



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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• W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 •

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The Victors

They Bear a Responsibility For Better Government

It was most encouraging to The News and to citizens whose interest lies in good government to note that approximately 25 per cent more voters went to the polls in yesterday's election than in last week's primary. The choice that they made of the Citizens' ticket on the City Council is an unmistakable voice of the majority. The City has expressed a strong will to have perpetuated the administration of the past two years, and that is well. From the same impartial view which The News has maintained throughout the campaign, we congratulate all eleven Councilmen, and wish them well.

Now it is incumbent upon City Council and Mayor Baxter, as the Mayor indicated in his first statement, to operate a co-operative, harmonious government. The City might well do without some of the factionalism of the past. What is needed now is better government through a minimizing of group interests on the Council, and we believe the first responsibility of the new Council. Upon an appeal for continued good government, the majority has been elected; the fulfillment of that promise can bring good to the City. We shall expect that fulfillment with confidence.

There can now be no question, as there allegedly was during the campaign, of the retention of Chief Walter Anderson as head of the Police Department, and of Frank Lewis as City Manager. Both men have served well during their tenures, and should be given the opportunity to continue to serve. With yesterday's election results, they are assured of that opportunity. The City will expect of Mr. Frank and Mr. Anderson outstanding contributions to good government.

As we have insisted previously, the election of City officials now is of great importance to Charlotte. Planning for the post-war period looms as a first and great objective. To date, such planning has not been accomplished. It needs to be done if Charlotte would get in line for benefits to come in the days of readjustment. The public, which has been stirred from time to time by factional disagreement on City Council, will look for co-operation in this vital matter.

It must be recognized today by members of the Peoples ticket as well as the Citizens that the people of Charlotte have spoken their desires. They now have a clear call for their choice. Now, they have every right to expect good government from the new administration. To the new administration, we extend best wishes for success in government.

Poor Thinking

Loss of Faith is Dangerous Threat To Our Democracy

Perhaps the most dangerous threat to the continuing good health of the American way of democracy is the growing feeling of the people themselves that they are not fit to govern, or that a few might govern with so much greater efficiency. That is not to say that the people at home approve of bureaucracy; they dislike that term, though they can scarce define it. It is simply that the idea is growing that the masses are uneducated, that left to their own devices, they will stumble into the wrong every time. It is the theory that the people are inevitably in error, that their own will can lead them only to perdition.

The theory needs close examination, for it has become truly a danger to us: the average man has begun to suspect that his fellows are unfit, as a group, to govern. Somewhere in the future, the nation may suddenly decide to take responsibility away from the unfit millions who have no voice to defend themselves, and that, of course, can lead but to ruin.

The theory that the people cannot be right is not new, and is not American; it is the background thought of the ancient monarchies. It is the enemy of free mankind. And, as it grows in this country, it should be shown to all the people. The most common statement is that the masses of the people are uneducated, hence are unable to exert an intelligent will, that they are unaring because they do not grasp the problems of government.

Lin Yutang, the Chinese philosopher, has restated the theory in its proper sense. Americans should pay heed to his words; if the country came to know

them, the trend toward ruin could be halted.

I believe the people's instinct is always right, because the people do not have the facts but have the principles, while the diplomats have not the principles, though they have all the facts.

The Oriental has seen the truth for us: professionals in government lose the common emotion without which Freedom is nothing.

Still Defiant

John Lewis Will Not Stop Until He Has Won Victory

The scream from John Lewis that the next step is up to Harold Hicks (and that means the U. S. Government and the people of the country) is exactly what an aggressive, militant Administration should have been waiting for. There is no denying that Lewis and his miners have "a case"; there has never been such denial. But when Lewis defied the War Labor Board, and continued in that defiance past the temporary truce, he only should be asked, that he was not bound by any man-made laws, war or peace, and that the war crisis did not exist for him, except as an opportunity for gaining his ends.

It is to be noted that the miners reacted quickly to the appeal of the President; Lewis maintained his engineering, cynical attitude throughout. The very timing of his agreement to a truce was calculated to discredit and embarrass President Roosevelt. He will not submit his dispute to arbitration except under circumstances most favorable to him and to UMW. If mine operators are also guilty in the crisis, they are not the only ones who could find the register of deeds. Who else would be called to register of deeds? Who else would be called to register of deeds? Who else would be called to register of deeds?

Perhaps he can get away with virtually anything; certainly his deeds of the past, which have gone unchallenged, unpunished, even when he met defeat, must mean to him that he may successfully challenge any authority in the country. Too long has Franklin Roosevelt behaved like a Labor leader himself. Too much has there been the impression that the unions were headed for special privilege; the country has been quick to agree that the workman had gained control. It does not agree that the workman should be limited by giving them to his leaders, and not to him. The time has come for the President to correct the impression he has given the country.

