Stop Inflation

Editors, THE NEWS:

The Government is looking for ways to head off inflation during the boom period and at the same time beat the depression or panic that is bound to follow. I believe that there is only one safe way to do both.

Congress should enact a law on the order of the old age pension law. It could be called any name they choose. I would call it depression insurance. The idea would be for the Government to collect 10 per cent of the wages of every man holding a Social Security card and spread excess of raw materials as long as they had the money to pay for them. They always will have this access because the raw material nations produce to sell and not to hoard. Customers are not turned away because of the shape of their heads.

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unless the reader is really interested in the topic.

The third type is one which reveals the writer's inner self, bares his soul. One cannot help feeling the emotion and pathos of such a letter. "Life seems empty since John went to the army. I try to fill it with other activities, but once in a while some blue moment will steal upon me unawares and, not knowing where it came from, I find myself longing to see him." Or it carries a lighter, more joyful note. "Honestly, our little home is so happy now. It's really a thrill to come home from work all tired out and find a haven of rest with love and cheer there." That's the letter I like. It's what really counts.

—CAROLYN PRINCE.

108 Fulton St.,
Kings Mountain, N. C.

Herbert Hoover's Popularity

Editors, THE NEWS:

A patriot in office and a Republican out of office seems to be the guiding theme of one Herbert Clark Hoover. He is one man who never did have to hire extra trucks to haul his popularity around and now it is so rapidly depreciating.

Enriched with such capacities for forecasting coming events, he cannot help foreseeing, methinks, such things as, shall we say . . . a thief in every pot, two subs in every harbor and Friend Hitler just around the corner?

—P. R. McCAIN,

Charlotte.

Private Hargrove's "False" Army Slang

Editors, THE NEWS:

I've just been reading a copy of your newspaper (Oct. 30, 1941) and after reading the rather thoughtless review of Tom Wolfe, I began to read something called "In the Army Now." The article concerned itself with army slang and I soon became unpleasantly aware that the article was completely without basis in fact and that the slang was false, was not in use.

Stop any army man anywhere and ask him what the term is for creamed beef on toast. You may be certain it is not "punk and salve." You could cause a snicker anywhere in the army by talking of "battling the breeze" ("There I go"). The process has another name. I never heard water called "Gi lemonade," salt called "sand" and certainly not "Lot's wife." In fact all the expressions Marion Hargrove uses are apocryphal.

Hargrove must have gotten himself in some other nation's army.

—GERALD ROSENBAUM.

Fort Bragg.

Reuben James Sinking Is "Cause for War"

Editor, THE NEWS:

The sinking of the Destroyer Reuben James is a cause for war. Does this not include Italy and Japan as well as Hitler?

"Dolph, "Muss" and squinty Jap,
three soldiers bold
Who have shot off their battle
alarms;
But when Uncle Sammie shoots
off their legs
They laid down all their arms.

—T. F. MAGUIRE

1620 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte.

When Autumn Comes

By Daniel B. Straley

When the leaves begin to frolic
And each other chase at play,
And the dahlia and the cactus
Aside their headdress lay.
And the bee puts up his fiddle
And the robin stills his flute,
Well I know that autumn ves long
With his frost-tipped arrows shoot.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Be responsible for your little world so imitate Christ: *Jesus of Nazareth went about doing good.—Acts 10:38.*

Dividing Federal Aid

From Baltimore Evening Sun

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT recently announced his intention to recommend a revision of the Social Security Act which would permit the poorer states to receive a proportionately larger share of Federal aid for Public Assistance. Under the act as it now stands the states get only as much Federal money as they themselves are willing to match out of local funds. The complaint is that this prevents giving aid where aid is needed most.

ONE OF WASHINGTON'S MAJOR INDUSTRIES

Dividing up Federal money among the states is one of Washington's major industries, only overshadowed by current expenditures for national defense. It embraces the splitting not only of Social Security money forty-eight ways, but of funds for highways, education, public health, unemployment compensation administration and employment service.

A study just made by the Bureau of the Census shows an increase in the annual pot of gold from $11,709,000 to $644,853,000 in the twenty years 1919-1939, enough in the latter year to give every man, woman and child in the country $4.97.

We print below the Census Bureau's table showing the distribution of Federal money, per capita, for the several states, the per capita economic income and what part of Federal aid, per capita, goes for public assistance. The figures shed interesting light on the geography of per capita prosperity and reveal two circumstances germane to Mr. Roosevelt's purpose.

LARGEST INCOME DOESN'T MEAN MOST AID

One is that the states with the largest per capita income do not receive the greatest per capita Federal aid for public assistance. Nevada, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, which top the country, in the order named, for income, stand tenth, fortieth, thirty-seventh, thirty-second and twenty-eighth in receipt of public assistance funds. The second fact is that the states lowest in the income scale, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia, are among the lowest in receipt of Federal public assistance money.

