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WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1942

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.
—Roosevelt's War Message

Star-News Program

- To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.
- Public Port Terminals.
- Perfect Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities.
- Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.
- Extension of City Limits.
- 35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington.
- Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation.
- Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax.
- Shipyards and Drydocks.
- Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital.
- Adequate hospital facilities for white. Junior High School.
- Tobacco Warehouses for Export Buyers.
- Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina.
- Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

Hark, there are voices, piteous in their pleading,
Where mothers cry aloud for war to cease.
Their prayers lift up to God like smoking incense,
They beg, they plead, they agonize for peace.

The mothers of the world fight greater battles
Than do their sons, and fight them all alone
Save for their God . . . They do not march to music,
They face the lonely days, the strange unknown
Hours ahead. O God, upon these mothers
Have pity now and use Thy power, Thy might
To bring the peace that anxious hearts are craving;
And out of this deep dark may there come light.

—Grace Noll Crowell in "Hollands"

Airport Expansion

Completion of all land negotiations for the expansion of Blumenthal airfield means that its conversion into a strong airport will be no longer delayed. We may expect that the extension of runways and all other essential work will be speeded as rapidly as materials and workers can be assembled.

Meanwhile the southeastern North Carolina coastal area is receiving the protection to be had from far-ranging warplane patrol service. Scarcely a moment passes throughout a day that the whir of motors is not heard directly overhead.

Sirens Arrive

For so long a time that one forgets when it originated there has been complaint that Wilmington had no adequate air raid warning system. It may be said now that the delay has not been chargeable to the defense council, but to a thousand and one difficulties in Washington, among the chief of which was a failure to recognize this as a vital defense area.

It was found that inland regions were getting preferred priorities, despite the fact they

were much less liable to attack. And because Washington is still bound round with red tape much time was consumed in convincing those in authority that Wilmington should be on the preferred list. Furthermore, government experiments with sirens and other noise devices were not speedily successful, and more time was lost in further experimentation.

These and all other difficulties having been finally overcome, Wilmington now is in possession of four sirens which will be set up at strategic points. It is expected their voice will be heard far into the suburbs and that the racket they raise will easily be distinguished from any to which the populace is accustomed.

Not All Gloomy

Next to thorough preparation and implementation, Hitler's successes were due to his ability to take the offensive. His armies led the fighting in Poland. They turned the Maginot line after the surprise invasion of the Low Countries and swept over Belgium and France in offensive battle. Yugoslavia, Greece went down under the same type of fighting. It was all attack for the Nazis and defense for their enemies.

It was not until the Russians and their ally, winter, turned upon Hitler and his attack lost momentum, that the outside world learned it is not necessarily beaten before it starts. Now the Russians, who brought his juggernaut to a complete stop, open a new offensive, and with Hitler definitely on the defensive, are in a fair way to defeat him before his armies can break through to oil and India.

There is hard fighting ahead, to be sure—months of bitter combat and tremendous sacrifices—but the Russians have proved that the turning point has come in the war in Europe and that victory can rest with the United Nations if ample aid is forthcoming. Hitler's losses in manpower and battle equipment through the frozen winter and his difficulty in sending up trained reserves have already disrupted his schedule. He has plenty of men—5,000,000 are said to be mobilized—but few are trained and most are young boys or men past normal combat age. His war industries in Germany and occupied territory are being blasted by R.A.F. bombing raids, so that he is unable fully to replace destroyed equipment. There is a strong probability that Stalin is right when he says that Hitler cannot seize the offensive again, but must fight it out in defensive positions.

With the situation in Russia developing so rapidly to his disadvantage, continued Japanese success in the Orient decreases in significance. Once Hitler is downed Japan cannot long continue the battle. Meanwhile MacArthur is receiving additional recruits for his counter-offensive in the Pacific, which will come, some fine day, with the suddenness and the fury of the hurricane.

The outlook is not as gloomy as a first glance at the news would suggest.

Misdirected Energy

Although Secretary Ickes often reminds one of the man who started his mouth to talking and walked away and left it, it is not so much what he says about the improbability of increasing petroleum deliveries to the Eastern seaboard, but what his deputy coordinator, Ralph K. Davies, has to say about conversion from oil to coal burners that will interest, and alarm, southerners generally.

Mr. Davies brings up the subject probably with Pennsylvania and Alabama in mind. Certainly he has not considered other states where coal is about as scarce as hens' teeth and as costly as sin. Instead of aiding the people of non-coal-producing areas, Mr. Davies has thrown a new scare into them and raised a fresh difficulty they are in no way prepared to overcome.

