THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1855-1937 ●

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FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1942

A Plea For Aid

Dorothy Knox Appeals for The Forgotten Children

It is a wonderful service of columns that Dorothy Knox has been doing—a subject that is plainly close to her heart—the mentally incompetent children of destitute parents the children God forgot" and mankind doesn't know about. For some years she has carried around in her mind the haunting thought of two or three of these children whom she has happened to see in the course of her activities—and her description of them is well it is something to make mothers and fathers a little tenderer with their own rollicking kids and to make all kinds people want to help these others.

Recently Miss Knox has run across what could be with assistance a major and lasting benefaction to the poor brainless children of the community of whom she says: There need be a score or two. A husband and wife own a large, modern house on twelve acres of land outside of the city. They have a daughter, fifteen, who is a casualty of sleeping sickness in infancy. So compassionate toward other suffering children has their own experience made them that they want to give this home as a haven, give it outright on the sole stipulation that it be put to use for the community's helpless children.

At that point, followed only by a general indication as to how to go about it, Miss Knox concluded her yesterday's column. Like her we don't know exactly how to proceed, but like her again we feel that the fathers and mothers of normal children and the people of the community generally would be unappreciative of their own good fortune if they did not take full thought of these uncomprehending little mortals.

Ask Dad

Lunch to Him Was a Snack To Nurse the Appetite

There was a story in *The News* a day or so ago about the shortage of waitresses in restaurants. They really were getting to be a scarce article, the story said, and better jobs elsewhere, very likely jobs in factories, seemed to be the reason for it.

Waitresses in any Southern city usually are girls who came in from the country or small towns. They were on the hook-out for a little more excitement, probably, than was afforded in their rural surroundings. Strong girls, and willing, they soon learned to carry trays or dishes efficiently, though not with any of the flourish of the colored waiters of earlier days. Waitressing to these girls was a job, not a calling.

And if they are to be no longer available, it might mark the completion of a cycle. In the high and far off times, men in Southern towns used to go home for dinner in the middle of the day—and dinner it was. Then in a few of them, thinking they were become cosmopolitan, started having lunch (four courses) up street at clubs or more select eating establishments frequented by their cronies. The opening up of suburban developments posed the problems of transportation and time, and the habit became general. Lunching places sprang up by the score, and the country girls saw their chance to come to town and look it. And if they should leave us in the lurch at this stage, we couldn't go home in the middle of the day. The fire shortage would forbid it. And the colored waiter is extinct.

Looks like the old lunch box may although not, to be sure, for awhile yet.

The Double 'E'

For This Shipyard the Navy Should Add "Extraordinary"

To the Navy's "E" banner for Excellence awarded to plants where management and men co-operate to turn out the war stuff in by time, ought to be added at least one pennant with "EE" on it for Extraordinary Excellence, and it ought to go to the Richmond Shipbuilding Yards at Richmond, Calif.

As we recall the story of this year-old plant, it was started on a mudflat by owners who had never built a shipyard in their lives, much less a ship. But they had built other things, and in addition to an astonishing confidence that they could build ships as well as anybody, they had a hunch they could build them faster.

The yards materialized, and on the ways which they layed out according to their own notions the hulls of ships began to take form. Several weeks ago they launched a ship, a 10,000-tonner of the Liberty type, in 44 days, after her keel was laid. The previous record, according to the Maritime Commission, was 80 days.

Now, when a freighter is launched she is only the shape of a ship. She has to be fitted out, and the job is more tedious and exacting than what has gone before.

This week, workers at the Richmond Yards claimed another record in commissioning a ship. From the launching to the active service of a 10,000-tonner of the Liberty type required only 36 days, six days under the previous record which they themselves had held.

Strikes Persist

At a Minimum They May Be, But a Minimum Is Too Much

"Strikes," said the President in his message to Congress on Monday, "are at a minimum. Organized labor has voluntarily given up its right to strike during the war."

Strikes in war industries, it is entirely probable, *are* at a minimum. But according to the Department of Labor's own figures, time lost by strikes during the first three months of 1942, in all (not alone war) production industries, came to 1,265,000 man-days. This, even though in a war year when production of all kinds is vital, was considerably more than the time lost in the first quarter of 1940. It was considerably less than the precious time lost in 1941 when we were producing for Lend-Lease and for our own ill-armed forces, a score which we still hold against labor.

