



# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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## President?

Author Can See MacArthur '43 Winner, But We Can't

We know next to nothing of the life and works of Dr. Fred T. Wilson, the Washington historian—but if he views the past with the same eye he now has trained on the future, we know enough. His outspoken prediction that General Dowd would be elected as Republican nominee for President in 1944 and win an overwhelming victory left us open-mouthed. If we haven't seen everything now, we'll regret all our remaining rights.

Presuming that the opinion was offered as a serious one, it comes high setting a record. Even in the dark days of General MacArthur's heroic stand on Bataan and Corregidor, and on the thrilling day of the news of his escape to Australia, we assumed that MacArthur-for-President idea (originating with a rumor printed in a newspaper) was more in the nature of idle talk than anything else.

But if the blessing of a historian at this date serves as official notice that some segment of the populace still cherishes the thought of our Pacific hero as the next President, the case may demand a review.

A hero worthy of national adulation, MacArthur surely is. Perhaps no military campaign in American history so stirred contemporary Americans as did the gallant story of Bataan. The General and his men won themselves immortality in those weeks of suffering, waiting and fighting. But the General in no wise prepared himself for Presidential candidacy.

Within the Army he distinguished himself in peace and war, but despite the esteem which he is held by the people of the United States, we believe that he is decidedly not a man to be considered as a potential Presidential candidate.

Some have taken the theory so far as to charge that President Roosevelt feared him as a possible political opponent and shipped him to isolation in Australia, keeping him away from the spotlight campaign to come in Europe. And that, of course, is as ridiculous as the surmise that the General will step to victory under GOP banners in '44.

We note, in passing, that Historian Wilson is the author of a book called "These Three Alone." He'll know a new meaning for that name, and that's giving him the benefit of Kansas and Tennessee, the two states President-elect MacArthur is calculated to carry as birthplaces of himself and his wife.

**Discovery**  
City's Liquor Trade Alarms A Visiting Yankee Reporter

The New York Sun, we note with dismay, has discovered and announced that "Bootleg Era Revived in Dry Charlotte as Prohibition Threat Appears in Carolinas." To begin with, it is astonishing that our New York contemporary should discern this appalling new trend of the times. We had been under the impression that our "bootleg era" was very old, that it had existed even far beyond the coming of county option, and that the "prohibition threat" was simply a hazy Carolina perennial.

found a condition neither new, dangerous nor unique. The system in operation has been, and will be the only answer for this or any other county under the present system of liquor control, and our brethren to the north need have no fears. No explosion is threatened. "The sound of gunfire" will not be forthcoming if and when other counties, now wet, go dry. The answer will be bootlegging, not shooting.

## Triple Talk

CIO Scorns Ruml Plan, Wants Pay-As-You-Go, Yet Doesn't

Of all the otherwise surefooted travelers who have lost their way in the labyrinthine bypaths of Beardley Ruml's pay-as-you-go tax plan, the CIO is not the least. Others have been lost in the maze, to be sure (it was enlightening to see Treasury spokesmen wheeling by in confusion), but none have become so beautifully dizzy as Phil Murray and his men.

CIO wants it understood from the beginning that it is opposed to the Ruml Plan—because of the cancellation of 1942 taxes offers a windfall to the wealthy. It wants no part of a program giving special benefits to the vested interests, regardless of its effect upon Labor. That cancellation will immediately bring life-giving relief to millions of heavily burdened little taxpayers is of little moment. The high income brackets must not be allowed to escape 1942 unscathed.

But President Murray approves a pay-as-you-go plan, even urges its passage. He has no particular plan in mind, he says, but he doesn't want cancellation of a year's taxes. Not that. But in the next breath he opposed doubling-up of payments for wage-earners. No skipping, no doubling, but still pay-as-you-go. He doesn't want taxation; he wants water miracles.

Well, there'll likely be many another trip around the bush before the Ruml proposal matures into law and American taxation is put on a sound basis for present and future. But we gamble there'll be no approach to the new record set by President Murray and CIO, who went the field two better. The Ruml Plan is a commitment to talk about "assets"; it couldn't define and refused to face the simple fact of daylight-saving time in taxation. What Brother Murray did, we still aren't quite sure.

## The Red Tide

Stalin's Rushing Armies Rush Germany To Its Doom

Kursk and Rostov are gone, Kharkov is doomed and Orel is in great danger. Hitler's great line of defense, the string of fortresses from which his offensives have been launched since 1941, is gone. And if it is significant that the speedier Soviet offensives are the more rapid and exacting relatively light loss of German lives, it still cannot be said that this is the time of an orderly German retreat. This is a rout, a piling of disaster upon disaster.

The Russian front is now a mass of Nazi soldiers, now apparently isolated in the Caucasus, now of great moment to the Wehrmacht, but of far greater importance at the moment is the impetus of the Russian armies sweeping past burning Kursk and Rostov. How far Stalin's men can go no one knows, and perhaps it is not of great importance now. Already, they have broken the German power on the Eastern front and we are afraid that the Soviet Union may be presumed secure for the war. From such defeats as they have inflicted upon the Nazis, no armies can recover.

The latest feats of Russian arms are not to be summarized as the recapture of two German-held strong points. With the loss of the two cities, a line of defense and offense fell. Today, as never before, there is hope that Russia has forever killed Nazi hopes for victory. The latest advances do not mean that the war is won; they almost certainly mean that it cannot now be lost, and that the beginning of the end is coming.

## Our Policy Lags

# Victory Will Not Wait

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON  
It seems inconsiderate to be asking President Roosevelt to do more than he is doing. Yet something is badly needed which only he can do. The country needs to have put into focus its thinking about what is to come out of the war. A goal of talk is creating dangerous confusion and misunderstanding.

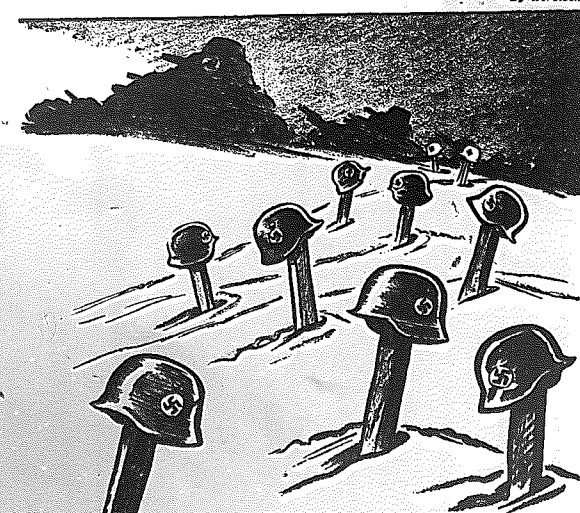
Here Rep. Clare Boothe Luce warns in the House of Representatives that our Government is about to surrender control of the air. But in London members in the House of Commons demanding to know whether the British Government is surrendering its air rights. Vice-President Wallace writes a magazine article about freedom of the air although there isn't yet a ghost of the Government policy about any of this. Nor about much of anything else aside from the military program. Elmer Davis has an enormous propaganda setup but he has nothing authoritative to talk about except the Four Freedoms, because there isn't any Government policy about what is to come out of the war.

I am not trying to be captious. Mr. Roosevelt has more to do in 24 hours than a human being should be expected to do. And on the military side he has done it well. This is not a piece about how everything is going wrong, because I don't think everything is going wrong. On the contrary most of it is going exceedingly well.

The war is moving fast and favorably. I don't find victory over Germany expected this year, but it is considered very likely next year. The Russians are wounding the Germans deeply.

## Victory-Garden Planting in Russia

—By Herblock



## While War Burns

# Imperialism Lights Another

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK  
LET us continue our researches into obscurationism. It is a new, nice, fresh concept of it have arrived, and it is always wise to examine this merchandise before it becomes over-ripe and hard to handle.

A sudden clamor has been raised to the effect that Great Britain ought to give us "permanent title" at once to the airbases she leased to us in 1941 in exchange for 50 average destroyers. Since these leases run for 99 years, or until September 2, 2033, this becomes the most irrelevant and posthumous issue which has ever been raised in the midst of a dreadful war in the entire history of the world.

