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And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927

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SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 1943

The Inate King

Dollar-a-Day Fine Strikes John Lewis as Brutality

So King John Lewis has his back up now? He's infuriated with the thick-headedness and high-handedness of Harold Ickes. He says the Ick is too harsh, that he is inhuman, that he is applying "brutal economic sanctions."

Now, that Harold Ickes would fine them a nominal sum for their untimely action (advised by Lewis) their spokesmen rises up again to challenge the United States Government. This one-dollar fine is an "economic sanction"—but the strike, used in time of war, is not considered as an economic sanction.

This King John has no regard at all for what is happening in Congress. He does not stop to think, or to give sign that he cares, that the no-strike bill about to be passed is really only a law against John Lewis.

A statistic reveals that millions in this country are still without bathtubs though they have telephones. It is not explained what they are caught in when the latter rings.

Look Again

Shady Rumors About WAAC Should Be Fully Removed

The strong language used by Secretary of War Stimson in damning the rumor-mongers who have spread vicious tales about the WAAC is entirely in order. The reports appearing in the columns of a New York Daily News story, are branded as absolutely false, and must be so accepted.

That is a dangerous kind of rumor, amounting to some form of enemy propaganda, and capable of doing incalculable damage to morale at home—both among the Corps itself, the Army and the general public.

"Reflection on the WAACs is in essence a reflection on the whole of American womanhood; for these 65,000 women are a cross-section of the womanhood of our nation."

"When they are maligned, when vicious rumor destroys their reputations, the effects could reach into the very front lines, injuring the morale of the Army itself."

"I emphasize the fact," he concluded, "that I have made a thorough investigation of all these rumors. They are completely false."

Satisfied that the War Department investigation was thorough, and that that of Congressmen and ministers was carried forth on the same line, the next move seems to be examination of the motives of The Daily News. The reporter charged, according to Associated Press, that a "super-secret agreement" sanctioned by Colonel Hobby provided for supply of prophylactics and contraceptives to women of the Corps.

should include The Daily News, which has not managed to track up a record of infallibility in sensational reports.

Changed Tune

Curran Says Australia Safe, Meaning That Japan Isn't

Before it is forgotten, it might be well to study the recent outbursts of sublime confidence from Australia's Prime Minister John Curtin, who has been for many months the spokesman of the island.

Something has happened to John Curtin; he has been shown something very big and very impressive. No longer does he look furtively toward the Japanese aggression. He no longer feared invasion.

Without knowing a simple plan for Pacific action in the months ahead, it can be said without fear of contradiction that the United Nations offensive of such great proportions as to guarantee to roll the Japs back are on the point of being opened.

It would be interesting to know just what John Curtin was told, and it is likely that the knowledge will soon belong to the world. It must be remembered that Admiral Nimitz only recently returned to Hawaii after a conference in the U. S. with Admiral King; it might well remember, also, that Admiral Nimitz was very plucky in he was preparing a "headache" for Japan in the Pacific, and that our strength in that sea was growing rapidly.

The Boast

Offensive Against Russia Cannot But End in Disaster

The forward surge of the German armies, Russian retreat, and the flight to people of the United Nations; it need not be, for this offensive must come to naught in the end. The time is too near, now, when great armies of liberation will pour upon the Continent from all directions in the West, North and South.

At the eleventh hour, he flings a new offensive against Russia and has been more successful than Moscow has admitted; but his soldiers have learned that the Red soldier is not to be pushed around forever.

At the moment when the British-American armies strike to the West, then Hitler must push the bulk of his strength to meet them. When that is done, the Russian lines must be weakened; and when those lines are weakened the carefully-nursed Red reserves will pour through, bringing great peril from the East.

If We Choose

Italy Cannot Last

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON

THE phrase "Our Sea," repeatedly used by Mussolini in the past, to describe the Mediterranean is peculiarly apt now—but not for Mussolini or Italy. "Mare Nostrum," since the fall of Tunis is "Our Sea" for the Anglo-American powers.

Mussolini, who in the last war, had the pre-eminence to oppose the alliance with Germany, and to help bring Italy into the war on the side of the Allies, could still think objectively, from the viewpoint of the Italian geographical position.

With the possibility of invasion beginning in one or more of many places, the Italian situation deserves serious consideration. If Britain's first front "lay on the Rhine," as it certainly did, and the first front of the United States lies in the British Isles, so it certainly does, the Italian front, even more clearly, lies in North Africa.

