THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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Precedent

Liquor Car Case Must Be Bad News To Bootleg Ring

The Baker liquor car case will be appealed to Superior Court. It is stated so that it has not been finally established that the lien on the car — caught a second time making liquor hauls — is an invalid lien and therefore no defense against confiscation and sale of the vehicle. But that Judge Howard believed the transaction to have a background of connivance is indicated not only by his judgment but also by the fact that he ordered the car held without bond.

(This was a thoughtful precaution inasmuch as it was brought out in a story published in The News the other day that it has been years since Mecklenburg Superior Court, under the direction of Solicitor Jojn Carpenter, has ordered a seized liquor car to be sold or moved to collect bonds which were given to obtain the release of such cars.)

At any rate, it is reassuring to see that County Recorder's Court has had the curiosity to go behind the front of a duly-recorded lien and title and to take into consideration certain questionable circumstances which seemed to show that the bootleg ring was taking advantage of the law to dupe the law.

True, the solicitor of the court was prodded into action by the interest of State officials and the publicity that followed. There must have been half a dozen previous cases, differing only in detail, in which liens questionable on their face were allowed to operate against confiscation and sale of souped-up liquor cars.

It is to be trusted now, with this example to go by, that no local court will assume every mortgage on a liquor car to be valid — not, at least, without diligently inquiring into the circumstances and requiring the mortgagee to show that he is an innocent holder for value.

A Yardstick

His People Offer Measure Of Late Speaker Bankhead

The huge crowd that gathered in Jasper, Ala., to pay final tribute to the memory of Speaker William B. Bankhead — a crowd largely made up of the people called "common" or "plain" — was a good measure of the man.

He was by no standard a great statesman. But he was a man who commanded the unlimited confidence of his people. And with reason. For he was truly gentle of nature — one of those "men of good-will" we hear so much about since a Frenchman popularized the phrase as the title of a long work of fiction.

To be a man of good will is perhaps not enough in the hard and complex world which we now inhabit — a world almost as far removed from the old world which existed before 1914, and in which William Bankhead grew up, as it is removed from that of Thothmes III.

But for the people in general the possession of the genuine gentleness and humanity of heart, which the phrase implies, is certainly the primary qualification of leadership. Bankhead a product of the classes was clearly aware of the problems of the masses in the South. His law for the aid of tenant farmers hasn't accomplished a great deal, perhaps not a great deal can be accomplished by the law route. But it at least showed his interest in what is ultimately perhaps the most pressing problem of the South — that its yeoman farmer class is in process of disappearing. And the people seemed to have had no doubt of his sincerity in the matter.

The leaders of the new world which is making will have to have the qualities of Bankhead, along with some others, if that world is not to be as bleak as Adolf Hitler dreams it.

Definition

Concerning the Origin and Development of a Phrase

In a letter published in the letter column to our right today, "Daily Reader" wants to know the meaning of the term, "fat cat." "Daily Reader" does not give his name, which is cause in this office to throw his letter out. However, his query is interesting, so for once we waive the rule.

"Fat cat" is a phrase which has undergone rapid modification. It was originally coined to describe rich men who had developed a sudden yen to round off their careers with high political office and who contributed heavily to party campaign chests for the purpose of getting themselves in line for an appointment to say, the Senate when somebody suddenly popped off. Or who frankly went out to buy themselves a nomination with fance gifts to the party.

More recently, however, it has got to mean the sort of man who considers his own interest as greater than that of the nation to which he belongs. Pierre Etienne Flandin was a fat cat when, as premier of France, he allowed Germany to re-arm and re-militarize the Rhineland because he had large holdings in the German arms cartel and so stood to gain by disregarding the obvious interests of France. And both he and Laval are fat cats now in their efforts to use the Vichy Government to save their own skins and the fortunes of themselves and their friends at the expense of France.

By the Record

Mr. Willkie Is Very Wide Of the Mark in This Charge

The dwindling of Wendell Willkie which most of the columnists have been announcing for the last ten days, and which is now shown to be true by the opinion polls is undoubtedly due primarily to the fact that the Battle of Britain has him in its shadow, and that in relation to it the President has overwhelming advantage.

But it is hard to escape the feeling that it is also due to the fact that the man himself is failing to live up to his advance notices. He offered himself to the nation as one serene and confident of the future, above all candid. But his attempt to lay the blame for Munich on Mr. Roosevelt was unbecoming. Likewise it was about as unrandid as it well could be.

Consider, again, the speech he made last night, in which he charged that the President was responsible for the fact that after seven and a half years of Hitler, the United States is still unprepared for war.

The facts here are plain and clear. The party which Mr. Willkie represents is the party which disarmed the United States in 1921 and kept on increasingly disarming it down until 1933. Since 1933, the President has repeatedly sought to arouse the nation to the danger of Hitler, the need for arms. He has almost universally been denounced by the leaders of the Hamilton Party, as well as some of those of his own, as a warmonger for his pains.

