

Conditions Calling For Reduction In 1942 Tobacco Crop

Hutson Says Defense Sharing Not More Than 18 Per Cent of Production

Able discussing the tobacco situation and pointing out the need of a 10 per cent reduction in the crop next year, J. B. Hutson, president of the Commodity Credit Corporation, in an address to the eastern section of the Farm Bureau in Greenville last Friday afternoon, predicted that tobacco prices on the markets this fall would average about three cents a pound higher than those of a year ago. Mr. Hutson's address, offering a complete picture of the tobacco situation as it relates to war and a sensible program for the tobacco farmer, follows in its entirety:

It has now been almost two years since the outbreak of the war in Europe and more than a year since we began our own defense preparations. A great deal has happened during this war period in Europe and this defense period at home. In Europe we have seen the Hitler war machine crush through country after country until it controls practically all of continental Europe.

As the peoples of Europe have lost their liberties, we have found it impracticable in some cases, and impossible in others, to maintain normal relations with them. One of the results of this has been the loss of markets for some of our important products. We have maintained more nearly normal relationships with the people of the United Kingdom but, due to the war, we have had a marked increase in the demand for some products going to the United Kingdom and a substantial reduction in the demand for other products.

In this country a great deal of progress has been made during the past year in getting ready for our part in this world struggle. A solid foundation has been laid and war materials are now beginning to be produced in volume. Because of the great diversity of interest of our people it has required some time, perhaps longer than it should have required, for us to get organized for the job ahead. We do now have a better understanding than in the beginning of the viewpoints of the different groups that make up our nation. Factories have been enlarged and new ones built. Shifts in farm production are beginning to be made so that our farm people can contribute their part more effectively.

Prior to the beginning of the war less than 2 per cent of our farm and industrial plant capacity and labor were devoted to national defense and the production of war materials. At present we are devoting something like 18 per cent of our total capacities and energies to these purposes. The production of defense and war materials will soon equal the production reached at the close of the last world war.

Changes are taking place daily. For example, the average number employed in the aircraft industry in 1938 was approximately 38,000; in 1939—49,000; it is now well above 300,000, and by August it will be at least 450,000, and by 1942 the required average is estimated at approximately 850,000. The increase in this industry has been ten-fold already and plans call for an increase up to almost 28 fold.

Similar changes have taken place in the manufacture of tanks, munitions and other defense materials. We now have on hand twice as many military airplanes as we had on hand a year ago, and indications are that by the end of this year we will have twice as many as we have now. Work is almost half completed on over 700,000 tons of ships. We have almost twice as many fields of field artillery as we had a year ago, and more than twice as many rifles. In the beginning we had relatively few tanks; now light tanks are being produced in volume and some heavy tanks have been completed. Production along all of these lines will need to increase for several months, to come and then be maintained at a relatively high level for many more months before we are fully prepared to meet Hitler's challenge.

In large part, up to this time, both in agriculture and in other industries, the increase in the production

Portion Of County Tobacco Crop Lost

Unusually warm weather following a rainy season is playing havoc with the tobacco crop in many sections. While there are considerable losses being reported in this county, the damage is not near as great as it is in most of the surrounding territory.

The leaf is ripening or burning so rapidly that farmers haven't the facilities for handling it. Barns are being taxed to capacity, and old ones are being patched for emergency use but even then the crop is burning before it can be taken from the field in many instances.

Those farmers who are pulling their tobacco from two to three times a week are reporting unusually good cures.

Indict Owners For Failing To List Property In The County

Warrants, charging nearly 300 citizens with failing to list their properties or polls, are being issued by Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes in accordance with an order handed down by Judge W. C. Harris in the Martin County Superior Court in June. The first of the warrants were drawn today and are returnable before his honor, Judge W. H. Coburn, in the county recorder's court on August 11th.