The difference between per capita public assistance and per capita total Federal aid is accounted for largely by grants for highways, a Federal benefaction second only to social security grants in size. Two thirds of the highway aid is distributed on the basis of area and road mileage which makes the per capita high for states with small populations but plenty of area. This explains Nevada's rather startling allowance of $34.52 per capita total aid.

FEDERAL GRANTS TO THE STATE: 1939
(Ranking of the States in descending order in frequency)

	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Public Assist.	Per Capita Total Fed. Aid.
United States	$356	$1.92	$4.97
Alabama	218 (46)	3.40 (18)	4.61 (32)
Arizona	465 (26)	3.23 (19)	10.35 (5)
Arkansas	247 (45)	3.94 (12)	6.07 (23)
California	533 (4)	2.74 (3)	8.14 (10)
Colorado	335 (18)	2.92 (2)	11.47 (3)
Connecticut	575 (3)	1.50 (29)	5.47 (26)
Delaware	490 (10)	0.95 (45)	8.16 (16)
Florida	362 (29)	1.76 (35)	6.18 (31)
Georgia	297 (44)	0.73 (43)	3.68 (43)
Idaho	384 (32)	1.94 (26)	8.16 (15)
Illinois	518 (16)	1.76 (36)	5.74 (45)
Indiana	464 (27)	1.50 (30)	5.47 (27)
Iowa	456 (30)	2.36 (17)	6.63 (21)
Kansas	395 (39)	2.63 (22)	9.76 (11)
Kentucky	300 (43)	2.01 (24)	5.71 (46)
Louisiana	357 (38)	1.35 (33)	4.46 (35)
Maine	384 (31)	1.74 (37)	4.54 (34)
Maryland	551 (8)	1.74 (27)	4.65 (29)
Massachusetts	711 (1)	1.47 (31)	4.62 (30)
Michigan	469 (15)	1.93 (23)	5.74 (44)
Minnesota	469 (22)	2.15 (8)	6.93 (18)
Mississippi	204 (48)	3.31 (14)	4.61 (33)
Missouri	458 (29)	2.16 (13)	5.15 (39)
Montana	412 (34)	2.16 (14)	8.16 (14)
Nebraska	419 (31)	2.03 (18)	6.76 (19)
Nevada	511 (12)	3.45 (10)	34.52 (1)
N. Hampshire	502 (17)	1.38 (32)	4.74 (37)
New Jersey	551 (6)	1.11 (41)	3.94 (40)
New Mexico	297 (47)	2.44 (11)	8.37 (13)
New York	587 (2)	1.15 (32)	3.81 (42)
N. Carolina	232 (46)	1.21 (40)	4.74 (36)
N. Dakota	354 (37)	1.75 (28)	8.98 (8)
Ohio	512 (14)	2.08 (15)	4.44 (38)
Oklahoma	341 (36)	1.40 (31)	4.88 (36)
Oregon	512 (15)	2.72 (16)	7.57 (12)
Pennsylvania	512 (13)	1.40 (34)	4.44 (37)
Rhode Island	475 (8)	1.40 (31)	4.88 (36)
S. Carolina	241 (45)	1.21 (41)	4.74 (37)
S. Dakota	360 (28)	3.50 (9)	8.36 (9)
Tennessee	301 (42)	1.57 (30)	5.47 (28)
Texas	418 (35)	1.41 (34)	4.55 (34)
Utah	454 (33)	4.31 (5)	10.96 (4)
Vermont	416 (40)	1.38 (32)	4.74 (37)
Virginia	410 (33)	0.98 (44)	3.86 (41)
Washington	484 (24)	2.36 (17)	6.63 (20)
W. Virginia	364 (35)	1.31 (36)	3.91 (41)
Wisconsin	484 (23)	1.38 (32)	4.74 (37)
Wyoming	530 (11)	3.32 (20)	10.96 (4)

Side Glances

"I wish you ladies who holler about getting your groceries late would realize I'm the delivery boy myself since my two sons went in the Army!"

Visitin' Around

Make Ours Persimmon Beer

(Davie Record)

No, Pauline, we don't take ducks on subscription to The Record, but we would consider some locust beer or persimmon pudding.

Corpus Delicti,
Medus Operandi

(30 Years Ago,
Transylvania Times)

Jenkins Bros. met with a severe loss this week in the death of a very valuable horse which has been drawing their delivery wagon.

Something Like a Lodge Meetin', We Guess

(Rutherford College Item,
Morganton News-Herald)

Jim Burrus went to Winston-Salem on Monday to attend a meeting of committee he was on, returning home on Tuesday.

Catch As Catch Can

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. J. Fletcher Allen, who is making his home on his farm at Scottville, was in town Saturday. He stated he would be at his office on A Street, off and on, for some time in an effort to collect some past due accounts.

Senator Soaper Says:

Goebbels, in a burst of candor, tells his people that times are tough and will be tougher. Now if the Duce only had some hair to let down.

In New Jersey, an engineer draws plans of a building to be lowered into the ground during air attacks. Another needed invention, in the aeronautical field, is a mountain that ducks.