THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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● W. C. Dowd, 1863-1927 ●

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1941

Not Yet

Three-Power Pact Has a Way of Not Getting Invoked

While Japanese newspapers take comfort in proclaiming that the United States is not prepared to fight a naval war in both the Atlantic and Pacific, German propagandists say they aren't insisting that Japan declare war against America just now.

Under the Three-Power Pact (Germany-Italy-Japan) any signatory is obliged to come to the assistance of another in the event of an attack by a nation not already involved in the war. On Saturday the German Government officially charged that American warships had attacked a Nazi U-boat and that consequently the United States had attacked Germany.

It doesn't particularly matter if this is a slightly one-sided interpretation of the brushes between U-boats and American destroyers—the Germans say it is so, and of course the Germans are never wrong.

So, if Germany has been attacked, why does she not demand that Japan immediately declare war on the United States? The Three-Power Pact, that most solemn of all treaties (because it is about the only one the Nazis haven't violated), should be invoked immediately and by now the Japanese high fleet ought to be steaming eastward to avenge her Axis partner.

But no. There is a strange hesitancy in Berlin. The propagandists say that the question of invoking the pact does not arise at this time. Why?

Could it be that the Japanese have double-crossed the Great Double-Crosser and told him that they aren't fighting anybody until the Chinese and Russian affairs are settled? There is no proof to support this conclusion, but if the Japanese admirals have even part of the gumption they are reported to have, they would have said so.

It is beginning to look as if the Three-Power Pact—like all agreements between gangsters—is just one of those things.

Missed Boats

Our Park System Mustn't Get Left on the Dock Again

Not that Myers Park and Dilworth need a park less, but that Charlotte's Negro population needs one more. With this policy in mind, Chairman Charles Malone and other members of the City Park and Recreation Commission last week approved acquisition of a 30-acre park site in the southeast section of Charlotte, but promised that no extensive development of the property will be undertaken until more recreational facilities for Negroes are provided.

The commission also declined the offer of a Government specialist to make a survey (at no cost) looking toward a ten-year park expansion program. The board indicated that it had its own ideas about what was needed and had plans for meeting these needs.

We are not familiar with the details of the commission's plans, but there are certain generalities about a park system which may be worth setting down here.

Race: By its action last week, the commission demonstrates that it understands the pressing need for Negro parks. Whereas the average white resident can avail himself of little enough in the way of recreational facilities, the Negro resident is getting almost nothing. This deficiency is being studied as one of the factors in Negro juvenile delinquency, of which Charlotte has its full share.

Location of Park Sites: In general, the areas where live Charlotte's families in the lower income brackets are most provided with parks. These are the people who need recreation most. Good should be the most important factor in locating a park—more important than "bargain offers." For, while Dilworth and Myers Park folks certainly could use another recreation area, most of them recognize the greater need elsewhere.

Integration: Many cities have been able to centralize much of their recreational program in one big park, while maintaining neighborhood tennis courts, playgrounds, and the like in all parts of the city. The one big park, usually located just outside of the city, should not be self-supporting, but should show enough profit to finance the rest of the recreation program.

This is the case in Winston-Salem where, during the Summer months, Reynolds Park draws an average of about 25,000 visitors each week. (Winston-Salem's population: 79,828). This park covers a square mile or so, runs an eighteen-hole golf course, swimming pool, skating rink, bowling alleys, gymnasium for dances, grill, and, in Summer, a five-cent merry-go-round and ferris wheel. Not only is Reynolds Park paying off on schedule the debt incurred in its construction, it also is paying all upkeep, buying thousands of dollars of new equipment each year, and putting money in the city treasury.

It is too late now for Charlotte to undertake in the immediate future any venture like Reynolds Park. WPA labor, money, and essential materials are needed in the Defense effort. We missed the easy-money boat and we'll have to wait until the war is over.

But it's not too late to be putting our names in the PWR (Public Works Reserve) pot for post-war building. Funds will be available, and neither is it too soon to speak for them. Government money has a way of finding its way into the pockets of them as speaks fustest and loudest. It shuns those who have no plans for spending it.

Home To Roost

The Government Reckons With Strikes Its Policy Incited

Was the Government's lawful seizure of the Air Associates plant at Bendix, N. J., necessary and advisable? A sensible answer requires a review of the facts in the case and a fair interpretation of them.

It seems clear that the company was finally at fault because of its failure to comply with the recommendation of the Mediation Board by reinstating the strikers. Furthermore, the company sought to go through the motions of carrying out the board's recommendation while actually flouting it. Strikers were discriminated against by such unworthy means as putting machinists to scrubbing floors.

