THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1903-1927 ●

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MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1941

Questions

Time Presses, and the City Ought To Know Its Mind

There are certain basic matters of policy that need to be determined by the City Government and its Airport Commission. There is some urgency about them, too, both from the standpoint of national war preparation and the city's facilities for commercial and private flying.

These questions have got to be answered one way or the other, sooner rather than later on the basis of known facts and probabilities:

1. Do we want another airport?
2. If so, shall it be developed as a primary or secondary field?
3. Do we want the Air Base enlarged and improved, its runways lengthened so that the base may be used for the larger squadrons of pursuit planes, or shall we let it struggle along best it can?
4. If the preference is to enlarge and improve, is the City willing to buy the necessary land (as it would have to) and lease it to the Air Corps?
5. In any event requiring the outlay of City funds, which is hedged about with restrictions, the main question of all is, how?

As matters stand, we have an inadequate Air Base, unsuitable for the purposes the Air Corps had in mind, so limited in area as to preclude the expenditure of well over a million dollars in Federal funds for its expansion; and we have no site for another airport since the clearing, grading and lighting of which Federal agencies are committed to spend $330,000.

On these projects island in public favor, and there is no assurance that they will not be prosecuting them while Federal funds may still be had, while Charlotte is passed over for some other city that is more alert to the defense and aviational opportunities.

Piffle

A Puny Squabble Halts Defense—The Remedy?

So, after five weeks on strike, the AFL and CIO machinists in eleven San Francisco shipyards turn down President Roosevelt's request to go back to work.

So, all of their demands for wage increases have been agreed to by their employers except that of a closed union shop.

So, because of their insistence upon this one point to aggrandize unionism, $200,000,000 worth of defense contracts are tied up, dreadfully needed ships aren't being built.

So what?

We know the answer to that one, alas, and it will probably take the same form in San Francisco as it took in Inglewood.

Trick Play?

Some More Razzle Dazzle From Ol' Coach Hitler

Operating from double wing-back formation, the Nazis are about to snap the ball in one of their tricky reverse plays. It may be a simple reverse with Goering carrying the ball in an all-out invasion of Britain. Or it could be a double reverse with Ribbentrop hitting the Russian "weak side" of the line for a gain of several thousand square miles.

We don't know. Only one of the experts—John Bull—will talk for publication and he is about as gloomy and uninformative as Wallace Wade before a Duke-Carolina game.

From our seats way back about 5,000 miles from the playing field, it looks very much like a quarterback sneak, with Coach-Manager-Captain-Referee-Disciplinarian Judge Adolf Hitler knocking over Gibraltar, that sterling British end, and then going for a touchdown against Russia—with interference.

Coach Hitler has guaranteed Turkey that none of his ends or backs will run over her position in going down to receive a pass. Turkey has been so pleased by this assurance that several more divisions have been sent to defend the frontier that Coach Hitler said he wouldn't cross.

Meanwhile S. K. "Baldy" Timoshenko, the powerful Russian fullback who backs up the line on defense, is reported to be peeved at Coach Stalin for ordering him to play back about ten miles behind the scrimmage line. If these reports are true, Timoshenko will have his athletic scholarship at stake if he attempted to turn in his uniform in this case, the big fullback would undoubtedly become so morose that he will commit suicide before someone does it for him.

It is also reported that food isn't holding out so well at Coach Hitler's training table and that he may send his whole team over to eat with Coach Stalin in Ukraine Hall. This would be tough on the Soviet team because Hitler's boys have a reputation for eating a host out of house and home.

Coach Roosevelt of U. S., who has been sending a good many uniforms and other athletic equipment to Coach Churchill of Britain U., has just recovered from a sore throat and ain't saying much. Some of his board of trustees, however, are getting hot under the collar and yelling it around that if U. S. is ever going to win another game it is going to have to improve its aerial offensive and subsidize more players.

Tactics

German Extravagance Beats Russian Sneak

Ernest Hemingway, now reporting the Far Eastern War from Hong Kong, sends across a striking description of the difference between German and Russian military tactics.

