

### LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

#### U. S. Not A Land-Grabber Gives Away Public Domain Byrd Needlessly Alarmed

The other day Senator Harry F. Byrd, of Virginia, sent out to newspapers a press release, accompanied by a report of a joint committee on Federal real estate.

Mr. Byrd's press release began with the statement: "The government now owns one-fifth of all the land area of the United States. This was enough to set off the discussion and to lead many editors to quote, with and without credit, the outline sent out by the Virginia Senator.

The furor is utterly unwarranted. While it is true that the Federal Government owns 383,600,533 acres, or more, this is only a small fraction of the 1,400,200,320 acres which, at one time and another made up the public lands of the United States.

**One Billion Acres Given Away**  
The history of the Nation reveals that the Government has been very generous in its disposition of the public domain. More than one billion acres have been disposed of.

Homesteaders secured title to 285,000,000 acres, cash sales and other disposals account for 420,000 acres, states got titles to 230,398,140 acres and the Government gave to railroad corporations, in encouraging construction, 94,248,739 acres.

The use to which this land is put is divided: National forests, 148,000,000 acres; national parks and monuments, 13,000,000 acres; Indian reservations, 55,000,000 acres; grazing districts, 139,000,000 acres; and miscellaneous, 56,096,043 acres.

**Army Use Of Land Justified**  
There has been considerable expansion in the use of land for purposes of war in the past two and one-half years. According to the Byrd report, the War Department acquired 17,308,636 acres of land and uses some 43,181,000 acres for war purposes.

"Part of this was previously in the public domain," says the report. The fact is that more than three-fourths of it was in the public domain.

We see no occasion for alarm in connection with the Byrd report. Certainly, no evil attaches to a Government which will use 43,181,000 acres of land for the training of its soldiers. Even the purchase of some 3,000,000 acres and the pending purchase of an additional 7,000,000 acres represents nothing but the acreage necessary to train a vast army.

**U. S. Still Giving Away Land**  
Few governments in the world have been as generous as the United States in giving away real estate. It is hard to visualize the Federal Government as a land-grabber when it has given away 132,000,000 acres to assure the construction of railroads, 181,000,000 acres to promote education and 285,000,000 acres to citizens seeking homesteads in unsettled areas.

In the five fiscal years, ending June 30, 1941, the Government gave to homesteaders more than five million acres of land.

In view of the figures given above, and the generous land policy of the Federal Government, it is hard to locate any problem in connection with the land holdings of the Federal Government. If any complaint is justified, the criticism should be directed against the giving away, rather than the acquisition, of real estate.

**Censorship Of The Mail Would Ban Free Discussion**  
A House sub-committee is conducting hearings on legislation to ban racially discriminatory mail.

While favorable action is predicted by the chairman, the proposal is opposed by Postmaster-General Frank C. Walker, who says that such a law "would impose upon the Department the undesirable task of deciding controversies between those seeking to discuss freely racial and religious issues and those who might consider such discussions a violation of this law."

A much stronger statement was made by Vincent M. Miles, Solicitor of the Postoffice Department, who said that any law barring from the mails "defamatory or false statements against racial or religious groups would violate the principle of free speech, would be unconstitutional, would increase instead of decrease racial prejudice and would present serious administrative difficulties."

The passage of legislation along the line suggested, would, it seems to us, prevent an American citizen from denouncing the German people or the Japanese race. Of course, the right of free speech would be abridged and the freedom of the press would be cancelled if all writers upon any subject, were forbidden to pass judgment upon races or religions.

Among those appearing before the House hearing in behalf of the legislation were representatives of the American Federation of Labor, C. I. O. unions, the American Jewish Congress, National Negro Congress, other organizations, and some individual citizens.

**Fourth War Loan Ahead**  
Nation Needs \$15,000,000,000  
Announcement of a Fourth War Loan to be made in January reminds us that the Nation needs cash to pro-

ceed its wars and that the people must cooperate on the financial front if they expect the fighting men to do the work on the battle lines.

The \$15,000,000,000 sought in January will probably take care of the financial problem for the present fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 1944.

In view of the estimate that national income in 1943 will go above \$140,000,000,000, which compares with \$76,500,000,000 in 1940, it ought to be comparatively easy for the people of this country to put up the money.

War expenditures for the current fiscal year are expected to be just below \$100,000,000,000. Of this total the Treasury will probably receive \$43,000,000,000 in taxes, excises, customs duties and all other sources of revenue.

The necessity exists, therefore, to find something more than \$50,000,000,000, but about \$23,000,000,000 has been obtained. Moreover, the Treasury expects to get \$12,000,000,000 from non-marketable issues that cannot be sold on the open market.

The balance, about \$15,000,000,000 explains the new issue to be offered for public subscription in January, with individuals and corporations asked to supply the bulk of the sum asked.

