THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By
The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. C. Dowd Jr., President — Burke Davis, Editor
and General Manager — Mrs. Dowd Jones, Secretary

Lieut. J. E. Dowd, USNR, Vice-President and Editor, on leave for the duration

● W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 ●

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1914.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that proper correction may be made at once.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS AND AP FEATURES

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month, 87c; three months, $2.50; six months, $4.50; one year, $10.40.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1943

Syphilitic South Is This Us?

It Is a Problem For Army, And Should Be Cleaned Up

The Army of the United States does not approve of the South. From the section it has long drawn some of its most able soldiers. Now, in the section, it has a great many of its huge camps and bases. Many a veteran has gained his first experience in the Southern woodlands. But the Army has had more trouble in the South than in any other part of the country.

Chiefly, the trouble has been a medical problem. Foremost was venereal disease. In the Southeast, syphilis, among whites and Negroes, has been running wild, and still is. In North Carolina, the May Act has long since been applied in an Army community. In Alabama, there was a pitched battle against an army of prostitutes and a city ridden by vice and disease. In Charlotte, there has been a great flurry of protest by the Army, and of hurried attempts at correction by City authority. Morris Field, not many months ago, reported the highest incidence of venereal disease of any Army post in the country.

That places this City in the foreground when the Army doctor, Col. Leonard Rowntree, Medical Division Chief of Selective Service, charges the national venereal disease record a "disgrace". That goes especially, he says, for the Southeast, where no honest attempt has been made to clean up syphilis. It goes, in our own books (and every Charlottean will be forced to agreement) for Charlotte, double.

Here, contrary to experience in many Northern and Western states, we have flinched from a pitched battle against syphilis, believing that a social disease cannot be eradicated. In Charlotte, men have hidden behind a limp kind of modesty, thinking it somehow ill-bred to tackle a problem labeled with sex and syphilis. Until the City does wake up and take strong preventive measures, embracing all, the Army will have Charlotte's situation tagged exactly. "Disgrace."

Higher Goals

State Hospitals Stand To Make More Gains After War

Governor Broughton, speaking before the Charlotte Mental Hygiene Society, revealed his satisfaction with present conditions in the State mental hospitals. The Governor might have qualified that statement: So far as is possible in these times of shortage, conditions are better. The people of the State want them to improve, as soon as conditions permit.

In short, conditions at Morganton, to choose the point at which investigation was begun, are far from ideal. Administrators will be the first to admit that. There is a crying need for a larger medical staff. There must be more time allowed to build up the hospital's dairy herd, and to build up a more efficient farming operation. Building improvements, such as long-need plumbing facilities, are being made piecemeal, because workmen and supplies are hard to come by.

There is still, of necessity, a kind of medical inattention on the Morganton wards. We do not honestly think it to be deliberate at all. So far as we are able to determine, it is due wholly to a small staff of doctors, overloaded (one to each 500 patients). The Governor had a right to be pleased with improvements, for on paper a miracle has been accomplished since first Tom Jimison began spinning his realistic tale (example: allotment of $316 per patient as against a former $198 average).

But there was one other item left unsaid by the Governor. He reported that the commission had specified that a general supervisor, a trained psychiatrist, be placed in charge of all the State hospitals, and that such a man was under consideration.

There were those of us who wished to hear the Governor add that such an administrator would be sought until found, and that he would be charged with the responsibility of coordinating the business and medical managements. An adequate man for this position will be of no use. None at all. What is needed here is an aggressive man of vision.

The Governor, speaking of increased appropriations, left unsaid one more item: the big appropriations cannot now be spent as they should be, because personnel and equipment are not available [illegible]

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON

THE diplomatic grapevine reports that inter-Allied relations with Russia are going pretty well now. This is certainly true on the surface, and while some irritations have occurred below the surface, both sides have shown a real tendency to try to get along. Most serious sub-surface irritation was over the Mediterranean Council, through which Russia, the United States and Britain were to confer regarding Italy, North Africa and the Balkans.