More than that, the Congress has consistently scaled down all but the most recent of his requests for military and naval expenditures. And the Republican members of Congress have voted almost as a solid bloc in favor of every proposed reduction.

These are the facts, open to anyone who cares to look at the record. If Mr. Willkie is making his charge without looking at the record, he is certainly a good deal less than serene. If he is making them after looking at the record — then his score for candor is as poor as any Mr. Roosevelt has ever hung up.

No Lightning

Signor Mussolini Approaches His Task Very Cautiously

The Italian attack on Egypt has so far failed to develop any lightning quality.

Ex Sollum, around which most of the fighting has been in progress is a mere frontier outpost, and its seizure by the Italian armies will mean little.

First serious defense of the land will probably take place at Mersa Matruh, which is the railhead of the line to Alexandria. By the time that point is reached however, the Italians will have a hundred and fifty miles of desert behind them. The burning heat which now hampers the Italian advance will moderate in a few weeks more, but that advantage will be largely cancelled out by the increasing distances over which water will have to be transported.

At Mersa Matruh, too, the Italians should begin to encounter the British army proper. Most of the fighting so far has been done by native troops on both sides. But when the Italians actually come up against the British, they will be facing some of the toughest soldiers in the world — old troopers long hardened to battle in the hills of India, and Australians who, if they have never been in battle are made of such stuff as makes a first class fighting man in record time.

Altogether, Signor Mussolini has his work cut out for him. And he may well be moving straight into disaster.

Bumble Policy

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON—Our people have many differences as to how imminent our danger might be if Hitler won his battle with Britain. Some question whether the danger is military or economic. Always present is the thought that the Atlantic Ocean is more or less of a protection.

This leads Clare Boothe to make a pointed observation in her book, "Europe in the Spring," which is an account of her recent war months in Europe. Returning home a few weeks ago, she found that many of the things that happened in Europe just before and during the "phony war" period are happening in this country today.

"Who doesn't think of the two oceans as the French thought of the Maginot, and the English are still thinking of the Channel?" Miss Boothe asks.

BRASSHATS THOUGHT HITLER WAS PUSH-OVER

She found British generals overestimating sadly the amount of time Germany would require to reorganize after one attack to prepare for the next. After Leopold surrendered, one of the British generals was certain that Germany was temporarily exhausted and would have to pause a while before going into the battle of France. She found much time wasted in academic argument about what democracy really is. Because it is voluntary, democracy was thought to be fundamentally stronger than dictatorship. There was no real unity in high places. Politicians quarreled bitterly among themselves and called each other names and impugned each other's motives and character.

Only in final hours of desperation were these hindrances put aside under the pressure of national extremity. But with France it came too late, and Britain now is suffering because of earlier neglect of her defenses and because of her earlier slowness in placing war orders in the United States. The same quarrels that enervated France and England during the preparation period are found here.

WE HAD BETTER EXPECT THE WORST

The British and French underestimated Hitler, underestimated his ruthlessness and his strength. As some of our officials say, we don't know what will happen, but the safest policy is to assume the worst and try to protect ourselves against it. Then the worst is much less likely to happen.

There is much keener awareness here of the necessity of strong naval and air defense than there is of strong economic defense. Almost the entire Republican membership in Congress voted against a bill to provide the Export-Import Bank with $500,000,000 for economic measures in South America. The disposition was to consider the proposal in strictly commercial terms and to oppose it because there is considerable question whether all of the money will come back. Such expenditures and such economic measures have to be viewed in the same light as military expenditures. They will not yield in the commercial sense but they give protection against something worse.

THIS MONEY WILL STRENGTHEN DEFENSE

It is not complete protection either to build strong bases along the Atlantic Coast and to have a second Navy and heavy air force and leave the commercial defense wide open.

In peacetime, South American trade with Europe, except for Colombia and Venezuela, outweighs trade with the United States. Normally Argentina imports from Europe three times what she does from the United States, and exports eight times as much. Our trade with Europe has been heavy. Forty per cent of our normal export market is there.

A Hitler victory is therefore bound to create many difficult commercial problems for us. Even if Britain holds out, when fighting ends we shall be faced with the most desperate competition from hard-pressed, war-exhausted countries. Their foreign trade will be controlled and manipulated by the governments. To meet it many innovations will be necessary here. Our trade policies will inevitably be more under Government direction.

We may not only be thinking too much of the Atlantic Ocean, as the French thought of the Maginot Line. We may also be too complacent in the thought that our mass-production efficiency makes us a match for any country. On even terms, we find it so. But if we are up against controlled, subsidized, currency-manipulated competition, we may find our manufacturing efficiency offset and circumvented unless Washington and private enterprise can work in co-ordination.

Liberty

Raleigh News & Observer

The other day a small boy was seen standing with arm upstretched on top of the highest part of Nash Square's unfinished brick wall at the corner of Martin and McDowell Streets.

"Look at me," he screamed to the white and colored workers, and anyone else within range, "I'm the Statue of Liberty!"

"Better get down from there, boy —you'll break your leg." Otherwise, they paid him no attention.

"Look at me," he cried again, arm still stretching toward "I'm bigger than anybody else in the world—I'm the Statue of Liberty."

If we laugh at him we must also wonder. Screaming about liberty and bigness has not been confined in recent months to small boys in a park—nor has indifference stopped within the boundaries of that park.

Rapid-Fire Dictation

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Fat Cat Term Puzzles Him

Dear Sir:

For some time now I've been noticing in an occasional editorial in your paper the use of the phrase "fat cat."

I believe I first saw this phrase in a letter written by the Hon. C. R. Champion, who seems to take delight in setting forth his views about our brethren up around Washington, through the medium of your columns. Mr. Benjamin R. Cary makes use of the phrase quite justly.

Now that you've taken it up, what I want to know is just what requisites does a fellow need to become a "fat cat." Not that I am anxious to be one at all but maybe if I can really find out what a "fat cat" really is, then perhaps I can name you some. If they are what they sound like I know I can.

Webster couldn't help me. What can you do to enlighten me?

—DAILY READER.

126 S. Church Street,
Charlotte.

Defends Witnesses Against Charges

Dear Sir:

Of your Open Forum section in the work of Aug. 27, I read an article by Austin A. Mitchell of Kannapolis, Route 1, entitled, "Urges Gag For Witnesses." Mr. Mitchell claims to be a witness of Jesus Christ, when he says, "I am Jesus Christ's witness. I love the Lord Jesus Christ because he has saved my soul from a Devil's hell."

Now the Scripture does not say anything about saving anyone's soul from a devil's hell, but on the contrary, it is written: "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins," James 5:20. Another Scripture in harmony with this: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 6:23.

Mr. Mitchell also suggested that Jehovah's Witnesses ought to be run out of America. Now I ask is this attitude to Jehovah's Witnesses or to any other group, who are exercising their right under the Constitution of the United States, which provides for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience, becoming one who claims to be a witness of Jesus Christ? It is more in line with the gag and bludgeon method of Hitler, who has found it necessary to put in prison or concentration camps 6000 of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany.

He also charges that Jehovah's Witnesses refuses to pay taxes. I challenge him to produce one Witness who does not pay taxes, or refuses to do so. There is not a more law-abiding citizenry in America than Jehovah's Witnesses; they obey every law of the land that does not conflict with God's law, which they recognize to be supreme. When men enact laws contrary to God's law Jehovah's Witnesses follow the lead of the early apostles. When the courts in their day were trying to suppress them of their liberty to worship God by obeying his Commandments to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, and of the King Christ Jesus, Peter had this to say to the courts. "Then Peter and the other apostles answered (the court) and said, we ought to obey God rather than men." "But Peter and John answered (the court) and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God judge ye." Acts 5:29, 4:19. Jehovah's Witnesses are in a campaign to carry the message of The Theocratic Government of Jehovah God and His Son Christ Jesus the King, to all the peoples of earth of good-will. Let all people who will take thede stand now for The Theocracy and live.

You may give this article the same publicity that you gave Mr. Mitchell's if you wish.

—J. R. LEWIS.

303 Northeast Avenue,
Kannapolis.

Thanks News for Aid In Celebration

Dear Sir:

Please accept our sincerest thanks for the generous co-operation given us in connection with our 35rd anniversary celebration, which closed Sept. 2.

—D. B. FEARING,
President, Roanoke Island Historical Association, Inc.
Manteo.

Wifely View

Lincoln Times

Lady Customer: "I see this medicine is advertised as good for man and beast."

Druggist: "Yes."

Customer: "Gimme a bottle. I believe it's the right combination to help my husband."

Mr. Billopp's *Storage*

Wanted—A small, inconspicuous, portable warehouse, of four rooms, that could be set up in the back yard or garden or similar vacant space. The rooms are to be marked, respectively: "Mother's," "Father's," "Mary's," "Johnny's," and to be furnished as follows:

1 Mother's. To contain letter-heads, envelopes, minute books and other records of organizations of which she is secretary; annual reports of hospitals, churches and cemeteries; garden club magazines and fashion and household magazines; mail-order house and department store and seed catalogues, pressed wildflower book kept as a child; newspaper clippings announcing deaths and marriages of friends and family over a period of 30 years; miscellaneous sketches that might some day be used as designs for Christmas cards.

