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• W. C. Dowd, 1865-1927 •

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1943

Now, At Last

A Planning Commission Brings
Hope for New Progress to City

The creation of Charlotte's Planning Committee, embracing the membership and works of the year-old Industries Committee and including 113 other citizens of many points of view, is destined to fill manifold needs of the City and County. Its formation by the Chamber of Commerce and its acceptance by the local governments means that a great deal has been added to the future of the community. The News, having urged just such a planning unit for some months past, looks upon the vital addition with gratification, confident that many of the problems arising from our past policy of plianceness will now disappear, met and solved in advance.

The committee gives great promise because of the important task of selecting for the important task of fascism's community needs during the war and post-war periods. It is significant that their task was outlined as one of fact-finding and recommendation, with the specific declaration that they would not seek to impose their will upon Charlotte or Mecklenburg Governments. Their field will not be limited to attempts to locate new industries in the section, though through the war years, especially, that work will continue to receive the same earnest attention it has in the past year.

Naming this body is the first big step in answering the questions of Charlotte's expansion to keep pace with the coming years. Traffic control, community planning, providing for expanding facilities to meet a growing population, plans, perhaps, for the long-sought up-town auditorium, for greater airport facilities for a new railway station—those are the items that immediately come to mind, and they have already become familiar local problems.

The debt which the people of the City and County owe to members of the Industries Committee will not cease with their incorporation into the Planning Committee. The vital work in which they were so successful as Pied Pipers to industry will go on, and their efforts which succeeded in bringing the U. S. Rubber and National Carbon plants here will not be forgotten so long as a large part of this area's population continues to find the new homes. There are perhaps other benefits of this kind to come, increasing the value of these men to the community. Their job has not now been completed. Rather, it has been projected into the period after peace, when it will be equally as important as it has been in the pressing time of war.

Early Defeat Lack of Firepower Pushes Americans Back in Tunisia

As the rainy season wanes in North Africa, Erwin Rommel has his way. Along the heights commanding approaches to the sea and the Nazi crescent of defense, Nazi arms are victorious. All along the great battlefield, Germans hold the strong positions. When the British-American offensive gets under way, it must pay the heaviest price in the passes and on the hills. And in the early phases of the battle, young Americans are giving their lives in payment for the Allied disadvantages.

There is too much talk of the green army's lack of training, going on before the advance of Rommel, and too much talk of our light arms, blinding ineffectively against the main German tanks. What seems more likely is that superior firepower will again be the answer to the German professional soldier, and that firepower, when brought up to the front lines, will overwhelm the Axis armies as it has in the past.

When the time comes that General Eisenhower can send up greater numbers of tanks and guns to support his lightly-armed lines, and the British First and Eighth Armies draw close enough to press attacks on the rear, this new battle will be shattered. There can be no doubt that American soldiers and their officers lack the polish of fighting veterans of many campaigns, but it is difficult to believe that they would be at a disadvantage for a moment, given sufficient power to deal with the enemy.

The casualties we have been often warned, are already heavy and will increase as the tempo of battle increases. But the end is not only inevitable for the Germans in Africa; as it approaches our casualties will grow lighter—and not because American soldiers control, brother, and

because the weight of British American power will give them greater protection, and send the enemy into the final retreat. American arms have suffered a blow in the first clash with the Nazis, but the reason of it is that the arms themselves are not yet heavy enough—and not that the American soldier is too inexperienced to give a good account of himself.

Rebellion

Farm Bloc Spurns Incentive Payments, Wants Real Help

Americans and their vittles may, as the Department of Agriculture says, be coming upon hard times, but insofar as the farmer is concerned the future can bring nothing worse than hunger with honor. A House appropriations committee has apparently saved that much for food producers by killing the Administration's "incentive payment" plan of providing \$100,000,000 in special benefits to prime the farmer to record production.

It may be that farm bloc representatives are completely selfish in their refusal to accept such payments—for they will insist upon true justice for agriculture by the establishment of a parity formula to include farm labor costs—but the situation has never been so threatening that the payment of special benefits is meeting powerful opposition.

Just as the majority rejected the theory of spending for prosperity in other years, so will it reject the thinking behind spending as incentive for production. Liberal grants to industry for war expansion seems vastly different from passing around the paychecks to inveigle the farmer into doing the job he is already desperately striving to do. He needs not patronage, but only the opportunity for production and his representatives in Congress are determined to have it for him, no matter what the consequences.

At the same time, the Department of Agriculture, with the national food shortage has not yet begun that present stocks might be reduced by half within a year because of increased lend-lease and military needs. And in the record year of 1942 the nation consumed and exported more food than it produced. Only careful rationing, says Secretary Wickard, can insure a "reasonably adequate" diet for Americans in the year ahead.

Mr. Wilderness Folks Said They Wanted Wine Control; It's Here

Wine, which has never been North Carolina's favorite beverage, is in need of control. Governor Broughton thought so, when he gave his approval of the principle to the Assembly. He went on record as refusing to bless specific provisions of the bill as it finally appeared—and when that legislative vehicle was cut down sharply in committee it probably met some of the Governor's personal objections.

The Wine Control bill came out of the Senate Finance Committee's operating room, bounded beyond recognition. But it was to be considered as it was, and no one who has vaguely thought of the taste of commercial wine except who has wisely sought out their own hook, but it came out leaving its backers with fewer concessions than ever. By virtue of eight amendments, drinks for the thirsty wine-drinking minority will be fewer, more expensive, and milder.

The eight incisions:

1. Eliminated the provision to permit sale of fortified wine, called "dessert wine" in the bill, in all counties of the state.

2. Provided for prohibiting sale of fortified wine except in ABC stores.

3. Eliminated the provision for a state minimum sales director of "wine control" and replaced the part of the director at the discretion of the Governor and the Budget Bureau.

4. Raised from 10 to 20 cents the per-gallon tax on "table wine," wine of 12 per cent alcohol.

5. Provided that stores selling "table wines" must close by 11 on Saturday nights.

6. Eliminated the provision that the wine industry must have "the understanding and working knowledge of the wine industry."

7. Provided that five per cent of the taxes collected under the "wine control" law may be used by the director to administer the act.

That sounds like a good idea, and

What's Happened To Hitler?

Russian Defeats Push Him To Obscurity

By Dorothy Thompson

WASHINGTON FOR weeks past the German press has hardly mentioned the name of Adolf Hitler. Hardly a picture of him has been published. Germany's internal propaganda has taken a new line. The war is no longer a Nazi war for the Master Race to dominate the world. It is now a German patriotic war, for the maintenance of the German nation, and waged by Germany, as a European nation, among equals, for the defense of Europe against Bolshevik communism. Hitler is no longer the "Führer," the "Leader," he is now a German patriot, a war for the maintenance of the German nation, and waged by Germany, as a European nation, among equals, for the defense of Europe against Bolshevik communism.

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