The Russians, snubbed earlier in the Summer regarding preliminary Italian armistice terms, took the Mediterranean Council seriously and appointed as their representative Andrei Vishinski, the famous prosecutor in the Russian purge trials. This was the equivalent of sending the most outstanding member of the U. S. Supreme Court or the leading lawyer of England. Vishinski is a man of national stature, capable of making Mediterranean decisions without consulting Moscow. But to represent the United States on the Mediterranean Council, Secretary Hull sent Ed Wilson, U. S. Ambassador to Panama. Wilson is a thorough-going competent diplomat who can handle any routine job and handle it well. But almost no one outside diplomacy or Panama has heard of him. He has no national stature and he cannot act on his own.

Immediately it developed that Wilson was to act as a glorified messenger and report everything back to Washington. The British representative was to do the same. In other words, Churchill and Roosevelt were to make the decisions, and the much publicized Mediterranean Council was to be a mere reporting agency. This immediately poined Russian wrath. They had welcomed the Council, appointed a top man. So for a moment they considered withdrawing. However, for the sake of Allied harmony, they stayed on and are giving the Mediterranean Council a trial.

Poor "Pa" Watson

Toughest job White House secretary Maj. Gen. Edwin ("Pa") Watson of the White House secretariat has to tackle each day is keeping the President's appointment schedule on time. Frequently FDR will sit talking to an old friend for fifteen or twenty minutes over the allotted time, and that snarls the White House schedule for the rest of the day.

This is hard on the General's nervous system, especially when bigwigs from the War or Navy Departments are waiting to discuss military matters. On such occasions Watson is not above barging in and breaking up the conference. The other day when the President's old friend, Governor Bob Kerr of Oklahoma, was over-staying his time—through no fault of his own—Watson walked in and began to parade nervously about the room.

"Well, here's the undertaker, Mr. President," grinned Kerr, catching the hint. "If one of your callers gets so he doesn't move, 'Pa' will move him."

Roosevelt laughingly motioned Watson to a chair.

"Sit down and talk to us for awhile, General," he said. "We're having a very interesting conversation."

With a sigh, Watson took a chair.

Spending Fight

The drive to pare Federal expenditures has reached crusading dimensions on Capitol Hill since the five Senator globe-trotters returned from the battle fronts with some disquieting tales about lend-lease largesse. However, when the matter was discussed behind closed doors by the Senate Appropriations Committee, there were repercussions more like a riot than a crusade.

Septuagenarian Senators Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee Democrat, and Clyde M. Reed, Kansas Republican, tangled in a bare-knuckled argument over how much money the committee should spend for "experts" to study war and domestic spending. McKellar said $30,000 was enough and was all set to put to a vote a motion calling for this amount when Reed demanded a chance to be heard. The forthright Kansas newspaper publisher contended that $30,000 was only a "flyblit," that at least $300,000 was needed to do a thorough job of investigating "Administration extravagance."

"You're tackling something with a tack-hammer that ought to be hit with a sledge-hammer," Reed argued, waving his finger at the Senator from Tennessee.

When McKeller, who was presiding in the absence of Chairman Carter Glass, started to reply, the Gentleman from Kansas cut him short. With a gesture embracing all Democrats on the opposite side of the table, Reed exploded:

"I'm fed up with the attitude of this committee when it comes to protecting the taxpayers' interest. You're all wet."

Side Glances

"I've got your face back to where it was in 1938—
I hope we can keep it that way now!"

Everyday Counselor

Proper Book

By Rev. Herbert Spaugh

THOSE who are accustomed to consult Emily Post about good manners and etiquette will be interested in knowing that she considers the Bible a proper piece of living room equipment. She was replying in her newspaper column to a letter from a housewife who wanted an opinion as to whether a picture of The Lord's Supper would be more properly displayed in the living room or dining room. Mother and children could not agree on the proper place.

"I think," wrote Mrs. Post, "with the children that the dining room is a natural choice, both because it is a scene at the table, and because the dining room is a more formal room than the living room, and therefore more suitable to a religious picture. On the other hand, I also think that if you like it best in the living room, the picture should be put there by all means. After all, you wouldn't hesitate about putting a Bible in the living room."

Yet many people do hesitate about putting a Bible in the living room. Others don't even think about doing it at all. Those who have hesitated about the Bible being appropriate for the living room may now banish their fears on that score. An authority on etiquette has spoken.

