

Range Industrial Program Is Seen As State's Great Need

Cotton, Assistant Industrial Engineer of C&D Department, Reviews Progress To State

Development Lag Costly In Income

North Carolina's Per Capita Income Is Against \$1,323 For Nation As A Whole

P. Cotton, Assistant Industrial Engineer with the State Department of Conservation and Development

Industrial development of North Carolina has been in many ways outstanding. The Old State is famous for its textile and furniture industries and the products of these industries enjoy national distribution so well known, however, many opportunities for the operation of other industries in the state, to utilize natural and human resources locally. The mechanization of agriculture has released employees available to administrative ability and energy gained during the war years; much of the personnel leaving our colleges and universities each year like to remain in North Carolina; and local capital is abundant in the South state than ever before. These are the components of industrialization of the state.

North Carolina is primarily a state of raw materials, in fields than the three above, processing operations carried elsewhere, and the real value in the finished product is the raw material from which it is made. And yet the most parts of a successful industry are here in the state, available to those interested in them.

Expansion alone of raw materials, the rule, in general, of mineral production, minerals, chemicals, seafoods, and many other industries. This explains why North Carolina's per capita income in 1947 of \$890, 67 per cent of the national average. It is generally known that the most prosperous states are those which lead in industries earning the process of paying the employees' return, and conversely, the weight of the cost to produce of finished goods and the price paid for raw materials and the prosperity of producing only raw mater-

the result of agriculture mechanization. Farm leaders say that the relatively inefficient methods used on many farms must, and will, be replaced by methods which are, by industrial standards, much more efficient. The introduction of modern farming machinery simply means that the large number of persons now on the farms of the state will not be required on the lands of the state in the future, and the labor pool thus released, after training for industrial employment, offers both an opportunity and a problem in assuring a balance in the economic field for additional industrial development in this state is wide open. There are many different types of industry in the United States which not now represented in North Carolina and many more of which the proportion is badly out of balance. Not all of these types of industry could reasonably be expected to be successful here, but many of them could, and would, once they got underway.

Probably the greatest opportunity for future industrial development lies in additional processing of agricultural products which are currently grown locally. But equally apparent is the field of processing of other products utilizing the mineral and chemical resources, plants for fabricating those commodities most widely used locally, and the further fabrication of materials now sold in only partially finished form.

Those communities which have been successful in establishing new small industries have found that the second plant is often a direct result of the first, and it develops much more easily. Industries of both the local and imported varieties are much more readily established after industrial development is once begun, but the competitive position of the community is vastly improved once the trend toward industrial development is established.

War-time research has pointed the way to the development of a great variety of new processes and new products. Pilot plants have proven the value and feasibility of many of them. Commercial facilities which follow, will locate in areas where industry operates successfully and profitably, as proven by existing operations.

The end result of the establishment of additional rural industries will be a better balanced economy, more stable markets for locally produced raw materials, increased per capita and per family income, an economy which can better withstand the rise and fall in economic activity of the future, and a rise in the level of educational and other public services.

To assist the people of the state in bringing about this industrial development, the rural industries program was set up in the Division of Commerce and Industry. The group functions to assist any-

one in the state who is interested in establishing a new small industry. None should be started without a complete investigation of the possibilities of the proposed plant, and assisting in such an investigation is a part of the work of the personnel of the division. Raw materials requirements, financial requirements, building and equipment needs, labor supply, operating costs, and profit possibilities are necessarily included in such investigations. Such studies and analyses have frequently revealed other related fields in which comparable opportunities exist, and resulted in the establishment of other plants of equal or greater value to the community.

The fact that small industries can be established in North Carolina has been illustrated during the last two years. The state has many small industries now which it did not have before the war. Most of them are doing well, and have demonstrated that such development is economically and feasible. It is obvious that North Carolina can not blossom with new industry overnight, but a long-range industrial program, developed concurrently with diversified agriculture, will go a long way toward solving the problems resulting from changes in the state's economic structure which are occurring as a direct result of the mechanization of agriculture. The labor released from the farms, and the personnel trained by the colleges and univer-

sities of the state, will remain to contribute toward raising the for-her citizens of today and to live in the state and make their plane of living in North Carolina morrow.

