

Optical Industry In Lead With Plans For Defense Of Country

The U. S. optical industry started its national defense program years ago by training men, developing new instruments, and searching out new sources of supply for vital materials, according to the Better Vision Institute.

Since the last world war optical companies have gathered together large staffs of scientists, who constantly have been engaged in carrying on research to improve and perfect military optical instruments. Such research must come long before production of needed equipment. The work of these men, carried on over the years, is now of utmost value to the nation, says the institute.

"Methods and processes of manufacturing optical glass have been perfected and now this country no longer is dependent upon Europe for optical glass, as it was before the last war. Today all types of highest quality ophthalmic and optical glass are produced in the U. S.

"During the past two decades there has been a continuous expansion of plants and manufacturing personnel, with the result that the industry is ready to serve the nation with processes that required years to develop, and with skilled workers who required years to train.

"As early as 1934 a program of intensified preparation for national defense was under consideration in the industry. Two years ago the principal optical companies began storing up large reserves of vital materials obtainable only from abroad, as cutting diamonds from Africa and quartz from Brazil," continues the institute. "Domestic sources of materials have been sought out and developed.

"Early in 1939 the industry inaugurated a program of plant expansion which was speeded up greatly in 1940. For the past decade the principal companies have had consistent training programs for new workers, drawing systematically upon high schools and colleges for recruits. Employees in the industry now are approximately double the number in 1938.

"The optical industry is ready, and will be able to turn out vital military equipment as fast as the nation's defense program can absorb it.

Carolina . . . Bird - Lore

The Bald Eagle—Our National Emblem

The Bald Eagle is a bird of wooded lakes and seashores. It is found throughout the United States and Canada, but is most abundant in Florida and along the coasts of British Columbia and Alaska. In North Carolina, it is common only at the coast. It is the Golden Eagle, not the Bald, which is the storied bird of fierce character and mountain eyrie.

One nest which the writer examined may be taken as typical. It was February, but the two eggs had already been laid. The nest, six feet deep and four feet across, was fifty feet high in a tree in the center of a small island surrounded by a narrow moat of water. One parent perched over the nest, while the other circled just above the treetops, uttering its shrill cry and displaying its pure white tail and head. The eggs hatched late in March and the eaglets remained in the nest until mid-June.

The principal food of the Eagle is fish. Many waterfowl are taken, usually the old, the weak, and the wounded, as well as much carrion. Depredations on farm animals are rare.

The Bald Eagle is non-aggressive and dignified, meriting our fullest protection. Ever since it became our national emblem—in 1782—it has steadily decreased in numbers, until today it is rare where before it was abundant, because of unjustified and needless shooting. The Eagle is protected in North Carolina, and every bird shot is in violation of the State law.

The Bald Eagle can be told from all other birds of prey except the Golden Eagle by the larger size, it being about three feet in total length with a wing spread of about seven feet. The adults can always be known in addition by the white head and tail. Immature birds can seldom be distinguished with certainty in the field from the Golden Eagle, but in the hand can be known by having the tarsus bare while the Golden Eagle has it feathered to the toes.

It will be good news to those who want more information about this bird and the other 384 species found in this state that plans are underway to publish immediately a revised edition of "The Birds of North Carolina"—North Carolina Bird Club.

Sharp Reduction In Cotton Acreage Is Frowned Upon

Devices To Increase Domestic Consumption Should Be Found

Any additional sharp reductions in cotton acreage have been frowned upon by the Agriculture department which suggests that the industry's problems be attacked by devices to increase domestic consumption.

In an annual report the department speculated on a possibility that 11,000,000 bales could be disposed of annually for use in this country.

In a section entitled "cotton crisis deepens" the report pointed out that 1940-41 exports of cotton—even if they reached the outside figure of 2,000,000 bales—would be the lowest since 1871.

It said that by mid-June 1940 virtually the whole European continent—excepting Spain, Portugal and Russia—had become inaccessible to the United States.

"Though the unfavorable export situation is not being reflected in farm income—at present," it said, "there is almost certain to be an unhealthy increase in the government loan stocks during 1940-41. At the end of the 1939-40 season, the Commodity Credit Corporation owned or held as collateral against loans nearly 8,750,000 bales of cotton from earlier crops. This figure is likely to be increased as much in 1940-41 as it was reduced in 1939-40.

"Total stocks of American cotton on hand at the end of the current season will also probably increase materially despite the expected record domestic consumption. Foreign cotton production is somewhat larger than during the previous two seasons and much larger than average."

Polk 4-H Members Select Objectives For Five Years

Four-H club members of Polk County have adopted pines, poultry, and pasture as their chief objectives for the next five years, reports S. H. Dobson, assistant farm agent.