But, to be truly useful, the Bible must be more than a piece of living room furniture, although its sight in your living room may prove to be a powerful testimony to some friend, relative, caller. It may provoke interesting and helpful conversation.

We recall that the great industrialist, Henry Ford, has a Bible in every room in his house, so that he may lay his hands on it at any time with the greatest possible ease.

The tremendous demand for Bibles and Testaments from our men and women in the armed service is taxing the capacity of our Bible publishing houses. Coupled with that is the increasing demand at home. Bible publishers tell us that they are already rationing Bibles to their distributors.

All of this is a heartening sign. It is as it should be. A civilization resting upon Biblical teachings and foundations, is being assaulted from without by those who would tear its teachings out of the heart of the human race and drag men down to slavery. Even before these outward assaults commenced, inward attacks on the Bible had been made for a long time by indifference, materialism, being too busy about the wrong things, scepticism, together with open scoffing from many college and university chairs. Those who destroy the faith of young men and women, leaving them adrift, with no spiritual moorings, will without doubt receive special and well-merited punishment in the aged to come. Such deserve the title, "The meanest man."

Happy and secure is the man who can say, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

For personal reply address The Everyday Counselor, The Little Church On The Lane, 522 Moravian Lane, Charlotte 4, N. C., enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Key To The Back Door

—By Dorman Smith

Make Up A Slogan

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

MAKE up a slogan and win the war. What kind of slogan? Oh, any kind. "Pay As You Go," for instance. No, that was last Spring when we were forgiving each other the better part of a year's taxes. This Fall, when the Treasury requests additional taxes so that the whole country can pay as it goes, there is nobody home. Wrong number.

The pay-as-you-go slogan is quite forgotten. Now we have a new one, offered by Representative Knutson, of Minnesota: "Save the Middle Class."

Save the middle class, says Knutson, by refusing to raise the tax rates. Well, I'd like to save the middle class. It is a lovely class, one of my favorite classes. The middle class, along with every other class, is threatened by a food price increase which might, say Government experts, go as high as $15,000,000,000 a year. That would be $4,500,000,000 more than even the new tax program. That increase could be averted by spending something less than two billions on food subsidies to keep prices down. What a chance to save the middle class!

But at this point, the save-the-middle-class slogan is also thrown out. Now we have a new one: "Subsidies Are Immoral." Thus we skip lightly from slogan to slogan, depending on which side our bread is buttered. We paid subsidies for years to push food prices up. Now, when it is proposed to pay subsidies to keep food prices down, there is a great philosophical and moral uproar about the degenerative character of these devices.

I distrust these belated discoveries of moral values. If we are going in for morality, then morality should be with us always, like the air we breathe, and should not be something like a convenient telephone number, to be used on occasion. And sometimes it seems to me to be the telephone number of a lady with a scarlet mouth. Anyway, make up a slogan and win the war. What kind of slogan? Almost any kind. "Raise Ten Billions Through a Sales Tax," for example.

This is a favorite of the same section of our press which is opposed to subsidies. That program would mean ten billions in sales taxes on top of a ten-to-fifteen billion increase in the annual food bill. It puts the middle class neatly in the middle; the same middle class, which (see paragraph three, above) we were hell-for-leather bent on saving.

So, make up a slogan, and win the war. What next? "Economy, not Taxes," say the Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Up to this point we have, through our slogans, been trying to pass the cost of the war to each other, like a hot potato.

Republican Sit-Down

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

AT best, taxes are not raised easily in a democracy. Candidates who promise lower taxes are likely to be more popular with the voters. Those responsible for higher taxes become easy targets for the political hoigans of unscrupulous and irresponsible opponents. Republicans don't intend to be caught asleep on this. A political campaign is coming next year and the Republicans are behaving so that nobody can accuse them of having anything to do with high taxes.

Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee banded together in a statement opposing additional taxes. "They are against the sales tax as well as increased income taxes. Democrats on the committee say that it will be almost impossible for any tax increase to go through in face of this solid Republican opposition. The Republicans made it a matter of party policy through the endorsement of the Republican leader of the House, Representatative Joseph W. Martin, who called for further economies before higher taxes are demanded.

