THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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@ W. C. Dowd, 1865-1937 @

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TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 1941

Baxter

He Furnishes Judge Currie With Worthy Opposition

The announcement of Councilman H. H. Baxter of his candidacy for Mayor furnishes Judge Currie with worthy opposition.

Mr. Baxter has been one of the most progressive members of the present Administration, and is probably the most logical man to carry the Douglas flag since the Mayor himself has made up his mind to retire from the post.

We see by the papers that the fight is going to be a bitter one, but we can hardly understand why. The truth is that there are few real issues. The failure of the Douglas regime to rid the city of its evil eminence for murder might be made one. But the fact is probably that a system rather than any individual or group of individuals is responsible for that — a system and a great many other factors which require to be tackled by more than the City Government if they are ever going to be done away with.

In any case, we think Charlotte can count on reasonable good government if either Judge Currie or Mr. Baxter is elected. It is not probable that either is going to succeed in doing all the Good Government forces have, somewhat vaguely, in mind. But either is likely to do all that can be reasonably expected of a good Mayor.

Weak Link

Strong Labor Department Is Obvious Need of the Times

The House Military Affairs Committee is going to quiz Madam Perkins about the delay in the defense program because of strikes, and about the efforts of the Labor Department to conciliate industry and labor.

But Madam probably knows little that isn't already common knowledge. Why Mr. Roosevelt retains her as Secretary of Labor is one of the great mysteries of his Administration, unless he simply dreads to face the rumpus Madam might raise if she were dismissed.

As long ago as the first sit-down strikes it was clear that the Labor Department was no place for a woman, and especially one of Madam Perkin's unfortunate capacity to rub people the wrong way. And now with the country at least halfway into war, it is doubly clear that what the Labor Department needs is a hard-boiled male (somebody like Ed McGrady) who talks the language of the men at the head of the unions and of industry, none of them precisely gentle violets.

The President has so far got around Madam's obvious unfitness for the job of dealing with tough boys by systematically stripping the department of its powers, so that conciliation in labor disputes is now almost entirely out of her hands. But the result of that is to create a lot of sprawling and unco-ordinated machinery, with the Labor Department standing by and failing to discharge its proper function.

A strong Labor Department is obviously one of the chief requirements for national defense. But the President continues to show not the slightest intention of getting rid of Madam Perkins and setting up such a Department.

Bad News

The Fall of Derna to Nazis Is Ominous for British

The fact that the Nazis have reached the Aegean seacoast does not perhaps mean much. The Thracian plain is not easily defended and the Greeks long ago laid their plans to abandon this territory in case of attack. The Nazi claim that the move splits Greece off from possible aid from Turkey is nonsense. Actually, it places the Germans in a position where they could be easily crushed between Turkish and Greece forces.

What is more disturbing is the news from Yugoslavia, where the Nazis have apparently succeeded in doing much damage to communications and where the retreat of the Slav army seems, temporarily at least, to have left the Greeks exposed to flanking attack.

Perhaps most disturbing of all is the news that Derna, in Libya, has been taken by the Nazis, aided by the remnants of the Italian army in that country. It begins to look now as though the British had either dangerously weakened their Libyan forces or that the Nazis have got a really strong force into Africa. In any case, the Nazi force seems to be well supplied or it could not move ahead so rapidly now that it is hundreds of miles from the base at Tripoli.

But if the British have the control of the Mediterranean they say they have, it is difficult to know how any such German force could have landed or how it could be supplied, unless through the French possessions. Pétain denied that yesterday, but the Vichy Government is so slippery that it cannot be assumed that he was speaking the truth.

Dense Deeds

Some Englanders Need a Whisper—Or More

There is an obtuse streak in many Englishmen, and in some of them it seems to dominate.

Take Lord Halifax, the Ambassador to the United States. We don't ourselves mind that fox-hunting costume in which he has been repeatedly photographed. Nor do we object to scenes of his lounging about with the horsey social set in Washington. A man has to have his relaxation — and if he likes that sort of thing, all right.

But somebody ought to take him aside and explain to him the facts of life — which, include the fact that many Americans (who like to fancy themselves as he-men) see red when they see that sort of costume, and that many of them are people who are already inclined to grumble about the hardships involved in aid to Britain. The late Philip Kerr would never have forgotten that.

But if Halifax is a little dense about his photographs, what are we going to say about Grey, the editor of Jane's series of handbooks on the sea and air power of nations? In his latest on aircraft, he captions a photograph of a Lockheed bomber with the observation that America is preparing to back the war "to the last Englishman."

