

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, Jr., President
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Editor

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Talsetto Note

The Law, Not Heroics, Will Settle the AP Suit

Representative Plumley of Vermont is worked up over Thurman Arnold's attack against the Associated Press, and his astonishment that other members of the House are not outraged. He sees it in stark perspective as a scheme by the New Deal to "freeze" the Bill of Rights and destroy freedom of the press. Perceive, he says: the New Deal is a New Deal supported by Marshall Field and his Chicago friends in competition with the Administration newspaper (Col. R. R. McManis's Chicago Tribune), and that's there is to it.

It is a matter of fact, we think there is less than that to it. Undoubtedly Administration derived extra relief from the fact that the preposterous "Col. McManis" is the world's best. Also, Administration has dallied with the idea that freedom of the press ought mean freedom to agree with and hold Mr. Roosevelt. But if there were indirect attack on freedom of the press in this suit to compel the AP to publish the Chicago attack on service, the measure would have been by Executive order, not in the courts.

We look upon the suit against the AP as the simplest dimensions. It is as though there were two men's clothing stores in town. One of them, a long-established store, sells the Klaxsy Kut line of suits, and is probably the world's best. The other is a newcomer, tries to cut in on the Klaxsy Kut line, but being refused, goes to take the Kollege Klothes account second best. And so it cries that the first store is to have exclusive rights in the Klaxsy Kut line is monopolistic in violation of its trade, and goes to court about it.

The qualities of its suit depend on how they look at it. The store that through years has held the Klaxsy Kut franchise wants to know what the heck it has to go fifty-fifty with the competitor. The suit-store smirks unpleasantly. Precisely: that's the new idea of free enterprise.

Side-Away

The Army Heads for Germany, And Has Its Medals Ready

For those who would gauge the war's progress by measuring the scope of American military hopes and plans, we have information. Bulletin, Bulletin, Bulletin: secret production figures and dowered by the swelling might of the national arsenal, an individual is certain to leave the scene in confusion, seeing little as he sees. But our statistic speaks above all in a factory roar and the clatter of service camps.

We found it in the Army's newspaper, tucked half-hidden by other figures and the patter of Army talk. Before we got there we learned some things. The average American soldier, during a year, consumes 400 quarts of milk, 287 pounds of meat, poultry and fish, 113 pounds of oats, 215 pounds of cereals and flour, 100 pounds of leafy green and yellow vegetables, 142 pounds of tomatoes and green fruits, 312 pounds of other vegetables and fruits, 253 pounds of potatoes, 114 pounds of sugars, syrups and preserves, 525 eggs.

We weren't long in discovering that the Army was feeding that menu for a year beyond the winning of an armistice. This movement was coolly undertaken because the Army knows where it's going, and isn't keeping it a secret.

"Brightest hardware news: Makers of medals and decorations have been asked for bids on 500,000 to 1,000,000 medals. This is the Army's preparation for Germany after the war. The decorations are to be delivered within six months under contracts enjoying A-1 priority rating.

Those boys not only have their destination well in mind, they're going to all decorated up when they get there.

Prelude

Germany's Coming Defense Is Weakened Over Tunisia

The unfolding struggle for Tunisia, which is to become one of the hardest battles of the war, may be considered a setback to Allied plans, but its importance is no reason for pessimism. The war is halted temporarily, and pay a price for the last stretched of the line than we will have taken

The Good Old Days 19th Century Gendarmes

By Dick Young

The pistol, big-barreled and bulky, which in the days of the best police to guard the town back in 1853, will soon become a part of the City Police Department's archives. The ancient weapon which was carried by George Plummer, Charlotte's first policeman, is still in the Plummer family and M. M. Plummer, grandson of George Plummer and patrolman of the local department has promised to obtain the gun from a relative in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mrs. Eloise B. Brown, assistant clerk of City Police Court, has voluntarily offered many old pictures of police officers and police groups, but the following year, after arrangements for compensation were made, Mr. Plummer was appointed as the town's first paid patrolman. The police force, designated the guard, was required to patrol the streets of the village at night only. His hours of duty were from 8 P. M. to daylight and he was required to call out in a "loud voice" the phrase, "All is well" every hour of the night. Failure to do so subjected him to a fine of \$1 for each time he failed to call out.

It doesn't appear from the record whether he was required to call out "all is well" when things might not have been so well in hand. One of the guard's duties was to keep the street lamps in working order. He had to keep these kerene lamps filled and the wicks trimmed. Incidentally, the street lights burned on dark nights only, a blackout ensuing on moonlight nights. Remember Charlotte is a Scotch town.

On Feb. 21, 1854, a basement was leased from Leroy Springs to be used as a calaboose and men blankets were ordered to be purchased for the use of prisoners. And for that month, the cost of feeding the town prisoners was \$14.00, but the record does not show how many prisoners were fed. If they had only one, that would have been cheap.

