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W. C. MANNING
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Tuesday, July 29, 1941.

Somersaulting Backwards

When Russia was invaded nearly six weeks ago, the communists were depicted in backward somersaults. It was a gleeful time, all right. But there were fellow actors in the show, and as usual, the other characters were not depicted in the show bills.

After heaping bitter criticism on the heads of the Russians, the American press, while not reversing its stand altogether, is seeing Russia in a little different light. The people are beginning to realize that Russia in appeasing Hitler was doing nothing more than what the United States was doing in appeasing Japan. Some are actually waking up to the fact that heathen Russia, confronted with its trials and tribulations not unlike those experienced by a war-torn South in the reconstruction days, is not much worse than the United States when the opportunities and privileges here are considered.

In this uncertain world, positions change over night, and the man who dares take a stand today on any issue unless it be founded in the time-tested truths of the Almighty may find himself on the wrong side tomorrow.

It is about time that we were basing our thoughts and actions on time-tested truths, and not on our whims and fancies. Until we do that, we will be little more than expert gymnasts.

Dislocations

If winning the war and maintaining our system of economy are possible at the same time, well and good, but if we would cushion the aftermath we must center our attention on the task at hand—winning the war.

There has been some thought given to the real possibility of curtailing business as usual, but as far as placing a curtailed program in effect little progress has been made so far. Some how or other we can't fathom the seriousness of the grave situation facing us. We must have this or that new article; we must go places and do things; we must come first and if there is anything left over then give it for the prosecution of the war.

When we go around talking about the dislocation of our economy, we are not looking ahead. It would appear that our eyes are glued to profits now. Some of the business we are now crowding ahead of defense work will come in mighty good when the bubble bursts, and if history means anything at all, the bubble is going to explode. There may be upsets in a shift from our business-as-usual program to a war economy, but those upsets can be absorbed far more easily now than can the aftermath of a long, drawn-out war.

Mr. Knudsen, of the OPM, may be right in rejecting a marked turn from civilian production to war production in the automobile. But there is a joker in the business somewhere when civilian production curves shoot ever upward in the face of the crying needs coming from the manufacturers of war materials.

In our section there has been no noticeable reduction in civilian activities, other than that traceable to a seasonal decline which is common in any agricultural section. The automobile is being operated in increasing numbers. There are increasing calls for the luxuries. We conserve only after our own desires and whims are met, and we aren't greatly concerned about the amount that is left over for defense.

The dislocation of our peace-time economy may bring its cares and woes were such a change effected now, but those cares and woes, we earnestly believe, will be small as compared with the cares and woes that are certain to be multiplied and aggravated in the bye and bye if we do not change our ways and settle down to handle the task at hand.

ago, sales of refrigerators and Kitchen ranges from 40 to 50 per cent."

While Germany and England have curtailed their normal activities by more than 50 per cent, we are maintaining civilian production ahead of normal and squeezing in war production to the elaborate figure of about 18 per cent. In other words we first increased our business-as-usual schedule and managed to tack on 18 per cent for the vital defense program. Leon Henderson, the price administrator, may not know what he is doing, but his talk is certainly, in keeping with the bare facts.

Keeping Our Feet On the Ground

While manufacturing apparently clings to a business-as-usual schedule, it is encouraging to note that agricultural leaders are taking action now to cushion a shock that is certain to come in the days ahead.

One hears about machine production running ahead of that a year ago, and in normal times that can be taken as an encouraging sign. These times are not normal, and the man who branches out now will, it is firmly believed on past history, have to do just that much more shrinking in the future. Offering what appears to be a sane and sensible program, farm leaders are now talking about a 10 per cent reduction in the 1942 tobacco crop. The action is to be commended, and while some may attack it now they will, in time, appreciate the foresight and the determination of farm leaders in saving them from the sad fate experienced in the post-war period two decades ago.

To reduce next year's tobacco acreage following fair-prices this fall may not be the popular thing, but if we are to value the lessons learned in the past we will live a little for the future and not for today alone.

If we are to escape a crash later on, we must keep our feet on the ground now, for it is possible, even then, that we will receive a jolt that may upset temporarily at least, our equilibrium in a post-war period, the like of which no one has never known and no one can even begin to describe.

