

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

And Evening Chronicle

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W. C. Dowd, 1863-1937

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Personal Tour

Excitement Testimony Takes Precedence Over Opinion

Two or three of the state papers in expressing concern over the disclosure of conditions at Morganton, have brought up the credibility of the witness.

The Fayetteville Observer it was, we believe, which said that Mr. Jimison's charges would have to be "taken with a grain of salt."

But we can tell our skeptical contemporaries that Mr. Jimison persists in believing to this day that what he wrote about Morganton is not only wholly true but a little less than the whole truth.

And while his statements (as well as the statements of other former patients) are going to have to be verified before they can be allowed, in any fairness at all, to form a judgment regarding the institution, its administration and personnel, the fact remains that Mr. Jimison was actually an inmate there for more than a year.

Strategy

The Japs Needn't Expect An Offense Any Time Soon

There is no longer any doubt about the master strategy under which the United States and its allies are waging war. As outlined by President Roosevelt, it is a policy of defense, of preventing a break-through, as he put it, until such time as we are ready to take the offensive.

The one great flaw in such a plan is that our side may not be able to prevent a break-through and so may lose the most important bases from which the ultimate offensive could be most effectively launched.

It would be interesting to know where the battlefront would be in Russia today if Josef Stalin had decided to remain on the defensive until the United Nations had furnished him with superior arms.

At any rate, it must be a great comfort to the Japs to be assured that they needn't worry about any sustained offensive against their far-flung communications lines—until we have prepared superior forces.

Shoot First... It's Best To Bait The Army's Hair-Trigger

The other evening—Sunday, we believe it was—a reporter asked the general commanding our Panama Canal defense forces what his men would do if an unidentified plane were spotted over the Bay.

He explained that the defending planes had certain specific areas to patrol and that they knew better than to violate orders. Other "serpents" visitors were not welcome.

turn back when a burst of machine-gun bullets ripped through the plane. At 1,100 feet, it was good shooting on somebody's part. One of the passengers was hit and critically injured.

There is no official report on who fired at the plane. The incident could be worked up into a cartoon-stip mystery.

Experiment

How Loud Must the People Tell To Make FDR Hear?

More enterprising scientist could do the nation a service by installing a decibelometer on the White House lawn. Had such an instrument been in operation during the six months preceding the appointment of Donald Nelson as production boss, we should know now, with scientific exactness how loud and how long the public must shout for administrative reform before President Roosevelt hears and acts accordingly.

For more than a year OPM-SFAD muddling it should have been obvious to the Administration that something was wrong. Equally clear was the remedy proposed on all sides: the appointment of one capable administrator with full authority and full responsibility.

By knowing how many decibels of public yelling it took to get action out of the President on the Nelson reorganization, the people would be able to estimate how loud they will have to shout before Mr. Roosevelt will remove Mrs. Roosevelt as well as La Guardia from the Office of Civilian Defense.

And perhaps if they knew what I think the people could protest vigorously enough to get Mr. Roosevelt actually to dissolve an agency that failed to function instead of setting up two or three new ones to do its job (as he did in the defense housing tangle).

Pensions?

Wouldn't Social Security Suit Congress Better?

Congress' brave bill providing pensions for its members when they reach the age of 65 has become law. And so far all attempts to repeal it have been broken off with great parliamentary vigor.

The bill came up so suddenly and was passed so rapidly that few taxpayers had a chance to take it in along with the bad war news.

With the purpose of the act we have been arguing. But what is there about Congressmen that makes them deserve such a year?

It's Social Security they want, why the Treasury Department is just aching to give it. Surely Congress wouldn't claim that its membership is better than the public at large. Why not extend Social Security to Congressmen and let them live like the rest of the old-age beneficiaries on \$30 or \$40 a month?

Or have we created an American nobility that must be supported in the style to which it accustomed itself?

The word from rebellious Norway is that Vidkun Quisling has been in for a month. It is not beyond this from anything he ate at testimonial banquets.

Asked to save two to three billion dollars in non-defense funds, Congress proposed a compromise. It would gladly save daylight instead.

The program being interrupted for a new flash that an American sub has sunk three Jap ships in Tokyo Bay, the orchestra resumes with "why don't we do this more often?"

About Jimison Series:

Follow Through.

Burlington Times-News

Governor Broughton has stated he will order an investigation made of conditions at the State Hospital at Morganton. The investigation is the action of Tom P. Jimison, a former patient, in a series of newspaper articles now appearing in the daily press.

If Mr. Jimison could have any reasonable basis for his revelations it must be in the desire to render a public service to the State and in the interest of others who are patients in the hospital. Such compensation as he may receive from his publishers is not likely to make the job a paying proposition.

It does not appear that Mr. Jimison under normal conditions could have left the hospital after a year without any serious complications. He appears to have been a patient in the usual sense. He appears to have received many privileges, including communion with staff members. Should his revelations prove to be a betrayal of confidence, he would be unworthy of notice and should suffice to discredit the man in the eyes of the public.

This conclusion is logical, we think, because Mr. Jimison's statements were volunteered by him. It might be well to move from Morganton to Raleigh, to Greensboro, and on to any other State institution of a similar nature.

The viewpoint here is that if the Jimison allegations merit any attention at all it should be all-inclusive and thorough. It should include the cause and effect, along with recommendations for improvement.

When all of the data are assembled before the Governor and his inspection the next move should be, if further consideration is in order, to call for the attention of the General Assembly.