Starting out with approximately 1,000 citizens whose names could not be found on the tax books, the tax authorities state that several hundred listed and paid their taxes during the thirty days of grace allowed by the court order. The addresses of quite a few persons who, it is believed, should have their names on the tax books, could not be determined, leaving about 300 to face the courts. According to rumors heard, some

FIRST WARRANT

The first warrant in the final round-up of non-tax listers in this county was placed in the hands of the sheriff early this afternoon. Ebron Spruill, colored, of Everetts, was the first to have his name appear on a warrant which is returnable before Judge W. H. Coburn in the recorder's court on Monday, August 11th.

If Spruill and others who are being indicted for not listing their properties beat the warrants back, they can escape much of the court costs. While the practice of withdrawing the warrants may not be legal, such procedure is being considered when the facts merit such action, it is understood.

Work On Widening U. S. Highway 17 Is Started Monday

Thirty Men from Three Counties Assigned to Defense Project Here

Delayed several weeks for one reason or another, work on widening U. S. Highway No. 17 between here and the Beaufort County line was started yesterday when the Works Progress Administration started assembling men from three counties and placed orders for materials. Few details could be had in connection with the project, but action followed a meeting of the highway commission in Raleigh last week.

Working in cooperation with the highway commission, the WPA transferred thirty men from two projects in this county and from others in two adjoining counties yesterday. L. H. Marsh, of Beaufort County, will supervise the project, it was learned.

According to information gained here, an asphalt plant will be located on the road leading off U. S. 17 at the Old Mill Inn. WPA workers, using state highway trucks, are to start hauling materials there immediately while others will start clearing rights-of-way for the elimination of curves. This type of work will be started just beyond the Old Mill Inn, one report stating that most of the sharp curves in the route would be eliminated or lengthened.

It is estimated that the WPA force will be materially increased within a short time, but other details as they relate to completion dates could not be learned.

The present plans call for, in addition to eliminating most of the curves, the widening of the road by four feet or two feet on each side. After the road is widened about two inches of sand asphalt will be placed on the entire surface.

Lee House, Taken Ill In Conway, Returns Home

Lee House, prominent Martin County man who was taken quite ill while in Conway, South Carolina, last Wednesday, returned to his home near Robersonville Sunday afternoon. He made the trip in an ambulance, last reports stating that his condition is somewhat improved.

MOVED

Williamston's public library is now in its new quarters in the town hall, the librarians including Mrs. J. C. Cooke and town workers having moved the books and equipment there this morning. The institution, housed in a room in the American Legion Hut for the past three years, is gaining in size and popularity.

Patrons of the library who have books in their possession are asked to return them to the library in the new quarters when the books are due. No new books will be released before Thursday or not until they can be properly classified and placed.

of those persons who have not listed their property or poll for taxation are being misled. The round-up to get all names on the tax books that should be there, has been branded down by Judge W. C. Harris in the people, the advisers going so far as to even assure those who have not listed that nothing will be done about it. Well, the first warrant was issued this morning, and others are being prepared just as rapidly as two typists can turn them out.

If a warrant is drawn and served on a non-lister, he may pay all taxes due and get off with \$2.35 cost. If the case is docketed for trial, he will be called upon to pay all taxes and \$10.90 costs. If he is unable to pay the taxes and costs, he is subjected to be sentenced to the roads. No more warnings are being issued, and the authorities are determined to prosecute violators of the tax laws.

Plans Go Forward For Widening The River Bridge Here

War Department Will Hold Hearing on Application in Courthouse Next Week

Preliminary plans for widening the present bridge across the Roanoke River at this point are fast shaping up and definite action is expected on Friday of next week when the War Department holds a hearing on a state highway application for permission to place a new structure across the stream and to construct a temporary bridge to accommodate traffic while the new unit is being installed.

Boatmen were said to have come here last week-end to study the situation, and it is possible that opposition to the present plans will be offered.

Detailed plans for widening the bridge have not been made public, but it is understood that the present structure including the pivot bridge and fenders, will be removed.

