



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By
The News Publishing Company, Inc.
W. O. Dowd Jr., President
Burke Davis, Editor
General Manager Mrs. Cornelia Dowd Jones, Secy.
Maur. J. S. Dowd, U.S.N.R., Vice-President and Editor, on leave for the duration
W. O. Dowd, 1965-1972

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established 1885. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 6, 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
The associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited to this paper, and also the local news published herein.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By carrier: 30 cents a week; one month, \$7 cents. By mail: One month \$5; three months, \$15.00; six months, \$25.00; one year, \$40.00.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1943

Humanity's Gift

Greater Red Cross Needs Must Be Answered By Mecklenburg

Now, in the second year of our war, the Red Cross offers to Americans the opportunity to invest in the cause of humanity and mercy, and the response of the nation should come as a great show of adoration of The Greatest Mother—for this is the time of the greatest need of all. The organization of 30 million Americans, scattered across our continent, and along the battle lines over the world, expresses not its own need, but that of men and women in distress everywhere.

This year, to most of us, Red Cross is largely a war agency, a great service of supply of tenderness, dispensing life-saving supplies and medical care within the sounds of gunfire, making and bolstering morale as the only link between the fighting man and his folks back home. With the great tasks facing Red Cross, Americans must be willing to contribute more than ever before. At least twice as great. We have every confidence that the people of the nation will not fail.

As the campaign opens today, Mecklenburg begins the drive to raise \$116,000, a sizeable quota—but small when measured by the benefits it will buy, here and abroad. In these times, appeals are almost without number, and worthy causes make their appeals on all sides. But in any list of a citizen's obligations to community, nation and world, the Red Cross will forever stand near the top. This year, more than ever before, its appeal is to be answered by the American people.

In the homes of Mecklenburg from whence the thousands of fighting men have gone into service, there will be little need to repeat the appeal. In those homes there will be the quiet knowledge that the sacrifice of men is not complete without a contribution for the humane agency which attends them even into battle. This year, let there be no hesitation.

Since we heard a rumor some months ago that Margaret Mitchell was working on a new novel, we haven't heard a thing. If it's true, she'd better hurry up so the movie can be finished before we go off of war time and get so busy reconstructing we won't have time for another Gone With The Wind.

Prelude

Ceaseless Bombing Can Have Only One Object: Invasion

Across the Channel, by day and night, the squadrons carried the war to Hitler's Europe, battering at the giant fortress from the shores of the North Sea to the Spanish border. This was no time for conjecture that the time for the big push had come; it was obvious enough that the push was on the way, and that the way was being prepared. The defenses were being softened. Wilhelmshaven, Cologne, Brest and Dunkirk felt the heavy blows, for British and American commanders still thought first of the U-boat menace.

It was too late for the peoples of the enslaved lands to whisper among themselves, asking if the end was coming. Uncounted thousands of them, along the bristling coast, have already been pushed inland, out of the range of the coming battles of the beaches. It was too late, too, for the waiting Germans to muse of the attacks which will grow in intensity until the terrible time when the great landings will be made. And it was foolish for the people back home in Britain and the United States to ask themselves if the zero hour approached.

Already, all had been told. Both President and Prime Minister had spoken clearly of pounding the air for the captive continent; and of invasion to follow from many directions as soon as possible. The slashing attacks around the clock may be but a small beginning, but they are literally the beginning of the end. It may be, as the air-power purists say, too late to discover the true power of the plane in this war (the Russians have already reduced the German potential, too greatly), but they have been falling in the ceaseless raids made the task easier for the men who must come behind.

Now, there is to be no guessing. Soon,

perhaps days or weeks or even months upon the battered shores from North and South, striking in the final great drama of the war at the heart of the Third Reich. And when those armies land, they will have their way because the bombers have been before them, around the clock.

Tougher

McDougle Bill Points To More Binding Laws For State

We are come to pay our respects to Representative H. I. McDougle, Senator Joe Byrhe and City Recorder David Craig for their part in the war against Mecklenburg's most common variety of sinner, the habitual drunk. Judge Craig, having seen the parade of the bleary-eyed close at hand, passed the word to Mr. McDougle, who gave the bill a good ride through the House, and turned it over to Mr. Byrhe for the final hitch. Among the heaviest of our drinking men, Feb. 25, 1943 will be forever known as Black Thursday. It was then that the biest became truly criminal.

Now, when drunk repeaters appear in court fresh from serving their terms, they may be dealt with by an increasingly harsh hand. First time, it's 30 days or \$50; second, both are doubled; afterward, sentence and fine are left to the court's discretion. The law has been a local need for years, and should do much to decrease drunken driving, public drunkenness. And the bill will not only aid in stamping out our most popular violation; it may also point the way to other legislation.