#### War In Pacific Speeds Up Jap Island Bases Attacked Forecasts Course Of Battle

The war in the Pacific advanced a long stride when American forces landed on Makin and Tarawa islands in the Gilbert group, which lies between Hawaii and the Solomons.

After two days of bombing by Army Liberators, involving attacks upon several islands, carrier-based aircraft joined in the six-day offensive which paved the way for the landing of soldiers and marines.

The Gilbert islands are northeast of the Solomon group and, together with some bases in the Marshall Islands, constitute the outer defenses of vital Japanese sea lanes.

The engagements took place well within Japanese waters. The islands, if captured, will prime the way to Truk, the main Japanese base, as well as to Rabaul, a lesser base, now threatened from New Guinea and Bougainville.

The use of carrier-based aircraft in the latter phases of the bombing attacks, which preceded the occupations, and the presence of covering warships, indicate that the Japanese have lost control of the ocean, temporarily, at least.

The islands involved are described by Hawthorne Daniel, in his book "Islands of the Pacific" as follows:

Tarawa: Also sometimes called Knox or Cook island. Largest and most important of the Gilbert group. It is a twenty-two mile atoll, composed of the typical collection of large islands (there are nine) and numerous smaller ones. There is one main entrance to its lagoon. Population, about 2,600.

Makin: One of the northernmost of the Gilbert group; about eleven miles wide, with a deep lagoon, which has two entrances. Population, in 1937, more than 1,600.

The offensive now under way will probably move northwestward into the Marshall group of islands, which include Jaluit, Wotje and Kwajalein. As it proceeds, the Japanese will be compelled to fight or to surrender valuable strategic bases and Nauru island, 500 miles west of the Gilberts, which supplies most of their phosphate needs.

The importance of the attacks upon Tarawa and Makin is increased by the fact that the pattern followed can be repeated against other Japanese holdings, rolling up outer defenses and opening up more vital installations. Eventually, the Japanese will have to risk a major sea battle or retreat to their home islands.

#### Governor Calls On State To Meet Needs Lumber And Pulp Wood

Asking every possible cooperation on the part of workers, operators and owners of timber in North Carolina in meeting the State's present needs, Governor Broughton points out that this State must maintain production of 1,656,000,000 board feet of

### Stabilization Setup Affects Employees Town Of Edenton

#### Release Now Necessary In Order For Workers To Change Jobs

The application recently submitted by the town of Edenton for coverage under the Stabilization Program has been approved by the State office of the War Manpower Commission, and all of the employees of the Town of Edenton will be considered under the program as of December 1, 1943, P. B. Pollock, Area Director of the War Manpower Commission, has announced.

The Region-wide Stabilization Program which became effective May 15 of this year and was amended on October 15, 1943, excluded State, County and City employees from the provisions. However, a clause in the plan permits coverage for employees of a City or Town if a request is made and all of the employees concerned are included in the application.

Since Winston-Salem was admitted several weeks ago, this makes the second municipality to be covered by the Stabilization Program. A number of State institutions, including the maintenance and service occupations at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, have also been covered by the Program at the request of the Governor.

Being covered by the Stabilization Program means that no employer may hire any worker now employed by the Town of Edenton without a release signed by the proper official of the Town of Edenton, or a Statement of Availability issued by the United States Employment Service in Elizabeth City. By the same token, the Town of Edenton is not allowed to employ workers from essential industries without an employer's release or a Statement of Availability from the United States Employment Service. This is intended to stabilize employment among the employees of the Town of Edenton, and also to restrict the transfer of workers from the Town of Edenton to employment elsewhere, or from essential employers to the Town of Edenton.

Edenton is served by the United States Employment Service Office in Elizabeth City, of which S. T. Cherry is manager. An Out-Post office is maintained at the U. S. Marine Corps Air Station, and Raiford E. Sumner is interviewer-in-charge. Any additional information concerning the provisions of the Stabilization Program may be secured by contacting either Mr. Cherry or Mr. Sumner.

**BILLY BRUNSON PROMOTED**  
Billy Brunson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brunson, who has been in Marine training on the West Coast, has been promoted to private first class and has qualified as a member of the band. He expected to be able to arrive in Edenton December 7, for a visit, but it has been necessary to postpone his visit for several weeks.

These figures can be met without impairing the State's resources of standing timber, which now total 43,610,000,000 board feet of timber, according to estimates by the United States Forest Service. The need is so great that the government has been unable to place orders for 712 million board feet immediately needed.

