

# BEASLEY'S FARM and HOME WEEKLY

Volume 11.

Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, August 14, 1941.

Number 33.

## STOCKING FACTORY TURNS TO MAKING GOVT PARACHUTES

### In Indiana Plant Girls Sew Silk Strands on Which the Safety of Flying Men Depends

#### IT'S CAREFUL BUSINESS

This is the story of how the gossamer from a caterpillar is made to float booted men to safety as they dangle in azure skies, writes Richard L. Strout in the Christian Science Monitor.

It is the story of how beady-eyed grasshoppers in America hayfields have a beneficial effect upon the handiwork of the same caterpillar, who meditatively munches his mulberry leaf in far-off Nippon.

It tells, too, why American housewives can't get cheap "help" in the defense crisis.

And finally, it is the story of how thrice-four-score Indiana misses, in summer dresses or socks, use their shears and sewing machines to help save the lives of eager young men who leap out of flying machines. . . . Yes—you've guessed it, of course, it's the story of a parachute factory.

You are standing in the airy, well-lighted capacious upper story of the Reliance Manufacturing Company, makers of women's dresses and garments, in Washington, Indiana. As a sideline to women's wear the company has added a million-dollar parachute contract from the United States Government, which is located in this plant.

There is something a good deal like wearing apparel in a parachute, and then again, there is a lot that is unlike. It has to be cut out after specified patterns. It has to be sewn. But on the other hand, take the matter of size.

Checked and Rechecked There are about 65 yards of silk in a parachute. In a man's shirt there are two yards. That's one difference. Another difference is that few garments have ever been made with quite such meticulous checking and cross-checking, examination and re-examination, as these silk gossamers that float through the skies with the greatest of ease, dangling men below. As you watch the busy loom, filled with girls sewing pure white pieces of finest quality silk together at electric sewing machines some of which drive four needles at a time, you notice how many other girls and men are scrupulously examining their handiwork. First, the threads and threads and stitches are checked. No wonder: a mortal's life hangs on these stitches, a life hangs on these infinitely fine filament spun by the Japanese silk-worm. "A man's life hangs by a thread."

This is, in some ways, the strangest of all forms which modern warfare has taken. I have seen in the big aviation schools which I have visited the young soldiers bolting out of their planes. They drop like a plummet a second or two and then suddenly, the parachute opens out like a blossom and they descend slowly through the sky, wafted down like an ant swinging in a blown dandelion puff. Where do these parachutes come from; who makes them? Well here they are being made right before your very eyes, by this prosaic and very workmanlike small-town factory which yet, somehow, has about the same of the same element of fantasy and romance that I found in a roaring airplane-motor factory. It is a combination of clothing loft and Walt Disney.

Parachutes Preferred The million-dollar Government contract is real enough. The Reliance Company is real enough, too. It employs about 300 men and women altogether, at present, working two shifts, and its pay roll is very much appreciated addition to the pay roll of Washington, Indiana, a community of about 10,000 where you can hear a rooster crowing not far from Main Street. The average of wages is well above the 35-cent-an-hour minimum prescribed by law, it is said, and there is a 40-hour week, with time and a half for overtime. The girls are young. I asked one of them if she would rather sew parachutes than turn the hem of her younger sister's dresses and she replied, "You betcha, Mister!" She preferred Parachutes. So I knew why my friend in Chicago was having such a difficult time getting her housekeeping done in the defense emergency. Parachutes have an eight-hour day. Parachutes (and defense jobs) have a fixed income at the end of the week that you can count on. Parachutes are a good deal better than going out to wash dishes, or mixing sodas behind a fountain, or depending on problematical tips from waiting on table. Yes sirree, for the girls the defense emergency, and the web spun by a Japanese silk worm have put a sound economic platform under their sandaled feet. A parachute and its harness weigh only 22 pounds. The chute is made up of 24 panels which are shaped something after the fashion of the pieces of cloth between the ribs of an umbrella. Each panel, in turn, is composed of four smaller sections. That makes 96, all told. The big job, accordingly, is cutting out the pieces and sewing them up. When the four little pieces are sewn a machine is used with two needles that leaves a double row of stitching. When the 24 composite panels are stitched a four needle machine is used that simultaneously sends four rows whirling down the seam. When the big canopy is partly finished the "lines" are in-

