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And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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Now, At Last A Planning Commission Brings Hope For New Progress To City

The creation of Charlotte's Planning Commission, embracing the membership and works of the year-old Industries Committee and including 115 other citizens of many points of view, is destined to fill manifold needs of the City and County. Its formation by the Chamber of Commerce and its acceptance by the local government means that a great deal has been added to the future of the community. The News, having urged just such a planning unit for some months past, looks upon the vital addition with gratification, confident that many of the problems arising from our past policy of planlessness will now disappear, met and solved in advance.

The committee gives great promise because of the men and women selected for the important task of forecasting community needs during the war and post-war periods. It is significant that their task was outlined as one of fact-finding and recommendation, with the specific declaration that they would not seek to impose their will upon Charlotte or Mecklenburg Governments. Their field will not be limited to attempts to locate new industries in the section, though through the war years, especially, that work will continue to receive the same earnest attention as in the past year.

Naming this body is the first big step in answering the questions of Charlotte's expansion to keep pace with the coming years; traffic and street-building programs, providing for expanding facilities to meet the growing population, plans, perhaps, for the long-sought-up auditorium, for greater airport facilities, for a new railway station—these are the items that immediately come to mind which need already become familiar local problems.

The debt which the people of the City and County owe to members of the Industries Committee will not cease with their incorporation into the Planning Commission. The vital work in which they were so successful as Pied Piper to industry will go on, and their efforts which succeeded in bringing the U. S. Rubber and National Carbon plants here will not be forgotten so long as a large part of the city's people continue to feel the new benefits. There are perhaps other benefits of this kind to come, increase the value of these men to the community. Their job has not now been completed. Rather, it has been projected into the period after peace, when it will be equally as important as it has been in the pressing time of war.

Early Defeat Lack of Firepower Pushes Americans Back In Tunisia

As the rainy season wanes in North Africa Erwin Rommel has his way. Along the heights commanding approaches to the sea and the Nazi crescent of defense, Nazi arms are victorious. All along the great battlefield, Germans hold the strong positions. What the British-American offensive gets under way, it must pay the heaviest price in the passes and on the hills. And in the early phases of the battle, young Americans are paying their lives in payment for the Allied disadvantages.

There is too much talk of the green and untried U. S. troops, giving way before the advance of Rommel, and too much talk of our light units, blindingly ineffective against the giant German tanks. What seems more likely is that superior firepower will again be the answer in the German professional soldier, and that firepower, when brought up to the front, will overwhelm the Axis armor as it has in the past.

because the weight of British-American power will give them greater protection, and send the enemy into the final retreat. American arms have suffered a blow in the first clash with the Nazis, but the reason of it is that the arms themselves are not yet heavy enough—therefore that the American soldier is too inexperienced to give a good account of himself.

Rebellion Farm Bloc Spurns Incentive Payments, Wants Real Help

Americans and their virtues may, as the Department of Agriculture says, be coming upon hard times, but insofar as the farmer is concerned the future can bring nothing worse than hunger with honor. A House appropriations committee has apparently saved that much for food producers by killing the Administration's "incentive payment" plan of providing \$100,000,000 in special benefits to prime the farmer to record production.

It may be that farm bloc representatives are completely selfish in their refusal to accept such payments—for they will insist upon true justice for agriculture by the establishment of a parity formula to include farm labor costs—but the intent of large part of the farm bloc is to have the farmer to record production.

Just as the majority rejected the theory of spending for prosperity in other years, so will it reject the thinking and spending as "incentive" for production. Liberal grants to industry for war expansion seems vastly different from passing around the pay checks to include the farmer into doing the job he is already desperately striving to do. The farmer wants real help, not the opportunity for production—and his representatives in Congress are determined to have it for him, no matter what the consequences.

At the same time, the Department of Agriculture warns that heavy food shortages has not yet begun, that present stocks might be reduced by half within a year because of increased Lend-Lease and military needs. And in the record year of 1942 the nation consumed and exported more food than it produced. Only careful rationing, says Secretary Wickard, can insure a "reasonably adequate" diet for Americans in the year ahead.

Al, Wilderness Folks Said They Wanted Wine Control, It's Here

Wine, which has never been North Carolina's favorite beverage, is in need of control. Governor Broughton thought so, when he gave his approval of the principle to the Assembly. He went on record as refusing to discuss specific provisions of the bill as it finally appeared—and when that legislative vehicle was cut down sharply in committee it probably met some of the Governor's personal objections.

