

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

(Continued from page one)  
German and Italian prospects are concerned with possible victory.

The big economic problem before the nation is the balancing of income between various population groups in order to facilitate the exchange of goods and services. The farm portion of the economic order has not been receiving its share of the national income and inevitably, this produces complications that lead to depressions. From the farms of the nation come the buying power that makes industry hum and it is essential to the continued prosperity of the people of this country that farmers manage to secure a reasonable profit from their operations. The tariff, which holds up the prices of manufactured goods is offset, to some extent, by governmental benefits to farmers under the AAA programs. That perfect equality has not yet resulted is apparent and further steps to this end are certain.

There is every indication that the rearmament program of the United States will proceed along sane and sound lines, without being mixed up any "pump-priming" purposes and without extravagant expendi-

tures to over-emphasize any particular defense unit. It is estimated that some three or four hundred million dollars, in addition to last year's billion dollars, will be necessary in the next fiscal year, but this, it is thought can be secured without increasing total expenditures over this year. The improvement of business conditions, with consequent lessening of unemployment, may make possible smaller relief expenditures to offset increased defense costs.

## LITTLE JOHNNY BRIGHT HAD A THEME TO WRITE

(By Sam Lankie)  
Little Johnny Bright, had a theme to write  
And the subject he selected was Duke,  
And how the election was won on a fluke.

So the composition of his theme was a digression similar to this. "Duke University has the best team in the state. They are called the Blue Devils, but they are not that bad unless you get them angered up a bit. And if they win on January will be proud of their product. It's a constellation of honored men, and let honor go where honor is due.

And product number 2 is the Absentee Ballot. It differs from Duke in that it is not a credit to the state but a discredit, due to its cancerous infection that is spreading like an epidemic all over the country, even to California and Maine, for some that have gone that far away cannot get rid of it after these twenty years. It's a parasite of the worst kind and its victims are the county officers that have been so badly afflicted they droop their tails like my dog when I give him a piece of tainted meat. He takes it because it smells loud, though he is ashamed to eat it in my presence. He just sneaks off to bury it in the fresh, clean earth, that eradicates some of the germs, then he eats it by himself because he is ashamed of the odor that emanates therefrom. And that's the way this parasite affects them that use it to go in office. They droop and pine and are dejected in spirit, ashamed of its manipulations that give credence to such protest from righteous and decent people. But don't infect dogs in any way unless their names happen to appear on the poll book.

It is claimed that many folks are having to vote that away because something similar. They call them they have tularemia, joke leg or WPA workers, and we have seen them snooping around some project

where they had a sign up of some kind. Suppose it was a warning for respectable folks to stay away, like they put up when there's rabies and smallpox around.

Now what would you give Johnny Bright for a theme like this? May be 100 or may be zero. It might depend on the kind of a teacher he had.

But its a warning that decent folks should heed, and according to the doctors orders, wash their hands in hot water and soap to prevent its spreading.

But to Duke, we hail them as a healthy, lively bunch, a product of a great state and to them we would say in Teddy's immortal words, "Don't flinch, don't foul, but hit the line hard."

## ELEVEN BEES MAKE UP UNIQUE FAMILY

All for one, and one for all.  
That old axiom fits so well it could have been coined for the 11 Bees—one of the most unique farm families in the country.

There are seven Bee boys and four Bee girls. None has ever married.

They live and work together on a 135-acre farm near Lebanon, Ill., where they have resided in their own humble way for 37 years. They farm an additional 200 rented acres. The brothers, Charles, 60; Albert, 47; Joe, 44; Emil, 42; Edward, 52; George, 40, and Xavier, 54, live in a two-room dormitory on the second floor of their two-story house. The sisters are Hilda, 37; Lizzie, 56; Frieda, 39, and Emilia, 42. Emil and Emilia are twins.

There is little evidence of planning on the Bee farm. No one particular Bee is superintendent or manager.

Joe is recognized as the best livestock man among them. Charles, the oldest brother, does most of the carpentering. Emil is the machinist and electrician and all-around repair man.

The sisters go methodically at their household tasks. It is method rather than plan that they follow, although Lizzie, the eldest, exercises a sort of leadership around the house.

The women look after the 800 chickens and 30 turkeys. And the men admit these pay the food bill and sometimes a little more.

The sisters make all their own clothing and their brother's shirts—they just completed a batch of 40.

The Bees pay little attention to the social life of the community, yet they are highly respected by their neighbors.

Now that winter is near they are taking it easy. They sleep morning as late as 5:30, take their time at the chores and quit work at early dark. During plowing and harvesting time, however, they put in "a full day."

But whether it is the busy season or a slack time, none of the Bees are charged with the duty of rising first in the morning and calling the others. They rise and face the day as they work through the day—by habits of agreement that are not dependent upon direction.

The Bee farm is truly a farm cooperative. They have everything in common purse. No accounts are kept. Any member of the family who needs or wants something goes to the family cashbox and takes out what is required. They despise credit and time payment systems. They have a bank account against which any brother or sister can check.

The only exceptions to the common fund are wages earned by any of the brothers on outside work. Each one keeps that for himself and does what he pleases with it. Three have bought private automobiles—the others depend upon the single family machine.

When it comes to politics, the Bees are Republicans, but they take little interest in politics.

This sometimes causes the local politicians to fret—because their 11 votes are the balance of power in the Chottaw school district.

When asked why none of them ever married they just smile and say: "It suits us this way. Why change it and take a chance."

## Deaths and Births Decrease In Nov.

Raleigh—There was a decrease in both births and deaths in North Carolina in November, 1938, according to figures just released for publication by the State Board of Health's Division of Vital Statistics, of which Dr. R. T. Stimpson is the Director. Last month, 2,462 North Carolinians died, as compared with 2,762 in November, 1937, while births last month totaled 6,053, as against 6,423 the corresponding

month a year ago.

