THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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In Retrospect

Every Appointment of Dukes Takes On Political Coloring

It's a far cry from the righteous mood in which the Citizens Group offered their candidates for election, to the unconcealed politics which characterized the changes in personnel yesterday. Put it down in your notebook: the Iron Dukes are not above paying off campaign debts in jobs.

In that light, previous appointments seem to have deserved the cynicism which they drew at the time from antagonists of the reform administration. The appointments of City Attorney Chas. A Tillett, for example; City Recorder Dave Craig, City Solicitor Mercer Blankenship, all of whom were most active in the election in support of the candidates who later were to become known as the Dukes.

At the time of the appointment of these officials we concluded that the Dukes were simply endeavoring to place in key positions good men who would strive to carry out their admirable policies and who could be trusted to work in sympathy with the high resolves of the new administration. And we were satisfied that at least one of the appointees accepted his commission in that spirit, reasoning that what looked like politics did in reality transcend and fly in the face of politics.

But in the months since the election it has developed (1) that the Dukes have no impelling policies, (2) no high resolves, (3) no great scruple against politics. They have represented so far only a change, not necessarily an improvement, in administrations. In some respects they represent a change which is clearly not a milestone in our progress.

Too Little . . .

The Japanese Locust Plague Swarms Into Singapore

"Our forces withdrew to form new and more easily defended lines. The situation is well in hand."

The whole story of the succession of British disasters in Malaya is summed up in a seemingly endless repetition of that report. It was as if the Japanese advanced like the relentless surge of a locust plague.

Now the familiar communique comes from the island of Singapore itself. It was followed by the usual flurry of optimistic reports—stories that the defenders were on the verge of wiping out the Jap beachhead on the left. Always the situation was "well in hand."

But today we learn that the Japs have not been dislodged, have rather made further advances toward the vital water catchment area and reservoirs in the center of the island. They have only to take or destroy these reservoirs and thirsty Singapore, like Hong Kong, will famish into surrender. At most, the Japs can be only six or seven miles from the water supply. And what's a few miles to a plague of locusts?

There is, of course, a way to stop the plague. Clip its wings; make it crawl. Alas, the Japs have greater air superiority over Singapore than the Nazis had over France. The defenders begged for hundreds of planes. They were sent a few dozen, or less. Too little, too late.

Too late, indeed now. We had best prepare ourselves for the complete loss of Singapore and the god-awful consequences of that disaster. And heaven only knows what its repercussions will be in Free China.

Epidemic

Fritz Todt, Another German "Indispensable," Succumbs

The malady which had already struck down three of Hitler's highest-ranking henchmen last week claimed the life of one of the world's greatest military engineers. Major-General Fritz Todt died on the Eastern Front. An "air accident," the Nazis called it.

It was another "air accident" that put Ernst Udet, the German aviation production genius out of the way. Field Marshal Von Reichenau was suffering from a less common form of the malady when he passed on. "Heart attack," it was called.

The disease that took these three, as well as others, has several characteristics. For one thing it seems to attack with particular virulence those who enjoy a measure of popularity with the German masses. Udet was a hero; Von Reichenau, the beau ideal of the *Wehrmacht;* Todt was idolized as only a mechanically-minded people can idolize an engineering genius.

The malady is peculiarly hard on those who never got excited about the Nazi philosophy—particularly those who were known to look down on the more brutal manifestations of Party "solidarity." Udet was no Nazi, nor was Todt, nor Von Reichenau. They were Germans.

In all cases the victims have been experts, specialists in their separate fields, who had done the "impossible" so often that they had warped their boss' perspective.

And there is no indication that the malady is yet under control.

Symptom

Clamor About Mrs. Roosevelt Hints Deeper Dissatisfaction

Franklin Roosevelt is not the first husband, nor yet the first President of the United States, to be humiliated and embarrassed by a well-meaning but meddling wife. He is, perhaps, the first U. S. President to be so humiliated and so embarrassed while his nation was losing a war. We should like to repeat the latter part of that statement. The United States is losing the war. We are losing it fast. If we continue to lose the war at the present rate, a Japanese admiral may indeed dictate a peace from the White House in Washington—and sign it long before American householders get around to keeping buckets of sand and long-handled shovels in their attics.

