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And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

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All Others...

Aussies' New Little Ceiling Reveals Uncontrolled Eating

Australia, we see, is feeling the pinch of war these days. We've known for some time, of course, that the continent was considerably nearer the danger zone than our own. We just found out how much closer. Down Under, Prime Minister Curtin says, there will soon be only "austerity meals."

Austere Australia rings like a phonetic bell, but its sound does not satisfy the investigator. We went to Webster, who reported on austerity: "The quality or state of being austere; severity; asceticism."

We looked back. After Sept. 21, Curtin says, meals served in public will be limited to three courses, with ceiling prices of 64 cents for lunch, 80 cents for dinner. That wasn't a bad bit of belt-tightening, we thought, though it promised no starvation for the Austere Aussies.

Curtin killed that effect, however, in the next breath. All other meals, he added, would be limited to 48 cents. What other meals? If these folks have been eating more than three a day, they could stand a little austering. Ourselves, we never heard of anything else except breakfast.

Pistol Law

Durham's Is Commended to Mecklenburg Legislators

Well worth the attention of Mecklenburg County's delegation to the next Legislature is a law now applying only to Durham and Alamance Counties. First put on the books in 1935, it required the registration of all pistols, automatic pistols and revolvers (but not shotguns and rifles) and a permit for the purchase of new weapons of the kind, to be signed by two persons of good character.

Several months ago we inquired of the Durham police how the law was working and what they thought of it. Detective Chief King replied for the department. "We like this law very much," he said. "It does not in any way bother a hunter, and does not interfere with an honest householder . . . This law, by means of the registration, gives law-enforcement officers the knowledge of who has a weapon . . . It greatly helps us out in disarming criminals."

That, from a practical detective, was high praise for a mere law. Moreover, Durham's homicide rate, which is far more favorable than Charlotte's, rather substantiates the statement that the law has been useful in police work. Some months ago Charlotte police put on a drive against weapons, but without such a law as this cited above they had to content themselves with looking for concealed weapons. Found quite a few, too.

Almost everybody concedes the wise caution of keeping track of small arms, both to prevent the free and easy purchase of pistols by those who have no right to them and as a record of ownership. If our Mecklenburg Legislators were to consult the chiefs of City and County police departments, doubtless they would find out that they too would endorse such a law.

Home-Grown

Boys From Tiny Carolina Towns Stir Up Baseball's Fight

One reason, we venture, that the thousands of boys in the AEF would like to be home these days has to do with baseball, and the furious drumming down the home stretch in the old National League. Those boys overseas will be wondering what has happened to the Brooklyn Dodgers in the last few days. Almost all of them would rejoice to know that they are tied up in a fierce, typically American struggle for supremacy.

The hottest team in baseball, our sports-writing men tell us, is the St. Louis Cardinals. The boys from Missouri, products of a vast modern farm system, forgot about defeat and embarked on long series of winning campaigns. They ate away an eight-game Brooklyn lead and became challengers. We wondered who was doing it.

In the Cardinal lineup, if you'll pardon a dive into the small type, we found no less than six boys who were born and raised in the Carolinas. All of them, we grinned to note, came from small towns. Country towns even.

There was Jimmy Brown from Jamesville (pop. 499), Enos Slaughter from Roxboro (pop. 4,509), Coaker Triplett from Boone (pop. 1,783), Martin Marion from Richburg, S. C. (pop. 183) and Max Lanier from Denton (pop. 677).

We don't know that we proved anything with our investigation, except that it's hard to whip Carolinians, and youngsters from the little towns. Anyhow, we're glad that the biggest baseball battle in many a year is being led by our own youngsters. It may be the last baseball campaign for a long time, and it seems proper that we get in our usual lick up in the big time.

Grim Choice

France Must Decide for Or Against Co-Operation

No one can help feeling the greatest sympathy for the French people. The weakness of their leadership in the years before the war, plus their own panic, got them into a situation where now they are compelled to accept the leadership of an avowed traitor.

Open revolt against Pierre Laval would only bring his German masters down upon the French people to take over in his stead. But supine compliance with his order conscripting French labor, both male and female, would contribute measurably to postponing the day when France's conqueror may be dealt with, that nation freed.

It is an unhappy choice to face, but France is in no position to be spared unhappy choices. The terms of the armistice that was signed with Germany envisioned no such co-operation with the Nazi war effort as this which Laval assumes to offer, counting upon the helplessness and spiritlessness of the French people to let him get away with it.

