# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

*And Evening Chronicle*

Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday By The News Publishing Company, Inc.

W. C. Dowd Jr., President and General Manager — Burke Davis, Editor — Mrs. Dowd Jones, Secretary.

Lieut. J. E. Dowd, USNR, Vice-President and Editor, on leave for the duration

• W. C. Dowd, 1855-1927 •

The daily edition of The Charlotte News was established 1888. The Evening Chronicle (established 1903) was purchased by and consolidated with The Charlotte News May 8, 1916.

The News desires to be notified promptly of errors in any of its reports that require correction may be made at once

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Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Charlotte, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By carrier: 20 cents a week; one month, 87 cents. By mail: One month 87c; three months, $2.60; six months, $5.20; one year, $10.40.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1943


## The Rift

### *Allies Must Take Steps Against Future Squabbles*

The rupture of relations between Russia and Poland is not only to be deplored by leadership of the United Nations; further disturbances of the peace between allies is to be guarded against. There is not only the prospect that Poland and Russia will never be able to settle their differences. There is the likelihood that the Soviet Union will express, soon or late, the desire to deal harshly with other smaller nations, especially in the Balkans. It is not part of the United Nations covenant that the Red Army shall be permitted to conquer a protective ring around the Soviet Union after peace has been declared. But there will not be a power in position to dictate the Red policy.

There are possibilities that the United States and Russia will not see eye to eye on problems of war, as well as problems of peace. There is, beyond doubt, disagreement on strategy between Russian and British-American views even today. It is certain that the Jap-Russian-American situation cannot breed the most amicable relations in the future. The rifts between allies must be guarded against, for to lose harmony of purpose is to lose all, and further the aims of the enemy—even though he be well on the way to defeat.

The fact that Poland is among the smaller of our allies is the very reason why a major power should not be permitted to use her as it will; neither should old prejudices against Russia be allowed to spring up in this country and in Britain because of the break in relations with Poland. There must be a great effort for understanding, for here we may leave the trail of brotherhood, forget all the ideals of accomplishment for which we are allegedly fighting, and lay a sound basis for some future war.

And yet the rupture does not represent grave danger; if it is dealt with quickly and sensibly it will teach the United Nations a lesson which might come more dearly at a later date. What must be done is plain: Poland and Russia must not only be reconciled, there must be set up machinery to arbitrate future disagreements between allies, to the end that the front may be kept united against the enemy. There is the chance that the Poland of post-war days cannot become a first-rate power; all nations must accede to the great plan which is to be made for the good of us all.

If Russia is to be prevented from assuming the aggressor's role against smaller nations, and smaller nations are to be shown that theirs is a lesser destiny in the new scheme of things, then there must be a statement of definitive policy from the United Nations as a whole. There is not now a set of laws. There is only the announcement of good intentions. The need is for a protective structure to bind us together and make such breaches impossible.

## Cop Politics

### *Uniformed Election Workers Should Be Apprehended Now*

Whether or not the charge is true, and there is every reason to believe it possible, there should be an immediate and full investigation into the alleged political activities of the City Police Department. The reported violation by several policemen during this week's election strikes us as a foolish, dangerous practice.

The Civil Service laws were set up to protect City employees from just such charges; that any man would accept that protection for years, and flaunt it with violations in public during City elections is beyond our understanding. We beseech Chief Walter Anderson to investigate fully.

The Chief apparently fears that the public will look upon him as revengeful if the disciplines the men who are charged with these violations. We do not believe that is true; it is more likely that all thinking citizens will consider immediate action his duty—just as it is the duty of every other City officer and every other citizen, to co-operate to the fullest extent to prevent any further public political activities on the part of municipal employees.

The laws do not disenfranchise City employees; there is no provision against voting as they please, or influencing But to work publicly in an election is to bring certain criticism of the administration, undermine confidence in the Police Department, and break down the whole democratic process of voting.

We think a motion is in order that Chief Anderson crack down at once, without thought of the public reaction. That sort of thing has gone on for too many years in the Police Department.