Scaremongering? Nothing scares Americans except those things they refuse to see. So far they have chosen to see only their own defensive line play. They have ignored the enemy's touchdowns.

There is, of course, sympathy for Mr. Roosevelt. The man had enough on him without family trouble. But let him not imagine that the revolt in Congress, accompanied by public criticism and disgust, is due entirely to Mrs. Roosevelt's placing her pets in the Office of Civilian Defense.

The furore about Mayris Chaney and Melvyn Douglas and Donald Duck became the specific issue, and how! But beyond that the clamor over Mrs. Roosevelt's meddling is symptomatic of a deep and growing public conviction that the Government is messing around too much, that it is not getting on with the business of fighting a war, that the whole machinery set up under the party spoils system in Washington is rotten at the core. America is beginning to wake up. Although its vision may still be distorted by what it wants to see, and its ears attuned only to what it wants to hear, its nose is not yet conditioned to wishfulness. And America smells a stench from the banks of the Potomac.

The first whiff came just after Pearl Harbor, when our vulnerability became painfully obvious. Since then, every time the wind is right the same old odor floats back.

Poor, bumbling Mrs. Roosevelt just happened to be around when they took the lids off the sewers up there. It is too bad that she has to take such a beating. We have never fully agreed with the bromide about a woman's place being in the home. But it is rather obvious that home is the only proper place for some women.

Bicycling

There's More To It Than Just Buying a Bicycle

If you are one of the thousands who have threatened to sell your automobile and buy a bicycle, or if you happen to be one of the dozen or so in this locality who have actually done so—hear what happened to Captain Paul Foster and be careful.

No doubt bicycling seemed pretty tame to Captain Foster, who is check pilot for Eastern Air Lines. He had flown more than a million and a half miles without mishap when he bought his bicycle. A few days later, while he was pedalling down an Atlanta street, he fell off and fractured his skull.

Bicycling is easily learned in one's youth, but later on becomes tricky. It is advisable, as Captain Foster undoubtedly would testify, to subdue the animal completely before venturing into streets still congested by the horseless carriages.

Having added up the Truman report and the tidings from the Far East, the committee for winning the war with one hand tied behind the back met yesterday and dissolved.

Die-Hard Faction

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK

THE forthcoming Congressional elections will be a most important event in American history.

There are three possible outcomes. Mr. Flynn's viewpoint might succeed. Mr. Flynn wants a unified Congress through the triumph of the Democratic Party, which means an approach to a single party system.

The Republican die-hard viewpoint might succeed. In this case we would have a Congress divided on the major issues of the war, and a repetition of the situation that confronted Woodrow Wilson.

The viewpoint of Mr. Roosevelt—and Wendell Willkie—might succeed. In this case, we would be protecting the two-party system by choosing from amongst Republicans and Democrats those loyal to the national program, whose opposition would be positive, constructive, and directed toward winning the war, instead of negative, disruptive, and leading toward stalemate and paralysis.

COPPERHEADS PLAN TO WRECK THE NATION

But there is another opposition however—the die-hard opposition, which, in the war, is a copperhead opposition. And it is laying plans which, should they succeed, can wreck the nation.

This opposition is not even Republican. It is an opposition that plans to use the Republican machinery. There are many party Democrats in it, and there are Fascist circles behind it. It has a press—the Hearst, McCormick, Patterson (Daily News) press. It has pamphlets and minor papers that reach the rabble: Social Justice, Roll Call, news letters, and innumerable other means of spreading pro-Fascist propaganda. It has a plan: To secure the re-election of the kill-Roosevelt crowd and of all the isolationists. It intends to create a solid and active minority whose purpose will be to paralyze all action and to use every internal confusion and external defeat to render the country incapable of an active pursuit of the war.

It hopes to build up a camarilla around Roosevelt, to make him their prisoner—as a similar camarilla made Wilson its prisoner—and to intimidate members of the Administration, especially the permanent career civil service, by the threat that they will lose their jobs when the temper of the country turns, as they predict it will.

It has an external policy: to divide the United States from her allies, and prevent a United Nations conduct of the war, by demanding an exclusively American control of the war, which seems to be very patriotic, but would be disastrous. And they wish this American control in order to control the disposition of the United Nations armed forces.