The Wine Control bill came out of the Senate Finance Committee's operating room changed beyond recognition. Before the operation, it was tailored to the taste of commercial wine interests, who have wisely sought control on their own heels; but it came out leaving its backers with fewer concessions than ever. By virtue of eight amendments, drinks for the thirsty wine-drinking minority will be fewer, more expensive, and milder.

- The eight amendments:
1. Eliminated the provision to permit sale of bonded wine "wholesaler's deal" in the bill in all counties of the State.
 2. Provided for prohibiting sale of bonded wine except in Alcoholic Beverage Commission.
 3. Eliminated the provision for a Wine Control Authority, and set up a control commission as a part of the Department of Revenue.
 4. Eliminated the provision for a 15-cent annual salary director of wine control, and placed the salary of the director at the discretion of the Governor and the Budget Bureau.
 5. Reduced from 10 to 20 cents the per-gallon tax on table wine, wine of less than 14 per cent alcohol.
 6. Provided that stores selling "table wine" must close by on Saturday nights.
 7. Eliminated the provision that the wine control commission should have "extensive and workable knowledge of the wine industry."
 8. Provided that 50 per cent of the net proceeds under the "wine control" act may be used by the director to administer the act.

That means control, brother, and

What's Happened To Hitler? Russian Defeats Push Him To Obscurity

By Dorothy Thompson

FOR weeks past the German press has barely mentioned the name of Adolf Hitler. Hardly a picture of him has been published. Germany's internal propaganda has taken a new line. The war is no longer a Nazi war for the Master Race to dominate European Living Space. In German presentation, it is now a German patriotic war for the maintenance of the German nation, and waged by Germany, as a European nation, among equals, for the defense of Europe against Bolshevism and against the interference of "non-European" powers, namely England and America. Dr. Goebbels even apologizes to the occupied countries for the measures which, he says, are necessitated by the strict disciplines of war and are no indication of the generosity of the coming peace, when Germany has won.

It is astonishing that the whole discussion of what Hitler is doing is only in the foreign press. Even on the German radio, one never hears "Heil Hitler." On Monday, Leon Degrelle, the Belgian Fascist leader, made a speech to a European congress of workers, which was short-winded, and he was not even introduced by a Nazi leader—by Dr. Ley, for instance, who as head of the Nazi labor front, might have been expected to conduct the meeting.

Following this broadcast there was a German language speech by Gen. Kurt Dittmer, German military commander and radio speaker for the German High Command. He spoke for half an hour without a single reference to Hitler. He presented, however, a very revealing picture of the Russian campaign.

He did this through an analogy to the Seven Years' War waged by Frederick the Great. Frederick, he said, tried to

conquer Bohemia as a key position for the domination of Central Europe. Frederick, he said, failed twice—at Collin and Mollwitz. These failures made it impossible for him to accomplish his original grand objective, but they did not mean that he had lost the war. The failure forced him to change his strategy and meet his enemies wherever they appeared, demolishing them bit by bit.

General Dittmer also made a reference to Napoleon, who said that a good general has to change all his tactics every year. In modern times, said the German expert, we have to change more quickly—not every year, sometimes within weeks. He then acknowledged that German generals had had to take lessons from Russian strategy on how to use large spaces as a weapon.

What the failure to conquer Bohemia had meant to Frederick the failure to conquer the Caucasus means to present-day Germany, according to this commentator. By all the implications of his analogy, Germany is now engaged in a deep retreat, even possibly to the frontiers. In other words, the Russian adventure is being liquidated as conquest.

Now let us see what the personal consequences of this may be for one Adolf Hitler. The Russian campaign was his baby. The military were skeptical about it from the beginning. The planning of the offensive war was Hitler's work. The generals, furthermore, have fastened this responsibility upon him time and again, and they are still holding him responsible for the retreat. But it is the general's retreat—not Hitler's holding the bag for his success.

It is increasingly clear that Hitler is no longer useful

to this war. The tone of the internal German propaganda indicates that the German people have far more confidence in their military leaders than they have in Hitler. He is demonstrably not even useful for the total mobilization which is now going on. If he were, he would be in Berlin, and not completely out of the picture at the front. What is he doing? He is not planning the retreat; he is not directing the Home Front. His role today is apparently restricted to being a spectator.

