THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1942

Gymnosophy

Mr. Dies Thinks He Has Treed One of That Sect

Congressman Martin Dies, who has been baying up a good many cold trails lately, hit a hot scent last week. By Sunday his Committee on Un-American Activities was in full cry. The quarry, as it turns out, was 35 "high officials" on Vice-President Wallace's Board of Economic Warfare. Over the week-end, Mr. Dies, in a letter to the Vice-President, barked that the 35 officials were former members in "Communist Front" organizations.

Withheld from the press were 34 of the names on the Dies list. The other, as Mr. Wallace revealed in a stinging rebuke addressed to Dies, was a man named Maurice Parmelee. One gathers that Mr. Parmelee was especially distasteful to Mr. Dies, for the Congressman devoted three pages of his letter to this subject.

Not only did Mr. Dies accuse Parmelee of Communistic leanings, but, what was worse, of a belief in nudism. Yes, sir, said the Congressman, Parmelee had written a book (a suspicious act, in itself) in which he envisioned a "nudist society" wherein the sexes would mingle nakedly "in the office, workshop and factory."

As a matter of fact, *Who's Who* credits Mr. Parmelee with the authorship of quite a few books. He wrote: *The Principles of Anthropology and Sociology in Their Relations to Criminal Procedure; The Science of Human Behavior; Poverty and Social Progress; Criminology, Personality and Conduct; Blockade and Sea Power; Oriental and Occidental Culture; Bolshevism, Fascism and the Liberal-Democratic State; Farewell to Poverty.*

Now if Mr. Parmelee had written nothing else, he might never have stirred up Congressman Dies. But no. Back in 1927 he wrote a book entitled *The New Gymnosophy*. We hadn't the slightest idea what Gymnosophy was until we looked it up, and we bet Mr. Dies didn't either. Anyway, Webster says a Gymnosophist is either (1) a member of a sect founded by Alexander the Great or (2) a nudist. The new Gymnosophy, we fear without being able to lay our hands on a copy of the book, might be nudism.

But if Mr. Dies has treed a live nudist, the wonder is that he missed him so long. The record shows that Mr. Parmelee has been on the Federal pay roll in various responsible positions (beginning as a representative of the War Trade Board in 1918) for almost 26 years. And no one ever seems to have caught him at it before.

100 Ships

U. S. Had To Lose That Many Before Learning a Lesson

Today the score of American ships sunk by Axis submarines in the Atlantic since December 7 stands at an even 100. That is the official tally based on announced sinkings. Since the announcements usually come a few days after a sinking, and since there has been no indication of a let-up in U-boat activity, the actual figure is probably well over 100.

The United States has been at war 120 days, and in one ocean alone we have lost almost as many ships. We have lost them by twos and threes and fours. We cannot continue to lose them at such a rate. If we do, we shall not win the war in this decade.

It would be unfair to say that the Government in Washington does not comprehend the gravity of the steady drain on our shipping. The Government knows far better than any private civilian what we cannot afford to lose. But the Government is a ponderous thing. It moves like a glacier—almost imperceptibly. We had to lose a hundred ships before obvious counter measures were taken. Governor Broughton had to break precedent and appeal directly to the President before the simple and obvious expedient of a unified command was ordered.

Now we learn that blimps and planes and patrol boats and sub-chasers will be set up as teams. Each team will patrol a certain sector of a specified Atlantic coastal shipping lane and be responsible for keeping U-boats out of its territory. Of course there are not yet enough boats or aircraft to do a perfect, or an adequate job but the point is that the Army and the Navy will be using what they have effectively. Up until now, it would appear, they haven't been doing so.

It is the story of Pearl Harbor all over again. It took the loss of a chunk of the Pacific Fleet at that outpost to get the Army and Navy working together under a unified command.

This country is learning how to fight the war as it goes along. It is the hard way, but apparently it is the only way. For their part the people can only hope and pray that the terrible lessons will be learned quickly and that, once they are learned, the period between diagnosis and treatment will be shortened. It must be shortened.

No Mere Job

County Solicitorship Needs A Man of Character

The County Commissioners should know as well as anybody the absurdity of treating the solicitorship of County Recorder's Court as though it were no more than any $200-a-month job. This lower court is a prime point of contact between the people and the law, and on the manner in which it is conducted a great deal depends.