2 Father's. To contain family letters (or those preservation he has a mania), old felt and straw hats, annual reports of corporations, old tobacco pipes with broken bowls and stems, old leather belts, rejected manuscripts, honorable discharge from the army, collection of white kid gloves (ripped), white dress neckties, stiff collars, fraternity pins and lapel buttons, broken cuff links.

3 Mary's. To contain collection of china dogs, dance favors, theater programs and ticket stubs, engraved invitations to parties, college publications, candid snapshots, diaries, complexion lotions, football souvenirs, candy boxes, woolen sweater begun for Finnish relief and successively changed to Norwegian, Dutch, Belgian, French and British as the map of Europe was remade.

4 Johnny's. To contain school and college banners, toy soldiers, airplane and boat models, big little books, pictures of screen stars, crayons, paints, free-hand drawings, electric train accessories, music magazines and miscellaneous athletic equipment.

The said warehouse to serve so that members of the family will have room to turn around in the ordinary dwelling.

—CHRISTOPHER BILLOPP.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:33.

Side Glances

"Eight years ago tonight you proposed, George! Remember how you said love would lift me out of my shallow little dream world?"

Factory Draft

By Hugh S. Johnson

WASHINGTON. — The conscription bill is a law and it is high time. But because of the last minute rush and the sheer politics and demagoguery of part of the debate, a perfectly unworkable, unconstitutional and almost unintelligible provision was limmed into it — the provision relating to compulsory orders and, in the alternative or in addition, the condemnation of plants.

It provides that either the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy may place an order with a manufacturer at a price fixed by the Secretary. If the manufacturer doesn't proceed to fill it at that price and give it priority over all other orders, it shall be deemed a felony punishable by three years imprisonment and a fine up to $50,000. Also, in case of a failure not only to take but to fill the order, the plant may be seized and operated by the Government.

THIS APPLIES ONLY TO FACTORIES

As this column has repeatedly urged, the Government must have a power to commandeer not only manufacturing plants but also supplies, warehouses, wharves, roads, docks, ships and even railroads. The present provision applies only to compulsory orders for manufacture and to manufacturing plants.

The need of such a law for this purpose is the rare exception rather than the rule. The need for commandeering power in the much wider field just mentioned is very frequent. I am aware of no experienced authority who contests the granting of such a power to the President when properly defined. For the reason of its almost fatal insufficiency as just explained, the provision is not properly defined.

There is another reason, under our Constitution private property may not be taken for public use without just compensation. In World War commandeering, when the Government wanted, for example, a warehouse instantly, it offered to buy or rent it and named a price. There was a "commandeering section" of experts on value in the War Industries Board. If they could not reach an agreement on price with the owner, they paid him what they were willing to pay and took the property. He could then sue the United States in the Court of Claims for the difference between the price asked and the price paid. This was in accordance with the constitutional provision of "just" compensation—which, in our law, only a court can decide finally.

SECRETARIES HAVE TOO MUCH POWER

These provisions worked smoothly and well. Frequently the commandeering process was welcomed by the owner as a quick and just way to a conclusion on price.

But this law makes no such provision for determining "just compensation." A manufacturer must accept an order at a price which the buyer says is fair—or go to jail as a felon with no access in a court. Worse still, this hit-jacking applies to orders to manufacture new and complex products in which the owner rarely has any experience. He, himself, frequently can't quote an intelligent price in advance. Certainly the Secretaries can't.

POLITICS PUT THIS MEASURE OVER

The manufacturer must buy the parts and materials for his product, but he has no power to hold this gun at his supplier's head and say "Sell at my price or go to jail." The Secretaries are under a rigid duty of economy—to get the lowest price possible. They can't be just judges of fair price. The provision as written, is reckless tyranny and utter disregard of the Constitution. It cuts across the whole American process of manufacture and sale. It is wholly unworkable—just as it is wholly insufficient in scope to the needs of the defense program.

The debate shoks clearly that this monstrous thing was crowded in for political campaign purposes to defame and wide American industry by slurring its patriotism. What our defense program needs is leadership of our industry. It can be led to any accomplishment. It can't be booted or lashed to anything—any more than can American labor.

If more failure and delay in defense are to be avoided, this provision should be made straight at once.

Visitin' Around

Uh Huh
(Mitchell's Mill Item, Zebulon Record)

All the children were happy to start back to school Wednesday.

A Feller's Gotta Do Somp, Ain't He?
(Heck Creek Item,
Marshall News-Record)

Mr. Willie Wild has been hauling stakes from Heck Creek for Mr. Roy L. Guider.

Why Single Out Mr. Tweed—
He Pat the Most?
(Middle Laurel Item,
Marshall News-Record)

Mr. Elmer Tweed and many others took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Dempa Landers Sunday.