He may have his ground for argument, but, despite the fact that the London newspapers indignantly repudiate his statement and the Government sets out to suppress the book, the act will do England incalculable damage.

The London newspapers suggest that Grey has always been a Nazi admirer. But Nazi or not, somebody would do well to take him quietly apart and push him in the Thames.

The only comforting thing about it is that it makes the belief of a lot of credulous people in the supernatural skill of the British at propaganda as ridiculous as it really is.

An Organ

Which Is Devoted To Appeasement Propaganda

On our desk lies a copy of the new Scribner's (sic) Commentator.

Let it be said at once that it has nothing to do with the old publishing house called Scribner's. It is instead an organ of the so-called America First Committee and is devoted to the preaching of isolationism and appeasement. It contains many startling names as contributors — including those of John T. Flynn and Robert M. Hutchins. Its general tone and argument is remarkable like that of the bulletins of the German Library of Information, official Nazi propaganda agency in New York.

That is not to charge that it is directly and knowingly a Nazi agency. So much has been charged. It has not been proved. That many Nazis and Fascists have snuggled into the fold of America First is certain. But many of the members, like Flynn and Hutchins, are undoubtedly honest isolationists.

But the tone of the thing may be judged from an article by Mr. Albert Jay Nock. Mr. Nock is a noted and facile writer who used to call himself a Jeffersonian Liberal and who wrote many little pieces admiring France. Lately, he has turned to warmly defending Germany.

Says he:

"It is clear now that to insure settled peace in Europe after 1918 . . . the victors had only one choice, either to exterminate the Germans or understand them. They chose to do neither; they chose instead to reduce them to servitude as labor-motors . . ."

It is not really hard to understand the Germans as Mr. Nock suggests. A long line of their philosophers from Hegel to Adolf Hitler have told us precisely how to understand them. All they require of us is that we hand over to them the hegemony of the earth and agree to be reduced "to servitude as labor-motors" for them.

Mr. Nock does not say precisely that he favors that formula for understanding them. The reader may, therefore, draw his own conclusions.

Count Teleki

By Dorothy Thompson

IT IS just a year since I sat opposite Count Teleki in his office in Budapest and asked him the question: "What will you do if the Germans insist on using Hungary as a base for operations against another state?"

After a pause he answered, "I will tell you the truth." I do not know. I shall have to make up my mind when the moment comes, and in view of all the facts."

Count Teleki made up his mind last Thursday. He blew his brains out.

HE WAS EUROPEAN IN HIS OUTLOOK

The loss is more than a loss for Hungary. It is a loss for all of Europe. For Count Teleki, like all great European statesmen, was a great patriot and a great European. Because he loved his own country with the deepest devotion, he loved Europe, and saw his own country as a servant of the European idea. A devout Christian, a scientist, a man with the long view, he cared for Hungary as one of the bulwarks of civilization in Europe, as a little land with a mission — the mission to serve the unity of Western civilization.

Count Teleki's struggle since the war began has been a struggle against inevitable fate. When the Nazis annexed Austria, Hungary was laid wide open to invasion. She was "bought off," according to the Hitler formula, with the return of part of Czechoslovakia. The people rejoiced, but not Count Teleki. This was not, in his mind, the way historic injustices are righted. A year ago, he knew that Hungary would be "bought off" again — with the return of Transylvania from Rumania. Could Hungary refuse such a gift? Politically, it was impossible. Count Teleki himself was a Transylvanian. "This land, torn from us by the peace treaties, is the most authentic part of Hungary, the historic repository of the Magyar spirit," he said. "It is my own country."

BUT HE DISTRUSTED THE GERMANS

Then a pause. "But I would rather wait another generation than get it by grace of the Germans. Real historic injustices are always righted in the long run. That one would be."

Another pause. We were speaking off the record. "If Hungary is used as a base for the transport of troops, it will mean occupation. It will be Hungary's historic catastrophe."

If I think of words to describe the Hungarian spirit, the words that come are "pride" and "honor." Socially speaking, Hungary is a backward country. The remnants of feudalism are deep there. One can find much to blame in the Hungarian social system. But a Hungarian is a friend, and he knows the meaning of the word "loyalty." Count Teleki was a gentleman. The Nazis have said that they will remove from history the concept of "gentleman." If they do, they will remove from history the concept of honor.