The coal strike as an issue, we insist, does not end with the fact that war production was halted, and the war effort suffered. The issue raised was the ability of union leadership, where all others would have failed, to challenge the authority of the Government in this country. In all America, no other groups are so protected from punishment, criticism or control as labor-unions at large; in the hands of a leader like Lewis, that is a weapon against the people. To our mind, they should be judged as others are judged.

General Andrews

U. S. Suffers Great Loss In Bold Airman's Death

The tragic death of General Frank M. Andrews must be almost a personal shock to all who have known him, for they never knew him as a man or military leader. That he died in a plane crash in Iceland, far away from home or his base of operations, is yet another reason why his death should be a shock to our mind, for he should be judged as others are judged.

As commander of United States forces in the European theater, he held what is destined to become the most important assignment of the U. S. Army in this war. That under his direction the final blows against Germany were to have been struck. Though no details have been given, it was doubtless toward the end of striking those blows that he was traveling in Iceland. Another new face of war is shown by the fact that General Andrews was a flying general who had often flown the oceans. He was one of very few men in his age and rank to have an aircraft exponent of air power, with which he had grown up, and will be most difficult to replace. His death was a great loss to our country.

Who's A Radical?

Giraud Admires Progress

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK
GENERAL Giraud, who believes the trouble with France was that peasant women stopped weaving woolen stockings, has come out of an automobile and radio for everybody. A slight note of liberalism has crept into the General's utterances. He says labor is going to get more, and capital is going to get less in France after the war. There will be no room in France for the "professional agitator," he says, but there will be no full return to the past, either. The old capitalist system is dead, he says. However, it's a pity that a full decade before writing General Giraud down as a radical.

The announcement that capitalism is dead is one of the oldest chestnuts in the annals of European reaction. Hitler and Mussolini, both, have frequently announced that capitalism is dead. Hitler once came out for an automobile, or Volkswagen, for everybody. He even collected down payments. There is a certain section of extreme conservatism in Europe which is always ready to announce that capitalism is dead and that the old order has perished; it is much easier to say these things, in fact, than to give a 51 rate.

The issue in France is not whether capitalism is to live or die, but whether (as do Giraud's desires) there will be a truly democratic temporary French governing council, including representatives of the underground. When General Giraud turns down that moderate, sensible and completely unradical proposal, and then announces that capitalism is dead, he is engaging in a familiar grandstand play, known as jumping out of the window to prove that one is in favor of fresh air. All they asked him to do was open it a crack.

One must always suspect these sweeping general surrenders, which one who is not a radical grandly given away tomorrow, but not an inch is granted today. The issue in France is the inch. Who else would be called to register of deeds, anyway? All he was asked to do was to

give up his idea of a temporary French administrative council to be run exclusively by colonial officials. He was asked to give representation to the people of France. The General shows himself willing to give them the whole world, but not that.

What is interesting (and we have seen this in Europe before) is that General Giraud feels he can get off the hot spot only by talking left. That is significant. It shows that if there is to be a return to extreme conservatism, those in favor of such a development feel it can be done only by making it look like a parade toward, not rightward. In other words, they conceal, indirectly and obscurely, that the French people are not in a reactionary mood. This is news from headquarters, and it is revealing, more revealing than the General's comic opera assassination of capitalism.

I am afraid I shall have to take that heavy word, obscurism, out of my drawer, and award it to General Giraud. For he says that after the war all Frenchmen are going to be equal, and all will work together, but that now he feels compelled to order the abolition of the Cremlenx decree, thereby taking citizenship away from 100,000 Algerian Jews, who have had it for 72 years.

So he goes his way, abolishing the Cremlenx decree, and abolishing capitalism. If he would just relax, and do a few liberal things such as completing the liberation of North African political prisoners, and showing some signs of accepting the representatives of metropolitan France, he would be much more solidly on the side of progress than by all these brilliant and sweeping acts of abolition.

There was a large demonstration in Algiers Sunday. A crowd of several thousand good-natured Frenchmen, holding American and English troops to their shoulders, marched in the public square. They did not ask for the end of capitalism. They merely asked for the freeing of political prisoners. They asked for an egg today, in short, and were offered the whole world tomorrow, instead.