The interesting thing is that this noise is made (with some exceptions) by the very same isolationist Congressmen who were extremely sniffling about the destroyers-for-bases deal in the first instance. Yet their position is quite consistent. It was, two years ago, the position that we ought not to have anything to do with England and her allies, though it takes a new form. It is the same position; that we ought to have as little to do with England as possible. During a United Nations war, the isolationists have sought out and found a method to strike a blow at international collaboration, even when it takes place on a jointly sworn-in basis in the Caribbean between the two nations of the same language and fighting the same fight.

One editorialist commenting on this "issue" has even squeezed out a tear to the effect that

we need permanent title (in 2039 A. D. of course) to these bases in order to protect the Atlantic for England, and that she ought therefore to "give us the tools"; thus using the very language of international co-operation to smash a blow at it.

That is obscurationism, of course. And obscurationism was given a powerful and related boost last week by Miss Clare Boothe, who suddenly rose to demand American domination of the airways of the world after the war, putting that demand in the form of the question as to whether we intend to let foreigners freely use our airports. The trouble with that question is that it isn't the question. We could keep every foreign commercial airplane off our airfields after the war, but that would not give us domination of the airways of the world. To have domination of the airways, we would need to control foreign airports. Miss Boothe (obscurely) failed to go into that painful difficulty; she translated the issue into the wholly irrelevant question of control of our own airfields.

We have here, in a single week, the beginning of a great imperialist rivalry, with Great Britain on the question of ownership of military and naval air bases, and with all the world on the question of the control of commercial air bases. We have here the basis for another war, to be fought with our present Allies. And many of the same isolationist Congressmen who are "looking for trouble" and against "foreign involvements" are lapping it up and issuing their squeals of delight.

## The Sage Of Rockingham

The Richmond County Journal (Very likely by Tom Jamison—we don't know any more)

The Rockingham Brain that which holds its meetings in the lobby of the Rockingham hotel, has under grave consideration a sort of Gandhi movement to conserve clothing and help with the war effort. The general idea is to get the folks here about to wear sunny clothing like the noted Indian leader, use sandals instead of shoes, or go barefoot like geese.

There is one drawback to the whole shebang, and that is the fact that the spinning-wheels. Of course two officials of the Brain Trust have several thousand hogs, some of them of the most famous breeds, and now like a delegate will have to be sent to Washington to get priority on the spinning-wheels, and we are afraid that the war will be over before he gets through filling out blanks for the various bureaus. Of course the movement of the hogs is not to be hindered, though the present members die of old age and we never enter into the arrangements can be completed. In that case the rising generation will enter into our labors.

This column and Walter Covington held a conference on stomach troubles and other ailments therapeutically appearing and belonging, and we unanimously decided that the best thing for a grub-

## Side Glances



"It's wonderful having him home on furlough, even if he is so busy gadding about we only get a good look at him when he's in bed!"

## Through The Fog Shine, Republic!

By Dorothy Thompson

"While this America settles in the mould of its vulgarity heavily thickening to Empire. And protest, only a bubble in the molten mass, pops and dies out, and the mass hardens . . ."

WITH THESE initial words, the prophetic West Coast poet, Robinson Jeffers, once forecast the doom of the Perishing American Republic. Perhaps that bubble will only be a bubble in the molten mass, yet if one loves this Republic, the futile bubble must pop. For there are signs too insistent to be ignored that the war for human liberty and democracy will be fought with geometrical rapidity for American Empire . . . to be won at the expense of both our enemies and our allies.

Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce made her initial speech in the House of Representatives this week. She advocated a war aim American control of the global air. Not United Nations control, or international control—"Freedom of the air," she said. "Globalism"—but complete freedom of the air. Mrs. Luce, whose husband's publication recently attacked Mr. Churchill for imperialism, now says: "The British want to put muscle and flesh on their international air system after the war and we will be dominated in the post-war air age."

