THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1941

Placing Baxter

There Was No Conflict Between Him and Citizens Group

It may be taken for granted, we think, that Baxter would have run his head off against Currie if he had thought he had an outside chance. That he decided against it seems to indicate his belief that the Davis vote—at least that part of it controlled by the promoters of Mr. Davis' campaign—would be thrown against him.

It is not that they love Currie more but Baxter less.

And the net effect of Mr. Baxter's withdrawal is to make Mr. Currie Mayor, which we believe must suit Mr. Baxter as well as anything would have suited him under the circumstances except being Mayor himself.

Matter of fact, in having to work against the Citizens Group in the runoff, Mr. Baxter was in something of an anomalous position. His whole record at the City Hall—and it is a good one—establishes a great deal in common with what the Citizens Group is accepted as standing for. Littlejohn, the dime taxis, wholehearted support of Jim Marshall as City Manager—in all those matters Baxter characterized himself.

Without crediting his withdrawal from the Mayor's race to noble motives, we think it may still be said that it is due in part to his recognition that in having to fight the Citizens Group he would be fighting his friends, those who share his principles.

There is in this city no surplus of men actively interested and influential in politics who stand—well, let's say who stand for the best. There is a lot of cleaning up and cleaning out yet to be done in Charlotte and a lot more in Mecklenburg County. That ought to be the next assignment of the Citizens Group, and in carrying it out good use could be made of Mr. Baxter's services. They ought to take him in.

Empty Sounds

Morgenthau and Opponents Are Both Unrealistic in This

Secretary Morgenthau Monday attacked proposed taxes on tea, coffee, sugar, etc., as a levy on the "poor man's table."

What he meant is clear enough. There are members of Congress who have been passing out the word that the middle income group—to which, curiously, Congressmen belong—must not have their income taxes greatly increased, and that the burden of new taxes ought to fall mainly on the low income group.

That is an unrealistic and dangerous form of thinking. The American people are in no mood to tolerate such tenderness for those who enjoy the highest standard of living on earth. And above all from elected persons who are themselves members of the group.

But Secretary Morgenthau's position is scarcely more realistic. Taxes on coffee and sugar may be ill-advised. But authorities are agreed that reasonably sound finance requires that the Government should raise at least twelve billions in new revenue for the next fiscal year. Secretary Morgenthau's tax program contemplates the raising of only three and a half billions of that, a little less than one-third.

It is clear, therefore, that one of two things will need to be done. Either income taxes are going to have to be extended to classes hitherto untouched by them, or some sort of manufacturers' processing tax or retail sales tax is going to have to be resorted to.

Truth is, indeed, that all these things will probably have to be done in the end.

Pretty Thin

Darlan Is Merely Trying To Ease France Into Axis

It is more than a little odd that Admiral Darlan only now recalls that the British tried to abandon the French at Dunkerque.

It is so odd, indeed, that we may assume with a good deal of confidence that the story, which he is now having peddled to the French by the Vichy radio, is a fabrication out of the whole cloth.

Darlan is the man who once solemnly gave Churchill his word of honor that he would himself sink every French warship rather than let one of them fall into Nazi hands. And who then conferred with Petain and Pierre Laval to turn the fleet over to Hitler. In self-defense the British had to strike the French ships, and ever since Darlan has been trying to use that incident to incite the French to hatred of the English.

He hasn't accomplished much in that direction—not enough, anyhow, to make it certain that the French people would stand for an attempt to turn Vichy into an all-out Axis partner, to the end of opening the way to an attack on Gibraltar and the use of the French fleet against the British. That is what Hitler is reported to be demanding.

And Darlan's story is pretty plainly just another desperate effort somehow to get the French people angry enough to make such a move feasible.

Double Talk

President's Cleverness Makes Our Policy a Mockery

From the remarks of Admiral Stark and President Roosevelt, it now appears that American warships are all over the Atlantic, and not merely the western half, on "patrol." Their function is supposed to be the spotting of Nazi submarines, surface and air craft, and warning "all shipping," *i.e.*, the British.

For a more amazing example of double-talking you have to look to the current antics of Russia, which apparently means to join the Axis and fight it in the same breath.

What we are doing is more specifically and clearly an act of war than convoy would be, but the President dodges the latter because the isolationists have been bawling opposition to it.