NEVER TRY TO BE TOO BRILLIANT - DUST IS HARD TO SEE ON A LUMP OF COAL BUT OH BOY ON A DIAMOND

AM DAT SO

FOUR MILL

Dinah SAYS

### Grand Jury Finds Little Fault With Affairs In County

#### Most Trouble Found at Colored Schools In County

Completing its work on Tuesday, the Grand Jury for the current term of Superior Court submitted its report to Judge C. E. Thompson, judge presiding.

There was nothing startling in the report, the body finding the County's affairs in good condition and officials properly performing their duties.

The usual inspection of school buses was made, and but for a few minor faults, all buses were in good condition and all drivers have proper permits.

The colored school on Freeman Street was found in bad state of repair and sanitary conditions were unsatisfactory.

The drinking water at Rocky Hock Central school was investigated and found to be all right at this time.

Conditions were not so satisfactory at several colored schools in the county. At Britt's school there were two broken windows, at White Oak three bad door locks and bad pump valves were found. At the Yeopim school two stoves were needed and 10 windows broken.

James L. Hassell was foreman of the Grand Jury.

#### Group Of New Books Arrive At Library

Miss Elizabeth Copeland, librarian at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, announces the arrival of the following new books at the library:

"Indigo," by Weston. Through the lives of three families—French, English and high-caste Indian—Mrs. Weston reveals the beauty, romance, cruelty and turmoil of Indian life.

"Under Cover," by Carlson. The amazing revelation of how Axis agents and our enemies within are now plotting to destroy the United States. A real-life spy story.

"Thunderhead," by O'Hara. Filled with the intense horse-and-boy emotion that made "My Friend Flicka" memorably alive. The wild beauty of the Wyoming plateaus fills its pages as much as do the thrills of the wild young stallion's life. Dramatic novel of Flicka's colt.

"Barnaby," by Johnson. A series of comic strips, depicting the life of a little boy and his god-father, Mr. O'Malley with the pink wings.

"The Bradshaws of Harniss," by Lincoln. New novel of Cape Cod. Has all the romantic appeal, the salty, peppery characters for which Lincoln is famous, plus a generous leavening of humor.

"The Little Locksmith," by Hathaway. A posthumous autobiography fresh out of life, of a stout heart who escaped the smothering, well-meant attentions of her family and found her own place in a beautiful and blundering world.

"Cinderella," by Miller. Retold in captivating verse.

"Take Nothing For Your Journey," by Steward. The author has created a fascinating group of characters and made them come vividly alive in the warm, strong beauty of Kentucky, the land she knows so well. An excitingly different novel.

"O River, Remember," by Ostenson. Story of two types of pioneers who helped to make America the country it is today... a superb novel of three generations whose destiny was written in the rich soil of the Red River Valley of the North.

For the mystery fans:

"The Man Who Was Not There," by White. Fantastic tale of murder and revenge; a satanic plot laid against a background of horror and suspense.

"The Saint Steps In," by Charteris. Another exciting story of Simon

Templar, who even when he is on the side of the angels, as he is in this case, must do things in his own way.

Juvenile books are: "Three Gay Tales From Grimm," by Gag. Three of the lesser known folk-tales, "The Clever Wife," "The Three Feathers" and "Goose Hans."

"All About Oscar, the Trained Seal," by Neil Kirk. Oscar, the comical trained seal, here appears in a genuinely amusing story with many colorful pictures.

"Jonathan's Doorstep," by Fernald. A story of New England and the problems young people are facing today. High school girls.

"About Harriett," by Hunt. Adventures and daily happenings to a little girl named Harriett.

#### Contribution Omitted In War Fund Names

At least one error has been reported in connection with the long list of United War Fund contributors appearing in The Herald last week.

The list failed to include Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Litchfield, whose contribution was \$5.00.

This is the only error thus far called to The Herald's attention, and any other corrections will be gladly made.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Born to Corporal and Mrs. Kermit L. Layton, a daughter, Barbara Elizabeth, at the Medical Center in Elizabeth City, Friday, November 26.

JUST Arrived  
CARLOAD OF  
EXTRA GOOD  
HORSES & MULES  
All Well Broken and Ready For Work  
YOUR INSPECTION INVITED  
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Sure it's a Keepsake!

FOR smooth sailing, get off to a good start by giving her a Genuine Registered Keepsake diamond engagement ring. Keepsake is the most famous name in diamonds, and through five decades has been the choice of America's loveliest brides.

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JEWELERS  
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LEEDS Set 175.00  
Engagement Ring 100.00

LYNWOOD Set 235.00  
Engagement Ring 225.00

BETHANY Set 375.00  
Engagement Ring 300.00

LUCERNE Set 90.00  
Engagement Ring 75.00

AMERICA'S PUNCH  
PEPSI-COLA  
FOR QUICK FOOD ENERGY 5¢

Pepsi-Cola Company, Long Island, N. Y.  
Franchised Bottler: Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., of Elizabeth City, N. C.