This observation was passed on to the American author by staff officers of the Chinese Central Government, who have worked under both German and Russian military advisers.

To simplify the illustration, Hemingway puts it in terms of money. An offensive army chief decides that the capture of a certain strategic position is worth a dollar.

The Russian commander would attempt to sneak it away by spending a quarter. He would be forced to send in more and more reserves as the element of surprise wore off and would end up by spending a dollar and a half for his objective.

The German chief of staff, on the other hand, would throw a dollar and a half or maybe two dollars into the fight at once. In all probability, he would end up by winning the coveted position at a cost of only a dime or fifteen cents.

* * *

The Chinese officers, needless to say, rank the Germans first, the Russian second.

The Untamed

How Two Charlotteans Talked About Open Sunday

The Dilworth bus pulled over to the curb and a thin, slightly bald man climbed up and slipped the driver a ticket. He shuffled toward the rear of the bus and sat down gingerly beside the red-faced man who wore a cigar in the corner of his mouth.

The thin man looked about him pleasantly for a few minutes and said:

"Well, it looks like we're going to get to go to the movies on Sunday."

Nobody said anything so he turned to the red-faced man.

"You going to the movies Sunday?"

The red-faced man snorted.

"Naw. It don't make no difference to me. Sunday movies, Sunday baseball, they ain't gonna make no difference to my Sunday."

The thin man's jaw dropped about a half-inch and he looked around at the other passengers in a pleading kind of way.

"What do you do on Sunday?"

The red-faced man laughed cruelly.

"You want me to tell you? All right, I'm gonna sleep until about the middle of the afternoon. Then me and some of the boys are going out to the bootlegger's and get a few drinks in a bottle. And from then on, Mister, we are just gonna raise a little hell."

The thin man cleared his throat and didn't say anything and after a while he pulled the buzzer cord and got off the bus.

"Who is that guy?" said the red-faced man. Nobody said anything so the red-faced man chewed reflectively on his cigar. Once he started to light it but he changed his mind.

———

AND NO ARMY TO HELP

An unlimited emergency, back in the home town, was a relative who called for the week-end and stayed seven years.

———

NEVER DO

Turning out the lights on night baseball would, of course, save power, but it would allow the umpire to escape.

Wave Of Future

By Dr. Fraser Hood

(Head Davidson College Department of Psychology)

(At our request, Dr. Fraser Hood, head of Davidson College Department of Psychology, has written an article analyzing the methods of the Nazis and how they conflict with American standards of morality. Because of limited space the article, begun today, will be concluded in tomorrow's installment.—Editors, The News.)

THERE is a great deal of loose thinking about the world today. At least it seems so to me. Writers and speakers, intent upon influencing public opinion and especially public action, too often neglect to base their thinking upon facts. There are vague ideas that disturb their peace of mind and a wish to have it so leads them to think that it is so. As an illustration of what I mean by loose thinking is the book, "The Wave of the Future." In the June issue of the Atlantic Monthly Mrs. Anne Lindbergh has written an article to explain what she meant to convey (and didn't). She is still intrigued, if not obsessed, by the poetic imagery of a wave. Just what the "wave of the future" means to her is difficult to understand. What it means to me is precisely nothing. A wave I know, and the future I know, but when these two words become linked by a preposition, I pass.

GUIDING AND RIDING THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE

She tells us it is a movement of adjustment to a scientific and material civilization. She feels that we must face this "wave"; must not be overwhelmed by it as Europe has been; that we must "ride it," must "guide it." Having written some poetic sentences about this wave, she suddenly realizes that she has violated the caution her English teacher taught her about mixed metaphors and graciously acknowledges that, from a literary standpoint, the image of a wave is difficult. (I should say impossible.) Not only, it seems to me, to be "difficult" from a literary standpoint, but equally so from any standpoint. "A physical wave of the ocean," she admits, cannot strictly speaking be guided, but she thinks "abstract waves of ideas" can be guided. Does she mean "waves of abstract ideas?" I am sure I do not know; and I am not certain that she does. This "facing" the wave, "riding" it and "guiding" it calls up to my mind a kind of bizarre image in which the features, as in a dream, get madly confusing. One time I find myself breasting the wave; another time, taking measures to keep from being "overwhelmed" by it; and then getting friendly with it I mount it as upon a horse and go joyfully ahead riding it, riding it with bit and bridle lest it run away with me. If this is not confused thinking, it at least is confusing to a reader who tries to get the ideas.

I am very strongly convinced in my own mind that before we can think clearly and consistently about the situation brought about by Hitler's rise to power, we must face at least five facts.

Fact No. 1 is that Hitler's technique is at once subtle and simple. Subtle because so many peoples are caught by it; simple because it may be summarized into a brief formula . . . "Divide and Conquer." All efforts to divide us should be morally condemned. There are too many signs to the contrary to believe that we are not divided. This division is principally between those who want to keep us out of war, and those who are ready to go to war; between those who want us to give all-out aid to Britain and those who want us to stand aside and let the British Empire be destroyed; between those who believe in a rigid and rigorous isolationism and those who believe that isolationism will be our eventual submission to the world conqueror as so many sovereign states already have submitted. As long as we cannot become united on a fourthright policy in our dealings with the dictators, so long Hitler will feel encouraged to continue his policy of divide and conquer.

NAZIS HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY

Fact No. 2 is that the Nazis, so far as their influence carries, have revolutionized moral principles. Their ethical philosophy is unbelievably antipathetic to what we have been taught from our youth up. You and I have been taught that a lie is an ugly thing. To the Nazis these words are pitiling nonsense.

We must never lose sight of the fact, in thinking through the problems with which Hitler has confronted us, that to lie is not only expedient but honorable!

No wonder these international brigands hate the Old Testament and seek to destroy it. Instead of training a German lad to speak the truth, Nazism has trained him to speak a lie. With us the term "liar" is an epithet of opprobium. With the Germans, under the tutelage of Hitler, it has become a title of respect and honor. A lie is protean; it masquerades under so many forms that we need today to become as adroit in detecting it, as we need to be courageous in fighting it.

A glurse presti i mentiter sen sempre (liars are always most disposed to swear).

Am I to understand that the author of "The Wave of the Future" which she identifies with the wave which has overwhelmed Europe, is, as it approaches our shores, to be guided? But is not the essence of that wave which has overwhelmed Europe, a lie? Treachery, deceit and plain lying account for the initial success at least of Hitler's drive to power. I think if you were to ask Denmark, Norway and those other countries what was the nature of the wave that destroyed them, they would say lies, lies, lies. How, pray, can you guide a will to falsehood and deceit? We can only hope to destroy it, root and branch and all.

(To be Concluded Tomorrow)

Peace Talk Scotched

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, June 14.—[illegible] "Peace talk" which [illegible] appears to be completely scotched and [illegible] for the time being. [illegible] Hitler, [illegible] stated [illegible] of the conquered countries of the continent. The statement [illegible] alone (title complete). It proves that there can be no lasting peace so long as free peoples are coerced by Germany or so long as they are under threat of such coercion. That last phrase appears to shut out all possibility of a negotiated peace on Hitler's terms, because any such peace would leave Britain and other peoples under threat of German might.

SCOTCHING PEACE OFFER BEFORE IT HAPPENS

At least three purposes are served by this declaration. It wards off in advance the impact upon the English people of any possible Axis peace offer. It gives hope to the occupied peoples that if the fight can be prolonged they may recover their freedom. It reassures the United States, now in the midst of a most extensive aid program, that Britain is not preparing to quit. All of this only reinforces the position of Churchill, which is to continue the war in face of whatever reverses may come, so long as there is anything with which to fight.