Merely presenting the matter to the General Assembly is not enough. Regulations must be made, the heads of these institutions of the State, have been before the appointment of Nelson as production boss, we should know now, with scientific exactness how loud and how long the public must shout for administrative reform before President Roosevelt hears and acts accordingly.

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Probe Fully

Raleigh News & Observer

Governor Broughton has proposed a full investigation by the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, the department which is charged with the supervision of all charitable institutions, into grave charges concerning the management of the State Hospital for the Insane at Morganton.

This investigation will be conducted independently of the investigation which the board of directors of the hospital has directed to be made by its five new members. The directors are neither the Governor nor the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare could afford to ignore the plain mandate of the Constitution, which says:

"Beneficial provisions for the poor, the unfortunate, and orphan bring one of the first duties of a civilized and Christian State; the General Assembly shall, at its first session, appoint and define the duties of a board of public charities, to whom shall be entrusted the supervision of all charitable institutions, and who shall annually report to the Governor upon their management and recommendations for their improvement."

The Governor should see to it that the Board of Charities and Public Welfare has all needed assistance and the investigation be both as to the institution at Morganton and other like institutions.

The public is entitled to know all of the facts of the case, and neglect those guilty should be punished. There has been too much of this kind of thing in the past. There has been too much of this kind of thing in the past. There has been too much of this kind of thing in the past.

But nothing will fully meet the situation except a full investigation by disinterested parties. When the Governor meets the public next week to discuss the situation, they should arrange for that kind of investigation.

TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT

Be happy, but strive to do better than you have done. (Proverbs 10:1)

Nice Timing!



Letters to the Editor: Eating Off The Floor

Editors, The News:

I have spent almost seven months behind the walls of the insane asylum at Morganton. I was sent there for praying... I am glad that I had sense enough to leave there. I don't claim to have any people since they put me in that place and no one else cures very much for their people or they would lock them in a barn before sending them to that place.

City-Wide Call to Prayer

Many parental hearts are bleeding as sons are being called away. Many young men realize when they leave their homes they are taking steps which, in some cases at least, will never be retraced. Many young women are feeling that the light has gone out of the world. Many are feeling that the light has gone out of the world.

God has forgotten the world?

Has the world not rather forgotten God? Has the world not rather forgotten God? Has the world not rather forgotten God?

Why not gather in the city-wide prayer meeting which was held at the Presbyterian Church Thursday at 12:35 P. M.?

Privileges of A Dog's Life

Editors, The News: I have never considered the many privileges you would give in Charlotte, if you would just go down to the city.

Senator Soaper Says

What formerly was Blam's decision was, in my opinion, a mistake. The decision is assumed to have been unanimous, as (with divided tongues) members get no valid votes.

Gorgeous blouses in the service of the Axis are reported circulating among the members of the "Dumb" group.

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Myriads Of Clerks

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON

FOR a year we were told that the automobile industry could not be converted to war work. It is being converted to war work.

This is not so much a matter of dollar economy. All the dollars that could be saved by non-defense economies would hardly be noticed among the billions that must be spent on the war.

As it is going now, thousands of new people are coming into Washington every week. The War Department is trying to add 40,000 civilians, mostly clerical. Mr. Roosevelt has spoken of possibly a quarter-million additional employees coming here during the war.

I don't know what there is for so many to do, and employees are coming in faster than they can be digested and put at a full day's work.

WHY NOT CONVERT EMPLOYEES OF NON-WAR AGENCIES? But even on the assumption that most of the additional help will be needed, the question arises whether some of this influx might not be eliminated by converting employees from old non-war agencies to emergency work.

The Government is moving some agencies out of town. Clerical forces, which form the largest percentage of the numbers, are being slashed. Why shouldn't these non-defense agencies moved away from the city and specialized personnel here to be transferred to war agencies? Routine help can be picked up in the new centers. Why more clerks out of Washington and bring in others?

Furthermore there is no reason why some of the personnel in non-war agencies could not be detailed to war work. There has been a considerable amount of this in the higher ranks and among the specialized personnel.

It might be possible to reduce the amount of paper work that goes on in the regular Government agency. The life-long effort of the average supervisory employee in Washington is to get as large a staff as he can.

Over the years most of these agencies have more people than are really needed to do the work if it is handled at a wartime pace instead of the traditional Government office pace.

NEITHER OFFICE NOR LIVING SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Something of this kind will have to be done. The budget director, Harold Smith, estimates that 45,000 new employees will come to Washington this year. Neither office space nor living space is available to house them.

Then to smother the dogs, while they are penned up, if the owners couldn't spare the time, we might as well offer the dogs or some other organization, some dog-walkers.

"Certain Statements" Were "Misunderstood"

Editors note: President Caldwell of the University of Georgia, was kind enough to send us a copy of the following letter:

I agree with the sentiments expressed in the editorial in The Charlotte News. Any university that sought to secure mass deferment for its students and particularly for its athletes would be deserving of condemnation.

There was a plenty of ice and frost this morning but I could hear a pleasant song by a blue bird and a joyful whistle of a red bird. Next Monday is the children's day. Mrs. M. of E. is celebrating her birthday and though we may enjoy some snow yet it will not be before Spring arrives in its beauty and we will go out to plant vegetable seed and the flowers will not be forgotten.

Just Willie! Around (Pinky) Ham, Berry (Neva) Topic, Donny (Mr. Onley) Cooks and wife, have moved back to Black Berry.

Be happy, but strive to do better than you have done. (Proverbs 10:1)