Yes, Hungary was socially backward. Yet, this country, worse treated and worse mutilated by the treaties than any other nation, had progressed in the last twenty years to a truly remarkable recovery. It had known war; then an occupation by the Rumanians that had looted the country; then the hideous experience of Bolshevism under Bela Kun; then the attempted restoration of the Habsburgs, and again the threat of war.

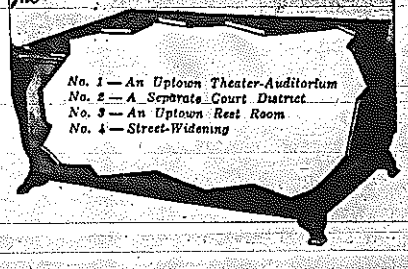
Yet, it retained its ancient parliamentary institutions intact. A new and youthful leadership was emerging — a leadership of strong intellectuality, character, and faith. Quietly and intelligently reforms were being initiated. Hungary's case had attracted the attention of the world. She was on her way to a new life. Then came the Nazis, filling the parliamentary halls with the worst rabble since the Bolshevists, stirring up the dregs of the nation, spreading disorder amongst the minorities. Even then, the leadership of Hungary was able to deal with its own Nazis.

And there was being born, among the youthful, intelligent leaders of the smaller Eastern European countries, a concept of a New Order, based upon justice and reality.

Hungary had a treaty with Jugoslavia. No Magyar strikes down his friend. "Better death than breach of Faith."

So thought Count Teleki.

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

Easter Egg Hunt in Europe

—by Seipel

Ultimate Question

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, April 7. — [illegible] some people believe the sub was sunk by a torpedo and not by a mine. That determines a lot of our national decisions.

I am getting into the deep end with this water, because I think the time has come for us to be brutally frank with ourselves. We have reached the point where we must decide whether in this war or not. That is the start over all the convoy question.

Our people are overwhelmingly supporting material aid to Britain. But by all polls that have been taken, they are with equal decisiveness opposed to going into active war, or even into the convoying of ships which everyone recognizes would almost certainly lead to shooting war. I believe the reason for that is a reluctance to ask for the sacrifice of lives. No other explanation seems to fit.

WE DON'T MIND MONETARY COST

Other possible reasons can be eliminated.

We are not determined to be neutral. We are the opposite. The outstanding fact of the whole situation is a strong popular desire that Germany be defeated.

Neither do we object to sacrificing American property to help England win the war. We have voted the $7,000,000,000 Lend-Lease Bill as evidence of that. Much of the money will never come back. We didn't get paid for the last war and we know we won't be paid in full for this one. We are willing to shovel out virtually without limit to help defeat Hitler.

AND WE DON'T OBJECT TO KILLING GERMANS

Third, we don't object to helping kill Germans. We are struggling desperately to send as many bombers to England as possible, not to take sight-seeing cruises but to shower bombs on German industrial cities.

Fourth, we don't object to becoming involved in this war because it will disrupt our economy. We are rationing aluminum, fixing prices, giving the President enormous discretionary powers, threatening to take over industrial plants tied up by strikes, and Congress is even agitating for enactment of anti-strike legislation against labor — all to the end of increasing war production for use against Germany. Beyond that we have adopted conscription and are sending our young men into Army camps, forcing them to interrupt their education or their careers. No, we are perfectly willing to turn our economy upside down to help England win the war. We are willingly taking much heavier taxation in order to do all of this.

Thus, all of these reasons that might be advanced against our going into the war already have been set aside as having no weight against the desirability of crushing Hitler. I can think of no others except the one concerning American lives.

PRESIDENT MUST FACE THIS DECISION

We have, in face of all that we have done, retained the neutrality restrictions on merchant shipping so that American commercial ships cannot go into the war zone where they might be sunk. We still prohibit American citizens from travelling on passenger ships of belligerent nations because they might be lost. Whenever human life comes into the equation, we suddenly pull up in a dead stop.

In the last war, events such as the loss of American lives in submarine sinkings provided their own call to which the country responded. This time we have insulated ourselves against such loss of life. Unless Berlin begins a series of outrages against American citizens in Germany, there is remote prospect of incidents that might stir the American people.

It seems to me that the Administration has reached the point where it must do one of two things. It must either recognize that our aid to Britain will go no further, except as to quantity of materials, or else it must directly call for the risk of some loss of life. I think we have got down to the bedrock question.