So far as Defense work was concerned, however, it could have gone on at this plant uninterrupted had public order been maintained. Fewer than half of its 700 employees were participating in the CIO's strike. Mass picketing was made possible only by volunteers from other unions. To the company's call for workers to take the places of the strikers, 2,500 men responded. But the plant stayed struck.

It was an ugly situation, and the Mediation Board's dilemma was whether to break the strike in favor of the company or to restore the status quo. It decided, perhaps wisely, upon the latter course, only to have the company balk.

Thus blame for the stoppage of work distributes itself in two ways. Industrial relations in this country never should have been allowed, much less encouraged, to have reached a stage wherein the more truculent employees of a plant may with impunity assert the authority, backed up by force, to say whether or not it shall run and on what terms. Nevertheless, that is the situation which management in a good many industries must face, and the patriotic course for Air Associates to have followed was to have made the best of it for Defense. On the face of refusal, the Government had to step in.

In the end of this strike, as is frequently the case, neither side had much to boast of. The company saw its plant taken over by its president and possibly other officers lost their jobs. But the strikers were re-engaged by the Army solely for their skill and willingness to work, not because of any vested interests in their jobs certified by a labor board.

Six Eastern colleges are forbidding the resident undergrad to keep or operate a car. What! And make the training halfback walk four blocks from a frat house to a gym?

A barn theater group has spent the Summer touring the East by motor truck and trailer. We have yet to hear, though, of a critic being run down by a play.

A mysterious ailment which swells the head is found in interior Brazil. As there is little call for masters of ceremonies in the wilderness, the situation is critical.

Rocking The Boat

By Hugh S. Johnson

IT IS encouraging to learn that the President and Mr. Mack-Kenzie King are to confer in an attempt to co-ordinate our price control system with that of Canada. Of course, as yet we have not statutory price control system and Canada has the over-all flexible ceiling that we ought to have and would have if it were not for several small and politically powerful groups in Washington.

If we get what is threatening us—runaway price inflation—it would have a tendency to pull Canadian prices up or, if her ceiling holds them down, the tendency would be to restrict her buying power here. A suggestion has been laughingly made that this need not be serious because we could just "lease-lend" her stuff (that is, give it to her) and then she couldn't very well kick because she wouldn't be hurt. Only Uncle Sam and his nieces and nephews would be hurt, but they are used to that.

OUR SHIPS COST US TWICE AS MUCH

All this raises the question on the price element in lease-lend shipments to other countries, notably to Britain. Without any runaway inflation at all, it costs us much more to build ships and guns than it costs her. There are no recent figures available, but studies made when the Maritime Commission was getting ready to subsidize the difference between American and foreign ship-building costs indicated that it costs us more than double ship-building costs abroad and the difference must be even greater now.

This isn't true of everything, but it is of cannon and some types of airplanes.

Of course, we have gotten rid of the "silly fool dollar mark" and you are apt to be called a "trailer" if you suggest that all these transactions should at least be scrutinized to see that American interests are not entirely forgotten.

WHAT HAPPENS TO LEASE-LEND FOOD?

It would be nice to know what happens to lease-lend food—now including tobacco. We didn't have exactly lease-lend in 1918, but we established credits for Britain to buy our stuff, shipped it on open account at the same prices charged our Government and our civilian population, and it was never paid for. There isn't much difference between that and lease-lend.

But the British took cotton, foodstuffs and tobacco at least, and resold them to their own civilian populations thus reimbursing their Government and sometimes making a profit. When they came to sell stuff to us they were not so particular about making the prices the same as those at which they were bought.

We had to get pretty rough about it on several occasions. Finally, in every case that I saw, the price situation was pretty fairly worked out, but of course their reimbursements for food, cotton and tobacco never were.

CONFESSIONS OF A BOAT ROCKER

All these transactions are now so shrouded in mystery and generalized statements that it is hard to know what is going on but, if the past is any guide to the present, Uncle Sam isn't getting much in his Christmas stocking.

Of course, I realize what an old boat rocker I am even to be talking about these subjects of price disparities and transfer of goods, but the figures about which future disputes may arise will run into astronomical billions. I hope some one has laid ground for the case of the United States—not now—but when the day of the great settlement arrives. But I'll bet nobody has.

"Under the Cow Hangs Milk"

A ten-year-old English boy, who had never travelled beyond the borders of his native London, was among those evacuated to the country recently, as an air raid precaution which new surroundings inspired him to write the following essay which has enjoyed wide currency in Britain.

THE COW

The cow is a mamal. It has six sides—right and left and upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this he sends flies away so they don't fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so his mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth to moo with. Under the cow hangs milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, milk comes and there never is an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realized but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell and one can smell it far away. This is the reason for fresh air in the country.

A man cow is called an ox. The cow does not eat much but what it eats it eats twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moves and when it says nothing at all it is because its insides are full up with grass.