SLOGAN: DEFEAT JAPAN AND LET HITLER ALONE

Their slogan is: Defeat Japan and let Hitler have his way in Europe. They are so blinded by their rancor and so stubborn in their hates that they cannot see the war in global terms, nor recognize our mutual dependency on the British, the Dutch, an eventually probably the Russians in the Far East. They would even welcome partial defeats if these defeats would bring them into power.

It is difficult to think there are such Americans. But the grim reality is that there are. Their prototypes helped destroy France, which was also a deeply patriotic nation unwilling to believe that there were such goings-on amongst their "out" politicians.

The American people in these elections must think. And the election campaign must be a campaign for the real issues of this war. Both parties must make a campaign on the single issue of how to win the war, and anyone unwilling to come clean on this issue should be voted into oblivion.

Rendering A Service

Charity & Children

Mr. Tom Jimison is rendering a great service through his series of articles on our State Hospital at Morganton. It grows more clear with every added article that the lack of funds is the cause of the deplorable conditions that are found there. We take it that with a change of a few names the articles are equally true of our Raleigh unit. The only remedy for these conditions is an aroused public and Mr. Jimison is certainly doing that very thing.

What "The Cork" Has Been Up To

Nation's Business

Thomas G. Corcoran, former RFC employee and White House entertainer, tells the Truman Committee that he is the victim of the tradition that, if a man build a better mouse trap than his neighbors, the world will make a beaten path to his door. Mr. Corcoran says he accepts no lobbying fee less than $5,000, has no name on his office door, turns down more clients than he accepts and admits he received $100,000 in cash fees and an undetermined amount of stock in defense industry in the course of 1941. Months ago, Mr. Jesse Jones, with characteristic frankness, said he could recall no service Mr. Corcoran performed for the RFC, nor did he attempt to explain why Mr. Corcoran was on the pay roll at $10,000 a year. It is made clear at last what Mr. Corcoran was doing besides entertaining with mandolin and Irish folk songs.

He was building mouse traps in Governmental departments.

To Win the War

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Demands Police Be Aroused

Editors, THE NEWS:

I do not live in Charlotte permanently but spend much time here and have known the town for many years. I am amazed and astonished at the weakness of the newspaper handling of the epidemic of Negro attacks upon white women. Such situations have been coped with and eliminated in other cities by a capable, fearless and aroused press forcing their police departments to be on their jobs.

You, however, childishly and fitfully tell the Charlotte women to "avoid dark and lonely spots and have escorts if they have to be out". You might just as logically advise the Federal Government to stop all ocean traffic, oil shipments and all, until the aggressor nations are defeated and the ocean is again safe for ships.

The attack last Friday evening was not in a dark or lonely spot. It was directly under the light and inside of the yard of the Woman's Club. It took fifteen minutes to get a policeman there although just the night before a similar attack had been made on a woman less than a block away, also under a light.

You say "the police are doing all they can to nab the highwayman". Do you know this to be a fact? If your paper is as inaccurate in its news as in this statement, I have bought my last "News". I happen to know that the three women of last Friday's attack have not been interviewed or communicated with in any way by the police although one of them got up a fight and could identify her assailants. I know of a large robbery which occurred here five years ago and the police have never interviewed the victim although she was in her home when it took place. Needless to say it has never been solved. Is this indifference doing all they can?

As for your probably well-meant advice about escorts. Will The Charlotte News provide these escorts and foot the bills for them? I can count 50 widows among my acquaintance here. And I see hundreds of business women daily eating in restaurants alone. These women pay taxes, buy newspapers, and otherwise support the business and Government of this community. They have a right to expect and demand that it be a place where they can go about safely and independently. Night is the only time most of them are free for diversion and self improvement. They read your pages of advertisements as well as your news and form a large percentage of your subscribers as well as your cash buyers. They expect you to face facts about conditions here and do your part toward cleaning them up. This can't be done by writing childish editorials consigning self-respecting and self-supporting women back to the dark ages.

Your function, if you are civic minded and really interested in the development of Charlotte, is to arouse the police to their obligation, not to make excuses for them. The women will expect this of you.