Inasmuch as the recorder can only sit in judgment, the solicitor of this court determines to a large extent what sort of court it shall be. The present Board of County Commissioners has had experience with two solicitors—one who made a discreditable botch of the job; another, Ed Stukes, who measured up in every particular and whose services clearly showed how essential is character in a position of public trust.

To take the place of Mr. Stukes, Army-bound, the Commissioners have under consideration several applicants and political satellites about some of whom *The News* would prefer, in kindness, not to comment. But it must be obvious to the Commissioners from their previous and experience that the solicitorship requires a man well versed in the law, aggressive, strictly honorable and possessed of a quality which we shall call balance.

Such a man or men are available for the place. Let one of them, rather than some n'er-do-well, be given it.

Free Felons

Intent To Join Army Is Not a Valid Excuse

If it please the court—and it probably wouldn't—those officials responsible for the interior decoration of the chamber where the Mecklenburg Superior Court holds trials might undertake a project that should be of great assistance to Solicitor John Carpenter & Co. What we have in mind is a poster of rather ambitious proportions—say six by ten feet—upon which would be emblazoned in large red letters:

THE U. S. ARMED FORCES WILL NOT ENLIST FELONS.

On second thought, perhaps it ought to be a neon sign, flashing on at intervals of three seconds.

Only then, perhaps, will Solicitor Carpenter be able to refresh his memory often enough to keep from freeing criminals upon their announced intention of joining the Army.

Last week two Negroes, both confessed felons, were released by Superior Court without being required to put up bail. They were freed by means of the familiar "prayer for judgment," which in many instances has proved to be equivalent to a nolleprae. They told the Solicitor they intended to join the Army and he let them go.

It would be hard for Mr. Carpenter to prove that he didn't know better. A Navy recruiting officer made a special trip to the Courthouse last Fall to convey to him the information, that under no circumstances would the Navy enlist a criminal. The Army's rules prohibiting the recruiting of felons have been made equally clear. They appeared in the public prints time and again. Beside, as Mr. Carpenter must have had occasion to point out from time to time, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

The two Negroes were, of course, refused enlistment in the Army. The Solicitor's prayer for judgment upon them is due to be called April 13, but the Solicitor is a most forceful man. Their chances of remaining at liberty are, we would guess, about 60-40.

A thought in passing for the two-time loser in Congress, who will be retired in November because he voted for pensions—and get no pension.

We trust the inscrutable Russians have something special saved up, too, in the way of a Summer.

The Rains Will Come

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

If General Wainwright can hang on for six weeks more, his boys in the Bataan fox hole can then expect a five months easing down of pressure from the rainy season.

From late May until the end of October, cyclonic storms generally beat the Philippines, lowering visibility, ruining all save the best airfields and impeding military operations.

Official start of the rainy season is June 1, but it sometimes develops as early as May 1, and prayers are being said authoritatively here that it come as early as possible this year.

So also with the British in Burma. A northeast monsoon blows there from June to October, inclusive, making it the rainiest spot on earth.

This explains the current acceleration of the Jap attack in both places.

ODDS ARE AGAINST US IN BURMA AND BATAAN

The odds, unfortunately, are not on our side either in the Philippines or Burma. Loss of Java has made it much more difficult for us to get anything into Bataan, and the Japs are going about the attack this time with experienced appreciation that the fortress of Corregidor is the backbone of the MacArthur defense plan.

All the food and ammunition are stored there. Guns from the fort can throw shells halfway up Bataan Peninsula to protect the rear flank along the shore. If it can be crippled, Bataan will be hard to hold.

The Jap plan of attack in Burma, plus the impending monsoon season, however, carries convincing assurance that India is not within their immediate ambition. The attack is going north toward China, not toward India. It will have all it can do to clear the Burma Road before the rains come.

NO ONE EXPECTED NEW GUINEA TO HOLD

No one here ever claimed the Australians could hold New Guinea. Its protective forces were meager. What delayed the Jap conquest there were two good American flying fortress attacks on their bases of supplies at Lae and Salamaua (made about a week ago, but just now being announced).