Capt. Phonz' Distraught Mule

Billy Arthur in Onslow County News & Views

Dr. A. Wylie Moore was describing some conditions of people who have moved from the Marine Barracks area.

"But, the worst thing of all," he said, "is Captain Phonz Moore's mule. The mule's been so upset since he moved from the Marine Base that he won't eat a lump of drink any water, and Phonz is expecting the mule to die any day. The mule just mopes around the stable and kicks the side of the barn."

The Helpful Partner

—By Herblock

Letters to the Editor:

Wants Lewis 'Removed'

Editors, THE NEWS:

I am very much surprised at the discourteous treatment of John L. Lewis, head of the CIO, to our President in ignoring in dictator's style the three letters written him by the President of the United States, when during the last campaign Lewis said if Roosevelt was elected for the third term he would resign as head of the CIO. At the time he knew he was telling a deliberate lie. His job is too fat financially to be given up. I firmly believe that he is in the pay of Hitler and that is the reason that all this trouble with the miners and others. I don't suppose that any American citizen, who has any red blood in him would treat the President of the United States and the public generally in the discourteous manner that he has. What should be done with him he should be put in prison and kept there until he realizes the dangerous and grievous mistakes he has made in the present crisis.

I, for one, believe that these special dictators, like Lewis, should be taken out and put before a firing squad and thus remove them from the danger of again going back on their own country. The dictators in Europe use the firing squad to get rid of undesirable people.

—J. B. O'MEARA.

THOMPSON BACK

Dorothy Thompson, after a month's absence, returns to her regular space in The News tomorrow with a corking article on Charles Augustus Lindbergh, interventionist.

Anti-Climax: The Saga of "Duck" Drake

Wickes Wamboldt in Marshall News-Record

The first time I saw "Duck" Drake he was coming home from school with blood running down one side of his face. Somebody had hit him with a rock.

"Duck's" last name was Drake; the boys had nicknamed him "Duck" because that was the way he impressed them. "Duck" wouldn't fight. Anybody could knock "Duck" around. And he got knocked plenty.

One way to go through this world in peace is to be known as a lover of peace, but as a mean fighter when imposed upon. The person or the nation that won't fight is likely to get knicked around, for human nature is that way.

"Duck" Drake's father finally became so out of patience with the way the boys treated "Duck" that he promised "Duck" a trounciing every time he let anybody bully him.

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—Mother Goose (revised).

There are so few laughs in the news from Washington these days that it would be a shame if anybody missed this one:

A Congressman, pleading recently in the House of Representatives for non-defense economies, charged the Department of Agriculture with squandering the taxpayers' money on a pamphlet about "the love life of the bullfrog." Reports of his speech brought to the Department of Agriculture 300 requests for the booklet.

The Department found it hadn't issued any such brochure, and its press agent issued a statement to the papers refuting the report that it was publishing the bullfrog's love life. The statement caused 600 more persons to write requesting a copy.

That burned up Secretary Wickard, so the next time he went on the radio he repeated emphatically that his Department had not issued, and did not intend to issue, any work on frog amours. Result: Another 1,300 requests to the Department for the booklet.

Well, there you are, folks. Write your Congressman for your copy—today!

Time To Go Home, Boys

Billy Arthur in Onslow County News & Views

Two men in their cups were walking along a stream one beautiful night. One remarked to the other about the reflection of the moon in the water.

"Look at the moon down there," he said. "Isn't it beautiful?"

"Is that the moon down there?" asked the other tight one.

"Sure," replied his friend.

"Well, if that's the moon down there what am I doing up here?"

From "Ye Olde Metaphor Shoppe"

Pete Ivey in Winston-Salem Sentinel

Clay Ferree handed me the following item he saw in a newspaper the other day. It was titled "Unclassified Want Ad," and announced a Grand Opening:

"In response to long-felt want for useful articles often mentioned but never before on sale, we announce Ye Olde Metaphor Shoppe. A few selections from our large stock:

"Stone turners, for determined people who want to leave none unturned.

"Sheep's clothing, for wolves of all sizes and both genders; all wool.

"Chips, to let fall where they may. 5 cents a bag; for wearing on shoulders, 2 cents each.

"Dragnets, large, durable type, for police use.

"Word mincers, to be pointed out by blunt orators as something they disdain to use.

"Red herring, lovely bouquet, suitable for Congressional investigating committees.

"Grass seed, guaranteed to grow, for planting under busy people's feet.

"Grass seed, guaranteed not to grow, for planting in streets by politicians.

"Grass seed, guaranteed to in taking votes, making real estate deals or breaking camel's back.