By 1861 when Charlotte was formally chartered the number of policemen had increased to four, three of them coming to join Mr. Plummer. The following year the 830-a-month salary was increased to \$50 a month and the next year the pay was boosted to \$75, which by 1864 was increased to \$100 a month. But by 1867 a wave of economy must have swept over the administrators, for the policemen's salaries were cut from \$100 to \$67 a month. Things were getting stricter that year, for it appears in the record that the rules provided for dismissal of an officer who appeared for duty under the influence of whiskey. It was also required that the policemen "parade to some convenient place where their dress and appearance would be inspected by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen."

Grave robbery was one of the problems in 1871. In that year, according to the record, a policeman was detailed for patrol duty in Elmwood Cemetery to keep the medical students from stealing the bodies. It appears there was a medical school here then, and the ambitious young doctors-to-be seemed not to have any compunctions about digging up a grave and snatching a body to practice on.

In September of 1871 an interesting incident marks the police annals. There was trouble between the whites and Negroes and in order to prevent any disturbance the aldermen ordered an increase of the police force. As a result, 500 citizens were sworn in and General R. D. Johnston was named chief and required to make duty reports to the Mayor. A crowd gathered at Eighth and Tryon Streets to see the Ku Klux Klan ride in. Suddenly a man on a galloping horse appeared down the street. He brandished a gun in each hand and ordered the dispersal of all Negroes, who had assembled.

They scattered and a disturbance was averted. The people of the town were so appreciative of the service performed by this man, who was a horse trader from Kentucky, that they sold his horse, which had been left at a local livery stable, when he had to suddenly depart after his shooting spree, and sent him the money they had collected from the sale.

Side Glances



"I've phoned two doctors, but one is in Algiers and the other on Guadalcanal—do you think you could behave yourself if I called that woman doctor?"

Substitution

Hitler For US

By Samuel Grafton

SHIFT PLAY: Please note that Washington is now talking about heavy cancellation of certain existing war contracts. The construction of new facilities especially in favor of the second world war is proceeding in some sections of the country. What does this mean? It means we have taken the offensive. It means we know what we are doing.

Every argument in favor of the second world war was offered last Fall has been validated by this change. It will be remembered that some of us said then that the policy of the defensive led to a program of mere hedges; the defensive makes us try to build something in the world all at once, never knowing what would be needed, where or when.

There is no limit to what you need when you are on the defensive, because you are building your defensive wall day by day. (Remember that manpower official who wept that we would need a population of 300,000,000 people to complete our program?) The change from a defensive to an offensive attitude, our arms, but made manifest only last month in the African campaign, eases our production pressure almost at once.

This shows up in the most positive, unmistakable way. Major General Campbell, chief of ordnance, reveals that a large part of the department's plant capacity, used for weapons and fuses of all kinds, has been turned over to the air forces. These facilities are now making special materials for a specific, offensive job, where once they were necessarily busy preparing for any unknown threat that might come around any corner at any unexpected time. Now we are picking the corners and the time.

General Campbell points out that as many as twenty days now go by, during which not a single anti-aircraft gun is fired in England. An enormous reserve of anti-air ammunition is built up during such periods, and this permits shifting the "hot spots" of production of offensive weapons for use in distant theaters. Those offensive weapons, when successfully employed, whether on the Russian front, in Africa, or in Europe, make it even less likely that England will have to use anti-air shells at home.

The question is one of style, of whether we have, or have not, a grip on the war. Carefully, we need much more manpower. More weapons, many more factories, when we do not have a grip on the war, than when we do.

This is what the second front debate was about, whether we were producing for a definite win-the-war objective, or merely producing. Before our offensive policy was determined upon, our procurement officials could do only one thing, cry endlessly for more. Now they have made a tremendous advance in the way of style. They can say: "Stop producing this article entirely. Let's have half as much of the other. And let's have twice as much of the other." The order to stop producing certain articles, because we don't need them, because we have a plan, because we know where we are going, is much more exciting and promising than all of last Spring's agitated cries for "more."

Now, let's note that every sign shows Hitler to be caught in a desperate manpower crisis. He is importing workers into Germany at an alarming rate. He is so hungry for French manpower that he was even willing to blow up the useful facade of the Vichy government to get it. One out of five workmen in Germany is now a foreigner, and the population of Germany is "German" than it was, after ten years of being led by a racial purist. Can this need for more production in Germany be linked with the passing of Germany to the victors?

In other words, it is a great, tearing shift underway in the war, and is Germany slipping into the same insupportable problems of unlimited defense production which have been the fate of England and America turn-to-bombers?