(MRS.) CAROLINE C. JORDAN.
2300 Crescent Avenue,
Charlotte.

(Note: To tell what the police are doing would be to make their work all the more difficult. We can assure our correspondent, however, that they are really going to extraordinary measures to nab these footpads.—Editors, THE NEWS.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

That is your life business and mine, so God may be king indeed on earth: *Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.—Matt. 3:3.*

Birthday Celebration Is a Success

Editors, THE NEWS:

Mrs. Hunter and I wish to express our appreciation for your generous co-operation in our campaign to raise funds for the celebration of the President's Diamond Jubilee Birthday. The stories and pictures you carried for us were of invaluable assistance.

You will be delighted to know that our efforts have met with success, and the Mecklenburg Chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will receive a substantial dividend from the drive this year.

W. IRVING BULLARD
Campaign Co-chairman, Mecklenburg County Committee for the Celebration of the President's Diamond Jubilee Birthday.
Charlotte.

Noisy, Dangerous Houses of Ill-Fame

Editors, THE NEWS:

I noticed on your editorial page a very timely and important editorial . . . The Army as we know, always has its way regarding prostitution. We have, of course, many men in uniform calling at houses of ill-fame. The Government, so far as I know, does not go to the expense of examining these girls.

To help in the war effort and to maintain the health of hundreds, or even thousands, of civilians, an examination of girls who hold themselves as prostitutes should be made.

The Government tries to see that venereal diseases do not spread, but so far as I know they have done nothing yet about people whose health is being ruined by noises in the neighborhoods where houses of ill fame are located.

J. M. SHIELDS
1521 N. Union St.
Charlotte.

Seek Great Waking Power

Editors, THE NEWS:

Many thanks for your series of articles by Tom Jimison, depicting conditions at the hospital at Morganton. They will make a far-reaching effect, methinks, toward alleviating conditions that are truly a disgrace to our fair state of Carolina.

Remember "Song of the Shirt" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin"? Your series of articles could have as great or perhaps greater waking power, than these efforts. More luck to you!

—WORTH SPEAKS.
Statesville.

Says Proposed Milk Ordinance Is Foul

Editors, THE NEWS:

Kindly allow me a little space in your good newsy paper to cry out about some good wholesome milk that is about to be spilled. I don't believe in crying over spilled milk, but I do believe in giving the warning signal when a plot is being framed to wreck the family milk wagon. I read an item in the paper the other week where the dairy farmers especially the buttermilk farmers were supposed to meet the City Council on the second floor of the City Hall. I am trying to coax a few cows into producing some good wholesome Mecklenburg County milk, and naturally I was anxious to know what was brewing for old Brindle so I went to that meeting. There was a right good crowd of Mecklenburg dairymen there; we sat through the City Council meeting till they got through roofing shingle roofs off and putting in parking meters, then they finally got to the milk wagon and for some reason it wouldn't percolate so they postponed it to a later date with various committee meetings in between, tacen.

I noticed some of our popular sweet milk men at this meeting and wondered why they would come to a buttermilk lynching, then I found out that the Mecklenburg cows were producing a better grade of milk for Charlotte than the outside cows and the outside cows got jealous, so to satisfy the outside cows somebody is trying to get a city law passed to lower the standard of Mecklenburg County milk. I said what has that got to do with the buttermilk? The answer still seemed to be somebody wants to lower the standard of sweet milk and they need a side show to draw the attention of the general public, so they raised so much stink about the unsanitary conditions and filthy barns of the buttermilk farmers that you were not supposed to smell the foul play they were giving the Mecklenburg County cows.

I accidently found out that there was to be one of them committee meetings at the City Hall to hear our buttermilk farmers beg for mercy, so I sat through another three hour discussion to find out what I could find out.

The County health officer expressed satisfaction with the conditions and buttermilk produced by our Mecklenburg County farmers, and I understand he has the authority and is supposed to see that no buttermilk is sold in Charlotte that is not fit for general use. Don't let anyone tell you that the buttermilk you are now buying in Charlotte is not fit to use.