An Unpublished Best-Seller

Minneapolis Star-Journal

"A bullfrog would a-wooing go, Whether the Department of Agriculture would let him or no. . ."

—Mother Goose (revised).

Senator Soaper Says:

"A calf with two faces born in Nova Scotia, and another, in Missouri, has its heart in its throat." We don't know—somehow these sound more like pedestrians.

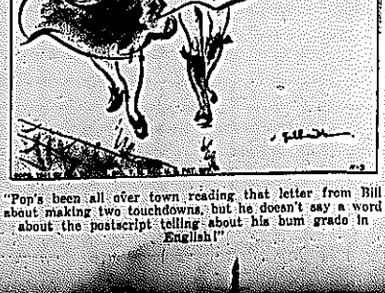
A sociologist foresees a huge American population supported in idleness from the cradle to the grave. Or, as they say, to the manna born.

The tax program could be worse. It is still a few thousand miles from raising the money.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

We must share good or evil with others, whether we will or not: For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.—Romans 14:7.

Side Glances



"Pop's been all over town reading that letter from Bill about making two touchdowns, but he doesn't say a word about the postscript telling about his bum grade in English!"

Our Ships Must Sail

By Raymond Clapper

EVEN IF WE were following a strictly isolationist policy now, it still would be necessary for us to insist upon the right to send our ships freely over all seas.

That point has not been effectively brought out in Senate debate over revising the neutrality Act. Whether we aid Britain and Russia or not, our defense needs make it necessary for ships to bring in materials from all over the world. Our defense production would be fatally crippled within a short time if we pulled our ships into port and tied them up for fear that if they went out on the high seas they might have a shooting match with an Axis raider or submarine.

LEHIGH WAS ON A NECESSARY MISSION

The American freighter Lehigh was sunk off Africa while traveling empty to the Gold Coast to pick up a necessary cargo. You don't run empty ships all the way to Africa unless they are going for something badly needed. The Lehigh was going for palm oil and manganese. Why palm oil? A particular kind of palm oil is needed for curing tin. All of the tin, incidentally, must also be imported. We get this particular quality of palm oil from only two places, so defense experts tell me — from the African Gold Coast and from Sumatra in the East Indies, each a long water haul from the United States.

We are more self-sustaining than any other nation perhaps. We have all of the iron ore we need. But steel-making requires manganese. We must import about 1,200,000 tons a year, according to Dr. William Y. Elliott, OPM expert handling import stockpiles. We haven't been able to find that much as yet. An expanded defense program may require even more manganese. We must bring in more than 1,000,000 tons a year from such far-away places as India, Africa, and the Philippines, to supplement domestic production and sources being developed in Cuba. Chromite, also necessary for making hard steel, must come — perhaps three-quarters of what we must have — from the Philippines, India, South Africa, and some from South America.

SUSPENSION OF SHIPPING WOULD BE CRIPPLING

Those in the Government who are responsible for locating supplies of strategic materials can give you many more instances to show that defense production would be disastrously crippled if shipping were suspended.

It is completely misleading to say that we are 90 per cent self-sufficient, that our foreign trade accounts for only 10 per cent of our economic life. It is like saying that nails are not necessary in building a house because only a few dollars' worth are used. In spite of our high self-sufficiency, certain items must come in. And our shipping, except in the coastwise trade, is being used for this essential bringing. There is a constant necessity to get ships out across the Pacific or over to Africa to pick up cargoes of these indispensible raw materials for the defense program.

If we were 100 per cent isolationist we would still have to go and get this essential material — for I don't hear any of the isolationists saying they would scrap defense. Do they expect that even with isolation, they could get strong defense without manganese, for instance?

I am isolating one or two examples here to suggest the difficulty more clearly. Actually the whole business is a vast complex of materials.

WE COULD BUILD A SECOND-RATE INDUSTRY

You can make artificial rubber. We could perhaps, if we could spare the machinery, erect enough artificial rubber plants to replace our consumption of rubber. That would mean building enough artificial rubber plants to produce the equivalent of half of the world's total production of rubber. Also we have a lot of silver and we could substitute that for copper in some electrical work. We could substitute silver in solder. We could use solter steel and go all around into a second-rate kind of industry and perhaps continue to live—but God knows under what kind of conditions.

No, the chances are the isolationists wouldn't put up with it either. They would insist upon the nation's right to obtain materials essential to its strength. They would come out about where the Administration comes out in all of this — only probably several years too late.

Visitin' Around

And Whaddya Think About Gladys?

(Arcadia Item, Lexington Dispatch)

Miss Gladys Craver is sailing around in a brand new Plymouth car, which is a beauty, we think.

Gotham Reformed

(Hot Springs Item, Marshall News-Record)

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Waddell had a nice trip several days past in New York and several other nice places while on their vacation.