## Candidate Hoey

### *Against Reynolds, He Will Make the Strongest Race*

It was a foregone conclusion, with the exit of O. Max Gardner from the Senate race of 1944, that Clyde R. Hoey would, soon or late, bow to the demands of friends and citizens and enter the joust with Bob Reynolds. He is being noisily welcomed today, nonetheless, in all sections of North Carolina. It is the opinion of many political observers that ex-Governor Hoey is capable of making the strongest race against the incumbent—and those who oppose the incumbent are almost without number.

Governor Hoey has many qualifications to fit him for membership in the most austere legislative body in the world. He served a term as Governor which left a remarkable record behind him for inspection; his reputation and character are above reproach, and he exists in that light in the hearts of most of his fellows. It is said, not without reason, that no Governor ever left the Raleigh Mansion with such political power as Clyde Hoey.

In the race against Reynolds, he will carry all the support which would have been thrown to Max Gardner—and that will be a considerable weight. He is also likely to get all of the support from the State administration; it is not unlikely that outside forces may enter the field, seeking to help the ex-Governor from Cleveland.

His appeal, not as yet announced, is pretty well defined for him. If he opposes only the Reynolds record of the past, his arguments will ring from one end of the State to the other. He will need to make no stand of his own, though his own record will speak for him as a man totally unlike his opponent. The race, like the Governorship race, may now be considered complete. It will be a hard, bitter one, fought to the very end.

## Retirement

### *Judge Warlick's Decision Leaves a Fast Field for '44*

In the decision of Judge Wilson Warlick to withdraw from the 1944 gubernatorial race, North Carolina voters lost an appealing figure for the campaign, but the State bench retained a valuable, trusted servant. And now that Judge Coot, a characterful, genial, obliging, handsome and accomplished ex-candidate, has stepped aside, the issues become crystal clear. There is to be a long, hard fight between Iron Major Gregg Cherry and Dr. Ralph McDonald. And the battle will be to the finish, a natural.

It is to be a battle of liberalism against conservatism, an old-style battle. It might be mentioned, even this far in advance of the actual fighting, that liberalism seldom wins in this state—nor in any other nearby. But it is well to remember that, as of the last Governor's race, Governor Broughton has been obligated in a very real fashion to Dr. McDonald—as the Doctor was a hard-working Broughton man. Gregg Cherry was not.

And yet, there is the opinion that Governor Broughton is disposed to favor the conservative group represented by Mr. Cherry, and that there was, somehow, a behind-the-scenes reason for the retirement of Judge Warlick from the race. It is, as we've said before, first a race for the favors of the present administration. The candidate garnering that support has the inside track, but still, in this race, will not be assured of victory. For the same general support which Dr. McDonald received last time will likely be his again, and his appeal to the multitude will be great.

Even though an extremely attractive candidate has bowed out, therefore, the race promises to be even more exciting. It is unlikely that a third candidate, either major or minor, will now offer for the race—for between Mr. Cherry and Dr. McDonald the great batches of votes are already split, as of this moment. Now there will be precious little support

*Are We Desperate?*

# Food Army Is Confused

*By Samuel Crafton*

NEW YORK.

IF WE kill the Farm Security Administration, as the House desires to do, we may make it impossible for 500,000 farm families to continue to produce food for the war. We may throw them out of production at a time when we are talking of taking soldiers out of the army to work on farms. (And that is what I mean when I use that hard word "obscurantism" to describe some of the murky double-talk and facing-two-way trends which mark so much of the current political debate.)

This is obscurantism on the march, with swords. We are making a big thing of importing 5,000 farm workers from the Bahamas. Here are 500,000 farm families, our citizens and brothers, who have been helped by their pitiful Farm Security Administration loans to the point where they produced last year 16 per cent of the national increase in milk, and 27 per cent of the national increase in dry beans, and 10 per cent in eggs and chickens, though they number but 3½ per cent of the nation's farmers.

So we demobilize them out of their farms, and then demobilize soldiers to work on other farms, and we also import farm labor meanwhile, and if that is not obscurantism I would like to know what other word to paste on it.