## NO THIEF E'ER FELT THE HALTER DRAW WITH GOOD OPINION OF THE LAW

### Labor Leaders Are Not Alone In Complaint Against Press

(AN EDITORIAL)

The labor leaders who complained of the treatment of their organization by the press at the "Labor Institute" in Charlotte Saturday and Sunday are in no way unique in their belief that the press, usually the daily newspapers, is not fair to them. Everybody has that complaint. It is like the old saw that "No thief e'er felt the halter draw with good opinion of the law." This is not to say that labor leaders and others who express complaint against the press are thieves or in any way unworthy. It is to say only that we are all so wrapped up in our own causes and purposes that we are ourselves unfair judges. No society dame ever felt that her occasion was properly written up. No politician ever felt that he was adequately reported by the press. Some religious leaders complain that the press is grossly unfair to them and unduly interested in other denominational branches. No prohibitionist ever felt that a press that did not repeat his argument by rote on every occasion and suppress the anti's remarks, was not wringing wet.

The daily press is a huge and complex thing, but it lives by printing every scrap of news that it can find or imagine, and not by advocating a cause or making an argument. When a prohibitionist or a wet complains at the press it is not because whatever news there was had not been printed, not because the paper did not adopt the complainer's argument, hook, line and sinker. When labor leaders complain at the press it is for the same reason. Of course the press is not infallible. It must judge news in many ways, especially in timeliness. A church meeting today or a labor meeting might have seven to 10 columns whereas tomorrow it could have only one. But complainers usually

want the first page at all times, regardless. Another thing that complainers overlook is that a paper may treat them "fair" six days in the week and be accounted an enemy for lack of appreciation on the seventh day. And "unfairness" generally consists in giving the other side. Monday morning the Charlotte Observer had an enlightened and broadgauged editorial in appreciation of the meeting here of the American Federation. But on the same page the cartoon, which was not prepared in the Observer office, depicted strikers as termites boring holes in the national defense program. That point of view expressed the idea of millions of Americans, just as the editorial, in no way in conflict, expressed the views of millions of others. What would be the feeling of the average labor leader in looking at that page? Nine times out of ten he would overlook the favorable editorial and get mad at the cartoon.

That's why the press never pleases anybody. Most of us want a "favorable" press and can't always get it. That is the safety of the press. It is what no longer exists in dictator countries and it is what some people in this country would abolish. Theoretically everybody favors the liberty of the press, practically, there are a plenty who would abolish it. Complaint was made in the Labor Institute here Sunday about the right of newspapers to turn down the prepared handouts of the labor press agents, and somebody had to defend the "blue pencil" right of newspapers, that is, their right to judge what news should be printed. And it is noteworthy that the right of newspapers to print according to their judgment and not that of the press agent, as well as the right of the

MORE ON PAGE TWO

## Human Interest

### AIN'T SCIENCE WONDERFUL?

There isn't much that surgeons can't do nowadays, and from Daytona Beach, Florida, comes the news that surgeons reported the rare operation of taking what appeared to be two vermiform appendices from a patient. The operation was performed Wednesday by Dr. Joseph B. Rutter at Halifax hospital. The patient was Oliver T. Ray of Atlanta, former Georgia census director. Dr. Rutter said that he and other doctors felt almost certain the two-finger like protuberances were appendices. They have been sent to Tulane university in New Orleans for examination by Dr. W. H. Harris, professor of pathology. Dr. Rutter said that occasionally a growth called a diverticulum often found on the small intestine appears near the vermiform appendix and sometimes looks like another appendix. But in this case, Dr. Rutter said, the doctor who had the objects agreed they apparently were real appendices. The patient is getting along all right.

