# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1942


## Tables Turned

### *North-Bound Plane Suddenly Heads to the East*

The casual reader is likely to have missed it, but up here in the Ivory Tower, which sees all, knows all, tells all, it was spotted for the gem of a story that it was. It's short and worth repeating.

New York picked it up from BBC and relayed it tersely and without embellishment. Four RAF prisoners—two Englishmen, an Australian and a New Zealander—were being flown in an Italian plane from Sicily to Taranto, Italy, possibly with the intention of showing them off to raise the spirits of the war-weary boys. Somewhere over the Mediterranean the Italian guards in the compartment of the plane became wretchedly ill sick. The four RAF men looked at each other with a delighted surmise, hiding their grins. And in a moment they sprang up together, overpowered the guard, stuck a rod (as we reconstruct the scene) into the pilot's back and took over the plane.

They turned her nose around from the north and headed east. And in a little while they who had been bound for Italy as prisoners alighted at Malta qua prisoners. How they managed to hand an Axis plane on that bristling little British island is not explained. Maybe the Maltese knew, when they saw an unaccompanied Italian aircraft approaching, that it was bound to be no Italian who flew it but a couple of other fellows.

## The Easy Way

### *Washington Finances the War by Book Figures*

There seems to be not even the ghost of a chance that any general sales tax will be enacted by Congress this year, or maybe next, or maybe ever. The President is against it, the Treasury is against it, Congress is against it. A great many economists are for it, and the evidence is that the people themselves, who would have to pay it, would accept such a tax uncomplainingly. But nothing doing.

And in the lack of a sale tax plus the lack of forced savings may lie a great inflationary threat. The Government can always finance the war by selling its bonds to banks, which are eager purchasers of them. And why not, pray? The Government virtually creates the money with which the banks buy bonds. Bank deposits are at a peak even now from Government spending. The banks are glad enough to convert a portion of these excess deposits into interest-bearing bonds. The Government is glad enough to get the money, which it pays out to the producers of war goods, who redeposit it. The result, in either case, is more deposits and more bond sales and an increase in purchasing power.

When individuals buy bonds, however, it represents to them a decrease in purchasing power. Their money goes immediately into circulation and by so much is inflationary. But they have less to spend, and by that much offset Government spending.

Forced bond sales and a general sales tax both would have the effect of curtailing private spending as public spending increased, and would represent a war sacrifice which all the people would have to make as insurance against postwar disasters. But the Administration eschews both devices. Let us hope that it knows what it is doing.

## No Sensation

### *Broom Trial Fails To Explain Exhibit Q*

The Broom trial will have ended, as far as public curiosity goes, on an unsatisfying note. His conviction of murder in the first degree had already been taken for granted, and while the three-day trial brought forth a few salacious details and one hilarious scene wherein, after an alienist for the defense had established the mental age of the accused as about nine years, Solicitor Carpenter went about establishing the mental age of the alienist, the exhibit which was the focus of all eyes was not even offered into the record. Nor did it figure to any extent in the dialogue.

That exhibit, of course, was the abortive instruments, not to mention the several thousand dollars in currency which the man Broom had on his person when he was arrested and which he was allowed to account for.

The man was being tried, to be sure, for murder alone, and not for any lesser charge. For his double crime the public had felt indignation, but its curiosity was engaged by those instruments. And we think the curiosity was of the healthy kind, for abortion instruments in the possession of a man who had no valid explanation of them inevitably suggests that here was a sordid circumstance which might well have been tracked to its source by the police.

## Good Causes

### *To Get Anyshere, However, They Need Active Support*

With its four reports on crime and law enforcement, housing, juvenile delinquency and the office of coroner, the Association of Civic Clubs has rendered a unique service to a community that is certainly no better than it should be. In a good many ways, indeed, Charlotte is ailing, and just as a doctor diagnoses a condition before he prescribes for it, so is it well for a city to learn all it can about itself that it may understand what needs to be done.

Recommendations made in these reports fall into two main classes, the first of which has to do with changes that will require legislative action. In that class is the underlined recommendation that Mecklenburg be made a separate judicial district unto itself. Likewise, the proposed limitation upon the duties and authority of the corner concerns the Legislature exclusively, although it is not likely to engage that body's attention unless the Mecklenburg delegation takes up the case and presents it as convincingly as it has been presented by the Civic Club committee.