And big city populations continue to show an aggravating lack of interest in the issue. Twenty-four New York City Congressmen did not even bother to vote on it. Yet here is one point where farm and city interests obviously come together, and at which the two groups can take each other's hand.

**A small cabal of large farm operators, some of whom are producing staples of which we have surpluses, is having its way, come hell, high water or war. It is writing into the law its preference for the one-sided collectivism of the large plantation, as against the simple rural capitalism of the one-family farm. In the name of fighting communism, it is wiping out the one Federal bureau which has done more to promote private ownership than any other. One calls on friends of the free enterprise system to prove that they believe in it in the barnyard as well as in the factory.**

Now that I have begun on "obscurantism," let me carry it a little further. We are having a refugee conference in Bermuda. At the same time we are importing labor from the Bahamas and Mexico. Now, if you look closely at the creature called "refugee" and the creature called "laborer," you realize, with a start, that they are the same creature, man.

How is it possible to say that we cannot provide temporary haven for a limited number of refugees at a time when we are importing Bahaman and Mexican workers? One man can come in because he is a worker, and the other cannot come in because he is a refugee. But both are men and workers. They would seem to belong in the same file, not in separate compartments of the mind.

**If the food situation is so desperate as even to justify partial demobilization of the army, which was projected in one of the Bankhead bills, then it is desperate enough to warrant laying aside a certain quantum of our anti-refugee feeling. If the picture is serious enough to call for giving up the military offensive, it is perhaps serious enough to call for giving up a prejudice or two.**

But in the foggy annals of obscurantism, it is easier to give up the struggle than the prejudice.

Thus there is that persistent theory that we might as well pull men out of the army, to farm, because we lack enough shipping to send all our troops and equipment abroad, anyway. The Truman Committee has just explained one reason for lack of shipping, which is, it says, the Navy's slowness in building escort vessels to force our convoys through. A truly vigorous and victorious approach to the war would call for enough escort vessels to convoy our armies abroad, plus entry of enough workers to raise the food we need, damning the torpedoes and the double-talk, both.

*The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe*

*—By Dorman Smith*

*Platform Of The People*

# The Most Ancient Evil

Editors, The News:

Concerning the vice situation in Charlotte, the remedy may reasonably be one of regulation rather than attempts at suppression. The crime of prostitution has baffled law enforcement authorities throughout the age of civilized man. In large communities, it appears to be inescapable from human society; having been patronized, prohibited, ignored, recognized, tolerated, condemned, regulated, let alone, flaunted, and concealed, yet, no pleasant or hopeful conclusion arrived at.

**Prostitu on has existed in all civilized countries from the earliest times. It usually has been subject to regulation by law or custom. No success has been made in efforts to suppress it. It is a means of livelihood which a certain proportion of women prefer to other means. Other outstanding factors are love of excitement and dislike of restraint; harsh treatment of girls at home; promiscuous and indecent mode of living in over-crowded quarters; contact with demoralized companions; self-indulgence and loose manners set by certain classes; demoralizing literature and amusement and the arts of profligate men. Other social and economic conditions, no doubt contribute to the delinquency of the victims**

Attempts at suppression are futile as far as curing the evil is concerned. Neither will tolerance and regulations by the authorities bring about the desired result. However, it is an evil, as has been said about the poor, "We will always have with us" and society in general should support the authorities in legal measures to regulate the practice of prostitution. Means of strict segregation and identification of prostitutes should be provided with the co-operation of health authorities, which plan is certainly not a cure for the evil, but undoubtedly offers the best solution to the whole problem. Under strict regulations, such as segregation and identification, the victims are marked in a community and the profession will not appear so glamorous for those about to enter it.