What Mecklenburg and other counties will finally come to, we believe, is legislation providing stiffer punishment and tighter control over habitual criminals. A law based upon those now in use by other states should be passed in North Carolina. From the high percentage of habitual criminals now involved in the courts, one cannot be sure that crime does not pay. If the next General Assembly will take a pointer from the McDougle Bill and draw their attention to repeaters in all criminal cases, law enforcement in the State will have made great progress.

Leftovers

Take Care Of The Big Ones And Throw The Rest A Bone

After the chorus of wailing and the shedding of editorial tears in behalf of low-paid State employees, it may be of interest to consider the course of action taken in bringing relief to our faithful public servants through war bonuses. Such a study as the *Greensboro Daily News* remarks, will certainly show from whence the pressure was applied upon the joint appropriations committee of General Assembly.

Originally, the bonus was scheduled to be \$15 per month for State employees earning between \$900 and \$2,000 per year—with those earning from \$3,001 to \$4,500 to receive a reduced bonus of \$10 per month. That was the measure as it began the journey toward enactment into law. It did not answer the need for salary increases would have been the need (answer), but it was drawn in consideration for the little fellow in the lower brackets who needed help; and it realized that those in the higher brackets were more nearly able to take care of themselves.

When the measure came out of the legislative process, it was hardly recognizable. The scale ran like this: \$300 to \$1,800 to get \$15 per month; \$1,801 to \$2,100 to get \$16 per month; \$2,101 to \$2,400 to get \$17 per month; \$2,401 to \$2,700 to get \$18 per month; \$2,701 to \$3,000 to get \$19 per month; \$3,001 to \$3,300 to get \$20 per month; \$3,301 to \$3,600 to get \$21 per month; \$3,601 to \$3,900 to get \$22 per month; \$3,901 to \$4,200 to get \$23 per month; \$4,201 to \$4,500 to get \$24 per month.

More eloquently than anything we can say, those figures convey their own message. Does political pressure come down from on high, or well up from beneath? The answer is here.

No move is announced for the rationing of fish—which is perhaps unequalled for, as a hoarded haddock has a way of announcing itself.

From Le Devoir, Montreal
"Sheriff, I reported to you yesterday that I lost my pocketbook. That was an error. The force is it."
"Too late, sir, too late! The thief has been arrested."

From Le Devoir, Montreal
"The relations of forces on the Soviet-German front have changed. The fact is that Germany is becoming more and

Is Rickenbacker Honest?

He Strikes At Root Of Labor's Power

By Dorothy Thompson

FOR some reason, if a man is the first to fly the Atlantic Ocean, or survives three weeks on a rubber raft in the Pacific, he becomes an expert on every question under the sun, and is given earnest and respectful attention.

He does that, is to say, provided he finds powerful enough backing. A worker of the Merchant Marine, who has been torpedoes three times, is not asked to address the New York State Assembly on what he thinks of the present activities and the future hopes of his fellow workers. He goes to sea again, and maybe he comes home.

This is a prelude, written in not very good tempo, to some comments on Captain Rickenbacker's speech before the New York State Assembly. Captain Rickenbacker, like a predecessor of his, is trying to throw off comments on his speeches by suggesting that such comments, if of a critical nature, are restrictions on free speech. Since he was granted, as his predecessor, a full page in the New York Times for the text of his address, carried also in great detail by the news services—which, like his predecessor, he attacks—carry in his voice speaking for the Victory Corps, the charge of strictures on free speech may be brushed aside.

Captain Rickenbacker needs to be answered. His address was partisan and provocative in the extreme. Nor can an address of that length and importance be dismissed, favorably or unfavorably, in a few words. Captain Rickenbacker, although, like his predecessor, he "represents no person or persons, group or groups," nor have any political ambitions, but speak for myself alone but echo the sentiments of millions" and, like his predecessor,

"prefers to break bread with Henry Ford," nevertheless does speak for a tendency in American life, and his tendency and the ideas attending it demand our consideration.

We will certainly not quarrel with Captain Rickenbacker's criticisms of many trade union practices. That the leadership of some unions is incompetent or corrupt; that the trade unions claim exemption from social controls necessary today, in behalf of the public welfare, for all bodies wielding that amount of economic power; that feather-bodily still flourish even with a man-power shortage; that some of them want to exploit the war situation; and that most of them could be democratized, to the advantage of the workers themselves is only too true. But this is one side of the picture.

Captain Rickenbacker's attacks go beyond these justified accusations. Although he denies it in words, he attacks the very basis of organized labor: those laws which seek to bring some order and stability to the rights of workers, organized or unorganized; and the whole structure which makes labor organizations possible. And for all the faults in our war production, he blames the workers and blames them exclusively.