Certainly no southern manufacturer or householder equipped for oil has any wish to place a handicap upon war production, but if they are compelled to substitute coal for oil many a business man will be forced to close up and innumerable homes will be held next winter.

Mr. Ickes and Mr. Davies are as far from solving a real petroleum shortage now as they were last summer doing the fake shortage. With a complete system of inland waterways available for transport and thousands of barges at hand which need only deck tanks to bring all the oil the East needs, including industries engaged upon war contracts, it would seem that they could do more to strike a balance between Mid-Continent and Southwest production and Atlantic Seaboard needs by utilizing them than by all the talk of "impossibilities" and "conversions" which they are flooding the public print.

Heartening News

The invasion of Madagascar by British Commandos is the most heartening news of the day.

The strategic value of this great island off the African coast is inestimable. Its possession will go far to keep the supply line to Australia and India unbroken. Its loss would give the Axis such an advantage that the United Nations might have to spend years in winning the war in the Pacific.

That the move will bring relations between Britain and the Vichy government to the breaking point is hardly to be doubted, but at this stage of the war so many worse things could happen that the rupture would be of little consequence.

What France's forces in Madagascar consist of is not immediately known. Nor is the size of the expeditionary force sent by Britain. But it is not conceivable that London would have

launched this attack without full knowledge of the defenses and of the strength required to overcome them. Three French cruisers and a submarine were reported a few days ago to have arrived at Diego Suarez. They should prove no serious obstacle if the British force was provided with both naval and air support. Blows between French and British, so recently allies, create a sad situation, to be sure, but war is always creating sad situations, and it is consoling to know that whatever Hitler forces the Laval turncoats to do, the people of France are not in sympathy with the collaboration program and await only an opportunity to turn on their conquerors and Laval as well.

Study In Contrasts

The campaign for pledges to buy war stamps and bonds is bringing out strange attitudes among the people of Wilmington, some highly commendable, some even reprehensible.

There is the woman who earns little, pays high rent and has dependents, but who is willing to forego her one luxury—two packs of cigarettes a week that she may put the equivalent of their cost into war stamps.

In contrast, there is the man who complains that he has to pay 6 per cent on the money he borrows for his business and therefore cannot devote any of his earnings to an investment, returning only 3 per cent.

In one case we see patriotism in the top place. In the other, business comes before patriotism.

Th esix-per-center ought to think a little on the prospects of remaining in business if we do not win this war.

Workers report a good response generally to the appeal that a definite amount be pledged regularly for war bonds. This gives reason to believe that the greater Wilmington community will reach the goal allotted to it by the treasury. But it would be unwise to take this for granted. Only by combing the community thoroughly and impressing every resident with the obligation to support the war effort by investing in these securities will it be possible to achieve the desired end.

Washington Daybook

By JACK STINNETT
WASHINGTON—Get a crowd of Washington correspondents together these days and almost certainly the conversation will swing at some time to the change in President Roosevelt's mood in recent weeks.

Almost every press conference lately has found him cheerful and in good spirits—a mood that has been almost totally lacking since those gray days that followed the Jap attack on Hawaii.

It is almost a capital axiom that President Roosevelt wears best in adversity. When things are going wrong, he shoulders the load and seems almost to relish the carrying of it. Certainly there has been no war President who has borne up so well as President Roosevelt since Pearl Harbor. But until recently something was lacking. Press conferences, even those in which the rare bits of good news were given out, had an atmosphere of depression.

It was something that could not be entirely attributed to adverse reports from the war front. It was something that seemed to flow from the President himself.

It is true that he was working prodigiously, but the President has always done that without losing his buoyant spirit or his confidence in the future of the United States. It is true that he was not always well, being twice threatened with those annoying colds to which he is subject. But sometime ago now, Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, the White House physician, persuaded him to drop some of the late night detail work which was too much of a drain on even the President's great energies. Generally, his physical condition has been excellent.

Then suddenly, a week or so ago, the President changed and the new mood, or rather resumption of that old one which Washington newspaper men know so well, has been maintained.

There are quips again from the President's desk—like his solemn announcement that the planes that bombed Japan came from Shanghai-La. Once more there are those little parables with which the President delights to clothe his news releases. Once more there is that unflagging spirit that seems to say if things are not all right they are going to be.

And this change in mood seems to have spread out from the White House over Washington.

I think it would be wrong to draw any conclusions from this, to gather from it any false optimism. The task ahead is not becoming any lighter as the spring days tick off. The comparative quiet on the major war fronts is not necessarily filled with any certainty of a turn in the tide of war. No one of those few who have access to all the news are willing to say anything like that, so far as I am able to determine.