Also the Japs may have paused to establish air bases. That is what they want of New Guinea anyway. While they may capture substantial Australian sources of copper, rubber and cotton there, the big island is strategically desirable as an air base to protect other Jap ill-gotten gains.

The expected Jap attack upon north Australia is still confidently expected to be limited to the objective of preventing MacArthur from establishing air fields from which he could ravage Java and the other Jap conquered islands immediately to the north.

KEEPING JAPS ON THEIR GUARD

Our spectacular naval attack upon Marcus and Wake Islands was part of our hit-and-run plan of temporary naval strategy, which, we think, will be continued. These two spots are too far north of our convoy line to Australia to be worth a raid for that widely advertised reason. Nor are they near enough to Hawaii to constitute real menaces for a Jap return to Pearl Harbor.

The sound military strategy behind the raids is simply this:

The Japs now are getting themselves extended beyond their ability to protect themselves adequately in all areas. Their forces are stretched thin across the whole West Pacific. By their conquests they have worked themselves into the difficult military position, from which they have just driven the United Nations.

These raids require them to watch out for every dot on the map reachable by our fleet, to replenish their defenses at these and all similarly vulnerable spots with planes and troops from their already thinly stretched line.

In effect, we are just stretching them farther and farther with these tactics.

One Reason Why Germans Like Hitler

Gerald Johnson in
The Baltimore Sun

A few years ago Bernard M. Baruch, by general admission a highly intelligent American, wrote:

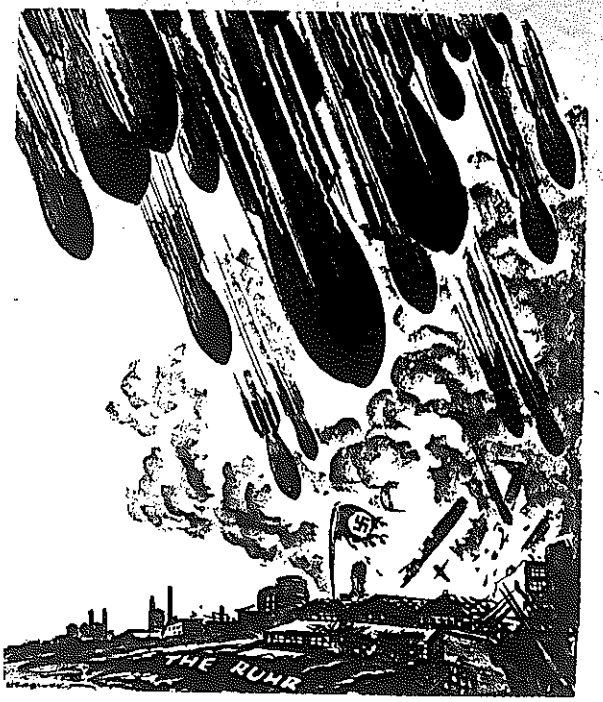
The certainty that war could never result in the enrichment of any man would give us all security and comfort.

At the moment when it was written—in the twenties—most Americans accepted this, because most Americans accepted without question the theory that riches mean power and, conversely, that power means riches. But perhaps the most remarkable of all Hitler's achievements is his success in demonstrating to the German people that money is merely the conventional instrument of power, not power itself. Fritz Thyssen had millions, but in Nazi Germany he had not power enough to save his own liberty, not to mention his fortune. On the other hand, there seem to be several high-ranking members of the Nazi hierarchy who are generally reputed to be fairly free from avarice, even yet they have not much money, but they wield titanic power.

This demonstration that power is not necessarily economic has made a great impression on the German masses. It explains part, and probably a large part, of their allegiance to Hitler.

Spring Showers

—By Herblock



The Agile Sir Stafford

By Raymond Clapper

NEW DELHI, INDIA

In the course of empire is changing here at Delhi, as I think it surely is, a footnote should record that this historic moment is in the hands of a new kind of man in British Empire affairs. He is totally unlike the embroidered figures through which India has hitherto felt the grip of London.

Sir Stafford Cripps is a slight, lean, agile, graying man, like a lithe tennis player. Though entering his fifties, his years are just beginning to settle down on youth. He reminds me more of Harry Hopkins than anyone else I have ever seen. Quick, confident, good humored, but withal no "side," he has contempt for stuffed shirts. Playing a rangy game, he is nevertheless always on the aggressive.