### MAYBE THEY'RE SWELLING

Soldiers' feet are larger than government buyers estimated at the start of the defense program, and as a result the average cost of each pair of shoes has increased 2 cents. Defense purchase officials said that the demand for larger shoe sizes in the army had been heavier than expected and, accordingly, the latest acquisition of 1,000,000 pairs of shoes averaged a full size larger than previous purchases. The median size was 10, compared with the previous median of size 9. The officials said that 75 per cent of the purchase was composed of shoes with composition soles and 25 per cent of shoes with leather soles. The price was about \$3.40 a pair, compared with \$3.38 on the last previous purchase.

### SLEEP IS PRETTY VALUABLE

Loss of sleep is worth about \$2 a night for a wife and \$1.17 for a husband, according to a Superior Court auditor's report on file at Rockport, Mass. Lawrence J. Wood, auditor, reported that the late Charles N. Nelson of Pigeon Cove \$542.20 compensation in their bill in equity against the Cape Ann Tool company. The plaintiffs contended their slumber was disturbed during a five-month period by noises incident to the construction of the building of the Nelsons, and that if the auditor's report were confirmed by the court they would seek to have the company continue payment of damages at the established rate as long as the factory operated at night.

### LIQUID AIR DANGEROUS

A terrific explosion of a truck loaded with liquid air killed one man and damaged two farm homes within a third of a mile radius of the blast near Cadiz, Ohio. The driver, Bernard D. Smith, and the truck were blown to bits, the patrol said. The blast tore a hole five feet deep into the ground, as Smith turned into a lane leading to a farm house to pick up a fellow employe, William Nelson. Patrolmen said the explosion shattered windows in the farm house and a part of the truck landed on the roof of another house a third of a mile away. Leaves were blown off nearby trees, and the blast was heard in Steubenville, 20 miles away, patrolmen said.

### AINING IN DEFENSE

Mrs. William Bacon of Dallas, chairman of the state industrial committee of the Federated Women's clubs, is planning a State-wide collection of old stockings to be turned over to the government. Such hosiery, she said, silk processors had assured her, could be used to make gunpowder bags. If enough stockings are gathered, she believes, the government might release part of silk imports to hosiery weavers. "Of course, I think it's silly," she said. "I think gathering old aluminum teapots and things is silly. But, then, I think war is silly, too, so I'm going to start the campaign."

### COFFIN AUCTIONEERS

Parties wishing to prepare for the hereafter may, possibly, be able to obtain some supplies by attending an auction sale scheduled to be held at the courthouse at Southport at noon on August 28th. At that hour Attorney S. B. Frink, acting for parties who held a chattel mortgage, will sell five adult size coffins, and five child size coffins to the highest bidder. There are various accessories to match, including everything from cooling tables to grave digging implements and a hearse for the last ride.

A hardware merchant of Maxton invented this valve, which kept a pump primed. Then he invented the sieve point to keep back mud, so the two things, which he had patented, which he had a big pump manufacturing company make and sell, paying him a royalty on each pump, so he soon accumulated wealth—about \$5,000 from that a year.

## Somewhere on Broad Waters Two Gallant Sailors Meet

From the White House Thursday morning came the news that the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of England had met and counseled together for two days. Long ago the minds of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill had met and understood each other. Being sailors both, they know that the destiny of the world, now in the balance, is to be determined by the combined power of the English-speaking nations upon the seas. Both know full well that this war is unfinished business. As First Lord of the Admiralty and as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the other war, they live to see themselves as the two most important men on earth in the struggle to save the world from a new deluge of savagery. They plan accordingly and their planning will not only bring them together, but will be a beacon of hope to all the world which looks to them and their countries for rescue and salvation. They made the following agreement which is to be the fire by night and the pillow of cloud by day which must lead the world out of bondage:

### SENATOR BAILEY SIZES THINGS UP

So Far There is No Inflation But Prices Will Rise Through So Much Spending

Senator Bailey in the State I. There is much talk of price inflation. What are the facts? Fact No. 1 is that the purchasing power of your dollar is still 20 per cent above that of the Coolidge Era. So there is as yet no currency inflation. In 1926 it required \$1.23 to buy what \$1.00 now buys. The prices are not high. Let us take some examples, as follows:

1913	1920	1926	1941
I. COTTON			
12.50	11.50	12.16	16.00
.89	2.75	1.47	1.54
.50	1.49	.80	.73
7.40	14.70	11.53	11.00
	V. ALUMINUM		

In 1917 it sold for 38 cents per pound; the price now is 17 cents. You see for yourself how little farm prices have risen. And see what has happened to aluminum. Notwithstanding all you hear, aluminum is selling at the lowest price in its history. It sold at first for \$535.00 per pound. Now it sells for 17 cents per pound. The Aluminum Company of America has made it abundant and reduced its price. There is no shortage of aluminum for defense—the shortage is with respect to civil uses.

Look over these prices. Wages are at the highest levels in history. But prices have not reached an alarming point. It is the steady rise that is giving concern. But not until the farmers have caught up with the wage-earners can a government that demands "parity" interfere with farm prices. We ought to be glad that prices to the farmer are rising.

### Defense Industries

II. You hear much about bottlenecks. But the report of the National Association of Manufacturers shows that defense industries as a whole are on schedule or ahead of schedule. Eighty-one per cent of industries expect to deliver in time—the others not far behind.

It took time to get the 47 billion dollar program going. But it is going. We spent only \$1,889,000,000 last year. This year we are spending \$17,000,000,000. Next year we will spend \$23,000,000,000. Pretty fast! Figure how long it will take to pay it back! Figure how long it would take to throw it away, throwing 100 dollars per minute. Figure how long it would take you to earn it—earning \$100,000.00 a year net. Of course prices will rise after such extraordinary spending of irredeemable paper money. The question is what will money be worth unless it is made worth something.

### Airplane Industry

III. You hear a good deal about airplane accidents. What are the facts? 1940: Miles flown 108,800,436; passengers carried 2,959,408; total passenger accidents 3; number of passengers killed 2.

## CAPTAIN ARDREY THE BOSWELL OF THE COMMUNITY

### Diary Tells of the Neighbors, Preachers, Sermons, Deaths, Births and Marriages

#### OLD BECK A RARE MULE

(By H. E. C. (RED BUCK) BRYANT) Horse swapping was a favorite pastime or business of Providence township farmers sixty odd years ago. Captain Ardrey frequently referred to trades. I was interested in a note that said "Sold Beck mule to Mr. Bryant (my father) for \$100." Now if that was the Beck I knew she had aged a good bit before I had anything to do with her. The purchase was made in July, 1872, and I was not born until January 3 of the following year. A Beck taught me to plow, and I really suspect it was the one that came from the Ardrey place. At the tender age of ten I was given a mule and a plow, and told to break some land in the orchard field. Father sat on the front porch and watched me as long as he could stand it, and then he came out to tell me that Beck knew more about plowing than I did. I told him she wanted to go on the wrong side of every tree or stump, and he retorted that she was right and I was wrong, and added that he would be satisfied if I would just follow her about the trees, and from that time on I did.

#### DEATH OF CATES RECALLS A STORY

He Employed Red Buck To Investigate the Iniquities of Wicked New York

By H. E. C. (RED BUCK) BRYANT The death of Banks Cates in Charlotte, at the age of 58, makes me sad. He was a fine fellow, and he worked up from the bottom, a good citizen, and a helpful one. I had an experience with him that I think I should write about. Twenty odd years ago the old New York World gave me the strangest assignment I ever had. I was asked to go to New York City, as a business man from the South, and go through some gambling dens for a series of stories to show that such outfits were flourishing there. City authorities had denigrated the existence of big-shot gamblers, and gambling houses. I was to devote a month to the enterprise, and spend all the money necessary to achieve desired results. Two assistants were to be provided, one of whom was to see that I got in places suspected of being betting establishments, and the other was to stick by me. In addition I had to get some one in North Carolina to employ me. Banks Cates cooperated with me, and did it beautifully. He was a friend in need.