The importance in this change in the President's mood and its reflection in other places in the capital, lies in the fact that it exists and seems to be instilling in many of those who are giving their long days entirely to the war effort a new courage and determination which has not always been apparent in the months since we went to war.

Quotations

Russia may settle the war for us in 1942.—Lord Beaverbrook.

I understand that Hitler uses a type of anti-trust enforcement which is a bit milder than anything I advocate.—Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold.

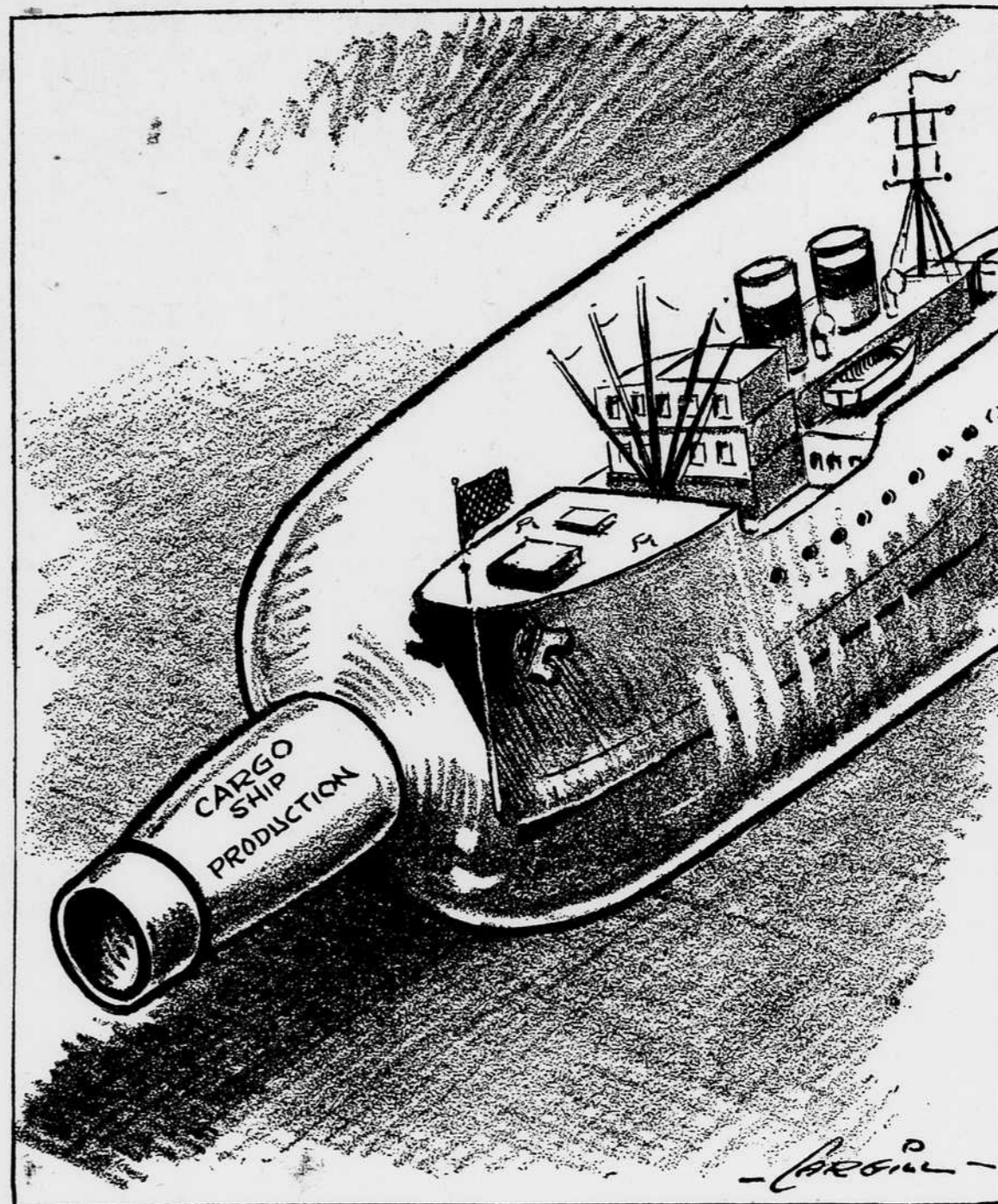
I believe labor is so patriotic that if they were assured all gains would go into the national treasury and not into the pockets of some firms, they would make any sacrifice.—Rear Admiral Emory Land, chairman of Maritime Commission.

The day of the vast empire is past, but the day of equal peoples is at hand.—Wendell Willkie.

I always thought I was a good sailor until I joined the United States Navy.—Lieut. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

War profit millionaires are bad on morale.—Dr. Mark A. May of Yale University.

