



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle
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W. C. Dowd, 1863-1927

Relief

New Judicial District Coming, But Must Not Wait Until '47

The favorable report of Governor Broughton's commission on the creation of a new judicial district for Mecklenburg is just cause for rejoicing in the County, though the goal is not yet achieved. The people of North Carolina (whether or not they voted for the proposal will-nilly, linking it with the School Amendment) have already voiced their approval of the change, and the Administration reflects their will. It is probable that the new district will face a real fight in the Assembly, particularly in the Senate. Politicians forecast that Gaston representatives will object strenuously, and that their friends will oppose the Mecklenburg delegation with considerable support. We believe, however, that the bill will continue to receive the support of the Governor, and be pushed through.

No longer, we believe, does the need for a new district in Mecklenburg—even require demonstration Long years of overloaded dockets, of a court inefficiently served by Solicitor John Carpenter, have hampered law enforcement in the County. With the heaviest load among the State's 21 districts, the Mecklenburg-Gaston district has felt a pressing need for change. Of the 1,418 cases tried in the district in 1941, 983 were in Mecklenburg—and no solicitor is deemed competent to handle so many.

There was in the commission's report, however, a danger. The lawmakers expressed the sentiment that no complete program of re-districting should be undertaken at this time, and added that the number of solicitors should be reduced from 21 to 16 beginning in 1947. Mecklenburg's problem, whether or not relieved by wartime conditions, should not be allowed to linger for four more years. The County must have a new solicitor of its own as soon as possible, and that doesn't mean 1947, but 1943.

Down To Earth

Are Ideals More in Africa Than Military Objectives?

The course of American relations with newly-born allies over the world is becoming the object of national concern, expressed in increasing volume by Government officials and civilian observers alike. This week, monthly Thompson, Raymond Clapper and Samuel Grafton blasted at the problem in union, and they were in agreement: the United States was not meeting the political crisis in Africa.

It seems to us that these American guardians may be unduly exercising themselves that they are infusing principles of politics and diplomacy into a purely military situation, and that they are charting grand strategy when the problems at hand call for the application of practical tactics. For our money, it's a good deal more important just now that men and weapons be hurried into Africa than that Foreigns be jailed and Democrats be flogged.

If Americans back home judge that General Eisenhower's control of complex North African politics is unsatisfactory, they assume that our military is incapable of making any decisions in control. If our plan to work the ground to be deployed there the General's task is not to blast at Tunis and Bizerte, but to first attempt the consolidation of the three-divided French campaign in the area in order that the Allies may secure the benefit of the surplus of American tanks.

If General Eisenhower was in the wrong when he telegraphed a note of praise to General Mikhailovitch in Yugoslavia, and when he accepted the Frenchmost French leaders in North Africa as heads of civil government, the American troops might as well be abandoned. We are under no obligation to stomp out all the obscene manifestations of Maxim and Escobar at every step of our progress; we are dedicated to the cause of the Axis world, and in the midst of that battle there can be no pause for elucidation of purpose, for advice or consultation.

The stimulus of the blasted world world the dreamers are allowed to be accomplished only with blood-hunger blows, not with pats on the back for every stray citizen caught in occupied areas. If S. soldiers will carry guns, and our Democratic propagandists, it matters little whether North Africa's factories are set aright today or tomorrow, so

long as the battle goes well. We suspect that any decision of the area will more easily understand food and guns than diplomacy anyhow, and are perfectly willing to leave the fate of any area to our military commanders.

Evil's Root

Revenue Workers To Be Paid To Keep 'Em From Stealing?

We suspect that the average North Carolinian was convinced that the end of the world was at hand yesterday when he read Commissioner Edwin Gill's treatise on money and morality in the Revenue Department. We doubt that anything like the Gill theory has been expressed between Manteo and Murphy since Walter Raleigh's time. It's going to amaze the taxpayer who built the country's third largest state surplus, and may as well be explained in advance of the outbreak of riots.