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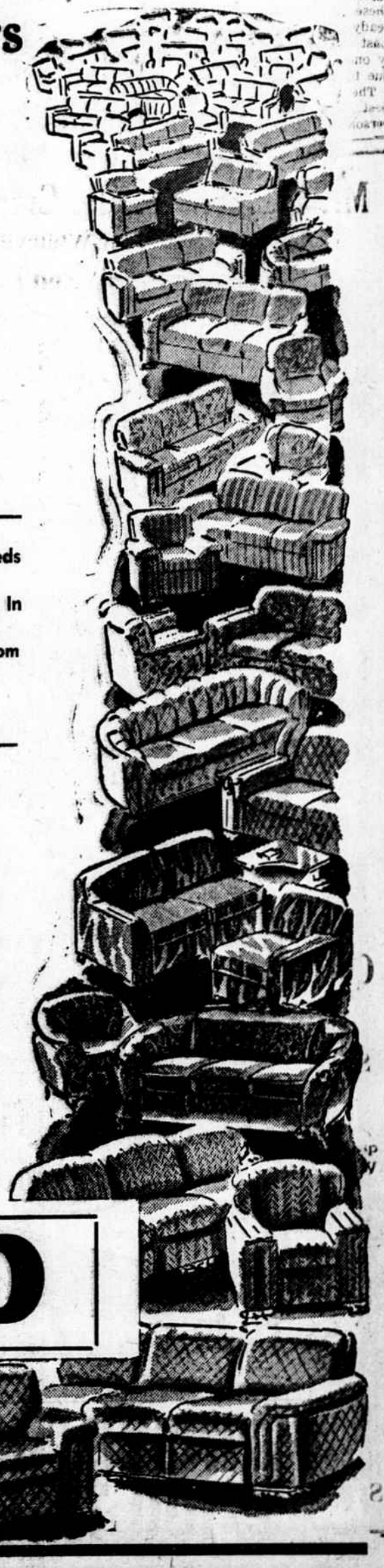
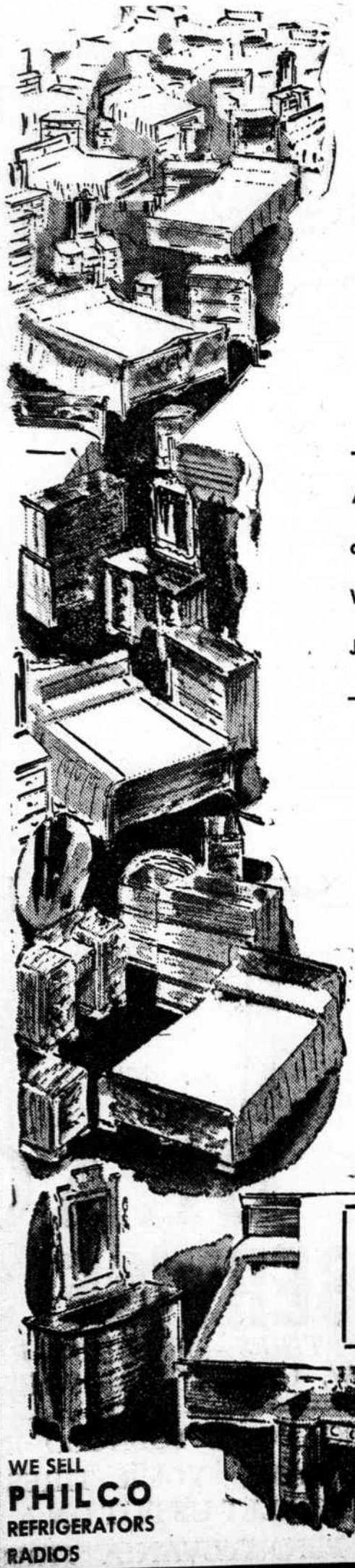
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