The meaning of this to the United States is that the war is likely to go on indefinitely. It means that the utmost production of which we are capable will be needed on the other side. Of that we may be certain, regardless of whether we are to play any part in the active fighting.

All preparations here are for a long continuation of war and a long continuation of our war-production program.

Most officials here are confident that if Britain can hold out through the Summer, our production will really begin to count. The speed-up of that is now the main job. It needs all the prodding and goading that can be laid on it.

It is not disparaging the gigantic amount of work already done to emphasize the need of more speed. American industry has done wonders. Yet the May airplane figures showed a drop of 35 planes below the April output. The long Memorial Day week-end had something to do with that. Perhaps shortages of materials had something to do with it also. Yet plants are being built which, once in production, will turn out planes at a rate which our expert believe will exceed anything Germany has been able to do. We haven't seen anything yet.

RE-ADJUSTMENT OF DAILY LIFE IS NECESSARY

Our most difficult job is to shift over into the rigorous necessities that this program requires. It means a most drastic re-adjustment of our daily life. Donald Nelson, director of procurement for OPM, is advocating that we double the present defense outlay. He has President Roosevelt's approval for a program under which industry would curtail many varieties of consumer goods, such as blankets and radio sets, and concentrate on a few standard types. When Mr. Nelson talks of an 80-billion-dollar defense program, he is saying in effect that the country must go almost completely into a war-production economy.

How will it end? It is almost futile to try to think about that. We are creating an enormous industry, with vastly enlarged communities completely dependent upon defense activity. A vested interest in continuation of this work has developed. To stop it would be to throw the country into the deepest economic difficulty. We are now in the same position that other countries are in. No solution for unemployment has yet been found except war or preparation for war. France is worse off under peace than Britain is at war.

MAYBE THERE WILL BE NO OLD-TIME PEACE

There may be no peace in the old sense, with a formal conference and everybody shaking hands and going back to the plow. The war might even rage intermittently for years, with slow attrition deciding, and all major powers remaining under war conditions indefinitely.

Roman "Victory" Arch

—by Berlin

Letters to the Editor:

What War? Whose War?

Dear Sir:

Your editorial in Wednesday's paper, entitled "Saturation" was tops in war mongering. What war? Whose War?

The American people are certainly not at war and won't be if they have anything to say about it. As the politicians of Europe put their people at war, our politicians are trying to drag us into war.

As Columnist (name not legible) says in The Miami Herald if we get into war it will be known as the President's personal war, not the people's.

As the Saturday Evening Post says, the American people have been fooled. We have been told that the steps taken to help England was done only to avoid war ourselves. The Administration now in power was elected on a platform to keep us out of war.

—C. B. GILLESPIE

Miami, Fla.

Hitler's Greatest Gamble—He Hopes

Dear Sir:

Few writers on the State press today write in a more entertaining or breezy style than R. C. Lawrence of Lumberton. Mr. Lawrence has not been in the best of health lately and has spent much time in the hospital, but from his sick room has come timely articles on the issues and problems of the present day. In his latest contribution to the press he talks about the gambling instinct that is present in all of us. "Running the risk," says Mr. Lawrence, "seems to be implanted in human nature. From the great Stock Exchange to the bridge club playing room of the local matron, all America is indulging in an orgy of gambling."

And then Mr. Lawrence enlarges upon the subject and goes on to say that "men have gambled for empires. Bismarck so gambled and won, and the formation of the German Empire was the result. Napoleon so gambled and lost, and exile on the lonely isle of St. Helena was the result. Leaders of armies gamble. Lee gambled with destiny in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, and lost. Grant gambled with death at the battle of Spotsylvania, and the bodies of thousands of his men testified mutely that he lost.

Men gamble for so-called honor. Hamilton and Burr fought it out in a duel. Hamilton lost his life; Burr, the respect and esteem of all America. Yet if both men had been killed, it would have settled nothing.

"Men gamble with death by land and sea and air. Riding the winds of fate Lindbergh gambled in his flight across the Atlantic and won; but Amelia Earhart perished beneath the waves of the Pacific and not even her body was found to solace her loved ones.