The blunt fact is that we are already at war with Adolf Hitler and that we are daily committing acts of war against him. What, in the last analysis, do you think is the real difference between advising a British warship where it can find and sink a Nazi submarine, and sinking it ourselves? And precisely what is our navy going to do when (as it certainly will) it at length comes upon the wolves at work on a convoy?

It doesn't suit Hitler's purpose to start shooting at us as yet. Like our isolationists, he prefers for the shooting to start only after he has destroyed England and got control of its navy and the Atlantic. And the upshot of it is that we wage war ineffectively.

The sole excuse for it is that the people are still bemused by isolation nonsense. If they really are unable to face facts, then the quicker we know it and resign ourselves, the better. But in reality, the thing hasn't been tested out by any candid appeal of the President to their common sense.

Drunk Test

New York Adopts Law Which Requires Blood Examination

In New York Governor Lehman has signed a bill which sets up standards for the determination of intoxication in connection with automobile accidents.

Test of the blood of the defendant driver is to be made within two hours after his arrest.

If the examination shows five one-hundredths of one per cent of alcohol, or less, in the blood, this will be deemed prima-facie evidence that the defendant was not intoxicated.

Five to fifteen one-hundreds of one per cent of alcohol is to be considered as relevant but not prima-facie evidence of intoxication. This provision is designed to allow for the tolerance for alcohol acquired by habitual drinkers.

More than fifteen one-hundredths of one per cent is to be deemed prima-facie evidence of intoxication.

The bill looks like a rational one, which in general might well serve as a model for other states in setting up such standards.

But it plainly ought to apply to all cases of alleged drunken driving and not merely to those which arise out of accidents.

Those who take the long view will begin any day now saying "trillion" over softly to themselves.

The cutting off of cod liver oil imports is bad. It may lead to rickets among our young, which in turn will be set to hot music.

We see by the "Fifty Years Ago Today" column that that would be as good a stopping place as any for time, turning backward in its flight.

Ready To Fight?

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON — General Tweddle is reported to have told a Congressional Committee that our new army could fight tomorrow if it had to fight. That is probably, though not certainly, true. It may not be true because even the bravest new soldiers, if not expertly led and with a good basic training, sometimes suffer panic — as our raw militiamen in the unsuccessful defense of Washington in the War of 1812 did and as happened to the Union Army at the first battle of Manassas or Bull Run.

General Marshall says that the morals of these new levies is very high, which confirms nearly all other observations. That means that they are eager, obey regulations well and complain little. General Marshall might have added that, because of the vigorous standards of examination, this army is the very cream skimmed off the top of American youth. These men are a joy to observe.

THE BOYS ARE BEING TRAINED FAST

On the necessity for basic training, methods of giving that have been speeded up greatly by the experiences of the World War. These boys are learning fast. As to troop leadership in companies and platoons, it would be a kind of miracle if this is as yet very good. Younger reserve and National Guard officers usually do not have a proper chance to get more than a smattering or get-rich-quick course of training and a good army officer's job is as much a profession as a doctor's.

Nevertheless, in this case also, methods of intensive instruction have been speeded and streamlined. Furthermore the raw material here, in physique, education, appearance, and outlook is by far the best I have ever seen.

BUT ADEQUATE ARMS ARE LACKING

But after considering all these pros and cons and trying to give each its fair relative weight, it is a little hard to see how General Tweddle can say that this army could fight tomorrow if occasion required. Sure it could fight and doubtless would even if it had nothing more than baseball bats and Irish confetti. But if there is one outstanding lesson of this war, it is that patriotism, bravery and physical condition alone are not enough.

As this column, has repeated, probably ad nauseam, it is as cruel to send brave men, not similarly equipped up against modern motorized, mechanized, armored land and aerial equipment as it would be to send naked bow-and-arrow savages in canoes out against a battleship.

On this score, it is grossly misleading to tell the American people that this army could fight tomorrow if it had to do so. Recently in the New York Times, there appeared an apparently inspired news release on American artillery.

If you read that piece, it would be hard to escape the belief that careful long-term planning had kept our army abreast of developments in artillery. For example in necessity, now proved, for substituting 105 M.M. Howitzers for World War 75 M.M. rifles.