—By Dorman Smith

The End of His Rope



A Big Question

Matrimony At Large

By Tom P. Jimison

In Richmond County Journal

ON Easter Monday when county officials were taking a holiday, a Negro preacher who looked as though he had been a member of the church for three-score and ten years, approached Bud Warburton who happened to be around the courthouse, and asked where he could find the register of deeds. Bud inquired what he wanted to do, and the minister told him that he wanted to take out a pair of marriage licenses. "You know what you are a do-er?" Bud asked him. "She does, white folks, I aims to get married, married up with a fine woman." Bud asked him if he had ever been married before, and the reply was that he had been joined in the bonds of wedlock three times.

Then he launched into an eulogy of the woman he was aparting this time, and Bud says he was very eloquent in his praise of her virtues. The man of the cloth had made a thorough investigation. He had found that his new flame was a good cook, a good laundress, a hard-working, home-loving, God-fearing woman, the sort who would make a man happy and fill his declining years with peace and contentment. He thought that matrimony was bliss. Well, sometimes it is, and sometimes it is blister.

Holland Smith tells me of a Negro friend of his who was talking about another black man's wife. "She is a powerful naggavatin' woman," he said, and the description sounded so pat to me that I wonder why the dictionaries don't have the word. No learned lexicographer on earth could have coined a word so apt or expressive of a lot of women that did this untutored son of Africa. A powerful naggavatin' woman. You know the kind.

She is the woman who cross-examines her husband as to his whereabouts, who criticizes his clothing, abhors his tastes, pesters him about what he did with that dollar he had week before last, who is always ready to take him to task in the way he walks, talks, eats and smokes or chews. She wants him to pay no mind to any females except herself and dandy old daddy whom she chooses to select for the good of his

soul. If he looks at a pretty gal she goes into tantrums and has a convulsion fit. He naggavates him till he leaves her, then plays the martyr and drags him into court on a charge of desertion. If he is married up with a woman who is a do-er, you know what I'd do? Well, I don't either.

A heap of people in the world profess to be greatly disturbed about the increase in divorce. They want more unhappy people stay married and pay with mental agony for the mistake they made in the selection of a mate. It doesn't worry this scribe any bit. There are just two kinds of reformers in the world. One crowd is composed of the very young who don't know nothing; the other is made up of the aged and wrinkled who know less.

Young people look upon life with rose-tinted glasses. They see a pathway which is shaded by beautiful trees and dappled by sunlight. It leads over hill and vale, across meadows which are laden with the breath of fragrant flowers, and beside sparkling streams which murmur a song of everlasting happiness. The old folks, myopic and miserable, look backward and idealize the past. They swear by all the gods at once that the golden age is behind us, and that the present generation are a hellish crowd and leading humanity straight into chaos and Old Night.

Well, this column believes that the old world is doing to doably well. The young folks now are a sight better than they were when I was a little shaver, but I realize that they can be all that and still be far from perfect. However, we are not going to become a race of saints just because we are old.

All of us have a long way to go to attain any sort of goodness at all, and in the end methinks that we had better go to meet the Judge on our knees with our hands up, and uttering from our hearts the prayer of the publican, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." It makes clear why, with the utmost truth that our professed and pretended righteousness is nothing more than filthy rags in the sight of Him before whom we shall eventually stand and be judged.

—General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Quote, Unquote

THE plutocrat this year is not going to be the man with the money, but the man with the largest Victory Garden. Plant foods must become the national diet. —Capt. B. Sturdy, American Gun Co. executive.

An excellent balance has been maintained between risk and desirable objectives. Everyone has a right to take some measure of pride in what has been achieved. —General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Much has been said about Government controls but it is plain that they will have to

be continued for a period after the war and then gradually relinquished, just as they have been gradually relinquished by American enterprise. —C. G. President Eric A. Johnson.

Side Glances



"Rationing sure is wonderful, Grandpa! Imagine Mom asking us to go fishing while she paints the screens!"

A Long Story

Reds & Poles

By DONALD BELL

Overseas News Agency

IT is one of the provoking facts of politics that conflict always begins with a protest, and the true source of contention does not come to light until after a while.

The first World War broke out apparently because a Serbian patriot assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. The second World War began ostensibly because Germany wanted to annex Danzig to the German Reich, do away with the Polish corridor and stop alleged Polish acts of murder against the German minority in Poland. In the course of both wars the immediate causes were nearly forgotten. Now, as then, the world is fighting against the German claim to world hegemony.

The breakdown of Russo-Polish relations began with a pretext, too. Ostensibly what was at issue was the fate of 2,000 or 10,000 or 15,000 Polish officers—the figure changes daily. But the question of what has become of these officers is posed with such emphasis for the purpose of influencing world opinion in a very material controversy. The true quarrel consists in a conflict over the Russian-Polish frontier, and in the final analysis, in a conflict over whether Poland after the war is to be a leading power in Eastern Europe and the most important counterweight to the Soviet Union.