He demands, for instance, that union dues be suspended for the duration of the war, thereby removing those reserves which unions build up for times of emergency, one of which will certainly follow this war. He wants the repeal of the Wage-Hour law, which provides overtime pay for work done beyond 40 hours a week. This amounts to a radical wage cut, and would destroy existing contracts, and bring anarchy into the whole situation. These contracts, of course, cover unorganized workers as well as organized, and would hit all equally.

He suggests that an incentive plan, which in some industries, he says, has upped production, be substituted for the Wage-Hour plan. This part of his speech is unimpeachable, for all industries engaged in interstate commerce are under the Wage-Hour law, though numerous incentive plans, or bonus plans, supplement it, and often with good results. He attacks absenteeism, and attributes it by every inference to the lack of morals of the workers and the wickedness of trade union leaders. Now, absenteeism is a serious matter in our industries. But what are its real causes? Does Captain Rickenbacker know?

No thorough, earnest study, has yet been made of the causes of absenteeism. The Department of Labor, the Manpower Commission, and the unions themselves, who have been fighting it much longer than Captain Rickenbacker, have discovered a number of reasons.

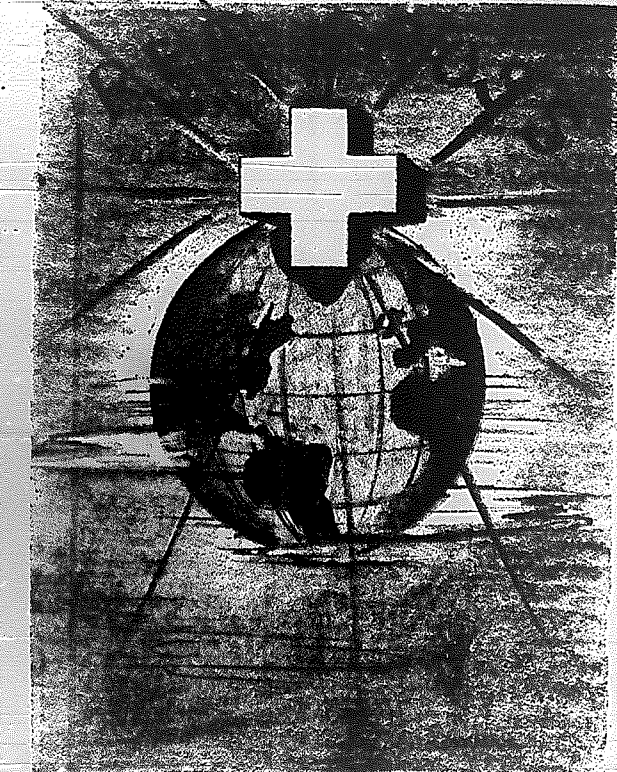
Normally, it is about two per cent. Today it is around eight per cent. In some places higher. But although Britain has the highest rate of production per man per hour of any Allied country, Britain also went through this crisis. The reasons are numerous and complicated. Old workers and women have replaced young men. Transportation is inadequate. There have been heavy snowfalls and a serious epidemic of gripe.

This does not account for all absenteeism but it accounts for much, so that greatly increased hours, and the overstrain of war. But absenteeism is not the vice of a single class, as Captain Rickenbacker attempts to make it appear. And the solution—and the results on the morale of workers—needs further analysis.

(To be continued)

One Bright Spot in the World

By MacKenzie



Woman's Burden Point System

By Raymond Clapper

THE housewife who has wanted to do something to help with the war, has her big opportunity now. She can help save the Government from the consequences of its lack of foresight by throwing herself fully into the task of mastering the food rationing system and fitting it to her kitchen. And when it's over housewives should have medals.

The point system of rationing is complicated. Yet the housewives of England make it work, so American women can do it. Just after our plan was announced, the United Press interviewed women standing in food-queues in London and asked them to give advice to American women. One English woman said that rationing books "not be allowed to fall into the hands of husbands because she said men were unable to understand the point system and never could make it work."

She is correct so far as I am concerned. I have looked over the charts and find it requires more arithmetic than I command to figure out the maximum amount of food value that points will purchase. This is actually a new kind of money. Women will have to learn how to economize with coupon money as they economize with dollar money. If they are obliged to pinch tight with dollar money also, in addition to economizing with coupon point money, then the business is doubly complicated. I know it is necessary but I want none of it.

Instead of making a sudden 50% cut in canned and processed foods the Government might well have introduced this point system more gradually, with an earlier beginning, and a war-time period with a very limited number of articles, semi-luxuries preferably.

