



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1915

Coming Peace?

In Other Wars, the Dure Flew Long Before the End

History, though this war has shaken the old lady's empire, is still the teacher on the battlefield and at home. And one of her maxims it may be well to remember in these times is that all major wars have ended earlier than the warring populations expected—and that has been true irrespective of highly developed propaganda machines. Every major war of the past century, for example, has been characterized by so-called peace offensives, usually extending over a brief, turbulent period about a year prior to the cessation of hostilities.

Applied to the present war, the maxim may be outlined briefly like this:
1. Recurrent reports that Germany is about to initiate a peace offensive deserve attention, both in military (strategic) and political considerations.
2. Recent diplomatic moves of Roosevelt and Churchill, closely associated with current and impending military events, may be considered properly not so much as resistance to a prospective Axis peace offensive as an essential preliminary to the ultimate end of hostilities.
Meanwhile:
1. Italy is wavering; Germany has been selected as the first Axis power to be knocked out, with Japan's fate to be sealed thereafter.
2. Assuming that Axis leaders are not so hoodwinked as to read the handwriting on the wall, they should be considered justified, from their viewpoint, in endeavoring to make a good trade, if they could find a responsive weakness in some link of the United Nations' chain of unweakened political philosophies.
a. That is a tribute to Russia's power of attack.
b. That is an indication, which should be considered impressive, of Germany's willingness to desert her Axis partners in their hours of distress.
3. These contentions make emphatic the worth of the military strategem of "divide and conquer."
a. One aspect is that Germany's peace offensive, when and if it comes, will actually support the Rooseveltian idea of divide and conquer. The trade, however, would be on Germany's side of the Boche, even if the trade handed the Japs over to United Nations for crucifixion.

One basic influence for the fight in Congress against Rooseveltian policies is an unpubescent among the public that another American is approaching. That is an unjustified attitude for the American public to take, but one which it would prefer. It is well to remember that, though peace offensives are still ahead on all fronts, hard fighting is still ahead on all fronts. History won't let you forget that, though Gettysburg crushed Lee's military power, it did not end the Civil War.

Street Scene

There's At Least One Soldier Who'll Take Lots of Stopping

Sam's place is a little cafe down on Fourth Street, a quiet, orderly little place where people can get a soft drink and a hamburger or a light lunch. In its way, it is a neighborhood institution. This week the café of Sam's place was shattered, and for a few minutes there was more excitement than the establishment has seen in years. Perhaps more excitement, indeed, than in all its history in the old days it housed a blacksmith's shop, tending the heavy stable next door. On the day of unrest, talking a few customers were busy eating, while others were listening to juke box music, a big soldier hunched in the door. He showed the effects of strong drink, and wasted no time. He began by drinking into a booth and making amorous advances to a lady who was there with her husband. When the husband rose to object, the soldier knocked him down, then chased him out of the door and across the street.

Help came from several directions, and all fell back before the soldier's counter-attacks. Sam is a sensible man himself, but he was run out of his place, as were several customers. A 250-pound neighbor hurried down to hold the wild man, was clipped neatly on the jaw and chased down the street with the others. Policemen were not long in coming, but they were unable to drag the soldier down on the sidewalk.

Warning

Navy Silence on Solomons Action Indicates Bad News

There was an ominous note in the Navy Department's statement that there would be no public announcement of details of the naval battle with Japanese units around the Solomons "as long as such information might jeopardize the safety of our forces." In the past, such precautions have been taken only in the event of heavy losses to American forces.

Few will be disposed to urge publication of the facts until the Navy is certain the news will not benefit the enemy, and we would not suggest that Headquarters is unnecessarily delaying news to the folks back home. But it seems significant that, in all the confusion of "major battle," "merely sparing," "huge losses," "losses exaggerated," the Navy has seen fit to withhold all information.

Though the Navy has made the assertion that Jap claims of U. S. battleships sunk are "over-drawn," it has insisted that no full-scale naval engagement is being fought in the Southwest Pacific, Americans may expect, eventually, to hear some unpleasant news. Somewhere in the action, the Navy has said, a U. S. battleship was sunk, and the Navy has suffered some heavy losses— for that sort of information has ever been the type the enemy sought, and the type we have sought to keep from him.

In questions of military necessity, civilians can have no part, and there need be no criticism at home of the policy of suppressed news. In this case, in which the nation has been advised by the delaying policy, there can be no complaints, and no accurate estimates of the situation. Based on the tone of the announcement there can be no optimism.

The Navy has proved it can handle the Japs, even in top-sided engagements, but it has also shown that losses must be expected. They must be expected here.

Blind Faith

Death of Anti-Violence Bill Brings Forth Loud Clearing

It is difficult to understand the jubilation from many quarters over the failure of the Anti-Violence Bill to pass the House of the General Assembly. The bill, similar to those now bringing relief from Labor squabbles in many states, is calculated to halt violence in Labor disputes by outlawing the use of threats and force in striking. State Labor has opposed it violently, not its spokesmen say, because Labor approves of violence—but because it is opposed to the branding of a campaign to disfranchise Labor.