Mrs. Luce's picture is supplemented by a series of advertisements which have been appearing in various publications, inserted by American aviation companies, mainly Pan-American and American Air Lines, who are co-operating with the American Air Force in laying out air bases everywhere. One of these advertisements says: "Our air forces must not relax with victory. British development and expansion of America's aviation is necessary also to protect our nation at the peace conference. There will either be dominant in the air, or will be dominated in the post-war air age."

From this viewpoint this is not a struggle to make a new world with liberty and justice for all. It is just a struggle for power, and for the instruments with which to make power. The man who must prepare to "dominate" our allies at the peace conference.

Then, there is a recent statement by the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. Mr. Knox said that we should start immediate negotiations for "complete post-war control" of "sufficient aerial or naval bases in the Pacific to prevent Japan from entering upon another war of aggression in the future." He did not suggest that we should negotiate with which to make power in the Pacific should share, use and control such bases. They are to be ours and ours alone.

There are indications that the new American imperialism will not leave the American customs as they have been in the past. Mr. Rockefeller, through the glamour of hero about his office, the president of an aviation company as his job, advocates that our boys, returning from the wars, be "allowed" to enter the factories without joining trade unions. Several millions of them would, of course, be sufficient enough to destroy the trade unions of America.

Meanwhile, in North Africa, Mr. Robert Murphy, with Mr. Maclean, the British representative, assembling in London, it was remembered that we are not here to impose our political will upon this country. Such a course, I am sure, would be distasteful to American and British public.

Inasmuch as events in North Africa have been hidden in censorship, and American comments upon it have been withheld by American censorship from the British public and, I suppose, vice versa, it is to be hoped that Mr. Murphy will be able to beat the enemy, regardless of what we beat him for, is to insult the men who are laying down their lives.

It has been remarked that truth is the first casualty of every war. Truth demands that we acknowledge that the Giraud-Peyrouton regime in North Africa was created by the American invasion and rests upon American bayonets. It is not something that came into being by democratic process. Also, to say that our only interest in the war is to beat the enemy, regardless of what we beat him for, is to insult the men who are laying down their lives.

The restoration of the truth is also in a dispatch from Allied headquarters in North Africa, reporting that M. Peyrouton has created a permanent Council of War Economy. The reporter states: "The creation of the Council marks the first step toward the return of representative government, for its members will be elected by various economic groups . . . elected by the heads of various Algerian financial, industrial and agricultural groups and presidents of Chambers of Commerce and Trade Organizations."

If that is representative government so is Mussolini. That is a declaration of a Corporate State. If we are fighting the war to wipe out the same sort of governments that Hitler is setting up, what is it all about? Is it merely that we want fascist leadership over our influence instead of under them? I ask a simple question.

(To be continued)

## Everything's Oak

# Fallen Giant

By LOUIS GRAVES  
In The Chapel Hill Weekly

IT WAS on New Year's Day that Mrs. Klutz's big oak fell with a resounding crash and stretched its length more than half way across Franklin St. But not until this week did the gang of men with axes and mauls and axes finish cutting it up and away the fragments. The owner of the tree, lighting up the landscape with a succession of gorgeous-colored wrappers, kimonos, house-jackets, and slawls, supervised the job. Her next greatest pleasure in hoisting the men was to send wheelbarrow loads of firewood around to her friends.

She offered logs to passers-by, too. It wasn't an easy sort of offer to accept, for transportation was a difficult problem. "You can't take 'em," she said, "but you can take 'em home." She said that oak logs the way you would a bunch of daffodils, and walk on off with them. Sometimes arrangements would be made for later collection, but I know of one instance in which Mrs. Klutz found a perfect solution right on the instant.

Mrs. Rear, who has an apartment in the former Acacia House at the east end of the block, was walking home from uptown. Mrs. Klutz proposed to give her some firewood. Mrs. Rear liked the idea, but how was she going to get the logs home? At that moment Mrs. Klutz saw two stalwart University students coming along in the same direction.

"Here, these two young gentlemen will be glad to carry a few sticks for you," said Mrs. Klutz, and before the students knew what was happening they were proceeding on their way with their armful of oak.