Mr. Gill was about the business of asking more money for his department, a practice common though in these times, when he uttered the unfortunate sentiment: He had to have enough money to pay his men so that they would not be forced to embezzle! Startling, eh? We ought to pay 'em so much now that state revenues passing under their noses won't even faintly tempt them.

That, citizens, was a new bit of political philosophy, left undiscovered by the stars of the government—no, just honest government—we'll insulate our officials against sin with fat pay checks. And that's about what Mr. Gill said, when he spoke to the Appropriations Committee of the General Assembly. He barked, however, to add that that was not what the Revenue Commissioner meant at all. The state can breathe easy again; the world is still right-side-up.

Mr. Gill was only telling the people that the Revenue Department, marked for several years (perhaps for a great many years) by laxity and corruption, needed more money to be able to attract men of ability and integrity. He meant that the shortage of manpower had hit his department as it has hit everything else; that workers he can employ now at low salaries were not to be trusted with State funds. And business men will know what he means.

We just thought we'd get it straight, North Carolina's in no shape just now for a revolution.

Max Kahn

An Active Public Life Stands As a Contribution to the City

With the passing of Max Kahn, Charlotte lost only one of its highly respected citizens. That he made a place for himself in the community was attested by the many responsible positions he held in varied branches of its life. He was not a name to be seen often in the headlines, but it bespoke service to the city.

Mr. Kahn made his contributions to the business, civic, spiritual and social welfare of Charlotte as a merchant, church leader, City Councilman, welfare official and a member of fraternal orders; and his accomplishments served to emphasize again the opportunities America holds for men of all nations.

As a native of Germany, he spent 25 years of his life in the country, 25 of them in Charlotte, and in taking an active part in its public affairs, he added to its life and made an admirable thing of his own. Max Kahn will be missed by the community.

The uniform of a British military visitor took a Pennsylvania Village by surprise. As it is nothing like the Continental Army's, however, the incident passed without comment.

A Californian has compounded a pill which will keep a man awake, alert, alert and alert for eighteen hours, or through five consecutive serials on the daytime radio.

A Time for Greatness

By Herblock



City Hall Yesterday In The Good Old Days

By Dick Young

When Councilman C. C. Beasley drops by my office on Wednesday afternoon, just before Council meeting he and I almost invariably wind up chatting about Charlotte and the folks and places in the early 1900's. He knows about things I

knew about as a boy although I have five years on him as a Charlotte resident. This week he mentioned William Morris, the well-known Negro employee of the Standard Oil Co. who drove a taxi wagon, calling on grocery stores all over town, selling kerosene. Bill was one of Charlotte's best-known citizens, highly respected and occupying a most unusual position for a colored man

at that time. I remember how you youngsters used to speak in awe of the fact that Bill knew John D. Rockefeller. Then, I thought John D. Rockefeller was the biggest man in the world and I had heard that Bill would go to New York and would be received by the great old magnate. If he was Bill I'd love to see him. In Charlotte, everybody liked him. He would laugh and everybody could be heard a block away and everybody seemed to be telling him funny stories. At least he was always guffawing and in the best of humor.

And Mr. Beasley mentioned another well-known citizen, who was another town character and who helped to make life more pleasant back in those days. He was Sam Powell, a fat jovial butcher who was Charlotte's "Mr. Five By Five" in 1910. His butcher shop was located on N. Tryon Street, directly across from the City Hall, where Ivey's department store is now located. Mr. Powell always in rare good humor, had more trick gadgets rigged up in his office to catch the unwary.

Production Up

Nelson's Power Grows

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON WPD is a year old this week. Contrary to the dismal history of its numerous predecessors, you remember SFA-B and QPM—the War Production Board appears to grow stronger every time. "It chairman, Donald Nelson, whom I've known since he survived the worst of the storms.

He has had his tussles with the military and with Jeffers, the rubber man. He has given ground here, stood his ground there. He has quietly reorganized WPD and frequently replaced his key men. In short he has proved a rather successful driver of a large team, without using a blacksnake whip. He has kept his head, and has taken a lot of good advice, much of it from Bernard M. Baruch.