With the Republican demand for economy, for curbing wastefulness in the Government, there can [illegible] chattered with people who are hard put to think up work for themselves. The arsenal of bureaucracy still is intact. One of the most useful functions of an opposition is to prevent Government waste.

The Republican demand for reduction of waste would carry more force if it were not so crudely used as an alibi for ducking the unpleasant duty of voting higher taxes. Republicans miss the real point—either deliberately or through ignorance. Even if Representative Taber's optimistic estimate of $4,000,000,000 in economies proved out, that would not remove the need for higher tax revenue and particularly for a sales tax.

This business has two aspects. One is the necessity of holding down the public debt which is 168 billion dollars and threatens to go to 300 by the end of the war. Every possible economy is desirable. Also the maximum Federal revenue is desirable. Equally important—perhaps even more so in the long run—is the danger of uncontrollable inflation. That requires ruthless taxation to hold down individual spending. The Republican economy program does not meet that need. We need not only Government economy program does not meet that need. We need not only [illegible]

For The Nazis?

Sentimentality

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

ONE of the inescapable trials of the writer is the reader who does not read. Every writer is constantly having ideas attributed to him, which he never held. When misrepresentations stem from a public accustomed to skim headlines, they must be accepted as one of the hazards of putting words on paper. When, however, they come from "devoted friends," who are supposedly accurate readers as well as writers, and misrepresent viewpoints on the gravest issues, one is sometimes driven to brief despair.

Last Monday Miss Elsa Maxwell, a friend, of mine, revived a book by Maurice Maeterlinck, which, during the last war, declaimed against pity for the Germans. Miss Maxwell comments that "sentimentalists," among whom she includes this columnist, have begun the refrain again. The refrain I am supposed to have begun is that "most Germans aren't bad . . . no indeed . . . most Germans do not want war." And Miss Maxwell is afraid that "plans of tempering justice with mercy always end by sentimentalists flavoring a sickening saccarbine mercy with a pinch of justice."

The debate about "good" and "bad" Germans is a discussion on a level to which I have consistently refused to descend. We face political problems of a decisive nature, and they cannot be met by psychoanalyzing 70 to 80 million people and passing moral judgments on them.

In a transatlantic debate recently, with Lord Van Sittart, I confined myself not to theological or psychological discussions, but to a political fact which we are consistently seeking to ignore: namely that when this war is won, the victors will not be merely the Anglo-American powers, but the Anglo-American powers plus Russia. Russia's interest in the future of Germany is, to say the least, as great as ours; and that, according to all the evidence we have, the Russians are opposed to either the dismemberment of any conceivable Germany, or its permanent and unilateral disarmament.

If Miss Maxwell wishes to argue that Stalin is a sentimentalist, let her do so, but let her argue with him and not with me.

The political fact, which happens to matter more than any other, is that Germany is that portion of Europe which cannot be added, to the satisfaction of any of the major Allied powers, to any sphere of influence. The idea uppermost in Anglo-American counsels, is to create of Germany a permanent power vacuum. Mr. Stalin is not concerned with theological problems of who is "good" and who is "bad" does not, apparently, think there is such a thing as a permanent power vacuum. I believe he thinks the Germany we propose will be under the power of those who erect in it an AMG. And I do not think—on the basis of a lot more evidence—he wants the advance of the Western powers to his very borders. Nor do I think he will be influenced by the cerebrations of Maurice Maeterlinck regarding the last war.

I say again, at the risk of again being misunderstood: the German problem can only be settled in the frame of the whole European and world problem, and the problem of the future peace does not depend upon the treatment, merciful or unmerciful, meted out to Germany or Japan, but upon the continuing relations between the Anglo-American powers and Russia. Germany, in the future, could be a menace to us as an outpost of Russian policy, or a menace to Russia as an outpost of Anglo-America policy, and only thus, armed or disarmed, could she be a menace.

It does not matter whether you assume in Germany a race of angels, temporarily led by devils, or a race of devils led by their natural representatives. I do neither, not believing in the devil-angel theology of history. As I said to Lord Van Sittart, we can enslave Germany, in agreement with Russia, or we can let her live. But if we disagree with Russia, Germany will be able to save herself, and even some of her army.

I think the probable outcome will be that Germany will be created as a buffer-state between Russia and the West, with her