Strictly within the community's province, and depending as much upon public sentiment as upon any action by the municipal government, are the other principal recommendations made in this report. Two committees, examining the causes of crime from different standpoints, reached two opinions in common. Slum areas, they said, should be cleared, and adequate facilities for recreation should be provided.

These, we recognize, are long-range undertakings, and the immediate period is not propitious for starting them. Even so, the time is over-ripe for crystallizing public sentiment in their behalf. Once we agree wholeheartedly among ourselves that slums must give way to decent housing and that the city's children shall have parks and playgrounds, the job will be half done.

## Auf Wiedersehn

### *A Cheery Farewell Returns To Haunt a Wake*

It must have been a rueful day, that recent one, when Anthony Eden arose in Commons and announced that Britain had repudiated the Munich Agreement. It was all for the record, of course, a formality which followed by two years Churchill's statement that the Germans had destroyed the Munich Agreement. But even for the echo of Munich to be bounding around the eaves of Commons must have been a humiliating experience for all the Englishmen gathered there.

The man most responsible for the debacle of Munich, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who thought that with the sacrifice of Czechoslovakia he had bought peace for his time, was dead. And between his signing of the Munich pact in 1938 and its final denunciation in 1942, what was left of the Czech Government had formed a working partnership with the British Government. Britain had redeemed itself. But the tough little nation, Czechland, was held helplessly under the heel of the conqueror to whom many men now in Commons had consented to deliver her in purchase of Britain's and their own security. In finally denouncing the treaty they are bound to have felt somewhat as though they were denouncing themselves for having played the part of dolts and rabbits.

And doubtless they recalled that prophetic scene of 1938. "Auf Wiedersehn," called out Chamberlain to his German hosts at Munich as he took plane for London—"Until we meet again." The next meetings of representatives of the two nations were to be at Dunkirk, and in the skies over England.

## Side Glances

"My older brother wanted to enlist, but somebody had to stay home and support the family—wouldn't I hate to be in his shoes?"

## Tax-Masters

# 100 Per Cent Plus

*By Paul Mallon*

WASHINGTON

SENATORIAL courtesy prevented the finance committeemen from saying openly what they think of the House tax bill, but behind their hands they do not see "how a bill so filled with disastrous mistakes could have been passed" by the other branch of Congress.

The corporation tax rate was fixed by the House at 45 per cent of net income and 90 per cent of excess profits, so offhand anyone would figure that business would be able to earn at least half of what it earned in pre-war days. Apparently that was what the House thought.

But when the Senate committee started prowling back into the complicated new administrative restrictions on interest payments, altered allowances for debt retirement, and provisions forcing business to abandon its fiscal year system, it discovered the bill would throw a lot of businesses into the unprofitable class.

**For instance, the Glidden Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, (making suprous oxide for shipbuilding and paints) showed that its profit margin had been cut so much by taxes and price ceilings that a change in its fiscal year bookkeeping system to the calendar year would leave it $498,674 short of being able to meet its taxes this year. It has planned for its taxes on a fiscal year basis, and thus has made insufficient provisions to pay its taxes under the House scheme.**

**The Utah Power & Light Co. presented its books, estimating its taxable income for this year at $3,198,832, its normal tax at $1,600,369, its excess profits tax at $943,576, allowing only $1,225,000 to meet its legally required preferred stock dividends of $1,706,000. Its indicated deficiency was $481,000. (Business men rarely have produced their books before at tax hearings, but there was no hesitancy this time).**

Any concern with large increased sales and cost, heavy debts, or a fiscal year ending around June or July, would be in somewhat the same circumstances, and there are thousands such. It is therefore a foregone conclusion that the Senate committee will considerably alter the complicated technical administrative feature of the House bill, and may even trim the corporation rates somewhat.

While it is never politically desirable for a Congressman to think of siding a corporation, especially in a campaign year, this tax program is obviously nearing the ceiling under which a capitalistic system can be maintained.

The tax program must be adjusted to a non-political hair line, which will just barely maintain business incentive for efficient operation, and keep our production going at the wartime capacity required.

The question no longer is "soaking the rich" who are already thoroughly soaked, but to keep business production going, especially small debt-ridden business.

The coming Senate changes in the bill, of course, will prevent the Treasury from getting as much revenue as it wants. But there is little likelihood that Treasury needs can be fully satisfied in any event, because the only known way to supply the deficiency would be a general sales tax—and not even the Treasury wants that. Apparently it would rather be deficient than have such a tax.