CRIPPS TAKES HOLD WITH A VERVE

After seeing Cripps in action, one can understand why he is the most prosperous barrister in England even though a left winger and rather mocking of the interests he defends professionally. Now he is thrust into a strategic spot in British Empire history. Instead of being overwhelmed, he is approaching it with all the verve of—say, a Hopkins, in earlier relief days, undertaking to spend billions overnight.

Imagination, audacity, fast footwork and a rapier mind, make Cripps something new and refreshing in British affairs. Perhaps he is a portent of the new phase to come, when practical realism and adjustment to changing times will replace clinging to hollow traditions left over from days gone forever.

Indian leaders, themselves men of the new day, undoubtedly feel this in Cripps. This fact may be one of the circumstances that will save India, and bring it into the war as a real Allied partner—instead of remaining a sullen pawn, dangling close to eager Jap hands.

HE FENCED OFF A TOUCHY QUESTION

Suggestive of Cripps' bearing in this difficult task was his answer to an Indian reporter, who asked why Amery, British Minister for India, did not come along. Indians are bitter toward Amery, and the question was a touchy one. Cripps, without batting an eye, replied with perfectly straight face: "Of course you know there is a serious shortage of manpower in England." This brought a roar of laughter. Undoubtedly, some Indians appeared at Cripps' press conference prepared to heckle him, but he suavely fenced them off.

One long-winded questioner was put down by Cripps with the remark, "You are a born lawyer and should have been one." Again, replying to a trick question, Cripps said: "Now, really, I am very tired, and you ought not to take advantage of me that way when I am tired."

Without revealing the exact nature of the British proposal, Cripps made clear he was not here to negotiate but to try to convince all Indian groups that the War Cabinet's plan is the best for India that can be devised; and that he is not authorized to alter it except in minor adjustments. He also said he must leave in two weeks.

HE SEES TWO DANGERS THAT MUST BE AVOIDED

Cripps obviously is trying to head off prolonged argument and confining himself to a selling job. He is banking on the fact that he is known throughout India as a friend of greater self-rule.

During press remarks, Cripps talked of the "mechanical and personnel" adjustments that would have to be made when "one government was taking over from another."

Also he said he was conscious of two dangers that must be avoided: one, allowing minorities to get into a position where they could obstruct everything; second, allowing the majority to get into a position where it could override minorities ruthlessly. He is trying to work within those two extremes.

Thus this slight figure, appearing rather like a dapper college professor, carries confidently on his shoulders the white man's burden, looking shrewdly for a safe place to set it down so that all can share the load.

Letters to the Editors:

"They Defend Our Country"

Editors, THE NEWS:

Dorothy Knox's column, "I Believe Everything," is always good for I think she is an excellent creative writer, but she was especially good Thursday, March 25. Quoting—"Don't worry about the boys on Bataan when you hear that action has been brisk in that sector. That keeps them on their toes, makes them alert and keeps their morale high. The time to worry about the soldiers is when they have to wait weeks or months expecting an attack that doesn't come. That's the time that irks men's souls." . . . Remember the boys who were on the Carolina maneuvers? They waited in a long line of Army cars for days at a time until orders came to move or attack? . . . Think of the gals at the Filter Center drilling day after day. Their morale is excellent, but their job is monotonous. But they have sense enough to know that they can't let down. The whole air raid warning system depends on them. Also the women on four shifts at the telephones at the control centers. That's another wearing job. Because nothing happens, but when it does happen the fate of every individual in Charlotte will depend on those civilian volunteers to get our whole defense in action." She mentions many other organizations. "Their souls are tried." Let us all help to keep up their morale. Their morale so far is high and we must keep it high, you and I. Too much respect and praise cannot be given them. . . . Mrs. George White's story of the little Negro bootblack's after remarks to the soldier, who didn't pay him for his shoe shine, explains it in a nutshell. "It don't make no difference—after all, ain't he defending our country?" That little Negro was glad to do his bit and there are many of us just like him. If we only knew how and when and where to do our bit.