The Russo-Polish conflict did not begin, as is falsely supposed, on that Sept. 17, 1939, when the Russian troops marched into East Poland, nor on Sept. 23, 1939, when the German-Russian demarcation line was agreed upon. The Polish declaration of war which resulted against Russia was at the time no more than empty gesture. The Polish national territory under occupation, and the Government of Colonel Beck and President Moscicki had been dissolved. Not until 14 days later was a new Polish Government established in Western Europe. Indeed, the Russian-Polish conflict is as old as the world. It started with the omission of the Soviet Union from the peace negotiations at Paris and as a signatory in 1919 of the Versailles Treaty, through which the Polish state was created. Even today the eastern boundaries, in this original domain, were not decided, and were not drawn until later at the suggestion of the conservative Lord Curzon, pretty much along the lines of what the Soviet Government has demanded. The substance of the agreement accepted Curzon's drawing of the boundaries because it corresponded to ethnographic viewpoints. The Ukrainian and White Russian territories were to go to Russia, and White to Poland.

In 1921, the Russians, who were weary of the war, concluded a peace treaty with the Poles, under the terms of which they yielded to the Poles White Russian and Ukrainian territory which had been taken to be in Polish hands at the end of the war. Two years later, western powers recognized these new eastern Polish borders. Through a coup de main the Polish Army then entered the city of Wilno, which resulted in a latent state of war of 17 years' duration between Poland and Lithuania. After the Munich pact the Poles participated in the partition of Czechoslovakia, and accepted, with Hitler's approval, the Czech territory of Teschen. It was in this manner that Poland obtained those frontiers of 1939 which it now demands for itself after the war in the name of the Atlantic Charter.

Now, Poland is by no means for a doctrinaire application of the Atlantic Charter; the first point of which declares that the signatories "seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other." On Sept. 1, 1942, Polish President Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz declared: "This peace should include provisions for giving territorial, strategic and economic security to states like Poland that are exposed to the danger of German aggression." And on Sept. 24, 1942, Raczkiewicz declared that Poland should secure Poland's security by reaching to the sea, adequately protected from foreign interference, as well as her economic development in proportion to the size of her population. The substance of these and other statements is that Poland rates claims to East Prussia, Pomerania and Silesia, and in fact, would like to have German territory from Stettin to Dresden.

When Poland means to use the Atlantic Charter against Russia, the Poles are legally on shaky ground. For the Atlantic Charter sets no date starting with which territorial acquisitions are inadmissible. When the Atlantic Charter was drafted, Russia was in possession of those territories to which it lays claim today. The objection can be made that it did not acquire these regions until 1939 and the surrender of Poland. But it is possible, naturally, to go further back in history and use the peace treaties of 1919 as a basis. In that case, Russia would be allowed to keep all that it claims.

Poland means to use the Atlantic Charter against nothing to show in a military way comparable with the Soviet Union, and since Poland further can only regain its independence with the help of the Russian Army, it has, in the course of the conflict, allied away from discussions of practical politics and launched upon propaganda campaigns. That is why Poland today thrusts into the foreground questions of the treatment of prisoners and the emigration of children from the Soviet Union. The Russian note has answered very sharply, and an extremely dangerous situation has arisen within the world coalition against Hitler. On the other hand, Russia has now openly laid its cards on the table. It makes clear why, with the clarification stated the whole power of the Soviet Union. Consequently, Poland will have to take a realistic view of the situation.

All Colors

Flashes Of Life

The Upper Crust

IN the same week I read Dawn Powell's novel, A Time To Be Born, and Ilsa Chase's autobiography, Fast, Inside.

The Powell book claims to be fiction and the Chase book claims to be fact, yet they are as alike as two Chesterfield cigarettes.

Reading the Powell novel would not believe that such things went on, and that what young people existed and prospered; but the Chase book liquidates your suspicions and you realize the fictional characters of Powell are drawn from the flesh because this Chase gives them names and addresses.

The people in these books live in Park Avenue apartments in New York, making occasional visits to Hollywood, down the Riviera, or Palm Beach. They are actors, authors, editors, journalists, publishers, bankers, debutantes, and producers. They live in swank, multi-storied mansions, and champagne, and the most restaurants of which they are aware are Twenty-One and the Stork Club in New York, the Savoy in London, and L'Erre in Paris. All larger functions take place at the Ritz. The ladies wear silver fox, ermine and diamonds. Being a satirist Miss Powell presents her characters as successful heads; being a realist, Miss Chase finds her gang quite charming.

An outsider doesn't know what to think, but he wonders how much fun never to know anybody except important people.