## Add Morganton

# The Editors Speak

**The Charlotte Observer**

Almost without exception, the defects found by the Governor's able investigating committee in conditions obtaining at the State Hospital for the insane in Morganton, are due to inadequate appropriations by the State.

Faults in the administration could have been avoided if sufficiency of funds had been granted to provide the various types of service which the institution needed and which those in authority were restrained from supplying because of lack of funds.

Thus the whole state stands indicted for its inattention and dereliction.

More specifically, the Legislatures of the state that have been handing out the revenues at Raleigh are incriminated within the scope of this wrongdoing.

What this institution has needed was a special pleader—a lobbyist, if you please—somebody who knew the facts and could hang on to the coattails of the General Assemblymen until they heard these calls for enlarged appropriations and answered these prayers for greater financial sustenance.

Perhaps this was a major responsibility of the board of trustees of the hospital or its appointees to the administration of its affairs.

When it must have for years been as obvious to them, as it became immediately obvious to the investigating committee, that the institution was improperly financed, that its inmates have been victims of inefficient administration mainly because those in control were left by the State with their hands tied, these trustees might have made it their insistent and continuous call upon the several Governors and Legislatures to supply the hospital more abundantly of financial resources.

Neglect and maltreatment of inmates traces back to this origin.

**The Durham Herald**

A hasty reading of the report and recommendations of the special committee appointed to probe conditions at the State Hospital in Morganton leaves us with the impression that in substance charges which precipitated the investigation were found correct, and that the people of North Carolina now have the facts on which to act.

The report, foretold by the caliber of the committee, reflects a sober approach to the problem, a fair-minded assessment of evidence heard and an understanding of the exigencies of the situation.

It is still held by some, as before the investigation, that most of what was found wrong stemmed from inadequate appropriations by the Legislature, and the report boldly asserts that lack of funds is one of the fundamental evils.

We would stress, however, that some of the things charged and corroborated are not the by-product of niggardly appropriations. And to those who still say that money is the cure of all that is wrong, we would say that money alone doesn't provide balanced diet, proper preparation of food, sound administration of admittedly inadequate facilities.

**The Goldsboro News-Argus**

The committee's report leaves us wondering if every governor shouldn't have a sort of grand jury for all State institutions. An investigating committee that, armed with authority and dignity, may drop in at any institution at any time and unannounced.

Grand juries regularly inspect jails, prisons, county homes. The system affords a check and report for the public. Some sort of system is needed for the state institutions.

If the board of trustees of the Morganton hospital had been sufficiently interested in their duties, if the members of the board had discharged their duties and not served as a rubber stamp, conditions might have been changed at Morganton long ago.

## Too Late, Too Little

# I Saw A Storm Gather

*By Raymond Clapper*

WASHINGTON

THIS head-banging news from India upsets the plan I had to write some purple words this week about the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms.

Elmer Davis sent all of us some handy material to make the rewrite job easy. He suggested this was a good time to stress the Four Freedoms and what the Atlantic Charter means to the man in the street. That was before the streets of Bombay and Allahabad and Delhi came so riotously into the news. Mr. Davis suggested this would be "a good time to dispel any idea that may still exist that the Atlantic Charter does not apply to the Eastern nations as well." He added, in the offhand manner that was natural enough before Gandhi started to go through with this business, that "of course the Atlantic Charter is world-wide in scope."

But I don't laugh over that. Mr. Davis was too late with too little, as the British have been in India these last few years, and as the Western nations have been generally in their dealing with the old East. The tragic price is now being paid. Axis propagandists are exploiting this bloodshed in India for their own purposes, as it is to be expected. Many sincerely loyal citizens in the United Nations must be honestly disturbed. For the most part they probably will remain silent or will temper their expressions lest they do damage to our cause.

In India last March and April I could sense the gathering storm. I felt a depressing weakness in the position of the United Nations in the East and wrote a good deal about it. It was evident in conversation with Nehru the more balanced and more strongly anti-Axis of the Congress Party leaders, that the offer of postwar dominion status had come from London probably too late.

**I felt deeply that the United Nations had not made their case clear east of Suez. In Europe we were obviously fighting to liberate a continent from the Nazi oppressor. But in Asia the native populations were inclined to regard the Western nations as the oppressor. Freedom was for the white folks in Europe, not for the dark-skinned races east of Suez.**

Practically nothing was done to dispel that, nothing to convince those populations that, whatever the wrongs of the past, the only hope of freedom lay in United Nations victory. Vice-President Wallace, Under-Secretary Welles and some others spoke about it. They knew that the moral case of the Allies in Asia was weak and they wanted something done about it. But they got the horse laugh from the so-called realists, who were so intent upon being hard-boiled realists that they missed the true reality—which is Gandhi wrecking India, wrecking the main base of the United Nations in the East, inviting a Japanese invasion, the cutting off of China and the spread of Japanese power west across the Indian Ocean to join hands with Germany and slice the Allied world across its middle.