Until now our rationing has been largely that of luxuries or semi-luxuries, except in the case of fuel. This food rationing, and the inclusion of most staples in it, involves the most elemental need of the human family. Housewives who are not careful will exhaust their points long before the month is over and will face serious food difficulties for lack of food coupons. It is not a matter to trifle with.

Yet the Government is casually pitching the housewives of the nation into that hard task of making the limited number of points stretch through the month without any training in the operation of the system. If the housewives don't themselves make the system work, we shall have the most terrific confusion within three or four weeks, with a probable breakdown of the system. That would be a catastrophe and we can be saved from it only if the housewives save us.

Thus on the ability of thirty-five million housewives to master the point system and on their co-operation in making it work, depends our food security for the time being until Summer fresh vegetables come in to ease the short supplies.

This means that the housewife must watch the fluctuating point prices—not just the money prices—of various foods. She must know the relative nourishment in the different foods and compare the sizes and point values and figure out the cheapest cost per unit of nourishment, making allowance also, of course, for the things her family will or won't eat, even under pressure of rationed shortage.

Why didn't the Government see the necessity of this coming? Why was the matter allowed to ride just because we had the biggest crop in history last year, thanks to the abnormality of weather? Now a sudden change more violent than anything yet attempted on the home front is necessary. It faces every food merchant with a crisis that may wreck many of them.

The best we can hope for now is that housewives will save the situation, make the point system work, and prevent the war effort from suffering the damage that otherwise would result because of the lack of more effective food planning.

Growing Signs

Smugness At Home

By Samuel May

NEW YORK
REPRESENTATIVE Maas of Minnesota does not think we have a great stake in the war in Europe. He has said so. He has opposed a second front. But now he wants Britain to give us island bases, so that our air forces can maintain freedom in the world. He does not want to win the world. He just wants to police it.

So do others. Isolationist editors, who have never said a kind word for a second front, almost weep with joy when Mrs. Luce proposed American domination of the airways of the world. They sang, in close harmony, that she was cooking with gas. They, too, do not want to win the world. They just want to have it. What, on the record, right have we to talk about policing anything, except Guadalcanal and New Guinea and parts of Africa? Why should the world let us police the world, or air-dominate the world, or anything else the world, unless and until we free the world?

Put me down as one American who says he detects signs of smugness on the home front. When we talk about who gets the airways and who gets the islands we must sound like mad things to Stalin's men and Chiang's men and Montgomery's men. I will strike a blow for international unity by testifying I don't believe the world over us the world because we have curly hair.

We will do everything possible in order not to be involved in this war, but we know now that it is not within our power to remain out.

President Ismet Inonu of Turkey.

Governments will stand or fall after the war are according to the degree they master their economic problems and

I simply do not think it is proper for us to stand on the perimeter of the big war and tell the world what we intend to do with it and to it and to it when it quite down a little. While we are thus engaged in the future on roller skates, another major second front debate has broken out in England.

(We ought to watch these English debates. They tell us, accurately, what we will be talking at least twelve months ahead of ours. For instance, the whole industrial "absenteeism" issue was debated in England a year ago, and pretty well solved, decently, by public opinion and without bringing the troops back to break heads or to snarl at their fathers or brothers, either.)

In England today, good old imperial England, both Houses of Parliament have been rolled by pressing, emphatic demands that Europe be invaded at once.

That's what England is talking about. One cocks an ear at the our Congress, to hear whether a similar plan rises above the thin wall of a statesman whose constituents are not being allowed to gorge on their normal quota of canned cocktail snickers. One gets it not. One hears a discussion of who gets the islands, which is so irrelevant it must make Hitler himself double with incredulous laughter. Der Fuehrer knows what the issue is.

Today the great successes of the Russian front have led thousands of Americans to throw their hats in the air and proclaim that victory is just around the corner. We still face reverses and misfortunes.

—President Roosevelt.

Visitin' Around

Handy Andy

(Atkins item, North Wilkesboro Newsweek)

Waller Atkins would be greatly misled in and around Atkins Shop, for it is very much depended on to haul the wood that makes the bread (heavenly pones), and plow the gardens that grow the beans.

Side Glances



"I've stood in line like this for John Gilbert and Clark Gable, but I never thought I'd do it for a piece of steak!"

Quote, Unquote

enable people to make a decent living.

—Alfred M. Landon.

It is now largely a choice between married (and vital) workers. We are scraping the bottom of the barrel on single workers.

—Manpower Director Paul V. McNutt.

more exhausted while the Soviet Union is more and more becoming ever stronger.

—Joel Stalin.

Today the great successes of the Russian front have led thousands of Americans to throw their hats in the air and proclaim that victory is just around the corner. We still face reverses and misfortunes.

—President Roosevelt.