Following is a notice issued last week-end by the United States Engineer Office of the War Department, Wilmington:

The application of the North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission for approval of the plans for the reconstruction of the draw span in the existing highway bridge and the construction of a temporary highway bridge across Roanoke River at Williamston, N. C., will be considered at a public hearing to be held by the undersigned in the County Courthouse, Williamston, N. C., at 11:30 A. M., Friday, August 8, 1941.

All interested parties are invited to be present or to be represented at the above time and place, particularly the officials of any county, city, town, or local association whose interests may be affected by the proposed work. They will be given an opportunity to express their views upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the plans in reference to navigation, and to suggest changes considered desirable.

Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing, as the records of the hearing will be forwarded for consideration by the War Department. Written statements may be handed to the undersigned at the hearing or mailed to him beforehand.

According to plans submitted by the applicant the reconstructed bridge will have a draw span with a horizontal clearance of 60.0 feet (20 feet less than the present clearance)

Call For Aluminum Answered In County

Martin County people today are completing a round-up of scrap aluminum, incomplete reports from the campaign indicating that an unusually large amount of the scrap metal is being made available for defense. Estimated to weigh between six and seven hundred pounds, the collection here far exceeded expectations.

Getting behind the movement, interested citizens under the chairmanship of L. B. Wynne, recently went after the old metal. The Scouts canvassed the high places in town. Officer Allsbrooks combed the outlying districts, and Rural Letter Carrier Bob Leggett did an effective work in several rural communities. "Dummy" Speight, colored man, dug into old trash piles and carted a number of old pots and pans to the bin in front of the town hall. The movement had the support of a people united in their efforts for defense of the nation.

No definite reports have been received from other communities, but it is understood that the collection of the scrap was very successful.

Plans for gathering the metal into a central location in the county for moving it to Raleigh are now being made.

This Week In Defense

Acting Secretary of State Welles said present Japanese activities directed toward Indo-China endanger "peaceful use of peaceful nations of the Pacific. . . jeopardize the procurement by the United States of essential materials such as tin and rubber. . . necessary for. . . our defense program. . ." He said the safety of other areas, including the Philippine Islands, also is endangered.

The President issued a statement that the United States has been letting oil go to Japan "with the hope—and it has worked for two years—of keeping the war out of the South Pacific for our own good, for the defense of Great Britain and the freedom of the seas. . ."

Mr. Roosevelt told his press conference events in the Far East are bringing to the American public a greater awareness of the danger of the whole world situation. But as yet, he said, the public is not sufficiently cognizant of the perils of the situation, any more than it realizes the dangers of war in the West.

Secretary of War Stimson said production of vital items has been increased with the cooperation of American industry during the past "100 crucial days" as follows: Light tanks, 475 per cent; medium tanks, 467 per cent; smokeless powder, 127 per cent; machine guns, 93 per cent; TNT, 92 per cent; training planes, 55.7 per cent; bombers, 17.8 per cent.

The War Department said Army expansion has progressed faster in the past year than the manufacture of modern weapons, but since it is more important to know how to employ a weapon tactically rather than to know how to fire it, "little training value is lost by the substitution of a stove pipe for a mortar or an oak bough for a machine gun." If a company has fewer guns than men, the guns are rotated so each man has a chance to learn how to handle them.

The War Department said it is giving four types of tests to discover a trainee's ability and to help find his "right" place in the Army. Selective Service Headquarters announced that 752,572 twenty-one-year-olds registered on July 1st.

Congress passed a \$320,000,000 defense highway bill for construction of roads and experimental airplane landing strips, and to pay states for damages from Army and Navy maneuvers.

Federal Loan Administrator Jones announced the RFC has authorized a loan of \$425,000,000 to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to pay for war supplies Great Britain ordered before the Lend-Lease act was passed. Mr. Jones said Great Britain has put up collateral which includes securities of U. S. corporations, capital stock of 41 British owned U. S. insurance companies worth \$500,000,000, and the earnings of U. S. branches of 41 British insurance companies which have net assets of approximately \$200,000,000. The loan matures in 15 years and bears interest at 3 per cent per year.