THE BIG ONE RIGHT NOW



Yesteryears

10 YEARS AGO TODAY
The \$3,000,000 intra-coastal canal project was completed today, and declared open to boats having a draft of not more than 7 ft.

25 YEARS AGO TODAY
Reports of German commerce raiders off Atlantic coast ports were flashed along the seaboard today, and practically all shipping was tied up while naval patrols searched for the mysterious ships.

50 YEARS AGO TODAY
In describing a game between the Wilmington and Atlantic baseball clubs, The Morning Star said: "Both batteries did excellent work throughout the game, and though there was some fine batting done on both sides, the fielders put in good work, and thus the game was close. At the end of the ninth inning the score stood 5 to 3, the Wilmington club not taking the last inning. Both captains pronounced the umpiring first class, especially on close and quick decisions."

As Others Say It

THE FRENCH KNOW HOW TO WAIT.

The coming of Laval intensifies the affection the German master has for his French slaves. Demonstrations can hardly be restrained and once again it's open season for those suspected of being lukewarm, tainted perhaps with fatal contact with Jew or Communist. France does not forget. Forty-five years long she wore mourning for Strasbourg. Her favorite proverb reminded people that all things come to those who know how to wait for them.—Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.

NOT SO FUNNY

"It says here in the paper that in Egypt women carry baskets of fruit and flowers on their heads." "That's nothing so remarkable. Women do that over here and call them hats."—Fairfield (Tex.) Recorder.

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY
"A PRIMER OF SCULPTURE," by Suzanne Silvercrucy (Putnam \$2.75).

A good many thousand persons over the country have heard Suzanne Silvercrucy lecture, and watched her do a portrait bust of a sitter chosen at random, as she talked. A good share of those who watched came to her afterward, she says, and asked "Exactly how do I go about learning to be a sculptor?" With the accent on "exactly."

Mme. Silvercrucy, for all her terrific enthusiasm, could not answer the question. She never had time. So a year or so past she determined to write the answer, and this has become one of the unique books on any art. It is even titled with precision: "A Primer of Sculpture," which is precisely what it is.

More than the other arts, sculpture demands knowledge of skills outside the direct line of the art itself, among these plumbing, carpentry and even engineering. That is, even though you have some gift for reproducing form, you cannot just sit down to a job of clay and produce a work of art. Your first attempt must have "insides," or it will collapse.

Raymond Clapper Says: New Dealers Realize Hard Steps Necessary

By RAYMOND CLAPPER
WASHINGTON, May 5.—It isn't that the more aggressive new dealers have suddenly become hard-hearted and callous when they advocate drastic repressive measures such as compulsory savings, and end to wage increases, and war consumption taxes, or sales taxes if you prefer the harsher term.

The new dealers still believe social gains are a basic objective of government. But they are realistic enough to know that unless this war is won there won't be any social gains at all—nothing but social losses. Furthermore they know that unless we have the nerve to do the hard things necessary now to run this show and keep it under control, we won't have a chance of controlling the situation after the war and will be caught helpless in economic chaos.

The best friend of social gains now is the one who is willing to do whatever is necessary to make it possible to have social gains after this war. The real enemies of social progress are those who refuse to face realistically the actual situation and who persist in living in a dream world of the past.

President Roosevelt says all of us will have to lower our standard of living. There is only one way we can translate that language. We can translate it only into lower real wages, heavier taxes, fewer clothes, fewer luxuries, handing over of ever larger sums of our earnings to the government. There is no way to make a lower standard of living go down easy. It isn't fun. It's like firing a man. Nobody has found a way to make it painless.

Of course through all the years employers have sought wage increases because they wanted to

hold as much of the gravy as possible. They have urged a general sales tax because that would tax the poor and make less necessary higher income taxes on the wealthy.

The Roosevelt administration would have nothing to do with either of those causes because it was interested in reviving the economy by improving the standard of living and encouraging wider distribution of buying power. The administration still looks toward the day when its purposes can be resumed. But to win the war and to have any chance of coming out of it with an economy that won't go to pieces under the impact of the change back to peace conditions, we have to put ourselves through a good deal of self-discipline now.

In this a number of new dealers find themselves at odds with Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. When he opposed the sales tax before the House Ways and Means committee last March 3, Secretary Morgenthau, among numerous objections, cited these: It falls on scarce and plentiful commodities alike; it bears disproportionately on low income groups; it encroaches harmfully upon the standard of living; it increases prices; it stimulates demands for higher wages; it is not easily collected.