It is not enough for France to accept this conscription of labor with a secret resolve to commit sabotage whenever possible; the German mind is capable of detecting and dealing with sabotage. It is time, indeed, for France to revolt against Laval even if the only immediate effect of it is to invite German occupation of the rest of the country. At least that would draw off a few German divisions from service elsewhere and further complicate the Nazi problem of governing its conquered lands. And it would be a sign that the French people are with us. Otherwise the assumption will have to be that they are against us.

NC Pays Out

An Enormous Debt Is Gradually Whittled Away

North Carolina, entering a period when the revenues of the State Government are uncertain, may well look back over its fiscal past and give a sigh of relief that the war did not catch it ten or twelve years ago. In the meantime, Tar Heelia has been getting its feet on the ground.

An almost volcanic rise took place in North Carolina's debt after the last war. A table of net debt by ten-year intervals shows the process graphically:

1902	$ 6,755,000
1912	9,659,000
1922	74,573,000
1932	164,913,000

But by 1942 (that $164,913,000 net debt at one time it poked its head up close to $200,000,000) had been cut back to $110,500,000. At a retirement rate of about $7,500,000 annually, bolstered by a constitutional provision limiting the issuance of bonds in any biennium (except by a vote of the people) to two-thirds of the debt retired in the previous biennium, the next two years should see the State's debt nicely under the hundred-million mark.

Local governments too have been paying out. In 1932 the counties and cities of the state owed the crushing sum of $362,413,000, a flock of them being in hopeless default. Today that municipal debt stands at $289,127,000, still an oversized load to be carried, but one that is being lightened steadily. Together, State and local governments are paying out at the rate of $15,000,000 a year, and by so much reducing the interest charges which have bulged budgets in North Carolina and tapped the checkbooks of tax payers for the last twenty years.

For A Brand New World

Dawn Breaks In The Midst Of Our War

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON,

While we are all discussing the speech of the President on inflation, which dealt with the problem of how to restrict the purchasing power of the nation, and how to adapt ourselves to the scarcity of consumer's goods, revelations made at the meeting of the American Chemical Society in Buffalo unroll a prospect that is breath-taking.

They reveal that in the midst of war a new epoch is dawning, at least technically, which reduces the perpetual causes of war to nonsense.

Any sensible person must agree fully with the President's insistence that we keep order in what remains of our civilian economy. The whole country, except for the short-sighted business agents of a few pressure groups—and not the membership of them—will back up his intention to use his executive power to stabilize all prices, if Congress fails to do so.

But if any so-called experts tell us that the next two or three generations will have to suffer economically as a consequence of this war, and that the restrictions of today will become permanent, then I direct their attention to the report of the American Chemical Society's meeting, and especially to the speech of Dr. Charles M. A. Stine, vice-president of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours industry.

Dr. Stine stated that "under pressure of the necessities of war, the inconceivables of only two years ago are today's realities.

"American chemists are discovering new continents of matter and the world of 1940 has already become an antiquity.

"When the war is won we will have at our command ten to a hundred times what we had before in new materials.

"New and more versatile plastics . . . high pressure syntheses of ammonia . . . fertilizer of such capacity that the trends of agriculture may be changed . . . glass that is unbreakable and will float . . . wood that won't burn . . . hosiery from the air . . . window screens without wire," etc., etc.

Dr. Stine said there was a condition for making the future world bright, and fantastically rich. That is "a victorious peace and the freedom of enterprise. It should guarantee."

We will all accept this condition. In defeat all our efforts will be used to serve somebody else. And without freedom, the enquiring and critical mind that is capable of creating "new continents of matter" will be stifled.

But what is freedom of enterprise? Is it the freedom of enterprise that we had in the twenties and thirties, or the freedom of enterprise that we have today?

And where lies the difference between the two?

The inventions are apparently a sudden efflorescence. Nine months of war have passed, and decades of scientific development have been telescoped into months and weeks.

But no one can tell us that all this progress has come as a kind of apocalyptic revelation that burst on the minds of scientists with Pearl Harbor. Science is not like that; it is careful and methodical. Everything that has been brought out in the last nine months was there before, latent and unused.

Dr. Stine says, "The war is compressing developments." What does he mean?