OPM Director General Knudsen named J. A. Krug, OPM Power Consultant, head of a special power unit to assure an uninterrupted supply of electrical energy by reducing consumption in non-defense industries, and, if necessary, by rationing power where shortages are threatened.

Mr. Krug said vast "power pools" will be created to insure adequate supply of electricity for aluminum and magnesium plants now under construction. He said one has already been formed for aluminum plants in Tennessee and others are being considered for Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, the southern sections of Kansas and Missouri, and for the Northeastern section, including

(Continued on page six)

Bear Grass Vital Statistics In 1940

Bear Grass Township had a ratio of births over deaths of almost seven to one last year, the bureau of county vital statistics recording 41 births and seven deaths. Odd as it may seem, there were no deaths among the colored population reported in the district during the period. Twenty-five of the 41 births were among the white population, and six of the 16 colored births were of doubtful parentage.

A man 68 years old became the father of his twelfth child last year. The mother was forty years old. A third child was added to the family in one home where the mother was just 19 years of age. Two mothers of illegitimate tots had barely turned 16. Nearly half of the mothers were attended by midwives, doctors receiving no calls to colored homes.

The seven death victims ranged in age from a few hours to 88 years, the average age for the group being just a little over 36 years. Premature birth resulted in two deaths, one death each being attributable to heart trouble and rheumatism. Cerebral hemorrhages accounted for two deaths, and cause of death could not be determined in two other cases.

Change In Schedule Causes Very Little Confusion Locally

Williamston people, in accordance with the wishes of the President of the United States and at the call of Governor J. M. Broughton, switched from Eastern Standard Time to a daylight saving schedule sometime during Sunday night, numerous reports stating that the change was effected without much trouble and that little or no confusion resulted. A few persons complained about advancing the getting-up time yesterday morning, but the trying experiences surrounding that ordeal were forgotten and more than offset when weary typists, office workers, clerks and others laid down their pens and tools an hour earlier yesterday afternoon.

As far as it could be learned, the change was just about unanimous locally, one or two housewives of a not-too-stubborn individualism declaring that they were not going to

change their dinner hour for anybody. Mill whistles sounded an hour earlier. Some good morning fresh air found its way into the stores, and as a whole the new schedule went into effect orderly and without any trouble.

There were a few who belittled the movement, but if the seriousness of the situation could be grasped, there would be no complaining and a greater willingness to abide by the new schedule and to do other things in behalf of defense. Reliable reports state that authorities in some defense areas have been combing towns in this part of the State, pleading and begging for every single kilowatt of electricity that can possibly be spared.

The baseball hour has now been definitely set, and after tonight, games will start at 8:30 instead of the nine o'clock hour tonight.

More Selectees To Leave County For Army On August 6

Eleven Young Men Get Instructions From Draft Board This Week

After sending off twenty-three young white men on Wednesday of last week, the Martin County draft board this week is sending out instructions for eleven more to report for possible army service on August 6th. The original quota called for 14 young white men, but out of twenty-two examined recently, four failed to pass the physical examinations, three were reclassified when they established dependency and four were deferred on account of occupation. The deferments were granted young farmers who proved they were in the middle of a crop and that hardships would result if they were called to the service at this time.

The names of the eleven men scheduled to leave the county on Wednesday, August 6th, are:

Dallie Merry, of Everetts; Jesse Earl Wynne and Alton Morris Lynch both of Hamilton; William Council Haislip, of Williamston; Dallas Murray Harden, of Dardens; Jesse Wilso; Griffin, of Williamston Route 2 and Elizabeth City; Augustus Edison Moore, of Williamston Route 1; Paul Graham Swinson, of Williamston; Julius Lee Revels, of Williamston Route 1; Woodrow Bullock Sugg, of Jamesville, and Elbert Harvey Whitchard, of Robersonville. The young men are to report to the induction center at Fort Bragg. The first three men, Merry, Wynne, and Lynch, volunteered their services.