And as for strikes in war industries, while they may be at a minimum they have not ceased altogether, else why do we continue to see such items as that 500 union workers in a New Jersey electrical plant on war production have gone back to work after a five-day strike, and that 5,000 men (according to the boastful estimate of union officials) staged a two-day strike in a Pennsylvania steel company plant? *Steel*, mind you: the steel that is the very sinew of war.

It can be said to the credit of the country's labor moguls, such as William Green and Philip Murray, that they have waived the right to strike for the duration, and they have interceded to prevent or conclude strikes. But it is obvious that strikes cannot so easily be done away with policies enunciated at the top.

Labor as a whole, we believe, is just about as patriotic as the body of American people. Laboring men are part of that body. Surely they feel, as we do, that it is not enough that strikes in war industries are at a minimum. They should long ago have ceased entirely.

S...O...S

It Stands for Save Our Ships and Save Our Seamen

Senator Brooks of Illinois yesterday gave his colleagues a glum report on ship sinkings. Through April 16, he reported, the Government had announced the sinking by torpedo or shells of 131 ships along the Atlantic coastline. Nearly 2,000 persons, mostly seamen, had either been killed or were unaccounted for in these sinkings; and everybody who reads the newspapers knows that the losses and the loss of life are continuing at a rate that is undiminished by any measures with which the Army and Navy have sought to counter the frolicking submarines.

Senator Brooks had a suggestion. It was for an air patrol to be formed of volunteer civilian pilots flying private planes, these to form "a continuous air umbrella" over shipping in a 50-mile zone along the Atlantic. Something of the kind already is being undertaken experimentally, we believe, at a point along the coast.

Senator Shipstead had another suggestion that steel or wooden barges be constructed to transport oil through the Inland Waterway and by so much relieve precious sea-going tankers of the hazardous journey outside. Matter of fact, the National Rivers & Harbors Congress has announced its advocacy of this very step.

And so for both the plane patrol and the waterway haul, it was more than a month ago, on March 24, to be exact—that an editorial in *The News*, adverting to the terrifying rate of sinkings along the Atlantic coast, uncertainly proposed that it might be well for the Government to consider (1) establishing an air patrol of civilian pilots and (2) using the Inland Waterway as a barge canal.

Cloakroom Reception

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

THE lack of enthusiasm in Congressional comment on Mr. Roosevelt's new price-freezing apparatus forecasts trouble for the bills which Congress was called upon to enact.

It was quite evident from what others said behind their hands, off the record, that all three of the President's suggested courses of legislative action will encounter difficulties.

The farm blloc will strenuously resist the suggestion that its 110 per cent of parity coal be moved back. Instead the Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to write into the agricultural appropriations bill a restriction against Government dumping of surpluses.

The proposed $7,000 limit on income found an equally unwelcome reception, although this way and maybe not, it is felt, the restriction succeeds too much of confiscation.

So could Congress will enact some kind of modified excess profits tax, but not one so drastic as the Treasury and the President have in mind.

Thus on all three points the President's purposes will be modified.

THEY'LL PUT IN FOR TRADING PURPOSES

The prevailing opinion in the Congressional cloakroom is that Mr. Roosevelt well knew that these three steps then would meet a cold reception.

The general thought was the message was intended to prepare public opinion for the price-fixing and to stop the Congressional drive on labor.

From the first standpoint, the bargain for Congress and the country has been a misunderstanding of overall economic policy. This soft-ening effects of the sentiment never really manifested in Henderson 24 hours later.

There is no question idea that it served to wrap a wet blanket around the already-conceived measures for labor laws revision. There is even less chance of action in the House now than before on the Vinson bill to establish a 48-hour week.

Senator Connally's prompt withdrawal of his plant-seizure bill in the Senate, on the ground that he did not wish to get into a scrap with the President, will have a similar dampening effect on efforts to restrain labor in that branch.

IT WAS A GIVE-AND-TAKE AFFAIR

The economic freezing apparatus offered by the President was, as a whole, dedicated indirectly, indirectly from the radical-conservative and compulsion voluntary standpoints. It was a typical Roosevelt compromise devised as a compromise between conflicting elements.

The course of radical compulsion was taken on prices and taxes, but the method of voluntary appeal was suggested for new bond sales.

The interests of farmers and labor were treated fairly weighed. An indirect establishment of wages will attend labor little and satisfy farm complainants, while the further limitation of farm prices (which cannot be expected) will satisfy labor and not make the farmers angry very long.

In all essentials, the plan is that put in outlined in this column of April 23.