Editor Josephus Daniels of the Raleigh News & Observer hailed the apparent defeat of the bill with joy. He saw the proposed legislation as an anti-labor bill and a punishment for the loyal working men of the State. He remembered that Governor Broughton had praised State Labor and its part in the war effort. Which was, so far as we are concerned, strictly beside the point.

We have all due respect for Southern Labor in general and North Carolina Labor in particular, but we believe that lines of interest in Labor relations lie ahead in the years of post-war change. And we feel to appreciate the views of Labor leaders who refuse to share responsibility with management in the matter of violence in strikes. It is only if they realized some future came as if they realized some future came that we certainly do not agree that the doused bill is in any sense detrimental against any group but the lawless.

Country Girl—Paw's the best rifle shot in this county.
City Slicker—And what does that make me?

City Hall Today

Speed Up City Government

By Dick Young

NOW that the City Council is in a charter-changing mood and has approved a list of amendments as long as your arm, it might well give consideration to a vital and important change that, nobody has yet publicly advanced. This change would remove the present legal requirement that all expenditures of the City Government of \$100 or more be approved by the Council.

The Charlotte Municipal Government is the latest corporation in the city, yet it is operating under an archaic system of everyday procedure that would drive any business man worth his salt to distraction. Picture the Duke-Dee Power Co. having to call its board of directors together to pass on a purchase of \$100. Yet that is exactly what it does every time the purchasing department has a purchase of more than \$100 to make. The transaction has to be held up until the City Council can meet and affix its stamp of approval. And it is just routine and nobody knows what it's all about anyway. I can't recall a single purchase that has been questioned, not to mention one that has been refused.

And there is another hamstringing requirement that necessitates the execution of a contract for any purchase of professional service costing \$200 or more. Here's how this cluttering up the works. The Water Department recently wished to purchase 10,000 stamped envelopes with address windows. The cost was \$222. The deal could not be completed and the purchase secured for the Water Department until the Council met in regular session on Wednesday, and gave its official nod.

The present City Attorney has waived the requirement for a contract with the Federal Government for such purposes, otherwise a contract would have had to be executed. Technically under the law, the City Attorney had no right to waive this provision, but they are not to be commended for not making

the City look any sillier by demanding a contract for the purchase of the envelopes.

All these legal requirements slow down the orderly business procedure, which is tangled in a skein of red tape that just as easily could be removed by amendment to the law. No wonder business people scoff at the transaction of governmental business. But the poor officials who are trying to do their job are bogged with unnecessary and irritating requirements, probably proposed and put into the law by some legislator.

These requirements, doubtless adopted primarily to safeguard the people's money, are an admission of distrust. It's an admission: "We don't figure you are capable of doing the job and besides you may go crooked and pull some shady deal. We gotta check you up, to heck with orderly, efficient procedure."

The average business executive hires a man to do a job and trusts him to perform faithfully and honestly his duties. Responsibility is allowed to rest on his shoulders without constant check and double check. But the way the law reads everybody in the Government is crooked or likely to turn crooked at any minute. And that is fallacious on the face of it.

In the ordinary conduct of business, more than one official down in the ranks has to pass on a transaction and if one employee tried any monkey-business, there'd be somebody to catch him. Not all employees are going to be crooked simultaneously. Or someone may try to get by with some big-dollar deal, but the law is so slight it's not worth cluttering up the whole works continually.

And so if the Council wishes to perform a real service that will speed up operations, eliminate unnecessary work and whittle down the cost, I direct its attention to an amendment that will remove the requirement that make the governmental machinery creak and groan as it struggles to keep going.

—By Herblock

That's War For You

By Herblock

FROM THIS LETTER FROM MY AUNT SHE SAYS SHE HAS TO SUCRE HER OWN BREAD NOW



Side Glances



"The way our family is growing, pretty soon we'll have to have roll call at meals! It must be quite a problem, feeding an army!"

Do We Need It?

By Raymond Clapper

The Big Army

By Raymond Clapper

SOME apprehension exists in Congress over the plan to have 600,000 men in the Army and Navy by the end of this year, but it is not likely to budge the Administration.

You are not likely to see any weakening, short of an unconditional surrender by Germany or an act of Congress pulling down the flag by law. No such veto on the side of the Army is likely to be passed by Congress, regardless of the apprehensions which a number of members hold.

Senator Bankhead, who is conducting an investigation of this matter in the Senate Appropriations Committee, says the country will come to the brink of starvation if this big-army plan is carried out. He wants to prohibit the further drafting of essential farm workers. In the House, there is agitation to step by legislation the new policy of drafting family heads who do not shift into essential war jobs. A bill by Representative Klondy of Texas would prevent induction of married men with children so long as there are single or childless men in the same state. That has been the policy of Selective Service, yet some sentiment exists for putting it in the form of a Congressional mandate. Some other members of the House Military Affairs Committee have indicated support.