Such a state of affairs cannot go on indefinitely. There will have to be a showdown soon, and all the rumors indicate that this is afoot. There seem to be three alternatives for Hitler. Either he disappears immediately—in one of the numerous ways in which leaders can disappear—"Killed in Action" was once recommended to the Kaiser by the German military. Or, like Hess, he can be declared to have had a nervous breakdown. Or a heart attack can carry him off.

Or, secondly, he can be maintained in power nominally, until the retreat has been completed, continuing to hold him as scapegoat for its possible failure. Or he has to recover his leadership by some new coup—another purge of generals. But it looks now as though it were too late for the latter.

At any rate, there is a great drama going on in Germany. General Dittmer's speech indicates that Germany no longer has any expectation of total victory. But for everything less than total victory, Hitler is an obstacle, internally and externally.

The Russian victories have direct political consequences for Adolf Hitler. They are shaking his regime to its foundations.

The Black Market

—By Herblock



The Vichy Policy

The Richelieu Is No Dividend

By Samuel Crafton

IT has been said that the triumphant appearance of the French battleship Richelieu in New York Harbor, attended by lesser vessels, justifies our pro-Vichy policy of two years, and our cordiality to the Vichy government in Africa. So this battered battleship, along with its sisters, was the issue in France during these two great years. That is odd. One thought something larger was at stake.

Yet let us set the record straight. The Richelieu was put out of action in Dakar Harbor, and pinned there, not by American bombers, but by a British crash boat, which crept up beside it one night in July, 1940, and, in the unfriendly possible fashion, fired a load of explosives to it and set them off. But, it is still being stubbornly maintained by several starry-eyed non-ideologists, including one bitter writer who likes very little about the Administration except the Vichy policy; that coalition has "paid dividends"; seeing it believes we have here, very well, let us go into the matter of dividends.

One dividend of the Vichy policy is that we have, at the present moment, virtually no connection with the French underground. We made the choice that French battleships were more important than the French people, and are still stuck with that choice. We have forced the French people, and compelled us to cultivate French officialdom instead, that little group of moral dumpy-sops who, presently, had in their hands the disposition of the French fleet.

England took the other road. She did not forget that the French were not the enemy, but the ally, and both parts of it up at Dakar. But England's policy of non-consultation of Vichy (which strangely enough, save her the use of a number of ships in the hands of the Fighting French) has oriented her toward the French people, just as our policy oriented

us toward the officialdom. So the only contact between the Western democracies and the French underground today is through England, by way of Churchill and de Gaulle.

But our contacts are with such men as the indecisive, nervous, and feeble Admiral Penard, who has babbled to an American correspondent about how he had to kill Americans in November, otherwise he says, the Germans might have been liberated, and might have invaded French North Africa. A practical man, like ourselves.

Another of our contacts is Vice-Admiral Penard, who has explained indignantly that the French fleet at us in North Africa because they did not realize how strong we were. Another practical man. Both feet on the ground. These are the men with whom we have permuted our fate, and upon whom we have placed our hopes for the rebuilding of France. Add that to your dividend account.

Now, these are one other country, besides England, which has contact with the French underground. That is Russia, working through the Communists. The whisper is sometimes in the air that we ought to get our army into France, to offset Russian influence. Again, that curious odd, mechanical conception of France as a kind of dumb matter to be pushed, on which the war will take place, like a writhing jellyfish; but no conception of the tremendous force of French revolutionary sentiment, which we have costed to England and Russia.

The French people are making up their minds, and we no longer even have a way to talk to them; we have blocked the road out of our own mind. We don't know the French people today. We joined the wrong club. What shall it profit a government, if it gains a battleship and loses a people? There are among the dividends, and if the battered Richelieu makes up for them, you may have it.

Miracle Of The Age How We Cut Taxes In 1950

The New York Times

IT was in 1939, not long after the close of the Second World War, writes the Chinese historian H. H. Hsun, that one member of the American Congress was struck with the idea that it might be possible to reduce income taxes below their 1943 level. He did not propose anything so absurd as a return to 1918 income tax levels, but did so far as to suggest that taxes might be reduced to 1941 levels.

This strange idea, the Chinese historian continues, actually gained several adherents. The Treasury, in alarm, went before the Ways and Means Committee to combat so reactionary a proposal. Such a reduction, the committee pointed out, the married man without any dependents and with an income of \$1,200 would gain only \$100. The man with \$2,000 income, however, would gain \$500; the man with a \$10,000 income would gain \$1,200; the man with a \$100,000 income would gain \$16,200; and the man with a \$1,000,000 income (for there was one left) would gain \$167,400.