"Why talk about war aims until we have won the war?" Doesn't this bloody, paralyzing business in India today prove the need of war aims that will win the confidence and loyalty of peoples whose help is essential?

Perhaps it is too late now to check the bloodshed in India. The breakdown that has begun there may run its course in spite of anything that can be done. Still it is not too late. It is not too late to try to repair the damage for the Middle East.

**It is not too late ever to get ourselves straight with the world. So long as the impression remains—and with the grounds for suspicion that support it—that when the war is won the Western nations will climb up on the backs of the East again and feed off the old meal-ticket—that long we will be let down in the face of our enemies as we have been throughout the colonial East, except in the Philippines.**

The fact that Gandhi is stalking us in the back does not relieve us of correcting the situation which has invited such treachery. Our intentions with regard to the postwar world are very real weapons in this war. Up to now they are weapons that have been used against us instead of by us.

## Tears

—By Herblock

## Platform Of The People

# A Soldier Speaks Up

Editors, THE NEWS:

In reading your Saturday, Aug. 8, issue of The Charlotte News, I was surprised to read a column about Mr. Rea's visit to the West Coast to see his sons, and his discovery that Charlotte was not treating the boys in uniform all right. I think Mr. Rea should be corrected about that statement.

I have been in the service for two years and have done lots of traveling all over the United States for the Government. I have talked with more service men than Mr. Rea will ever dream of talking with, and I would like to say that I think Charlotte is doing a grand job of helping the boys during maneuvers. I traveled the same route as Mr. Rea last December, and I think Mr. Rea will agree that the only place that anyone gave anything to a service man was in Cincinnati, Ohio, by the USO.

Mr. Rea must also understand that on the West Coast there are twice as many people living and working and that it takes donations to buy these things.

We soldiers are not looking for charity. We are proud to be fighting for our country. Sometimes things look a little blue, but it doesn't take cold drinks to help us. The USO in every town has what it takes. I think I understand this thing better than Mr. Rea does, for I work, drill, eat, sleep with the boys. Again I think that Charlotte is doing a great job. Tell Mr Rea to drive down to the USO and donate a few dollars.

Yours truly,

STAFF SERGEANT THURMAN KNIGHT.
QMC (w)
Fort Jackson, S. C.

### With Voters in a Trance, the New Deal Steals Their Pants

Editors, THE NEWS:

The Congress sits with unconcern,
While Democracy's bridges burn,
By the New Deal having its way,
Through some twist or turn, ev'ry day.
Right now, with gas-rubber riddle,
It plays both ends 'gainst the middle:
Makes free-gas buyers content,
But gas-rationed ones hotly bent
On restriction that's nation-wide.
Grand strategy to thus divide;
And, at long last, to all apple,
"Naught else to do", the alibi.

As sop to all, the price advance
Will be wholly withdrawn, perchance;
In which event, an added tax
Will be wrought with New Deal's sharp axe.
Thus, both sides swallow hook and line,
And the Congress looks on supine;
New Deal pie being its concern,
As Democracy's bridges burn.
But, when voters rouse from their trance,
Swift will be the deliverance.

Yours truly,

L. A. TATUM.
Laurinburg.

# Visitin' Around

**THE CLUB MEETS WITH AUNT ELLEN**

(North Catawba item, Lenoir News-Topic)

Aunt Emma Brooks was dinner guest with Aunt Ellen Setzer Sunday. They are the two oldest ladies in our community. They always occupy their seats in our churches when they are able.

**YEAH, BUT CAN THEY TREAT A SICK HOG?**

(RFD item, Lexington Dispatch)

The Rural Carriers will pick up scrap rubber anywhere; if you have no way to get yours to the filling station, see him. We are out to serve, not to make a schedule. We sell stamps, envelopes, cards, insure, collect, register, look after special deliveries, special handling, look after baby chicks, like the mother hen. We also sell car stickers, pick up scrap rubber, take baby reports, pig reports, agricultural reports generally; watch out for spying and try to keep you as happy and as contented as possible, while we are at it.