In looking over some of the experiences of society in its this evil, we find that the ancient Greeks at Athens, in order to preserve public order and decency, established houses of prostitution, which were a State monopoly and confined to certain quarters. The inmates were forbidden the superior parts of towns and were placed under various disabilities, and were compelled to wear distinctive dress. After the Persian war, more stringent regulations were introduced. They were placed under police control and were liable to prosecution for such offences as ruining youths and committing sacrilege. Later the Romans and Jews united with the Greeks idea for public decency and upheld a standard of austerity all their own.

Female virtue was highly honored and it was considered disgraceful to a man to frequent the company of prostitutes. The Greeks introduced the system of police regulations, which is the leading feature of administration in most European countries today. At this period of history, prostitutes had to wear distinctive dress, dye their hair, or wear yellow wigs and were subject to various civil laws.

In spite of much effort and an occasional spasm of severity by rulers through the middle ages, prostitution flourished everywhere. It was not only tolerated but licensed and regulated by law. In London there were a row of brothels near London Bridge, which were licensed by the bishops of Winchester and subsequently sanctioned by parliament. These places were later abolished by Henry VIII. London furnished the earlier known regulations directed against the spread of venereal disease. France distinguished prostitutes by having them wear a badge and they were forbidden to wear jewels and fine clothes and to visit certain parts of town. They were also subjected to weekly examinations.

**Attempts to follow all the steps and policy adopted in different countries during the latter centuries for the suppression or control of an incurable evil, is only citing phases in the evolution of procedure that was tried out. It is worth while to note that the chief feature of the control program appears to be that of organized police control with a general determination to put the subject out of sight and ignore it as far as possible. It has been pronounced that toleration of prostitution is a necessary evil to avoid greater disorders which are not restrained by law and which take their rise from an inextinguishable natural appetite.**

The control of the evil by the police authorities would of course necessitate very strict statutes and heavy penalties for the violation of the segregation, medical and identification requirements. The law would not be directed against an act of prostitution, but the manner or place which it is done. It is not bordering on the ridiculous to say that a law against the wind blowing would be as ineffective as one forbidding what is generally termed prostitution. In the face of this impossibility, it seems reasonable to attempt to protect society and especially the young as far as possible against an existing and incurable evil.

The broad conclusion is that attempts at repression only lead to a change of form, not of substance. It survives under all treatment and may be signs of a decaying civilization, as witnessed by the growth of the most degraded class that ever disgraced the name of man—the creature who lives upon the earnings of individual prostitutes. The Elizabethan drama is full of reference to men who took toll of prostitutes in return for protective service. The great centers of modern civilization have nothing whatever to learn from imperial Rome, Corinth, or ancient Egypt. Obscenities dug up and relegated to museums are now surpassed by the photographic abominations which can be seen at many places today. These excesses may be a passing phase, but it is a phase which has always marked the decadence of great nations. Prostitution has already left its mark on the marriage and birth-rate of the most highly civilized western communities.

W. M. SULLIVAN.

**TODAY'S BIBLE THOUGHT**

WHY, EXPERIMENT WITH NOVELTIES? THEY WILL NOT WORK?—*The word of the Lord*

*Anti-Inflation*

# A Year's Battle

THE Department of Agriculture at Washington reports that the average American housewife had to spend $1 more per month for food in March, 1943, than in March, 1942.

One year ago yesterday (on April 27, 1942) President Roosevelt had his anti-inflation program ready. In a message to Congress, the President said, "we must do seven things: (1) Tax heavily, (2) fix ceilings on prices and rents, (3) stabilize wages and salaries, (4) stabilize farm prices, (5) ration scarce goods, (6) discourage installment buying, (7) put personal, immediate savings, which are in short supply, (8) encourage payment of debts. Most of these matters would be voted for by Administration action, the President said. However, he asked quick action on his proposal that selling prices for agricultural commodities be reduced from 110 to 100 per cent of parity. Neither of the President's requests for legislation were met by Congress until October.

On April 28, the day after the President's message was read at the Capitol, the Office of Price Administration issued a "General Maximum Price Regulation" which ordered wholesale and retail prices of most commodities (excluding unprocessed agricultural commodities) held at "the highest price charged by the seller during March, 1942." By this order, said Price Administrator Henderson, the battle lines were drawn for the fight against inflation. "Prices under the ceiling are going no higher. The retail price will be held. There will be no increase in the general level."