Letters to the Editor:

City Is Poor Show Town

Dear Sir:

Mr. Frank Gamble, asking in your Open Forum "Why don't Charlotte have more legitimate shows like 'The Little Foxes' and 'Philadelphia Story?'" answers by saying that the real reason is that the motion picture interests don't want to run these stage shows.

For Mr. Gamble's information and the information of others who may have read his letter, the motion picture interests in Charlotte are more than anxious to present worthwhile stage attractions.

This season, for example, we have brought here every outstanding show offered for Charlotte. We have had two others booked here but were forced to change the bookings because of changes in the routing of the shows. "Hellzapoppin," for example, was supposed to have played here following its Atlanta engagement, but the management decided to take the show to Texas instead. We hope to present "Hellzapoppin" here in October.

None of the other shows listed by Mr. Gamble could possibly have played Charlotte this season because of their routing in different directions. Many shows jump from Washington to Roanoke, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, and then over to Atlanta, as that territory is more receptive. Charlotte is not a good "show" town, and grosses on outstanding shows are often considerably less here than in smaller towns.

The attraction "Blossom Time" was offered us, but after checking the cast and finding it second-rate, we decided to pass that one up.

—T. D. KEMP.

Charlotte.

Two Riddles

A little boy spent one-half of his money in the first candy store, and one-half cent more. At the second store he spent one-half of what he then had and one-half cent more. At the third store he spent one-half of what he had left and another half cent more. At the fourth store he spent half of what he had left and another half cent. He then had nothing left. How much did he start out with?

Letters stand for figures in the sum in addition below (same letters must stand for same figures, of course). Can you change the letters into figures?

SEND
MORE
MONEY

(Note—The answers to these riddles will be found on the back page of this paper.—Editor, THE NEWS.)

An Old Hand Takes A Crack At Us

Dear Sir:

Best nine dollars I ever invested. Best newspaper in the world, able, smart — swell. Deft headlines, better'n the labels formerly used. But the "pretty picture editor," no. No, no, no.

Newspapers been running art of nekked wimmen for years. It's wonderful. But the outlines, no, no, no. Falsely robust. Besides, I don't believe the picture editor is pretty. Does THE NEWS mean "Pretty-picture editor?"

—IRATE SUBSCRIBER.

Glendale, Calif.

(Note: Tain't nobody but old Cam Shipp.—Editors, The News.)

Thinks Douglas Is Best Man for Mayor

Dear Sir:

Was surprised the airport election did not carry. But don't worry for you will get it. The Federal Government will put up all the money. That Ben Douglas knows how to get Federal funds. And he will surely be re-elected if he runs. This would be a good time for some one to run against him and get his bellyfull of running. As Ben, my friend, can beat any man in the city of Charlotte. He has done lots for Charlotte. Look at all the Government money he has pulled in there. That alone should put him back. And he is also a fine mayor. Some people may want to know what the hell I get my mouth in your city government. I spend about all the money I get over there so what the hell?

—JOE H. CORI.

Concord.

Father Ryan Is Quoted On Human Rights

Dear Sir:

As a reader of THE NEWS I will thank you to publish a quotation from American Democracy vs. Fascism, Communism, by Father John A. Ryan. Father Ryan is the Catholic member of The Federal Council of The Churches of Christ in America, and his utterance is worthwhile.

"All men have certain rights which come from God and which are, therefore, natural and indestructible. Men are born with these rights and possess them throughout life, regardless of race, country, creed, sex, or economic condition. Therefore, these rights can not be taken away by kings, parliaments, majorities or dictators."

—NEWS READER.

Iron Station.

Once a General, Always a General

British Press Release

Ginger (Temporary Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Bowhill) is always on the job. Even in his bedroom at home, he has five direct telephone lines to such war centers as the Admiralty, the Air Ministry and the War Office. He is very active and personally directs most of the operations. Once he leaped out of his morning tub and, with only a towel draped around him, gave radio instructions which foiled a Nazi air raid on a convoy.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves: and the truth is not in us.—I John 1:8.

Side Glances

"I hope the Government will be reasonable about drafting you, Albert—surely ladies with beautiful coiffures must be important to the country's morale!"

Visitin' Around

Why, Mrs. Ed!
(Rockingham Post-Dispatch)

Mrs. Ed C. Thomas lost a valuable mule the night of March 19th — crank too much water while hot.

The Good Die Young
(Arcadia Item, Lexington Dispatch)

J. B. Craver killed a nice hog the other day.