On August 22, fifteen colored selectees are scheduled to leave this county for army service. No new white registrants are included in the group scheduled to leave the county on Wednesday of next week, but it is possible that one or two new colored registrants will be included in the group scheduled to leave the county on the 22nd.

The first questionnaires are being mailed this week to new registrants. Thirty of the questionnaires were mailed Monday, covering order numbers within the S-567 to S-1095 group. Twenty-two hundred questionnaires had already been mailed to the old registrants, and it is understood that about 50 more questionnaires will be mailed to the new registrants before their numbers are brought up to date with those of the old registrants. After that point is reached, the distribution of questionnaires to the new registrants will

(Continued on page six)

Rationing Of Gas Is A Possibility

Voluntary reductions in the consumption of gasoline having failed to bring results, the rationing of gasoline along the Atlantic Seaboard is now seen as a possibility. A renewed appeal is being directed to car owners, and if there isn't a marked curtailment shortly, rationing cards are to be expected, according to reliable sources. In his last appeal to motorists in the Atlantic States from Maine to Florida, Harold L. Ickes, Petroleum Coordinator, pleads for a one-third reduction in gas consumption, beginning right now. The lower consumption schedule is expected to last through the coming winter.

"There has been virtually no evidence of a drop in gasoline consumption," an informed source declared, since Mr. Ickes' first call for a 20 per cent reduction last June and his recommendation of July 20. "The alternative fast approaching is rationing—and nobody wants that."

Continued high consumption would bring not only a shortage of automobile fuels but would cut down on shipments of fuel oil used in national defense plants and to heat homes, it was said.

Commenting further on its action, the committee stressed the fact that gasoline curtailment was necessary because 100 tank ships in the fleet of 200 under American registry "either have been taken or called for by the Federal Government."

STILL EMPTY

People are getting mighty good in Martin County when the common jail remains empty an entire week. Week before last, the jail was emptied for the first time in four years. A liberal patronage was reported that week-end when eight patrons were cared for. A week ago today, the jail was emptied and Jailer Roy Peel was astounded when the week-end came and went without a boarder being placed there.

The jailer, handling odd jobs in and about the jail and courthouse, is still sticking around and in readiness to receive any and all patrons at any time.

Selective Service Head Issues Ruling On Marital Status

Modification of Policy of Leniency Toward Married Men Announced

Registrants who get married on the eve of induction or after being ordered to report to the doctor for physical examination will do so at their own risk and will find that their marriage will not keep them out of the Army.

This was made clear today by General J. Van B. Metts, State Director of Selective Service, as he announced a modification of the former policy of leniency toward married men which has been recommended by State Headquarters. General Metts stated that a modification in this policy was made necessary by an increasingly large number of registrants who are apparently undertaking to abuse the policy of leniency in an effort to evade military service.

The modified policy, which was passed on to all Selective Service agencies in the State today, is as follows:

"When a registrant acquires married status after issuance of 'Notice to Appear for Physical Examination', it should be assumed that both parties concluded the marriage knowing that the registrant was subject to early call for service and were prepared to take the consequences, and therefore deferment in such cases would not appear to be justified. But when a registrant has indicated on his questionnaire that he is engaged, giving the date set for the wedding, or has given similar information in writing to the local board and the wedding date falls after issuance of 'Notice to Appear for Physical Examination,' his case should be considered—in the same way as those who married after registration, as provided by Amendment No. 77 to Selective Service Regulations. Of course, there may be other conditions which would obviously temper the above announced modification of policy, e.g., proof

(Continued on page six)

No Services In Jamesville Baptist Church Sunday

No services will be held in the Jamesville Baptist Church Sunday, August 3rd. A representative of the church stated that the schedule was being changed due to the extremely hot weather.