BRITISH EXPERIENCE WITH SIMILAR MEASURES

Whether the plan will work can only be determined by experience. The British have had in effect the same mild indirect wage policy, yet hourly wages have risen in the average of 42 per cent in the last year. As six per cent is the average, many wages have risen considerable more.

The British National Arbitration Tribunal corresponding to our War Labor Board has only over all official announcement that Government policy favors stabilization.

British experience on prices is not comparable to what Roosevelt proposes to do. The government there started out by merely asking merchants not to increase prices unless individual costs of production increased.

This proved wholly ineffective, and on July 22, 1941, the Board of Trade was given the power to set wholesale prices. But all the board did was to select a limited list of commodities upon which ceilings were placed. No general freeze order was attempted.

During all this period, the cost of living rose from an index of 174 in January, 1940 to 195 in December, and finally got up to 200 in May, 1941, although it has receded slightly since then.

The British system, of course, was reinforced by strict rationing, thing is contemplated here.

Or Shall We Call It "Casparia?"

Louis Graves

In the Chapel Hill Weekly

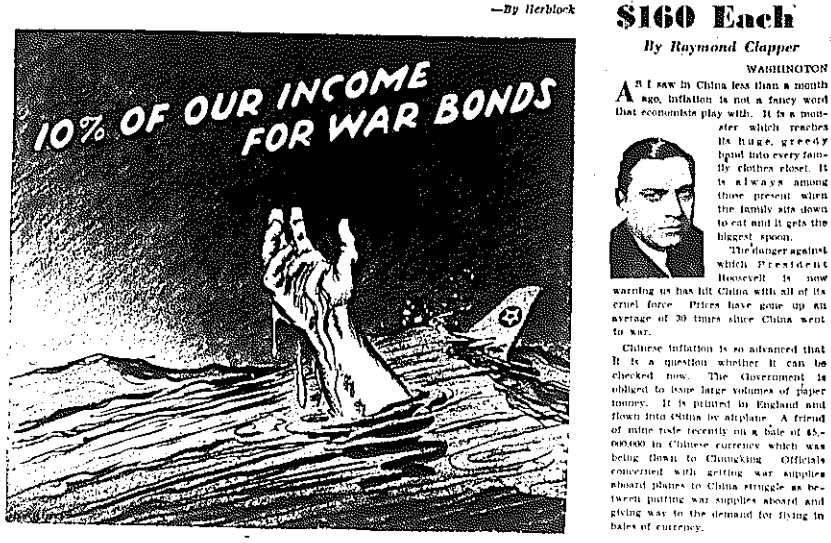
People forget the confusion they came to last year about the spelling of wisteria and take up the discussion again. The argument is settled for me but perhaps not for everybody since even the dictionaries disagree.

"Named in honor of Caspar Wistar, an American anatomist (1761-1818)," says the Century dictionary, and adds, in a description of the plant, that it is "sometimes erroneously spelled wisteria."

The Standard gives wisteria as the preferred spelling on the basis of this letter to the dictionary publishers from Frank H. Rhoades: "While the plant is named for Wistar, and should properly be spelled wistaria, it was first written wisteria by Nuttall (its namer) and must so stand." I cannot see any sense in that. The plant is named for Wistar, somebody makes a mistake and substitutes s for a, and therefore, we are told, the s must be accepted as correct! Down with such impudence.

Minimum

—By Herblock



Letters to the Editors:

Why Sugaw Creek Smells

Editors, THE NEWS:

I see by the paper that there is quite a lot of disturbance over the de-odorizing of Sugaw Creek. I think that I may say that I know a good deal about the creek, as I have spent a good bit of time along it, fishing, hunting, etc. Here are my observations about this creek.

Regardless of denials, I am practically positive that a good bit of raw sewage does find its way into the creek above the disposal plant. I have observed great quantities of this waste matter floating down the creek behind Park Road, all the way from the city limits down to the disposal plant. On hot summer days, this contributes a large part of the offensive odor.

It is interesting to note that on Sundays, and other holidays, the creek is very clean, and is extremely clear. This, of course, is because the laundries have temporarily ceased the output of dye, which is the chief factor in polluting the stream. If the authorities would take a hint from the appearance of the creek on these holidays, they could save some money. I, of course, am no technical expert, but it seems to me that the cheapest way of cleaning up the stream would be to force the laundries and other contributors to pollution to find some other day to dispose of their waste. It seems to me that they could use something on the order of a septic tank, which would be comparatively cheap to build, and which would effect a saving in City funds.