"Earn Those Blessings"

We may remind ourselves that even in times of external security the success and even the existence of a democracy depends upon certain qualities characterizing the individual citizen—intelligence, courage, and above all a sense of responsibility. By responsibility I mean the individual's recognition that he must earn those blessings which he would enjoy; that he must not expect to get something for nothing; that the privileges of the community in which he lives must depend upon his contribution to the community; beyond everything, that freedom is to be achieved, perhaps painfully, through the judgment, the tolerance, the self-reliance, and the self-denial of the individual. Such qualities should characterize the product of the universities, for without them democracy cannot long endure. We are pledged to the maintenance of learning; pledged also to the infusion of learning with these moral qualities which by their power are sufficient to carry us from the stage of knowledge up to the higher wisdom. — President Charles Seymour of Yale, addressing agents of the Yale Alumni Fund.

Freedom Is the Issue

Christian Science Monitor.

"We are not arguing for war; we are arguing for freedom." These words of Wendell L. Willkie at Los Angeles Wednesday night state the case of those who believe that freedom must be earned to be long enjoyed.

His speech lifted the threat somewhat out of the realm of geography, though, of course, it can never be entirely divorced from geographic terms. War may come and probably will, he declared, whether America takes a course of isolationism or internationalism. But he did not try to define the danger in purely territorial terms, assenting that "there is no immediate danger of a wholesale aid and naval attack on our shores."

"But," he continued, "America cannot be defined in terms of its shoreline or its boundary lines. America is a way of life—a way of life based upon certain recognized rights and principles, and held together by the Constitution of the United States. When we look ahead the question that faces us is not the number of square miles under our control, but the way in which we are going to live."

This statement of the question suggests a line in which President Roosevelt might effectively exert renewed leadership. Many have wished we would state more concretely the military situation and whatever threat may be contained in it. Possibly he cannot do so without giving away strategic information. But he can state again in persuasive terms, as he has occasionally done, the goals for which America strives.

Too long has the effort been made to win isolationists over by talking in terms of self-interest. The self-interest exists; but there is a higher and entirely valid argument of international good citizenship. This does not mean meddling or crusading or being an international busybody, but it does mean throwing the Nation's weight decisively on the side of the greater right in a contest which will determine not only geography but international morality or immorality for a generation to come.

We believe America is ready to be appealed to on this basis.

"JELLY ROLL BLUES"



Boll Weevils Active In Johnston Cotton Fields

Growers report that boll weevils are active throughout most of the cotton fields of Johnston County, says M. A. Morgan, farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

Make Almost \$300 From Onion Projects This Year

B. F. Carraway, Harper Ham, Russell May, Ernest Best, James Rouse, and Desmond Sutton, Green County 4-H Club members, made a total of \$292.50 from their onion projects this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Edmondson spent last Friday in Snow Hill.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
North Carolina, Martin County. Having qualified as the executor of the estate of George Williams, deceased, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned within one year from the completion of this publication of notice or same will be pleaded in bar to any recovery.

ery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This the 27th day of June, 1941.
RUSSELL WILLIAMS,
Executor of the estate of
July 1-61 George Williams, deceased

NOTICE
North Carolina, Martin County. In The Superior Court, County of Martin against Mandy or Mary Lewis and Town of Parmele The defendant, Mandy or Mary Lewis, above named, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Martin County, North Carolina, to foreclose the taxes on land in Martin County in which said defendant has an interest; and the said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear before L. B. Wynne, Clerk of the Superior Court of Martin County

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at his office in Williamston, North Carolina, within thirty (30) days after the completion of this service of publication by notice and to answer or demur to the complaint of the plaintiff in this action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This the 3rd day of July, 1941.
L. B. WYNNE,
Clerk Superior Court of Martin County.

Important Notice —TO— TAXPAYERS

A PENALTY OF ONE PER CENT WILL BE ADDED TO ALL 1940 TAXES AFTER AUGUST 1st

SAVE THIS PENALTY.
PAY YOUR TAXES NOW!

C. B. Roebuck

Sheriff — Martin County

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Town of Williamston

W. B. DANIEL, Tax Collector



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