If so, we have won a profound, concealed victory, one of those victories which truly change the shape of the future, and the arguments of those who pleaded for the offensive have been gloriously substantiated.

Platform Of The People

Tips To Rookies

Editors: The News: Subject: Office Regulations. To: All New Draftees. 1. Upon entry do not bother to either to remove shoes from your shoes. We are efficient wielders of the broom and mop and have plenty of help in the way of the officers' quarters. The interruptions are soothing to their nerves and they love to see new faces. 2. Leave the door open. Closing it is a highly heinous crime which can be accomplished successfully only by the experienced office clerk. If you do not wish to see the door open by the bottom latch on the latch, kick the bottom part of the door. It doesn't matter if you were born in a barn. So if you are a great mess, clean up all papers on the desks. If you do not understand them ask the First Sergeant. If he cannot give you the detailed information ask the Captain - if you're still alive. 3. Buy the strongest tobacco you can. Brown's Mule will be furnished by the office for chewing. Spit on the floor, do not spit on the floor, and spit on the floor. Throw your matches on the floor. 4. If anyone is using the phone, turn the radio on full blast and raise your voice about it. If necessary, it is down his out. If these do not succeed and you are still unhurt, throw the keys on the typewriter. 5. Leave newspapers strewn about the floor and desk. This gives it the informal, homey touch the Army seeks. 6. Get your stationery in the office. Just help yourself, and don't bother to get it done on post cards. 7. Address all officers by their first names. If you don't want to feel that they're stuck up, they also wish to avoid any appearance of officialdom. 8. Don't bother to return pencils, pen, ink. The supply is inexhaustible. 9. If you have any business, stick around until the officers are all in the office and get it done as you can. They know the unknowable, see the unseeable, and unsee the unseeable. SGT. C. W. SIMS, George Field, Ill.

Critical Of Our Three Critics

Editors: The News: Subject: How to Kick the New Post, Sherwood and Swope. Thompson, Clapper and Grafton are all in the same class of the fence. Where's the connection? ROBERT RYAN, Charlotte. If we were picking an All-American team, we'd string along with our lineup of Thompson, Clapper and Grafton. Paul Mallon, by the way, on a month's vacation contract by these editors, The News.

Tying It Into Knots

By Herblock



Proceed With Caution

Manpower Is Dynamite

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON WE have had military conscription in this country before but this is the first time the Government has undertaken to prevent men from leaving civilian jobs without permission. It is delicate business, and Manpower Chairman McNutt will want to assign his most competent, most tactful and wisest assistants to this work. It should suggest the utmost care and flexibility in administering the controls which are now being put into effect.

Most of the complaint about rationing and restrictions comes down to irritation over arbitrary and inflexible administration of restrictions. The principle that you must ration where shortages exist will not be seriously challenged. Nor will it be questioned that compelling military and industrial demands on our manpower are so heavy now that there must be careful allocation by the Government, treating the whole manpower as one reservoir.

A broad general rule is laid down but there is difficulty in making it fit all cases. President Wilson of General Motors says that when he visits his various plants each offers a different kind of pass to enter the works. As head of the company, he laid down the policy that no one should go into a plant without a pass. But he left it to each plant superintendent to work out his own system. Flexibility and reasonable judgment will be necessary everywhere in the administration of this manpower control. The concerned should never for one minute forget that they are engaged in something that goes deeply against the grain in America, that nothing is tolerated only as a necessity of war, and that real compliance will be obtained by co-operation rather than by compulsion.

many as he needs at Willow Run, yet C. E. Sorenson, vice-president of Ford, doesn't believe you can compel a man to work at a job if he wants to change. In Detroit a few days ago several other executives took the same view. C. E. Wilson of General Motors says his concern has lost more than 22,000 men to the armed services, but he isn't ready for compulsory freeing of employees.

Yet the judgment of the Government that it is necessary to take control must override that of individuals who have only a partial view. But when large employers of war labor such as those in Detroit question the need of control in their areas, that should suggest the utmost care and flexibility in administering the controls which are now being put into effect.

It is not intended that the freeing shall be so complete as to prevent change of job for any reason whatever. But the burden of obtaining a release to take other employment is placed on the employee. He must show that he is capable of more highly skilled work than he is doing, or that he is working less than 40 hours a week, or that his job is too far from his home, or offer some other strong reason for being released to take another job. Nothing like this has been seen in the United States since the days when the newspapers were full of advertisements for the return of runaway slaves. The practice so completely offends all American instincts and tradition that it can only be justified if urgent war necessity leaves no other course. Probably some degree of pressure is necessary to check violent migrations of labor now because manpower reserves are thin and need to be evenly spread. But the big war producers in the Detroit area are, in several instances, favoring the practice. They are all having trouble getting enough workers. Ford has only about half as