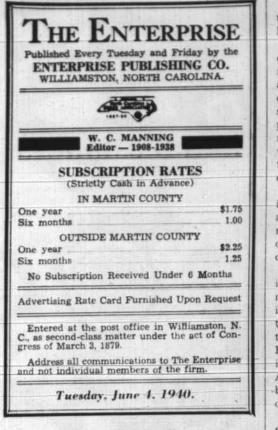
THE ENTERPRISE



## It Does Affect Us Here

Many of those who have played the role of isolationists are beginning to realize that events in Europe do affect us in the United States despite the big pond. Just how much events in Europe can affect the welfare of this nation few can yet realize.

The recent trend of events is rapidly opening our eyes, but we have much to learn. The possibilities the near future hold are enough to cause us to show more alarm than we are showing over the devastation, the suffering and the nearness of starvation for millions of people this coming winter.

In the light of recent happenings and a study of Hitler's moves that are to be expected, it is foolish for us to sit back and still maintain that what happens in Europe will not prove of concern to us over here.

High official circles in this nation are alarmed over what to expect if Germany wins. They see one of three things, the scuttling of the British Navy or its complete surrender to Germany or its removal to Canadian waters. In either of the first two events, Japan looms as a big problem with its strong-navy. The task of trying to defend countries to the south of us not to mention the defense for our possessions in the Pacific and Atlantic is causing much alarm.

To bring the picture closer home, Martin County tobacco farmers got their first taste of the disorder in Europe last fall. Only our tobacco was affected, but add to that our cotton crop and our supplies in the amount of about three billion dollars annually, and we will soon feel the situation choking our economic life throughout the length and breadth of the land. And then there are the possible effects of ac-

tual combat to be considered. All in all, events in Europe do affect us and

far more seriously than many of us realize.

## A Better Defense

With starvation staring one hundred million people in the face over in Europe if the trend of events is not altered by early next fall, it would appear that America could build up a strong defense by mäking preparations now to aid the war victims and gain their confidence and friendship.

The cause of friendship among nations has virtually disappeared among nations, but in

As it looks from this distance, North Carolina tobacco growers would be standing in their own light if they ignore this advice.

England has been the best customer for American flue-cured tobacco. But England not only is consuming less tobacco but has put a tax of approximately 18 cents on each package of 20 cigarettes and that is calculated to discourage smoking, especially in the face of the need to practice every possible economy. And it is not certain that before this year's crop is harvested England will not be in more serious trouble, and trouble that would affect the American tobacco farmer.

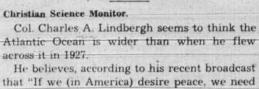
And even if the Allies win, Europe will be impoverished and there will be no buying of anything except actual necessities, and if Germany is the victor, it is certain that Hitler, drunk with power, would take pleasure in boycotting everything American.

Right now a group of Southern farm leaders including Dr. Clarence Poe, are undertaking to map a ten-year program of planned prosperity for this entire section. They are straight thinkers and sincerely engaged in an effort to lift Southern agriculture to higher ground. But planning won't get them anywhere if there is not cooperation from the farmers themselves. And this matter of tobacco curtailment would be essential aside from any ten-year or any other sort of program.

It must be remembered that in addition to the loss of much of the British market, the consumption in the Netherlands, Belgium and France will be drastically curtailed, nor can the federal government be expected to continue to prime the tobacco industry along with its new preparedness burdens. Nor should it have to. If the tobacco farmer deliberately ignores official advice and the dictates of common sense, then he need not be surprised if sympathy for him is thus undermined.

It resolves itself into a business proposition for the tobacco farmer. He must make his choice between gambling his summer's work against the impossible chance that world conditions will be stabilized before marketing time, or divert his efforts to the production of other marketable crops to bridge the gap for the present. The question now is will he do it? He must make his decision soon.

**Colonel Lindbergh's Ocean** 



only stop asking for war." Denmark, Norway, Holland and Belgium

did not ask for war. He says:

"We are in danger of war today not because European people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of America but because American people have attempted to interfere with the internal affairs of Europe."

It would require more documentation than Colonel Lindbergh offers to show wherein the American people have tried to interfere with internal affairs of Europe since the World War. In fact, it could be said with more reason that the conflagration in Europe which threatens America today got its start partly because the United States failed to do its part toward consolidating the peace it helped to win.

Colonel Lindbergh does not object to the \$1,-000,000,000 defense program advanced by President Roosevelt; rather, he approves "reasonable defense forces," including aircraft. Possibly he would recognize that this and most of the \$6,000,000,000 spent on defense in the last seven years by the United States are direct costs of the developments in Europe which he thinks offer no threat of invasion to America.



this day and under the times of stress one can more accurately value a real friendship. Sad as it may seem, we must admit that we have ignored the value of friendship until now the deadly weapon has to be brought into play to defend ourselves and all the things we stand for as advocates of freedom of religion, of speech and of the right to pursue our chosen paths to happiness.

Japan would have a better opinion of us today had we refused to sell scrap iron to them that they might kill the Chinese. The lowly Chinaman would have a better opinion of us had we exemplified our Christianity by deed and not by word of mouth. And the millions who now face starvation in Europe will have a better opinion of us if we plan now to go to their rescue in the times of stress that are as certain to follow the war as one season follows another.

If we would bolster our own defenses and regain much of our respect we have lost in times past, we will make plans now to extend a helping hand to suffering humanity across the seas when the winter stalks the millions whose homes have been razed and their food supplies destroyed.

The Tobacco Gamble

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## Elkin Tribune

Agricultural authorities in Washington are urging all flue-cured tobacco growers to reduce their acreage below allotments for this year. They point out that as a result of the huge 1939 crop, there is now a surplus of flue-cured tobacco which could not be reduced to normal size in less than two years, or even longer, at the normal rate of world consumption, to say nothing of the curtailed consumption due to war conditions. His recipe for security is that the United States take the other nations of the Western Hemisphere under the wings of its air force, presumably whether they like it or not, and make sure that they do not get into wars with European powers. Does not this sound like meddling with the internal affairs and foreign policles of Latin-American nations?

The essence of Colonel Lindbergh's plea appears to be in this: "Let us turn again to America's traditional role—that of building and guarding our own destiny." What is that destiny? Is it to attempt a selfish and insecure aloofness in the shambles of a world engulfed by hate and rapine? Is it America's traditional role to remain blind to the implications of foreign wars and aggressions until its costs more to protect herself from chaos on her borders and sea-lanes than it would have cost to help preserve a semblance of world order and decency?

"We cannot aid others," the Colonel concludes, "until we have first placed our own country in a position of spiritual and material leadership and strength." Can spiritual leadership result from self-interest that thinks only of its own safety and advantage in the face of an attack on the moral and ethical standards humanity has spent centuries in building?

"We got out of heart too soon," remarked a Marshville township farmer a few days ago, after the rains came and cotton began popping through. We "get out of heart" too soon about many things. What Americans most need is some of that old-time determination, initiative, patience and perseverance that characterized our forefathers who founded the country and who rebuilt the South after the terrible destruction wrought by the Civil war. — Marshville Home.