More than 1,000,000 frozen-food lockers in more than 3,200 plants are now available to families of the United States, reports the Farm Credit Administration.

RECORD



Two sisters and a brother who attend the Farm Life School have never missed a single day from school.

Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Manning Elizabeth is in the tenth grade; Margaret is in the seventh, and "Pinkey" is in the third grade. Melba, another sister, who is in the sixth grade, has missed but one day, and their other brother, Herbert Leslie, who is a freshman at Campbell College, graduated from the Farm Life School last spring and he missed only two days in his eleven years of school.

Raising Poultry On Shares Profitable

Poultry production on a share basis by cropper families as a regular and important source of income to supplement cotton is proving successful for U. A. Funderburk, Chesterfield County, S. C., farmer, says Clemson College.

As in growing cotton on a share basis, Mr. Funderburk supervises the production of poultry daily. The croppers own one-half interest in the laying flocks and receive half the returns from eggs or birds sold. Feeds not produced by croppers are bought and paid for on a half-and-half basis. Mr. Funderburk markets the poultry and poultry products weekly in a nearby town, keeps a record of expenses and receipts, and makes a cash settlement monthly with croppers. The Progressive Farmer.

Recommends Only Approved Controls

Tobacco growers are warned by Howard R. Garris, extension plant pathologist of N. C. State College, against purchasing materials for control of blue mold which are untested and therefore, not recommended. He says that only three methods of blue mold control are approved by the extension service and the other established agricultural agencies.

One of these—and the control rated highest by Garris—is fumigation of plant beds with paradichlorobenzene (P.D.B.) crystals. This chemical may be applied either as a preventive or as a cure. It has been proven effective by farmers over the past two or three seasons.

The other two blue mold control methods—recommended by Garris—are spraying with red copper oxide and spraying with yellow copper oxide. While the spray treatment is satisfactory as a preventive, it has few if any curative qualities.

"Both the P.D.B. fumigation and the copper oxide sprays are tested, effective controls for blue mold," Garris emphasized, "and we can only warn growers—not to spend money on materials that have not been tried and are not recommended by experiment stations. Many have invested their money in unreliable materials in the past."

Garris also warned against the use of growth-promoting substances for control of the tobacco plant bed disease. "Such materials are being advertised by certain concerns this year, but experience has taught scientists that no matter how healthy the plants may be, if weather conditions are favorable for blue mold development, the plants are subject to attack."

Recommended blue mold controls are fully explained in Extension Circular No. 229, "Blue Mold and Its Control," and copies of the circular are available free upon request to the Agricultural Editor, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

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No Auto Show Will Be Held This Year

Just what's going to happen with respect to the auto industry's production of cars and changes of models, in view of defense demands, is the question that gets most attention of the layman, outside of the question about how the defense drive itself is coming along. Indication that something will happen in this field, though, came last week when the Automobile Manufacturers Association cancelled the National Auto show booked for next October in New York. It was pointed out that this action will not control the course each company may follow in

the matter of new models for '42. Talk in automotive trade circles, though, has it that it's quite doubtful if many changes other than new colors and incidental accessories will be made in 1942 models. Changes involving only minor alterations in body or motor design naturally require new dies and tools. Therefore, to pass up such changes would release tool-makers and machine tools for defense production without seriously impairing the normal output of passenger cars upon which the nation's business and agriculture today are so vitally dependent. It would also help to prevent recurrence of the situation of 1917-18, when passenger car output was curtailed, demand increased tremendously, and cars sold at a terrific premium.

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Seed Your Pasture During February

Outsmart the weather and seed your pasture in February.

That is the suggestion made to North Carolina farmers by F. R. Farnham, extension dairy specialist of N. C. State College. He points out that a successful stand of grass depends upon sufficient moisture, and March and April are usually comparatively "dry months."

Farnham says that because of the extreme dry weather that prevailed over much of the State last fall, scores of farmers did not sow pasture grass seeds and still have them on hand. Pasture grass can be seeded either in the fall, or from February to April in the spring. "It is wise to get the seed in the ground in February, judging from past experiences," the specialist declared.

Farnham says that it is important to have a compact seed bed. He suggests that old pastures be re-seeded without burning off the broom sedge or plowing the land. Instead, he says, the top soil should be disced or scarified lightly, being careful not to penetrate the soil more than three inches.

A sample of the soil should be sent to the State Soil Testing Laboratory, Raleigh, where it will be tested free for acidity. Then the correct amount of lime can be applied, and this is also very important, Farnham stated.

In order to insure a good start, the grass seeds should be mixed directly with a good balanced fertilizer, using from 300 to 400 pounds of fertilizer per acre. The seed and fertilizer should be mixed and poured into the drill, and if possible the mixture should be drilled both lengthwise and crosswise of the field.

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