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SELL THAT SCRAP!

Raw material shortages are becoming more serious day by day. The Department of Agriculture has asked the farmers throughout this country to collect and to sell their scrap iron for use in defense production.

The Office of Production Management has organized several drives to increase the flow of scrap metal, aluminum, and iron from the cities into defense industries. This Office is now asking the farmers to join in these drives.

It would seem that there are three good reasons why every farmer should cooperate. First, we must remember that modern farming demands modern machinery and that farm implements take a great deal of iron and steel. If we are to have an uninterrupted production of farm implements, we must have more scrap iron. A scarcity of iron and steel scrap may curtail production of necessary farm machinery. Second, the farmers can make a little extra money by selling scrap metal. The Department of Agriculture has asked state and county agents to cooperate with farmers in this endeavor and to keep them informed on the prices of scrap metal. Third, the barnyard and fence corners look much better when broken down implements and discarded tools are picked up and sold.

Several weeks ago a certain farmer in this section collected over a thousand pounds of scrap iron. Some of it had been rusting away for years. He said he made a little money, and the "place" looked much neater without the "junk" lying around.

It would seem that this is an excellent way for every farmer not only to help his government, but also to help himself. It sounds like a good idea!

TAKING A BEATING

This country is just beginning to encounter some of the biggest and most difficult problems that a military economy makes unavoidable.

The arms program is getting into stride. Our aircraft production is at the rate of about 25,000 planes a year. Production of tanks, machine guns, army trucks and other vital necessities, is increasing fast. The two-ocean navy will be completed far ahead of the original schedule. In the next two years, unless something unexpected occurs to change the picture, we should become the foremost military power on earth.

This doesn't mean that we are doing our theoretical utmost. We aren't. Labor troubles continue to mount and undermine production. Governmental red tape, delay and indecision still hamper industry. A few segments of industry have not been able to get away from the "business as usual" point of view.

There is plenty of politics in the defense set-up, and there is too much divided responsibility which makes for passing of the buck and general disorder. Even so, the gigantic American production machine is moving forward, and it is successfully making the immense change from a peace-time to a war-time economy.

To some, this change means profits and expanded opportunity. To others, the change means possible ruin. In that sorry category fall thousands of businesses which have not been given a place in the defense picture, and which are now unable to continue their normal, peace-time ways.

These are the businesses which are caught by priorities. No one without a high priority rating can now obtain the basic metals. No one can build a home costing more than \$6,000. There are shortages of paper, cloth, rubber, chemicals, cleaning fluids—commodities which in normal periods are excessively abundant. And legions of businesses, employing millions of people, depend on such commodities as these for their very life.

Pessimists believe that this defense program may mean the virtual death of little business in this nation. That may be an excessively dark forecast. But the hard fact remains that no one has yet been able to formulate a program under which we may obtain maximum military production and at the same time preserve our business system more or less intact.

Washington, of course, has given attention to this small business problem. There has been an effort to farm out contracts, under a sub-contracting system, so that small and middle-sized concerns may obtain a fair share of the orders. So far, however, little progress has been made. The bulk of small businesses haven't the equipment or the personnel which are needed.

If this trend continues, it is apparent that a revolutionary change will take place in the American economy. Whether that change will be for the better or worse is a matter of argument.

In the meantime, it is an ironical fact that hundreds of thousands of men are being thrown out of jobs during a time when there is a shortage of suitable labor—and thousands of businesses are in danger of being shut down during a time when consumer demand and consumer purchasing power for all manner of commodities, is extremely high.

The figures indicate that there simply isn't sufficient supply of many basic materials to meet the war demand and the normal demand at the same time.

And the smaller enterprises of the country, which aren't able to produce the tools of war, are taking the beating.

BOOMERANG

A now-forgotten authority on government once said the only difference between statesmen and politicians was the degree of integrity.

If that definition is correct, and there is every reason to believe that it is, Governor Talmadge's administration must be loaded down with politicians.

The lack of action of the Georgia State Highway Commission on the Blue Ridge Highway, has been a typical example of the dirty dealing which has so characterized the evils of machine politics.

Whenever approached by representatives of townships which would benefit by the improvement, Mr. Talmadge used the salving, soft-soaping methods of the old-fashioned, baby-kissing political boss.

The road would get, to use his own words, "the immediate attention" of the Highway Department.

When it failed to get that attention, he explained that it was be-

cause the State could not get the highway "Federalized."

The protesting delegates went away soothed, trusting in the promises of a promise-laden administration.

Upon investigation, it was found that no attempt had been made to obtain money from Uncle Sam for improvement of the road.

The Talmadge promises proved to be little less than a political narcotic, administered as a soporific for the voting senses of Northwest Georgia.

The issue of the Blue Ridge Road is beginning to throw some light on the political chicanery of the Talmadge Administration, and we believe that light is going to eliminate a lot of the darkness which has shrouded so many of the Georgia State Highway Commission's actions.

Fortunately, a Georgia gubernatorial election is approaching, and the Talmadge machine will have as one of its opponents, the incumbent attorney-general.

The attorney-general has announced his determination to make the Blue Ridge Road one of the main issues of his campaign.

Whether he will be successful depends on the Talmadge machine's support in other sections of the state, and whether that support will be strong enough to over-ride what appears to be certain defeat in Northwest Georgia.

Whatever the outcome, the State someday will realize that it is—to use an old cliché—"cutting off its nose to spite its face."

Buyers in this section who under ordinary circumstances would make their purchases in Atlanta, now are buying in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Asheville, and other cities which afford better access.

Lions Club, Health Dept. Hold Eye Clinic Here; 27 Children Examined

Under the sponsorship of the Murphy Lions Club, an eye clinic for indigent children was held recently in the Cherokee County Hospital.

Dr. Schnoor, of Duke University Hospital, was in charge of the examinations.

Of the 27 children examined, 13 were found to need glasses, and two others will require minor operations.

A similar clinic was conducted in Robbinsville on October 27 and 30. Graham County children were examined.

Jessie Calvin Swanson, Aged 85, Buried Sunday

Funeral services were held last Sunday for Jessie Calvin Swanson who died at his home near Hayesville on Nov. 8. Mr. Swanson was widely known throughout this area.

The last rites were held in the Hayesville Baptist Church, where he

had served as a deacon for some fifty years, with the Rev. J. H. Wilson officiating. Interment was in the Hayesville Cemetery, with Ivis Funeral Home in charge. Messrs. Arthur Coleman, Lee Burland, C. W. Carringer, J. W. Winchester, Ed Murray and J. Guy Burland were pallbearers.

Mr. Swanson is survived by three daughters, and eight sons: Mrs. Alice Earnard, of Andrews; Mrs. Edna Berong, of Underwood, Wash.; Mrs. Ocia Scroggs, of Richmond, Virginia.

John, Charles, Glenn, Ray and Foster Swanson, all of Hayesville; E. S. of Filer, Idaho; Fred C., of Charleston, Tenn.; and Wayne, of Asheville.

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