Another interesting thing about Sugaw Creek is the fact that the creek is far filthier below the disposal plant than above it. This may sound like a paradox, but it is true. Not only is the creek still polluted by the dye, but it also has a large load of raw sewage and other impurities to bear. I have talked with a chemist at the Park Road plant, and he freely admitted that the plant was over-burdened. I asked him about some other factors contributing to the creek's filthiness, and he told me that not only was the creek full of raw sewage, dye, etc. below the plant, but that it also was full of the stuff with which they purify the sewage. Along about that time there was talk of expanding the disposal facilities, but the war put a stop to that. I am sure that this condition would have been a great help in purifying the creek, and I hope that when the war is over, it will be carried out.

Not only does the pollution of the creek affect the value of adjacent real estate, but its impurities cause a great loss in wildlife. I know very little about trout fishing, all of my knowledge is based on what I have read in sporting magazines. However, if the creek were pure, I see no reason why in a few years it could not be stocked with trout or other game fish. Below the disposal plant, one can find almost any type of game fish. Between the plant and Pineville, there are rapids, deep pools, shallows, and, in fact, almost any type of water necessary for the propagation and maintenance of game fish. As it is, the only type of fish which can live in the creek is the leafy carp.

Also, if the creek were purer, it would undoubtedly cause an increase of furbearers such as mink and muskrat. These would increase the amount of money a trapper could make. Contrary to public knowledge, there are quite a few trappers in and around Charlotte.

It seems to me that if flushing the creek with fresh water would do the trick, the creek would already be reasonable pure. Between Charlotte and Pineville, it is polluted by a great number of fresh-water creeks, including Briar Creek, which, of it is not good drinking water, is still about six hundred per cent purer than Sugaw. Despite these creeks, Sugaw is still very dirty when it reaches Pineville. And unless a continuous flow of an enormous amount of fresh water was put into the creek, it would still be as filthy as ever.

Let me reiterate that in my opinion, the best step that the City could take would be the ordering of all polluting concerns to use the septic tank system.

—BEN HAAS.

Charlotte.

A Beard Retires

Christian Science Monitor

The lion and the hartebeest may be cousins, friends of international co-operation cannot be. The big guns of George Holden Tinkham may roar double-time now at African big game, but no longer will the halls of Congress resound to his blasts at America's allies and at all proposals for collective security. For the veteran Representative from the Tenth Massachusetts District is retiring.

Congress loses one of its most picturesque figures but should gain a member whose views will be more in keeping with the world role that has been forced upon America. Mr. Tinkham exhibited in abundance the independence which is nowadays all too rare in Congress. A sharp, if indiscriminate, critic of the New Deal, he was elected time after time by a constituency which enthusiastically voted for President Roosevelt.

Mr. Tinkham's decision to retire is being read as symbolic of the retirement of isolationism. It is said that he is getting out because he could not be reelected in face of the new acceptance of international responsibilities which has swept the nation and at Chicago last week, the Republican Party. Such an interpretation has its pitfalls. Redistricting had given Mr. Tinkham an "invulnerable" constituency.

It was redistricting more than any manifest revolt against isolationism which placed his seat in jeopardy. There is no assurance that the people of his old district would have let time now appreciation of the need for international co-operation outweigh their old appreciation for personal favors or services rendered to their Representative. There are many such constituencies in the United States and those Americans who feel that the hope of lasting peace depends on designing American isolationism will need to do something about them.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Is the Christ spirit really welcome in your village, your community, your home, your heart? *And they went to another village.—Luke 9.56.*

Side Glances

"Mother certainly has pepped up since she started defense work and quit worrying about how these daytime radio serials were going to turn out!"

Georgia's Pardon Racket

Asheville Times

May North Carolinians never fall into the holier-than-thou sin of thanking God that they are not as others elsewhere, but it is meet and proper for them to give earnest thanks because their state does not have to contend with some problems that bedevil other states.

Such reflections are prompted by an editorial in The Atlanta Journal telling how grand juries all through Georgia—the juries of 68 counties—to record date—have denounced the and are demanding legislative relief "pardon racket" in the state capital.

It is primary time in Georgia for the nomination of candidates to the General Assembly. Hence the grand juries, familiar with the wishes of the people, are adopting resolves calling upon the legislative candidates to declare themselves on this issue.

But let The Journal itself one of the advocates of pardon reform, state it in a few words, as follows: "The movement is non-partisan in nature. It arises from a sensibility of the disrepute that has been brought on the state, and the negation of justice that has been accomplished by the wanton freeing of racketeers and habitual criminals."