The geographical position of both Italy and Britain prevent them from ever becoming great military powers, for there is no space in either country for vast military operations.

The blockade works more effectively against Italy than Germany, for the Italian "boot" is connected with Europe by only two rail lines, running north and south.

Since Italy depends upon the sea, and because the country is anyhow narrow, her greatest cities are all near the coast. In Northern Italy, Turin and

Milano have some protection. But Naples, Genoa, Leghorn, and Palermo, are disastrously exposed. Rome is only fifteen miles from the sea—and even Turin, Milano, Florence, and Bologna are but 75 miles from the coast.

Landing forces are not compelled to march to the Alps, northward. It is much easier to march east, across the narrow peninsula, and cut the boot into slices. Troops marching from the Mediterranean to the Adriatic, which is only 120 miles, could cut the entire communication of the South with the North.

Italy's defense is inferior, and her navy has hardly put in an appearance during this war. That they risked relatively so little to maintain the communications with Africa is only to be understood because modern tactics can fight only with adequate air umbrellas and Mussolini did not have one.

The Germans considered Italy as the bridge to Africa. Thus was Italy described in an article in "Deutsche Wehr," Reichswehr military paper, back in 1938. But bridges go both ways, and the southern brightened in our hands.

The behavior of the Italian armies wherever they have fought is nothing on which to build confidence. They lost their battles in this war in Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Greece and Russia. And it is extremely dubious whether the Germans would defend them as they would sell, for the Germans also know that the Italian boot is their Achilles heel.

The German idea of defensive strategy is to maintain a strong reserve in the center of Europe, throwing it in any direction that is challenged. But to throw it into Italy would create grave difficulties for the back, because of the poor communication system.

Side Glances



"Now that John's been awarded a medal for bravery, you'd better buy a new suit—this serge of yours is too shiny for a hero's father!"

Blind GOP

Dread Reaction

By Samuel Crafton

NEW YORK

A FEW months ago the Opposition in Congress was in a gleeful titter. In fact, it was higher than a kite. During the week of February the Opposition fairly bubbled with plans for firing Government agencies, for cutting, dismissing, investigating, probing, blocking and curbing.

It is impossible to say that a reaction has set in. In part, this is the Opposition's own fault. It overplayed its hand. It hit on the device of tackling riders on so important bills, each one forbidding the use of public funds to pay the salary of a named individual.

This enabled the Opposition, so long as it had a bare majority, to impeach without impeaching, without trial or formal charges. It quickly became obvious to men of good will that there are many such in both Houses of Congress that this "bill of attainder" device was extremely dangerous. If unchecked, it could sometimes be used even to remove Justices from the Supreme Court, or informally to displace a duly-elected President. The Senate is making a fight against this practice, and not for love of Lovett alone.

The Opposition also turned its attention to whole agencies as well as individuals. It led a bitter assault against the Farm Security Administration. For a time it tried to kill this bureau by the ingenious device of having the Appropriations Committee of the House refuse an appropriation, and then having the Rules Committee refuse to allow the House to restore the appropriation on the floor; thus killing the agency without debate or vote, a bill of attainder in specie. Representative Lambertson of Kansas was active in this attempted bill.

But, again, the hand was overplayed. The House Rules Committee is not exactly a rooster, but it was shocked, and refused the rule. Evidently the Farm Security Administration was saved in the House to permit the Senate to try to save the rest of it, which it is now doing.

I firmly believe that they never even took a good look at the Farm Security Administration, or quite knew what they were doing when they called into this agency, which are many such farmers to buy and hold their own farms. Certainly, such of Congress seemed daunted when such men as Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution, and such spokesmen as National Catholic Rural Life Conference, sprang to the agency's defense.

The Opposition had talked itself into believing that its own private language, about professors and frankfurters and whatnot, was the genuine speech of the country; that the mood of its own tirades was the public mood; that to win a fight it was no longer necessary to prove a case, but only to afflict a label.

The gloominess of last January is evaporating. Somehow, in the heat of early Summer, it no longer seems like a reasonable plan to attack Mr. Roosevelt by taking farms from poor farmers. There are undoubtedly going to be changes in many of our agencies. But that great Congressional discovery of 1943 is that this is going to be a serious and responsible work, not to be done by a man swinging a sledgehammer with a look in his eye showing that he is out of this world.