He means that there is a social necessity that has to be met, regardless of profits, regardless of prices, regardless of competitors, regardless of traditional financial considerations. He means that the credit of the whole nation is available for the production of these necessities, and that the market for these necessities is assured in the people of the nation. He means that the whole of the production is keyed to the general welfare, the public necessity. And this is the new freedom that sets every scientific mind thinking, every inventor creating, every wheel turning, every hand working.

And so, suddenly we discover, in the time of our greatest crisis, that we have lived our lives way below our possibilities, poor when we might have been rich, unemployed when we might have been working, stupid when we might have been brilliant, stagnant when we might have been creative.

I don't know whether I rightly interpret Dr. Stine when I conclude from his report: Never back to the old freedom of enterprise.

On to the new freedom of enterprise. On to the new freedom that puts this fantastic, Promethean American production to work for the welfare of the whole American people, with surpluses for the people of the rest of the earth.

What we are doing now for the purpose of creating instruments of destruction we can do tomorrow to create a grandeur the world has never known, providing we have the intelligence, and the morality to recognize that in the new world there is enough for everybody, and that the pressure groups who have bound the hands of the nation for reasons of personal or group profits are merely destroying themselves. There is only one great pressure—the pressure of the whole social necessity.

The President said in his speech that we must invest a hundred billion dollars next year for war purposes. Yes, we must. But a nation that can invest a hundred billion dollars in instruments of destruction in 1943 will be able to invest a hundred billion dollars in instruments of reconstruction in 1945, and enjoy the fruits of that investment instead of blowing them sky-high.

"We are discovering new continents of matter."

These conquests do not cost one life. The conquests are open to all the nations of the world where there are human brains. Hitler, whose own scientists have, for the purpose of war, also discovered "new continents of matter," still thinks he has to find new continents in the Ukraine, when they are in the air and in the elements that are all around him.

Rubber Boot

—By Herblock

They Also Serve

Sacrifices Back Home

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON

LEON HENDERSON (in a speech before Sales Executives Club, Sept. 8):

"What sacrifice have we made who have sent no son, no father, no brother or sweetheart to war? Is there sacrifice involved in national income of 113 billions of dollars? Is the sacrifice in 400 per cent increase in profits; in 71 per cent increases in wages and salaries; in 75 per cent increases in farm income? No, I think not."

I think yes—plenty. Mr. Henderson is deceiving both himself and his listeners.

The farmer who is getting the 75 per cent increase in income is sacrificing greatly in the shortage of farm labor, which makes him do 70 per cent (my estimate) more labor without help. The great bulk of the workers of the country have had little of that 71 per cent increase in wages and salaries, which has gone mostly to the union laborers in defense industries.

Government workers, for instance, have had not 71 per cent increase, and yet are called upon to pay four and five times as much in taxes. This is the same sacrificing condition of most white collar workers and the great middle class of the country, being ground painfully between high taxes and high prices without a wage increase.

Business, as a class, has sacrificed greatly, much of it to the point of extinction, due to lack of raw materials.

Small business men are, like farmers, sacrificing themselves due to shortage of labor, and taxes requiring them to work more for less.

Even corporations (owned by people) have sacrificed normal dividends, cutting the income of the elderly, retired persons and widows, as well as all other stockholders. And, incidentally, Mr. Henderson keeps on using that 400 per cent corporation "profits" figure without saying that 74 per cent of it is taken back by the Government in taxes and, therefore, is not "profits."

Like the statistician that he is, Mr. Henderson looks only at figures which serve to misguide his thoughts, rather than at human beings, few of whom have failed to make sacrifices for this war, without much muttering.

The lower standard of living that Mr. Roosevelt foretold for most of the people is here. Much of the country is doing its bit without war pay. Mr. Henderson can never statisticize that out of the minds of the people who are taking the pinch as a privilege.

Mr. Henderson used his deceptive figures to prove that the "luxury of free spending cannot be continued without disaster."

What luxury? What free spending? Certainly not for sugar, tires, gasoline, vacations at beaches, train trips, automobile journeys, silk hose, the two-way stretchers that women wear. It seems to me Mr. Henderson has pretty well clamped down on both luxuries and free spending even if he does not think so.

The People Learn

The people of the country seem to have adopted, out of their personal experiences in this war, a more sensible attitude toward it than many a Washington leader. They have been fed so much high stuff and so much low stuff by Washington that they have learned to level it out for themselves.

The bumps have been taken out of the war for them by personal experience, as a Southern editor has observed to me. They are no longer alternately frightened or comforted by high and low official advice of the day. They are going pretty much along the even tenor of their ways, doing what is expected of them.

These recent Jap "invasions" of our hard-won Solomon Isle, Guadalcanal, represent tricky new battle tactics. The Japs gather a number of small, speed boats at their nearby Solomons bases, and at night these approach the Guadalcanal shore, landing batches of troops under cover of darkness.

These night forays constitute an attempt at invasion by infiltration, along the same lines the Japs used going south so successfully against the British on the Malay peninsula. Their small armed bands roam the jungles, fire from trees, assail outposts. It is the technique of savages which we have not faced since our own Indians were civilized.

The fight for the Solomons, of course, hinges on who can throw the most power into that remote jungle battlefield, and in this, we are not doing badly. You hear little of it, but with each passing day of no news from that front, you may be sure our forces there are being reinforced and strengthened.

Nevertheless, Mr. Roosevelt has chosen to play down this battlefront as a "local operation," for reasons of his own. Perhaps he is not sure that we can keep on pouring in more than the Japs can muster around that area.

At any rate, it still has the potentiality of a major base for an offensive northward, exterminating major Japanese bases island-by-island.

Tough. But . . .

No Superman

By Robert Ruark, NEA
(Passed by the Censor)

WASHINGTON

MARSHAL ERWIN ROMMEL'S current setbacks in Egypt are partially explainable by remarks made by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., just after he returned from active duty on the Libyan front.

Lodge, a reserve major who had volunteered for a look-see at Libya, came back to Washington when the world was bowing low to Rommel's military genius. Tobruk had just fallen, and there was a trend to compare the Nazi marshal with everybody from Hannibal to Napoleon. Lodge, who had been dive-bombed, strafed and generally harried by Rommel's Afrika Korps, couldn't see it that way.

"He's a good general," the tall Massachusetts Senator said. "But he's no all-time genius. . . . No Napoleon. What he is is a hellishly capable professional. And I mean professional in all its senses. . . . Adaptable to immediate circumstances and an amazing opportunist.

"Rommel never put all his eggs in one basket. He never made up his mind inflexibly to do or die with one specific move. He never fully committed himself to any prescribed tactic.

"Rommel would start several thrusts at once, and throw his strength into whichever seemed to be progressing most favorably. He pricked his holes like a good smart football player, and dived into the skellest with everything he had.

"In the Libyan campaign Rommel's ace was that the British never knew where he was or what to expect next. He'd throw up some tanks there, some smoke over there, some planes here, and then bang home in the confusion. His advantage was that he wasn't trying to storm prepared positions. That is one of the chief differences between the Libyan and Egyptian campaigns.

"In Egypt right now we've got a pretty fair idea of where Rommel is and what he's doing. And he is doing the things he likes least . . . storming that prepared position. In Libya he rarely stormed. He preferred to infiltrate around his objective, cut off supplies and water, and make his move when the British were thoroughly weakened."

Lodge says that much of Rommel's Libyan success was directly attributable to the click-clack smoothness with which his general staff work ran along. "The mark of the professional again," Lodge says. "Rommel's organization was the type bred only by long and scientific preparation for a certain job."

Rommel's earlier successes also were traceable to his adeptness with his armored corps. The German Marshal didn't divide the strength of his mechanized might, throwing sections here and sections there.

"Wherever he was," Lodge said, "he was superior. He kept his two armored divisions and his motorized infantry tightly welded as a unit and made the most of it."

Rommel's tanks carried center-mounted guns, which means they had a 360-degree fire radius, as opposed to the 36-degree radius available to our M-3s, or "General Grants", which mounted their guns on the side. A newer allied tank, the M-4, has converted its gun-mount to the center, and should be the equal of or possibly superior to the German tank.

All through Lodge's conversation, you get the idea that Rommel's early superiority was due more to greater experience and preparedness than to any semi-supernatural powers of leadership and strategy. As allied experience and fire power gradually catches up to the German standard, the Rommel legend is apt to fade accordingly.

"That fellow on the wall," Lodge says, pointing to a picture of Gen. George Smith Blood-and-Guts Patton, "is good enough to knock Rommel's ears down, and there are a couple more mechanized experts in the American Army who can do the same thing."

Side Glances

"Her father and I would enjoy it if you'd jot down some of her remarks in school—she has had several of her cute sayings printed in the newspapers!"