The Treasury was unable to understand how so profound an idea could have originated, or how an liberal could possibly be taken in by it. For it

who needed them least. It gave the least to precisely the men who needed the money most.

Did not Congress recognize that whenever the Treasury fails to reduce taxes, it is because it comes in as in effect making him a handsome gift of the income that it failed to take? And as a result, the Treasury is not only making the Treasury already a scandal that the Treasury, even at the 1943 level, was giving the man with a \$1,000,000 income only \$167,400 while it was giving the man with a \$100,000 income \$100,000 every year.

Even though its logic was perfect, however, the Treasury was willing, in deference to the middle class which popular thought had got on the subject, to reduce 13 percent of the tax on the man with as much as the poor man's tax. It found that the poorest man taxed paid a tax of \$1. Therefore the Treasury was willing to reduce 13 percent of the \$1,000,000 income was told that his tax for the following year, instead of being \$200,000, would be \$170,000. This reduction of \$30,000 was to be saved to taxpayers and therefore fair to every one, was gladly accepted by all concerned, including the Chinese historian. H. H. Hsun, and hereby in America thereafter had the check to bring up the

En Garde! Peace Danger

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON
WHEN England was in danger of invasion in the Summer of 1940, every household was instructed in how to deal with enemy parachutists who might suddenly appear in the back yard.

Now, I think we need to instruct ourselves in how to watch out for another kind of parachute attack that may be coming down in our midst at any time—not a parachutist armed with a carbine gun, but the more insidious parachutist known as the peace fever. You can't see him come down. He is mysterious, like the gremlins, and hides in your newspaper and in your radio. Because of the way the war is going, he is apt to pop out at any time, looking harmless and friendly.

The first thing to keep in mind about these peace feverers is that they are not intended to help us. Their purpose is to help the enemy, no matter how hazardous they sound. When the enemy loses military defeat, he will try to talk his way out of it. He will conduct a talk offensive to evade the full consequences of defeat.

Germany acted by an armistice last time—and set about at once thereafter, with her war industry intact, to prepare for the next world war—through methods described in Germany's Master Plan; the story of the German industrial offensive, by Joseph Goebbels and Charles A. Welsh. Peace feverers are one form of the enemy strategy of war, a request for a breathing spell during which new diplomatic and military action can be planned and manufactured.

An analysis which I have seen of the technique of peace feverers classifies peace feverers in several categories. The enemy usually has at least one peace feverer in operation as a part of systematic psychological and military warfare. The purpose is to test the morale and opinion among the people of the United States, or to weaken the fighting spirit of the United States, or to distract attention from the hard necessities of the war, or to confuse opinion by encouraging division and paralyzing protest to split the war aims and efforts of the United States, to keep alive false hope of an easy peace, or finally to keep a line out for real peace negotiations when actual military disaster appears inevitable.

Removal of friction between various rising groups in Germany or Italy is to prevent the appearance of possible groups rising within the Axis countries with whom the United States might make a lasting and reasonable peace. It may also cause artificial "peace" you may be certain that those men in control would regard their only weapons through which to work.

What is the difference between Hitler and his generals? So far as we are concerned, none. The old imperialists do not differ from the new ones. The crowd around the Kaiser was out for the same domination that the present crowd has attempted. There may be differences in technique, but none in the common aim of making Germany the master nation. In 1918 and 1919, the less the German aggression are the German army, German political leadership, and German industrial leadership, which may be the most powerful force of all. Victory over all of them is necessary.

Peace feverers from enemy-dominated governments or which appear to come from neutral sources, but be examined suspiciously, because the chances are they have been planted by enemy spies. From now on an early peace feverer the Axis leaders they want to hold as much as they eat of what they have. The longer the war goes, the more they stand to lose. That is why they will try to undermine the clear peace maneuvers the unconditional-surrender demand announced at Casablanca.

Quote, Unquote

WE have faith that future generations will know that here in the middle of the twentieth century there came the time when men of good will found a way to produce and distribute food, to destroy the forces of ignorance, intolerance, slavery and war.
—President Roosevelt
Our Allies should no longer watch our hardships with their hands in their pockets.
—Chinese newspaper editor.
It will be inevitable this year to give more weight to what the report is doing than to the relationship he has with dependents.
—Draft Director Lewis B. Hershey.

Side Glances



"I'll never forgive Andy's draft board for calling him before the end of the term! Who's going to do my chemistry