On the other side, the answers made are that war needs require discouraging all consumption to save manpower if not materials; that while the sales tax bears disproportionately on lower income groups the bulk of the inflationary purchasing power is going into that group, and furthermore the income tax takes a disproportionate share of the higher incomes, thus balancing the inequalities; that if the sales tax tends to lower the standard of living, it is in line with the government policy of forcing down the standard because of war needs; that price-control margins will control the pyramiding tendency which would cause trouble in the absence of price control.

Any tendency of the sales tax to stimulate demands for higher wages would exist also with regard to other taxes that reach the lower income groups. While the sales tax is not easy to collect, no tax is.

To guard against the tendency to retain such taxes after the war when we might again be needing to stimulate mass purchasing, the idea is to adopt "war consumption taxes" limited to the duration of the war and proceed from there, depending on what the conditions are.

Factographs

The emerald is said to sharpen the wits, confer riches and give the owner the power to predict future events. To evolve this latter virtue the emerald must be held under the tongue, it is said.

Shipbuilding has been revived along the North Carolina coast. Five yards now are producing types of vessels from 10,000 ton Victory freighters to dinghies.

Interpreting The War

British Seizure Of Madagascar Boon To Allies

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Wide World War Analyst

Britain's surprise move to seize control of the French island of Madagascar off the southeast coast of Africa has served to lighten the gloom in United Nations capitals over Allies' plight in Burma and Japanese troop assaults on the Philippine island fortress of Corregidor.

While primarily a defensive measure to protect the long and difficult Cape route of supply for India and the Eastern Mediterranean, British occupation of the French naval base at the northern end of the Texas-sized island would have strong offensive value as well. It could mark the beginning of the United Nations' effort to drive Japan out of the Indian ocean.

With Diego Suarez bay, site of this base, in British hands, the Allies would have a naval and air center capable of seriously threatening the Japanese flank in the Bay of Bengal. In this connection, there are insistent, but unconfirmed, reports from Axis sources that heavy British and American naval units have been moving into the Indian ocean around the Cape and from the Mediterranean.

There is also a grim challenge to the Laval regime at Vichy in the Madagascar operations. It implements President Roosevelt's recent warning that the United Nations were prepared to take any necessary measures to prevent French warships and strategic colonial outposts from passing into Axis hands.

Madagascar is, in brief, a test case of what the return of Pierre Laval to power actually means so far as French military collaboration with Germany goes.

There is a striking difference between Madagascar and Syria, where former British-French comrades-in-arms last met in battle. Britain made it clear in Syria she was moving, as she did in the abortive thrust at Dakar, only to support the Free French. This time London emphasizes that the powerful task force hurled against Madagascar is "all British."

The size and composition of this task force was not disclosed beyond the fact that it included strong naval and air detachments as well as highly trained commando units. It may be assumed, however, that the British, schooled by bitter experience in Norway and Greece, have concentrated enough troops, ships and planes to insure not only the capture of the Diego Suarez base, but to hold it against possible Japanese attacks.

The full importance of this undertaking on the African side of the Indian ocean cannot be gauged until Japanese reaction, in addition to that of Vichy, becomes known. It appears possible, however, that the challenge may prove to be the beginning of the battle for the Indian ocean.

The French island is 2,000 miles closer to the Bay of Bengal center of gravity than any other Allied base heretofore available on the Cape route. It is more than 2,000 miles from Ceylon which, while limiting its usefulness as an air base for Bay of Bengal operations, also insured the British a first land-borne Japanese air attack.

In any event, a firmly established United Nations foothold on Northern Madagascar must have an important diversion effect on Japanese plans for the Indian ocean and Australia. This is not the least important aspect of the British attack.

Is That So?

Junior thinks science has gone too far now that a corn substitute has been discovered for tapioca, the supply of which was made scarce by war.

Registering in the last draft has made Grandpappy Jenkins feel so sorry he has begun to take roller skating lessons.

Hitler boasts he hasn't had a vacation in nearly 10 years. He should worry, he's about to be permanently retired.

A diet of carrots is suggested as a cold preventive. Might work at that—who ever saw a rabbit sneeze?

The fellow who used to rock the canoe for a laugh now turns on a light to see what a blackout looks like.

When his tires finally wear out a road hog can always get some fun by crowding the lawn mower out of the garage.

Airplanes of the future are said to have a 25,000-mile range. Goody, then we'll be able to picnic week-ends at the North Pole and get away, at last, from those pesky ants.

Grandpappy Jenkins says it looks like an unusually cool summer ahead with the government doing so much freezing of everything.

Zadok Dumbkopf remarks that one person who doesn't have to be urged to board coal is the janitor of the apartment house in which he lives. He's been hoarding it for years.