#### In the Dens of Iniquity

What happened is another story, and some day I may tell it, but the time is not ripe. I stayed at the old Knickerbocker hotel and worked out from there. Another man who helped me on that job was the late Eli B. Springs, one time mayor of Charlotte. He reached for me, and Banks Cates sent wires instructing me to see this and that person. I literally lost money in one of the "gilded dens of iniquity."

#### Got Enough of New York

That month was as much of New York life as I needed to keep me away from the big city the rest of my days. In asking me to take the task my boss, a real friend of mine for many years, wrote me: "I warn you in advance that this is going to be a funny letter, but it is really a very important one." "Several big gambling houses are running in New York City. Now I am very anxious to show up these fellows. Next year we will spend \$23,000,000,000. Pretty fast! Figure how long it will take to pay it back! Figure how long it would take to throw it away, throwing 100 dollars per minute. Figure how long it would take you to earn it—earning \$100,000.00 a year net. Of course prices will rise after such extraordinary spending of irredeemable paper money. The question is what will money be worth unless it is made worth something.

#### Learned About Roulette

"What I want is four or five articles pointing out the fact that the World man has gone into these places, and MORE ON PAGE THREE

## State of Mecklenburg

### NEW CITY MANAGER

The city council on Wednesday appointed L. L. Ledbetter city manager in addition to his present duties as treasurer, to succeed J. W. Armstrong at once. Harry M. Joyner was reappointed chief of police, W. H. Palmer, fire chief, and Mrs. Alice McConnell, city clerk.

### DROWNED IN CATAWBA

Nick Sloan, 17-year-old Charlotte boy, was drowned in the Catawba river near the Buster Boyd bridge late Friday afternoon, while swimming with some companions. The body was recovered some hours later.

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

At their meeting Monday the county commissioners arranged for Commissioners A. D. Cashion and J. Caldwell to investigate the Miltith printing device with the view of deciding whether it might be used by the county government in printing various types of forms used by the local government activities. The board also received the monthly report from the county welfare department as presented by Mrs. Louise O. Neikirk. The report showed that general relief costs in the county were less by \$181.20 in July than they were in June. The general relief is that type which is financed by Mecklenburg county alone without any help from the State and Federal governments. The total for the month was \$3,770.23. The whole relief load, with Federal and State governments participating in the payments, was \$33,325.16 for 2,281 cases. This was slightly less than the load in June. The report showed that 29 persons were referred to WPA, 775 already are working for WPA, 187 are awaiting placement on WPA. The welfare department certified 2,811 cases as

be involved. The labor leaders proposed to prevent a contractor from a job unless he employs the closed shop. This is one of the processes by which men are forced to join up whether they want to or not. Men who live on farms and run in for a few weeks of work on government projects will no longer be able to get employment unless they join a union.

Saturday afternoon in the same locality, Stewart M. Kiser, a labor organizer living in Washington City, was drowned. Mr. Kiser, in a sporting mood, rocked the boat, and paid for it with his life. A boat, belonging to W. W. Miller of Charlotte, and operated by him, was giving a ride to Mr. Kiser, Charles W. Hallenback, and a Mr. Smith. Kiser, in a joke, grabbed the tiller and turned it and at the same time pressed the accelerator. This caused the boat to jump and swerve. All were thrown out and the boat went loose. Miller aided Hallenback to swim out, Smith was picked up by another boat, and Kiser was drowned. His body was found on the river bottom about noon Sunday.

### LABOR CONVENTION

As a result of the North Carolina convention of the American Federation of Labor held here this week, it was announced that all men employed in government projects in North Carolina hereafter will have to be members of the Federation. It was stated that thirty to forty thousand men will

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO

#### MORE ON PAGE TWO

MORE ON PAGE TWO