Text for Conqueror Hitler To Ponder

Charleston News & Courier

Probably you remember that, when you were a boy, in the eighth grade, studying an outline of the world's history, and came to the story of Alexander the Great and his conquests, you had a sense of disappointment that so soon after his death his empire broke into pieces. You may have had the same feeling about Julius Caesar and of Charlemagne and of Napoleon Bonaparte.

So what does it all come to? These conquerors, what do they achieve? How long do their conquests last? What are mechanized armies? What are bayonets?

"Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou what these things be? And I said, No, my Lord. Then He answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

And What's More—

Greensboro News

Speaking of Senate committee clerks and their status under the Selective Service Act, Ye Paragrapher can't think of a single Senator, for that matter, who might be passed up as indispensable.

The QUEEN CITY'S HOPE CHEST

No. 1 — An Uptown Theater-Auditorium
No. 2 — A Separate Court District
No. 3 — An Uptown Rest Room
No. 4 — Street-Widening

Yep

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

At The Lindbergh Meeting

Dear Sir:

I find that I must get into the fight against the Lindbergh "Copperheads" and his sympathizers. In Neil Dixon Russell's letter published today in your Letters to the Editor, I read "A crowd of 25,000 broke through picket lines to hear Colonel Lindbergh speak against military aid to Britain at an America First Committee rally in New York." I have a letter from my brother who was at the above rally. In detail he described the rally, or as he called it Bund Meeting. He writes:

"It was amazing to hear the amount of German and Italian that was spoken at the meeting. Every tier of the hall seemed to have its German cheering and applauding leaders. Yorkville and Little Italy seemed well represented. (Yorkville is a section of New York that has a preponderance of German-speaking people. The same is true of Little Italy.) Lindbergh seemed nervous and ill at ease; at times he looked about the dias as if looking for support. What strange company for a man whom the world cheered and had high hopes for such a short while ago. The meeting was peaceful. Here and there minor affrays broke out but they were quickly squelched by the police. During the applause I imagined that any minute right hands would fly upward in the Nazi salute. The speakers attacked everything in America except Pro-Fascist and Nazi ideas. If Brownshirts had started to walk through the hall with a military goosestep I would have thought it was a bad dream and that the crowd, hall and myself had been transplanted to Berlin."

My brother continues in his letter "This was a victory meeting. These men and women gathered to celebrate the German victories. They assumed the attitude that the dictatorships were surely victorious and that the democracies were lost.

"I looked about me and know that this was no pacifist meeting. This was not a meeting of Americans who were honestly against war, or against sending their boys across the ocean to fight. This was a meeting engineered by Fascists and Nazis. By using a probably honest man, Charles Lindbergh, who was misled in his ideas, these German forces in America had mustered together their force and gathered to listen to their leaders denounce Americanism and democracy. They cheered for twelve minutes when Lindbergh said the English could not win."

In no other country in the world could so many people gather to denounce the very spirit of their country. America and Americans no matter where their fathers or grandfathers birthplace firmly and with all their heart know that democracy will triumph. Nazism and Fascism will perish from the face of the earth. Freedom to worship and to speak will once again flourish in our world, when the horror and brutality of the enslaving Huns have been wiped out.

Now is the time to not only speed up our defense but to bolster our faith and belief in the right of the individual to live as his God dictates to him.

—A. R. SURITZ.

Charlotte.

Today's Riddle

You have a certain number of dollars in your pocket. If I were to give you one of my dollars you would have twice as many as I would have. On the other hand, if you were to give me one of your dollars, we would both have the same amount of money. How many dollars have each of us got?

(Answer to this riddle will be found on back page of this issue of The News.)

(Note: To Miss Suthell Leller, Route 3, Charlotte, one dollar in payment for this riddle. The News will pay a dollar for each riddle accepted for publication in this space. — Editors, The News.)

Thinks Nobody Should Work on Sunday

Dear Sir:

I thoroughly agree with Mrs. Mullins that we as Christians of Gastonia should avail ourselves of the privilege of letting the people, through this column, know just how we stand in regard to open Sunday.

I am one of the many who until recently, have had to work on Sunday for the past ten years because the people demanded it. I think it's a pitiful thing, that the people of America, and even our own state, have forgotten God to the extent that they disregard the teachings of His Word.