War production is going through one most critical tight spot which will be fairly eased by April or May. We may have another tight stretch toward Fall when rubber will be acutely short. Otherwise production of essential equipment in necessary quantities seems assured.

Unfortunately many small industrial plants will be closed down during the year. The small producer of civilian goods is going to have an extremely rough—and frequently fatal—fight for survival. That crushing of small individual enterprises between the heavy gears of total war is going to be one of the home front's economic and social tragedies, because small businesses, once compelled to close, may have trouble reopening after the war.

In the essential job of producing war goods, the year has been one of spectacular change. A year ago I saw the rubber man being turned down on his pipeline proposal on the ground that the steel was needed for more urgent purposes. That was one of the rank honors of war-production planning. We were rationing

A visitor would drop in and Mr. Powell would press a button to ring a bell as if the telephone had just rung. The call would be for the visitor and when he would lift the receiver, there would be a loud explosion, scaring the receiver-lifter out of his wits. Or some unsuspecting soul would take a chair graciously offered by Mr. Powell and when he sat down it would fall apart and the visitor would in chagrin pick himself up from the floor.

City Hall Whirl: Radio Dispatcher Joe Honeycutt over at Police Headquarters, whenever he has time between those many radio and telephone calls, is having fun these days watching Mr. and Mrs. Squirrel build a nest in a magnolia tree just outside his window. Those two squirrels are the busiest things in Charlotte these days. I watched Mr. Squirrel the other morning sipping wide mangola leaves and scurrying into the largest nest Mrs. Squirrel apparently was putting the finishing touches on the interior. And she must be particular, for sometimes the Old Man would have to back out with a leaf, which the distaff member evidently didn't like.

The Mecklenburg Civilian Defense Council is to be congratulated in securing the appearance here on March 5 of Ambassador Joseph G. Grew, who for ten years was the top American diplomat at Tokyo. Ambassador Grew is one man who evidently knows the Japanese and his speeches are so earnest and sincere he'll be worth going miles to hear.

Councilman Claude L. Alben is about the "meeting" man I know of these days. He meets regularly on Wednesday afternoons as a member of the City Council. That same day, because he's often late for the Council meeting, he sits as a member of the district, draft appeal board, and on Thursday afternoons he meets with his colleagues on a gasoline rationing board to hear pleas for more gasoline.

nothing a year ago except tires. The Government was trying to stop automobile production and was "wringing with the industry."

During this year, out of 50,000,000 tons of steel production, only 1,200,000 tons went into civilian uses. Steel has gone to war 99 per cent. 1,200,000 tons left in civies against 20,000,000 tons in 1940. Both 100-ounce and rubber plants need heat exchangers, which have been tight but which are easing up. That is the type of bottleneck in the production of components that causes present friction.

We have the most urgent need for escort ships to fight submarines, for airplanes, for 100-ounce gas and for synthetic rubber. These all compete at a tight point. For instance, facilities for making valves and instrument gauges are overtaxed. Both 100-ounce and rubber plants need heat exchangers, which have been tight but which are easing up. That is the type of bottleneck in the production of components that causes present friction.

It is to be expected that men will fight vigorously for the programs for which they are responsible. Some of the personnel who have taken place are inexcusable on any other basis. And there is a difference between being tough, which is necessary, and being offensive to the point of losing the confidence of the people you must do business with.

A World Need

Security

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK

CONTINUING on social security, I should like to say that the establishment of a first-rate system in each of the United Nations is an almost indispensable condition to a sensible peace. If our soldiers come back to unemployment, their feeling about the world they will have helped to save will be of a certain kind; if they come back to security, it will be sharply different.

(Some of our isolationists seem hardly able to wait until presumably disinterested soldiers return; this theme recurs constantly in isolationist literature; more than one isolationist editor seems to be banking on what will happen when the boys come marching home to make their political weight felt.)

On a higher level, we are forced to recognize that India has, to a certain extent, been Great Britain's social security. If social security becomes Britain's social security, instead, the approach to the problem is almost certain to be altered.