There was a drop in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age and in maternal deaths, the total for the former being 407, as compared with 431 a year ago, while only 24 mothers died last month, as compared with 44 a year ago—a sharp decline.

Deaths from preventable accidents dropped from 144 in November, 1937, to 121 last month. Fatalities from automobile accidents reported to the State Board of Health last month totaled 81, while the total in November, 1937, was 96.

Fifteen people died of burns in November, this year, against 23 last year, while homicides dropped from 37 to 23, but there was one more suicide, the 1938 November total being 27, as compared with 26 last year. A drop of 24 occurred in cancer deaths, while pneumonia deaths were up only 2, but 42 died of influenza, as compared with only 27 in November, 1937. There were no other outstanding increases or decreases, Dr. Stimpson's figures show.

## Hybrid Corn Is Not Ready For N. C. Use

North Carolina farmers are advised by Dr. Gordon K. Middleton, State College agronomist, to wait a year or two before using hybrid corn. Tests carried on for three years have shown that the hybrid corn seed imported from other states is not well adapted to conditions in this state and it is therefore necessary that adapted varieties be developed.

To meet this condition, Dr. Middleton and Dr. Paul H. Harvey, associate agronomist, are conducting greenhouse experiments of inbreeding and field tests to check yields. In this way they will be able, possibly by 1940, to recommend hybrid corn which will meet expectations under North Carolina conditions.

Yield tests were conducted during the past summer at the Mountain Branch Experiment Station at Swannanoa, at the Upper Coastal Plain Station near Rocky Mount, and on the Whitley-Davis Farm at Clayton. In summing up the results of these tests, D. Middleton says:

"At Swannanoa only one commercial variety and one experimental hybrid outyielded the best local variety, and that by less than six percent. In the tests at Clayton and Rocky Mount, with very few exceptions hybrid brought in from a distance showed lack of adaptation. They were mostly starchy and very light in weight.

"At Rocky Mount four hybrids equalled or exceeded the best local variety, the best of which was by approximately 17 percent, while at Clayton only one exceeded the best local variety, which was by 12 percent. In each case those hybrids which outyielded local varieties were from experiment station sources rather than from commercial companies.

"The 1938 results do not warrant the recommending of any commercial hybrid at this time, but it is possible recommendations can be made for farm trials in a small way in 1940."

## WILL CLOSE JANUARY 6 CROP CONTEST ENTRIES

Dr. J. B. Cotner, professor of farm crops at State College and director of the crops judging contest for 4-H Club members and Vocational agriculture students to be held in connection with the annual meeting of the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association at Rocky Mount, has announced that registration of teams for the contest must be filed with him on or before January 6, 1939.

The judging contest for youths will be a feature of the final day's program of the association meeting and seed exposition January 23-25. The contest will begin at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning, January 25, for teams within 75 miles of Rocky Mount, and at 11 o'clock for other teams.

The Crop Improvement Association's meeting will begin Monday evening, January 23, with an executive session of the board of directors. Judging of seed exhibits is scheduled for 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, January 24, after which talks will be made by the mayor of Rocky Mount; S. T. Henry, president of the Association; Dr. Cotner; Dr. G. K. Hiddleton, Dr. Paul H. Harvey, W. H. Chapman and Prof. M. E. Gardner, all of State College. The annual banquet of the association will be held Tuesday night at 6:30 o'clock.

Speeches will be made at the Wednesday morning meeting by E. G. Moss and J. F. Bullock, of the Office of Tobacco Station; L. T. Weeks, assistant tobacco specialist of the State College Extension Service; P.

## THE OLD FARMER TALKS TO HIS MULE

(Clipped)  
"Well, Lightning, you're just a mule, and the son of a jackass, and I'm a man and made in the image of God. But here we work, hitched up together year in and year out—and I often wonder if you work for me or I work for you. Maybe it's a partnership. Anyway, I work as hard as you do plowing or cultivating; we cover the same distance, but I do it on two legs and you do it on four, so I do twice as much work per leg as you do. Soon we'll be putting in our corn crop. When we harvest the corn, I'll give one-third to the landlord and one-third to you, and the balance is mine. You eat all of yours but the cob. I have to divide mine with my wife and seven children and six hogs and sixty hens and two ducks and a bantam rooster and a banker. If you and I both need shoes, you get 'em. Yes, Sir, Lightning, you're getting the best of me. I ask you now, is it fair for a mule, the son of a jackass, to swindle a man, the Lord of creation, the most intelligent of all animals? You only help me plow and cultivate, and I must cut, shock, and husk the corn while you heehaw at me over the pasture fence. All year the whole family has to help from granddad down to the baby to scratch enough money together to pay the taxes and the interest on the mortgage on you. And what do you care about mortgages? You ornery old critter, I ever have to worry about the mortgage on your tough, un-

grateful hide! About the only time I've got anything on you is on election day—I can vote and you can't. But after election day I realize right away I've been as big a jackass as ever your papa was. And then I begin to wonder if politics was made for men or for jackasses—or just to make jackasses out of men. Honest, now Lightning, when you know all these things, how can you keep a straight face and look so dumb and innocent?"

## 70 PER CENT

Flue-cured tobacco growers have been allotted 754,000,000 pounds of leaf under the 1939 AAA program, says E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer at State College. North Carolina will receive approximately 70 per cent of this amount if more than two-thirds of the growers throughout the flue-cured area vote in favor of quotas on December 10. Preliminary figures of the Bureau of Census show the United States to have a population now of 130,215,000.

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# Best Wishes For Christmas and the New Year



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