"Men gamble with the law and our jails, penitentiaries and prisons are filled with men, some of whom were formerly of high and trusted position. They know and the world knows that they lost.

"Men gamble with their appetites, and the graves of thousands of drunkards who went to an early death, or of others who found no solace in vice but who sought it in suicide, testify in silence that gambling with appetite does not pay.

"Men gamble with infidelity and agnosticism, as witness Thomas Paine with his Mistakes of Moses, and Clarence Darrow, the great criminal lawyer, who went to his death a great agnostic. Yet it was the doubter Robert G. Ingersoll who before his brother's open grave spoke these words: "In the night of grief hope sees a star; and listening love can hear the rustle of an angel's wings."

"Men gamble with eternity and the eternal verities. The rich agriculturist, referred to in Scripture as gambled. He proposed to pull down his old barns and build new ones, and to eat, drink and be merry; but that day his soul was required of him."

Mr. Lawrence might have mentioned, but didn't, that the greatest gamble of all time is the contest in Europe at the present time. In the hey-day of Napoleon's greatest success he gambled on an invasion of Russia and that was the beginning of the end for him. Down the road was Waterloo and St. Helena. Today the papers bring the information that Hitler is planning an invasion of Russia. Is it too much to expect that history will repeat itself and that in the not too distant future there will come to him also a Waterloo? So mote it be!

—C. R. AUSTIN.

Charlotte.

We're Glad To Oblige

Dear Sir:

We have been mixing the column, "Along the Garden Path," by Mina Hoffman. We think it one of your best features and are eager to see it in your paper again.

We trust you will continue to publish it.

—HAZULE B. SWANN.

Marion.

(Mrs. Hoffman, who has been on vacation, resumes her column today.—Editors, The News).

The Advantages Of Army Camps

Dear Sir:

Bert Wheeler ought to be jacked up and the skids put under him. I risked one ear to listen awhile at one of his broadcasts. He seemed to be trying to stir up sedition and giving encouragement to the bundists and Communists listening to him. If the Government lets him get by with such stuff it encourages the smaller fry of copperheads to put out their two cents worth of poisonous propaganda. I saw a letter in The News recently about the boys having to leave their mothers and go to the camps. The boys are safer in the camps than out hell-driving on the highways and wrapping their automobiles around trees. At least they will get away from the bootleggers and used car salesmen a while.

—O. N. RAMSEY.

R. 4, Lincolnton, N. C.

The Checkered Career Of Us Americans

Christian Science Monitor

An American manufacturer reports that, within a recent year, he turned out and sold to the trade 20,000,000 checkerboards. Evidently the venerable game of draughts, in competition with motion pictures, motoring, radio, football and baseball, is holding its own.

History should record that checkers afforded early settlers a convenient, inexpensive form of indoor relaxation, helped trader and trapper, snowbound in log shelters, to while away long hours; accompanied the Argonauts to California in '49, and subsequently aided the kerosene lamp in making brighter the evenings in many a "little old sod shanty on the plains."

As much as sugar, salt or flour, the game was stock equipment of the backwoods store. In the frontier inn, it made less tedious the wait of many a traveler. Where pupils were forbidden by parents to play until lessons were finished, it aided education by providing an incentive to finish "homework." And present-day students have not forgotten the game, as many a mature person has learned while he watched his youthful opponent clean up the board.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication—Acts 1:14.

Side Glances

"While I'm standing here watching you bounce my coin around, maybe I'd better light this cigar and test it before I accept it!"

Visitin' Around

Didn't Think She'd Land Him, Hey?

(Hooper's Creek item, Hendersonville Times-News)

The wedding of Warren Worsham to Miss Essie Rogers came as a surprise to this community.

Blankety Blank Walsh

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. — —, Walsh of the west part of the county was here in town Saturday. Referring to the daily war news said that when the European war first started he didn't think the United States would enter but now was so sure.