To show you the kind of dairymen we have in this county and how great the demand for a new ordinance read the following. I know of a herd of 45 dairy cows where the milk tests 62 per cent with the average for the herds of the county 50 per cent and the present City law calls for a 36 per cent to reach the grade A requirement. You can see how much extra butterfat your own dairymen give you and the babies and that's what makes them thrive. The above dairymen are not asking for a reduction in butterfat, but somebody is boosting for a reduction from 3.6 to 3.25 that does not look like so much. But take ten gallons of 60 milk and add it with 30 gallons of 2.0 per cent milk and you have a 3.0 per cent milk. In sections of the country where Holsteins are popular you find plenty of milk low in butterfat.

I still think that somebody is trying to get the City Council to pass a law to rob the God-fearing people of Mecklenburg County of an honest living right. And if we continue to write laws on our statute books in favor of great financial monopolies that would take the last bite of bread out of a dying child's mouth we will never win the war in which we are now engaged. I believe in prayer, but our prayers will never be heard unless we love mercy and deal justly one with another, remember the poor, the widow and the fatherless.

—P. C. BURKHOLDER.
Charlotte,
Route 5.

Scuttling OCD Morale

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

HOW can people take civilian defense work seriously when it is being so cluttered at the top with this rhythmic dancing stuff?

James M. Landis, executive of the Office of Civilian Defense, said the other day that many communities on the coasts are not organized to deal with bomb attacks and are unwilling to join in co-operative protective measures. The reason, he thought, was that the people have not awakened to the fact that the United States is at war.

Several factors may contribute to this dangerous complacency. For instance, favorable war news is emphasized to such an extent that many people think we are winning the war in the Pacific when the cold fact is that we are losing it fast.

MRS. ROOSEVELT SOWS SEEDS OF BITTERNESS

Among other factors also must be the widespread disgust and even bitterness that the wife of the President of the United States should play with an official agency of the Government as she has played with OCD, allowing it to become a personal parking lot for pets and proteges.

Newspapers report that the Central Labor Union here had already raised $52,000 as a gift to local civilian defense authorities. Seven thousand members had each pledged one day's pay, as an outright gift for civilian defense expenses, such as financing blood banks.

UNION TIES A STRING TO ITS DONATION

But after discovering that Mrs. Roosevelt's protege was drawing $4,600 a year from the office of civilian defense to encourage rhythmic dancing among children, officials of the Central Labor Union announced that they did not want any of the wages pledged by their members to be used to pay fan dancers.

I have never felt that much of the criticism of Mrs. Roosevelt's varied activities was justified. She does a great deal of good. When she goes around the country, helping the underprivileged, bringing their wrongs to public attention, it is a real public service.

But it is something else to tamper with a most serious public agency to feather a nest for friends. Nothing can be more fatal to national morale than this sort of thing. Because it comes from a high quarter is not a reason for ignoring it. On the contrary the fact that it comes from a high quarter only magnifies the deplorable effects of public morale.

Creeping Apathy

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

A SECRET meeting of Government publicity men took place the other day to find out why Mr. American citizen is not more enthusiastic about this war.

This new bogey has been rising for some time. Officials are becoming aware of the fact that apathy has been creeping upon the country since shortly after Pearl Harbor. Popular pulse is lacking. In short, Government pulse feelers fear that the people are settling back to the pre-Pearl Harbor view that the war is something remote and not connected with them.

CITIZENRY SLUMPS INTO APATHY

Reports have been received from the West Coast that the citizens even there have slumped into a lackadaisy since the first furious rush to organize blackouts and other air raid precautions. This baffles the experts.

The meeting of publicity men was called by Generalissimo Archibald MacLeish, head of the new Office of Facts and Figures and his assistant, Captain Robert Kintner (ex-reminisnist). Those attending represented the finest public relations talent of the New Deal, but the general impression made on them was that MacLeish had a fine new organization and wanted suggestions as to what to do with it.

The main program announced by MacLeish was a plan to set up in OFF several "departments" to build up public morale. Although the description of these new departments was a little vague, three were outlined as follows:

One would bring home to the American people just who are our friends and who are our enemies in this war. Another would drum into the public the need for individual sacrifices to win the war. The third would aim at whipping up war production.

Of course, more bands and minute speakers could be organized but somehow the Administration inclines toward avoiding this repetition of the last war. The White House is definitely anti-hoopla.