The plain foresting of the Government's policy is found in the order just issued listing nonessential occupations and plainly warning men of military age to get out of their idle status into working areas if they wish to be deferred on grounds of dependency. The policy is that dependents will no longer bring deferment—unless the deferment contributes to the war effort at home. Paul M. Stewart, Manpower chairman, has said this will put ten out of fourteen fit men between eighteen and thirty-eight into uniform.

This is going to raise many questions. Baseball has not been classified. Many kinds of teach-out activities will face up with uncertainty. The changes that will be forced in six months or a year may be startling, because the withdrawing of 400,000 men a month into military service is bound to create a difference.

The Army is being firm about this, without regard to the civilian impact, just as it has been asking for the most drastic action with regard to rubber, such as the requisitioning of all spare tires and of some 7,000,000 passenger automobiles.

Recently Senator Bankhead questioned the advisability of raising such a large army by remarking that Russia had plenty of troops in the field and asking why we shouldn't get along with a smaller army and devote ourselves chiefly to sending arms and equipment to Russia and to our other Allies on the fighting fronts. The Army is dead against any such idea. Mr. Roosevelt has declared against it in his columns. Presumably the President also is against it, as he backs the Army in its present estimate of necessary strength.

This thought must often expressed around here by those favoring the Administration position is that those who wish the war will dictate the peace. We cannot take the position of doing less than we are able to do. The Army says we can raise, equip and transport the force it is able to. General Marshall and his General Staff associates can convince a renmittee of the Senate in closed session that their estimates are plausible, then that ought to take care of it. On this sort of thing criticism ought to be cautious and reticent. It is different from criticizing political policies, because you can smell them when they are bad—all the way from Africa.

Lincoln's Thanks

Abraham Lincoln could never endure owing a debt of gratitude without making free acknowledgment of it.

When he was a candidate for the Legislature he went to Springfield in company with a political opponent to engage in joint debate. His transportation was generously provided by his rival, who owned a carriage.

In the debate Lincoln more than held his own, marshaling fact upon fact and argument upon argument in favor of his own candidacy as opposed to that of his adversary. Yet he could not bear to forget a great courtesy of the generosity of the other man.

Concluding his speech, Lincoln said, "I am glad to own a carriage, but my friend has generously invited me to ride with him. I want you to vote for me if you will but if not then vote for my opponent, for he is a fine man."

Quote, Unquote

We went on (through a storm) to the target, and then as the clouds ran away, my soul may, there was Berlin—and we unloaded our contributions to the festivities.

We have regained what is known as the strategic initiative.

—Oliver Production Minister

—British Liffelton

By Their Words

The Isolationists Are Known

By Samuel Crompton

YOU will remember that last Spring the New Republic published a special supplement on Congress, giving us the voting records of each of the 468 kids in that body. The New Republic played a mean trick on the isolationists, mainly of the Federalist persuasion, by quoting them, in prepared the state-men affected, because it was a body loath to their theory that the public had no memory.

A little later in the campaign a book appeared, "The Illustrious Underhounds," edited by Mr. Rex Stout. That shy fellow, who writes detective stories, and good ones, asked himself: "How can I best expose myself in judgment of the isolationists?" Quick as a flash, he had the answer: "By quoting them." They asked himself: "Where do I get the quotes?" He meditated for a day or two, then one morning, going at his fine brain in his shaving mirror, he found the answer and mumbled about it to his sinister and cunning: "I'll look in the Congressional Record."

He did so, bringing up such hoaxes as "Russia Isolated," by Senator Bennett Champ Clark (Nov. 1914), and Mr. Wheeler's: "I'll go to war with Japan, the only reason will be to help England" (also November, 1914).

What did the appearance last year of these publications, and of numerous magazine articles and speeches based on the same matter, mean?

It meant that a number of Americans, fed up to here, had taken the offensive. They were going to have the answer to the question: "What are the isolationists?" They were going to try to defeat these men at the polls, if they found by no means about America's inseparable connection with the world.

After the election, Mr. Hoffman of Michigan came out on Chicago miffing about a "plot" to defeat the national legislature. They was a plot for a few weeks. Now Mr. Dies has taken it up; he talks of a "travel advertisement" in the "New Republic" for "America—Visit France," the quote was: "Where will we have the post-war boom?" "From our ports in New England come grain, and from America, the grain is sent to Europe." "The American Republic" is the name of a small Eastern River.

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File And Forget

TEASER for word detectives: Try to find a language in which the word for "Mother" was not a heritage word.

persons... Tip to Mr. Morgenthau: If Congressmen and other public servants with franking privileges are to have their own post-war stamp, the post office would make at least 40,000,000 dollars a year.

Move Over, John Bull! If you include our Antarctic possessions, the American Association for the Advancement of the United States of America, Hall of Fame: Henry J. Kaiser.

Visits Round

It's Nice to Know That (Neighborhood unity, Chapel-Hill Weekly)