We must keep on the alert. I am inspired for I have been to the camp where my nephew has been a soldier for over a year and I saw him on Carolina maneuvers. He and several others that volunteered with him are anxiously waiting, training and waiting, sometimes bored to tears for action. But their morale is high, and it is inspiring to know and to see their minds are made up just where they want to fight. The officers' training schools give them their preference. They are living for a chance at the enemy! To put it mildly, they are yearning to go! I say again their morale is high! Let's you and I keep it that way by controlling our fears and tears.

Give them a spirit of enthusiastic praise, a spirit of appreciation, a spirit of "there's nothing too good for them." In the language of the little Negro bootblack, "after all, they are defending our country!"

God bless them, our soldiers,
"From the mountains to the prairies,
To the ocean white with foam."
They are America, may they be glorified
And brought Home, Sweet Home!

(Nanie Withfield)

Charlotte.

One Man's Recipe For Losing a War

Editors THE NEWS:

Will you be good enough to give space to the following recipe for losing a war:

First, Don't prepare for one. Pay no attention to what George Washington said. Just tell ourselves "It can't happen to us; we are too rich and strong—no one would dare attack us."

Sink our own battleships—not the enemy's and don't build war plains. Just argue that no wars have ever been won in the past 5,000 years by planes and air power, therefore they never will and publicly castigate any official of vision who dares to disagree. Let our merchant marine disintegrate.

Let the ruthless, power hungry, bandit nations of the world buy all the raw materials they want—at a good profit of course—for a period of years so they can make planes, tanks and guns to slaughter us with—keep both eyes closed while doing this.

When they begin to growl and mutter, speak softly to them and give them more goods, more territory and more time to get ready for their final assault upon us.

Elect as our national representatives, narrow minded visionaries who know nothing of history, geography, science or human nature, who, because they don't like war (as who does?) oppose every sane preparation against it—who vote against our friends against mobilizing our manpower and other resources and let them TALK for months while the war clouds come ever nearer.

Entrust the national defense to a group of starry-eyed dreamers, social reformers and idealists who have bungled every other job they have had—if any—including a liberal sprinkling of moss-grown arm chair generals and rocking chair admirals who have been asleep for the past 25 years.

Allow full freedom and license to every alien within our borders to picture our transmit vital information to our enemies—don't, under any circumstances, shoot them or put them into concentration camps, their civil liberties might be infringed and that would be terrible, you know. Might even make them angry. A very effective method is to leave vital war property like the Normandie entirely unguarded so as to afford every opportunity for sabotage. This also applies to munitions plants, plane factories, etc. It is a great help to allow Nazi reserve naval officers supervise the loading of our ships when they are about to carry supplies to our boys "over there," through their control of the stevedores' unions.

Finally, shout ourselves hoarse telling us how wonderful we are and what we are going to do in 1945. Vote astronomical billions of dollars of appropriations every week or so while will scare Hitler and Hirohito stiff; and best of all, let the labor bosses tell the unions how many hours they can work to produce war materials, let them strike every day or so and slow down production—this tends to keep them happy and recuperate from their strenuous labors so they can work again some other day—maybe.

Add all these ingredients together and what have you got?

—S. R. OESNER

1308 E. Fourth Street
Charlotte.

"Hooray America" Raised $4,000

Editors, THE NEWS:

Now that our show, "Hooray America," sponsored by the Charlotte Rotary Club has been successfully staged, and we have realized our goal of $4,000 which will be used for the purchase of equipment to outfit the Emergency Medical Stations in Charlotte, I wish to express to The Charlotte News our thanks and appreciation for the generous space given to the project, and especially the editorial which appeared March 24.

GEORGE M. IVEY.

Charlotte.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

God's spirit will lift your burden, when none other can: *Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.—Matt. 11:28.*

Side Glances

"My wife's been hollering at me to get more exercise, boss! It'll be a good joke on her when she finds out I enlisted today in the Navy!"

Visitin' Around

Yeh, But What's It Gonna Be?

(Whitnel Item, Lenoir News-Topic)

Mr. Clarland Cannon is having an addition in the form of a breakfast nook built to his dwelling house.

"We Swingers! We Keep Forgettin' To Give That Typewritin'"

(Rt. 1 Items, Statesville Daily)

Mr. Lonnie Swingood had a wood splitting Monday.

Mr. M. C. Everhardt had a chopping Tuesday.