We have heard a great deal about how internal reforms are needed in England are also appropriate to that major operation; in this sense, the Beveridge plan makes easier the freeing of India. It is not quite true that good things come together; it is truer that good things lead to good things. The third point is that we should help our statements emanating from them the temptation to seek, in the terms of the peace, substitutes for the solution of their internal problems.

We have a tendency to regard certain leading statements of the late Mr. Clemenceau, Orlando, etc., as rapacious fellow who were reparations-hungry merely because of some twist in their own characters; they weren't "big" enough, we say, nor "wise" enough. Under this theory, the whole history of the world might have been changed had not Mr. Clemenceau climbed out of the wrong side of his bed on the morning the peace conference opened.

This is incredibly naive. Statesmen sometimes say that they want to say, but more often they mean what they must. Give a national leader a deflowered treasury, unemployment, and fear at home and he will go out and he will reach for what he can get, or he will lose his job to another leader with fewer scruples.

Social security in each of the United Nations will improve the political climate and give each national leader a license to be virtuous. There is still a fourth propulsion toward planning for social security—it will give the peace conference improved performance. If each of the United Nations has a sharply defined plan for minimum subsistence for each of its citizens, then the conference can turn itself to so arranging credits and making arrangements to make it possible for each plan to work. It will be a conference about something.

We can guess that vague scrippings, sudden hunches and bizarre inspirations may otherwise be the order of the day.

We're Tops

In The Air

From Aviation News

Lieut. Gen. Henry H. Arnold, Commanding General, U. S. Army Air Forces: "We have given the enemy some surprises during the first four months of the war. But we still have more surprises in store. The enemy's Japs and Germans alike, are in a daze because of the fighting power of our B-27's and are still trying to find an answer to it. That plane has beaten down Focke-Wulf's Messerschmitts and Jap Zeeros impartially like falling leaves. On the fighter side our prospects are quite bright. The 2,000 h.p. high-altitude Republic P-47 is in production.

There is a splendid new model of the Bell P-39 Airacobra in production—an airplane of such radically improved performance as to rank almost as a new airplane. The North American P-51 Mustang is coming along with its new engine. It's no comfort to our enemies that we have so many good fighters. I think it can be truly said that we are outproducing all our enemies.

Our air strength is growing—there's decreasing. There is every indication that we are now shooting down Japanese aircraft faster than they are building them. Mr. Churchill told you recently that we are combining with the British to do the same thing to the Germans; the Germans have a warring army. The skies are brighter. We can see daylight on the horizon. We have the planes and the personnel available to counter any move the enemy may make."

Ernest Lindley in Washington Post: "On the evidence now spread out, it appears that the United Nations have at last forged so far ahead in the production of aircraft and the training of pilots that the Axis can never again catch up."

"Whatever the reason, all signs indicate that German air power is waning—certainly in relation to Allied air power and probably absolutely. The plane output of Great Britain and Russia combined may now exceed that of all Axis Europe; and American output is several times Japan's. And our production... is still sharply on the upgrade.

"The Axis cannot be knocked out of the air until factories and training fields still lying out of effective range are utterly destroyed. The advantage in a war of attrition now lies decidedly on our side."

Platform Of The People

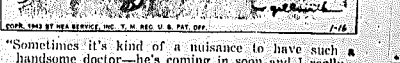
A State Need

Editors, The News: Again it is my pleasure to write as president of the Charlotte Mental Hygiene Society thanking you for the "The News" for its efforts in behalf of mentally deficient children. Miss Dorothy Knapp writes sincerely and accurately in describing the needs of these children.

The Mental Hygiene Clinic, sponsored by this Society and supported by the Community Chest, has examined many mentally deficient children and has been consulted about many others. When parents are free from responsibility for other children they can often use the Clinic advice about home training of those who are feeble-minded. In other instances parents have no time to do this training and no funds to place the child in a private school. Caswell has no room for them; all efforts of the Clinic staff are thereby frustrated.

North Carolina has long needed another institution such as Caswell Training School. Your efforts in this regard constitute a first community and state-wide service. —W. IRVING BULLARD, President Charlotte.

Side Glances



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