**On April 25, 1942, the wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics had stood at 96.6 (1926 equal 100). By April 17, 1943, latest date for which this figure is available, the combined index had risen to 103.5—an increase of five per cent. Prices of farm products had risen from 104.5 to 124.4, an increase of 18.7 per cent. All commodities other than farm products and foods had risen only a little more than one per cent during this period.**

Cost of living figures for March, 1943, recently issued by the National Industrial Conference Board, show a rise of 5.9 per cent in the general level of living costs since April, 1942. The sharpest increase was in the cost of food and the smallest in the cost of clothing, with an actual decline of 2-10th of one per cent in the cost of housing during the last eleven months.

**Cost of Living Indexes**

| Item | April, 1942 | March, 1943 (1923 equals 100) | Increase Per Cent) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Food | 98.4 | 112.9 | 14.8 |
| Clothing | 88.4 | 88.6 | .2 |
| Fuel and light | 90.1 | 92.6 | 2.8 |
| Housing | 91.0 | 90.8 | (decreased .2 |
| Sundries | 104.1 | 106.8 | 2.6 |
| Combined index | 97.1 | 102.8 | 5.9 |

Bureau of Labor Statistics cost of living indexes for March have not yet been issued. The delay has been due to "changes which must be made in the food index because of rationing and current short supplies of ordinary foods." The BLS combined index had been criticised by Price Administrator Brown as "unrealistic" in that it did not give consideration to black market food prices in calculating the rise in the general level of consumer living costs.

Brown said, April 21, he believed that action taken under the President's "hold the line" order of April 9 would bring an end to black market operations and would stabilize living costs "one per cent or less" above current levels. A rise of one per cent from the level of March, 1943, would give a cost of living index approximately 25 per cent above August, 1939, and 12 per cent above the level of living costs in November, 1941, just before the United States entered the war.—Editorial Research Report.

*Our Littlejohn*

# Softhearted Frank

— By TOM JIMISON

In Richmond County Journal

TOTHER day I had a letter from Frank N. Littlejohn, Charlotte's famous sleuth. He sent in his subscription to The Journal, and in a letter too intimate and personal to quote, he referred to himself as "a hardened old detective." Fiddlesticks! Frank Littlejohn is about as hardened as a schoolboy. He will spend a month in running down a felon, a week in getting him sent to prison, then empty his pockets for the benefit of the man's family, and is among the first to ask for the man's release. You fool him a thousand times and he would still believe you. He knows how good bad people are. In spite of it all he thinks that humanity is worth much patience and is worthy of great confidence.

But our neighboring city has fallen down on Frank. They are winding up a hot political campaign there without making him an issue. He has been an issue in every campaign in the Queen City since old Heck was a pup, and it does look like he is a slippin' a leetle mite. But he ain't hardened. He can still cry over neglected children, still feed hungry wayfarers, still befriend those who have been released from prison, and the man who does that can never become hardened.

# Visitin' Around

**Bumped Into a Deer Story, Version 974**

(Shady Grove Item, Lexington Dispatch)

John Clay Farabee is nursing a bruised eye and it could have been serious, as he pitched a bread crate to the top of his bread truck and it failed to catch, coming right back and striking him over and to the side of the eye.

**How Does OPA Classify Johnny, As Essential Or Not?**

(Shady Grove Item, Lexington Dispatch)

We are glad the gas situation doesn't stop all the friendly folks. Recently Mrs. Hattie Reece and Mrs. Sallie Craven spent an afternoon with Mrs. G. A. Gauker and pushed baby Johnny in his cart as well.

**The Hard Way**

(North Wilkesboro Hustler)

Mr. J. G. Hackett says he has been working in his garden every morning since the Winter weather broke and that he is feeling fine. Says he believes the exercise helped him to get rid of a cold.

## Side Glances

"It seems to me there's enough trouble in the world, Mother, without making me keep up these