Here is one passage we have in regard to keeping the Sabbath: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work; but the seventh is a Sabbath unto the Lord Thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." Ex. 20:8-10. Also Ezek. 46:3; Mark 6:2; Ex. 35:2, and Num. 15:35 have some very strong commands about keeping the Sabbath. The cities and towns that have open Sunday will have to mark these references from their Bible and if they do the punishment promised for adding to or taking away from the Scripture is found in Rev. 22:18-19.

I have lived in one of the towns of our state that have open Sunday and it is by far the most wicked place I have ever been.

I greatly appreciate your leaving off the Sunday edition of The News, so the boys and girls who deliver the paper will have a chance to attend Sunday School and church on Sundays.

Instead of letting "The First Lady" influence us and tell us how to run our cities and towns, why not let The Holy Bible be our guide?

—R. B. GOLD.

412 W. Franklin Avenue, Gastonia.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly. — *Matt. 6:3-4.*

Side Glances

"I'll play you the next hole for the doctor bills our wives predicted when they saw this rain."

Whining Crew

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON.—No sooner had Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau offered his courageous appeal for stiff taxes than the whining began. Sure, everybody wants to see Hitler licked. But when it comes to shelling out some dollars for that purpose, the whimpering starts.

To Representative Crowther, a Republican, heavy taxes are like burning down the barn to kill the rats. He fears the drastic rates proposed will affect purchasing power. Of course they will. Does the Republican Congressman want inflation? Civilian consumption has to be cut because factory capacity and materials are limited. The automobile industry will reduce production of cars at least 20 per cent next year. Many lines will be curtailed. To allow a wild mass of purchasing power—built on borrowed money—to rattle around in a country short of civilian goods is to invite disastrous inflation. The Republican surely doesn't want wild inflation.

THEY ALL WANT TO DODGE OUT

Another Republican, Representative Knudsen, declares the Administration is lacking in imagination in trying to draw more taxes from incomes. He complains about the proposed income taxes on both individuals and corporations, about the proposed estate taxes, about the proposed excise taxes. Where would he go for the money? To the printing press?

A Democrat from North Carolina, Rep. Cooley, leaps to the defense of his tobacco constituents by opposing further increases in cigarette taxes. It might reduce the consumption of cigarettes. Well, I can imagine a worse calamity than that, but the chances are that people will still smoke cigarettes, even if the price is higher.

One Congressman has called attention to the fact that the proposed rates would take three months of his salary for taxes. We'll all be working one, two or three days a week for the tax collector from now on. Congressmen and Senators will have to share in the burden.

A WAIL THAT DESERVES NO SYMPATHY

Many letters come in to me from mothers who don't want their sons to go to war. Sometimes letters come in from young men who ask why their lives should be taken in hand by the Government.

One can sympathize with the thousands of personal tragedies that are involved, with thwarted hopes and ambitions, and separations from families. Upon many people will fall a heavy burden of sacrifice.

But with those who must sacrifice only dollars, I can feel no sympathy whatever. When anybody begins to complain about taxes, that is a sure sign that he has enough income to be rated as a lucky man and the tears that splatter upon his income tax check leave me as cold as a fish. In other words, I don't think it ought to be any harder to draft a dollar than to draft a man.

And they can talk about profits being the wages of capital and about how nobody will work at defense unless he can wring a two-yacht profit out of the operation. But I think that is hooey, too. If the men who are smart enough to be in business and who have the ability to run a business, don't see anything more in this situation than a chance to grab profits, then Hitler has already conquered America and it remains only for him to choose the time when he shall make his triumphal entry.

ARE WE SOFTER THAN THE GERMANS?

One reason that Germany is master of Europe today is that the German people have the stamina that it takes. They have sacrificed to make themselves strong. We cannot make ourselves strong without real sacrifice because the effort will take enormous expenditures of materials and human energy which has to come out of something other than the printing press. It has to come out of our income, sooner or later. And better it sooner.

Visitin' Around

Heh?

(37 Years Ago, Transylvania Times)

Zeb Osborne reports having lost his watch on Monday night. He requests the finder to please return the dime in the back of same and can keep the watch for his trouble.

To See But Not To Hear

(Bostic Rt. 1, Item, Rutherford County News)

An overflowing audience gathered at Cedar Grove Methodist Church at Sunshine Sunday at 1:30 o'clock to witness the community singing.