COTTON STAMPS

The first cotton stamps, issued in connection with the surplus cotton marketing program, were placed in the hands of Martin County people yesterday. Mrs. Charlotte Taylor, operating a farm in Robersonville, received the first booklet of the stamps from the office of the county agent, Fred Taylor, Williamston Township farmer, received the second issuance.

The stamps, offered to those farmers who reduced their plantings below their regular allotments, are being released as rapidly as possible.

Trend Of Events Is Toward War in the South Pacific Area

German People Told Now Not To Expect Quick Victory Over Russians

While there is an apparent policy of appeasement still clinging to American-Japanese relations, the trend of events points to a showdown if not actual warfare in the South Pacific area ere long. Japan has occupied Indo-China, improving her position in the Southern Pacific, and additional moves anticipated in some quarters, will aggravate the situation. During the meantime, the Dutch Indies, a spot where the real rub is expected, have scrapped their pact which provided oil from the Netherlands Borneo fields for Japan's navy, the third largest in the world. The pact was scrapped with the blessings of both Britain and the United States, giving rise to a number of questions of serious proportions. If Japan moves to take over the fields, will Britain and the United States act?

The United States placed in effect last week economic reprisals after Japan occupied Indo-China. The action while bordering close to steps leading to war, is not believed to hold the serious implications many first believed it held. There is a definite trend toward a continued appeasement policy, the advisability of which can only be determined by the State Department. It has been said by business men closely associated with Japanese trade that the United States would certainly back down when 200,000 workers in the silk business were forced out of work. Whether the United States will back down is a matter of speculation, but following the action freezing Japanese holdings in this country, the State Department continues to invite Japanese ships into our ports. Whether the United States is still selling oil to kill defenseless Chinese women and children is not known. It is fairly certain that conditions in the Far East are in a terrible mess just now, and it is now believed by many that the militarists were right when they advocated a showdown with Japan before Hitler timed it for his convenience. If the United States and Britain could strike now while Russia has Germany occupied, one of the really serious threats of the struggle could be eliminated and without much cost, many believe.

On the Russian front, the Germans have admitted that a quick victory is not to be expected, and the German people back home are being warned against raising their hopes too high. The task which Bob Reynolds said could be handled by Adolf Hitler and his hordes in less than three weeks is not yet complete and the war is well into its sixth week.

Reports, although contradictory to a great degree, leave no doubt but what a terrible slaughter is resulting in the bloody battles around Smolensk, the city allegedly captured by the Germans nearly two weeks ago.

In an address to the British people last night, Prime Minister Winston Churchill recognized the parts Russia and the United States were taking in the war, but he told them that England must play an even greater role if the war is to be won. He pointed out that Britain was winning the upper hand in the Atlantic, that more British ships are now being built than at any time during the World War.

In this country, a wrangle based on deep-seated grievances almost overshadowed the events in other parts of the world. The august Senate body is arguing over isolationist Senator Wheeler's son and the mailing of a million post cards free under the Senator's franking privileges. The action of the Senate is disgusting to the people of the nation which still looks on Bob Reynolds as the funniest of the senatorial clowns. Wheeler's son, while entertaining his father's views, wanted to get into a naval officer's training school possibly to get something free from the government as his father did in abusing the franking privilege. The admiral, learning of the youth's views, explained that the Navy had no place for him.

Late reports from the Russo-German war state that Germany is on the claim path again. A few weeks ago the Nazis claimed they had broken every vital point in the Stalin line. Now they are apparently breaking them all over again, according to the claims.

Slight Respite In Weather Predicted

After soaring to new high levels for the summer the mercury is expected to retreat slightly tomorrow in this section following scattered showers forecasted for late today or this evening. There's been a great deal of talk about the weather since last week-end when the mercury crawled well up into the nineties and the section felt its hottest spell of the year.

While this section was sweltering under a relentless sun, victims in Ohio and several other states were reporting temperatures approaching 105 degrees.