In North Carolina the granting of pardons and paroles is, and long has been, treated as a problem requiring scientific and legal finesse. Politics has long been adjourned in the pardon deliberations of North Carolina's governors and their pardon commissioners. And this is true today of Governor Broughton and Commissioner Gill, as it was true of Governor Hoey and Commissioner Gill in the previous administration.

Introducing "Up."

Charleston News & Courier

The conversion of "up" an humble, not lowly, preposition, into a verb is more than The News and Courier can defend. Many of our "famed" writers there are believed to be unemployed writers now in the pay of the Government among them have "contracted" "up" and forced it to do double time without extra pay for overtime. To this day they have not, generally, made it a verb transitive, although a man may "up" a tree or a telegraph pole. No one has written that one by way of "upping" a critter may knock him down. It seems just to suit that education is progressive, so that Joseph Addison, not to mention Geoffrey Chaucer, is probably now translated with arduous exertion.

Shirts At $160 Each

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

AS I saw in China less than a month ago, inflation is not a fancy word that economists play with. It is a monster which reaches its huge, greedy hand into every family clothes closet. It is always among those present when the family sits down to eat and it gets the biggest spoon.

The danger against which President Roosevelt is now warning us has hit China with all of its cruel force. Prices have gone up an average of 30 times since China went to war.

Chinese inflation is so advanced that it is a question whether it can be checked now. The Government is obliged to issue large volumes of paper money. It is printed in England and flown into China by airplane. A friend of mine rode recently on a bale of $5,000,000 in Chinese currency which was being flown to Chungking. Officials concerned with getting war supplies aboard planes to China struggle as between putting war supplies aboard and giving way to the demand for flying in bales of currency.

LOTSA MONEY BUT IT'S NO BUY ANYTHING

Prices quoted in Chinese dollars sound fantastic. A man's shirt costs $140 to $160 — and Americans there cashing United States money must pay $7 or $8 for a shirt worth $2 or less in America. I saw canvas slippers priced at $65 in Chinese currency shoes at $500.

Even though some coolie wages have risen considerably and you see chair-bearers handling large rolls of bills, they can buy little at such prices.

Worse yet, several hundred thousand Government employees, teachers and others on fixed salaries are left piteously destitute and the Chinese Government has had to give them food and clothing cards because they cannot buy anything with their salaries.

GOODS ARE USABLE, MONEY IS NOT

Prices are rising so rapidly that Chinese merchants tend to hoard their goods instead of selling them. You go into a shop and the owner really is better off if you don't buy anything. Yes, if he sells his goods he has only paper money whose value is slipping in his hands and he may not even be able to obtain new goods. In fact shortage of goods is a factor in Chinese inflation, perhaps a major one.

Mainly China has been financing its war by printing banknotes. It was when President Roosevelt's adviser, Lauchlin Currie went to China a year or so ago that the Chinese Government was persuaded to begin heavier taxation. Taxation in money was of no use because the value of money was going down.

But the Chinese Government has begun taxing in kind collecting a portion of the crop and that has some moderating effect. Particularly it is enabling the Government to establish stores of rice and wheat which can be distributed as extra payment to Government employees whose salaries are faded to the inflationary decline in the value of the currency.

TWO PRECIPITANTS OF INFLATION

In America we have two dangers. One is the actual shortage of goods. We expect soon to divide half of our productive capacity to war. In many lines, such as refrigeration, household electrical appliances, automobiles and other mechanical goods, the whole production capacity is being taken away. So shortage of goods becomes an increasing factor in our price danger.

The other danger is that our enormous war expenditures now $100,000,000 a day and likely to be double that by the end of the year, act as increases in the currency insofar as the money is borrowed. Hence every dollar that can be paid by taxation takes money out of circulation instead of adding to the volume.

TO HEAD IT OFF WILL TAKE COURAGE

These processes seem remote to the average person, but they are not remote at all. They become directly in his face when he goes to the store and places his money on the counter.

No one single measure will head off the danger as President Roosevelt says. But among the most important are price control, heavier taxes, and voluntary economies in every family. Pegging of prices is the surface check. But in the long run the strength of price control will depend upon how severely we tax ourselves and restrict our consumption.

Visitin' Around

A Pleased Man

(Pennsylvania Item, Transylvania Times)

W. T. Whitmire is hatching chickens by the hundreds. He has a wonderful electric brooder in his basement. Mr. Whitmire takes pleasure in showing his chicken equipment.