Visitin' Around

Worry, Worry, Al's Worry (Worry item, Morganton News-Herald) (Worry item, Morganton News-Herald) (Worry item, Morganton News-Herald) Whisenant, has been sick some time with head trouble, and is no better.

Sounds To Us Like (Wrestling Match (Gandy Grove item, Lexington Dispatch) (Gandy Grove item, Lexington Dispatch) The general health of our community at present is about up to par. I believe, with this one said that one nursing grunts and groans, aches and pains, but can keep going.

The Inquisitive Reporter (North Wilkesboro Hustler) (The tractor plows turning the bottom lands on the Yadkin River rapidly transforms stalk fields into plowed soil. The fertile acres between the town and the Yadkin bridge toward the courthouse is not being tilled by the county home authorities this year whose lease probably expired.)

He Must've Spent 'N' Day Talkin' (Local Item, N. Wilkesboro Hustler) (Mr. C. A. Absher and daughter, little Miss Bessie Absher, of Dockery vicinity, were in the city Friday stopping. Mr. Absher is in the poultry business. He is now feeding 1,700 White Leghorn chickens from which he expects to select 1,000 layers. His feed bill at the present is about \$30 per week. Mr. Absher says the wheat crop up his way doesn't look so good.)

It's So Peaceful In Our Country (Cumberland Item, Lexington Dispatch) (One week will be full of activities, so many things to do that one can hardly get through with them all. The rest will be very quiet and uneventful, except for a few. The past week end and this week so far have been kept quiet.)

In Fact, Keep It All But That Card (Want Ad, Catawba News-Enterprise) (In fact, keep it all but that card.)

What It All Adds Up To

—By Dorman Smith



For Many Years

We'll Stick To Britain

By Raymond Clapper

LONDON

NO matter how anyone in America may feel about the British, the fact is that we are bound to be mixed up in affairs with them for a long time. Hence it is a source of confidence and pride that the British politics are well stabilized around two such strong, friendly, and experienced men as Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden.

There is every indication now that Mr. Churchill, contrary to earlier ideas about him, will not retire at the end of the war but will remain in office to permit us to meet his health needs to permit anything. Equally important is Mr. Eden, who is more than a foreign secretary. It appears that Mr. Eden is being prepared in every way by the Prime Minister to take over when that becomes necessary. Mr. Churchill has in insight into attitudes that must be taken into account.

As further preparation for the larger role the future is supposed to hold for Mr. Eden, he went to Washington last Spring. The Prime Minister gave him several chores to attend to. But the primary purpose was for him to become acquainted with American political figures both in and out of Government, and to size up the attitude which America and various leaders might take toward post-war questions.

Mr. Eden is an aristocratic, younger Conservative of fairly liberal views on internal questions, so he has not incurred the bitterness which Laborites have against many Tories. That situation tends to reassure

the Labor Party in continuing the wartime political truce—which it is expected to do at conference next week.

Washington has not seen exactly eye to eye with Whitehall on some aspects of Russian policy and on de Gaulle. The possibility of those differences leading to a rupture of the coalition national end of the war has been greatly reduced as to Russia by Moscow's action in disbanding the Communist International, and as to the French question by the de Gaulle Girou coalition efforts. The delicate hand of Foreign Minister Eden is seen behind some of this, because the cornerstone of his policy is to prepare the way for the great powers to work together after the war. It must be clear to both Washington and London that the first effort of the defeated nations will be, as a last time, to split up the victors and play one against the other.

Mr. Churchill contributed toward teamwork of the two countries by his timely emphasis on the Pacific in his Congressional address. These efforts by the two top British leaders to accommodate British policies to the American attitude lay the basis on which tangled issues like post-war commercial air traffic, and Empire tariff preferences, can be approached with less danger to the fundamental strength of the four power team.

The Labor Party conference here next week will be an important one, because it will be a political truce and admission of the Communists. It is expected to vote to continue the truce, and to exclude the Communists in spite of all we hear in America about Labor Party agitation for a more Socialist England, the party is considered to be in a state of confusion, and is not ready to resume leadership aggressively.

War Lord's Prayer

(New York World Telegram) (THE Mark Twain centennial commences very appropriately this morning with a good time to point out the lack of "War Prayer" written by Mark Twain 30 years ago.)

"I have told the whole truth in that prayer," he remarked, "and only dead men can tell the truth in this world. It can be published after I am dead." Here it is:

Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet!

We ask of one who is the spirit of love and who is the ever-faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore, and that, speak of the sun flaring and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet!