

THE ENTERPRISE

Published Every Tuesday and Friday by the ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING CO. WILLIAMSTON, NORTH CAROLINA.



W. C. MANNING
Editor - 1908-1938

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Entered at the post office in Williamston, N. C., as second-class matter under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all communications to The Enterprise and not individual members of the firm.

Tuesday, September 8, 1942.

Waging War On The Home Front

Pointing out that the war must be waged on the home front, too, Norman Shepard, N. C. Attorney for the Office of Price Administration, in a recent article said:

The North Carolina Office of Price Administration has been greatly impressed with the patriotic spirit in which the majority of our business men and citizens have accepted the rationing and price control regulations, but it has been even more impressed with the strange and inconsistent attitude of many who appear to have the wrong conception of these regulations.

Many of our business people have cultivated for years a self protective approach toward governmental requirements, especially those relating to income and other taxation, and it is now difficult for them to adopt a completely unselfish and patriotic attitude toward regulations necessitated by the war effort.

The practice of construing tax laws and similar regulations so as to evade their more burdensome features whenever possible has so colored the viewpoint of some of our citizens that they unconsciously apply the same method of approach to the regulations deemed essential in connection with the war effort.

The same citizen who is proud of the fact that his sons are members of the armed forces, and justly proud of the sacrifices they may be called upon to make in the defense of their country, is unwilling to take the same pride in his own contribution to the war effort by a wholehearted compliance with the spirit, as well as the letter, of the rationing and price control regulations. The profit motif still predominates in his business thinking. This same citizen will buy heavily of war bonds and contribute generously to the Red Cross and the USO, all of which is entirely voluntary, but he cannot seem to readily readjust his attitude toward the edicts of his government.

"Bootlegging" and "Black Market" operations by the criminal element (which unfortunately is always with us) would be impossible if the respectable citizen did not afford a market, and it is difficult to understand how a father with sons or other relatives in the service can buy an automobile tire from a bootlegger, paying him an exorbitant price, when he knows that the diversion of rubber from the ration channel indirectly deprives some military unit of a vital article.

The war must be waged on the home front regardless of how fiercely it rages on the battle fronts. The home front is second in importance. Vital materials must be conserved for our immense production of the implements of war. Economic balance must be retained. Price control and rationing are necessary to meet these ends and to insure those of low income an equal opportunity to purchase. The democratic principle of equality to all must apply to distribution and price. Without price control profiteering would be rampant and many necessities soon beyond the reach of the man of moderate means. Without rationing, hoarding would exhaust the available supply of scarce commodities. The result would be chaos and want in a land of plenty, seriously delaying the production of vital war supplies to equip our fighting forces. To the extent that our disregard of regulations contributes to this condition we commit sabotage.

No people of any state in the union can surpass in patriotism the people of North Carolina. When they apply the same spirit to the regulations protecting the home front that motivates them in their voluntary services to their country they will in truth be fighting side by side, with their men and boys under arms, to win the war and preserve America.

Why We Aren't Winning The War

A paid friend of big business, possibly unintentionally, recently explained why we have not yet reached the point where we'll start winning the war. "The industry has big war orders, of course—but civilian consumption of gasoline and lubricants is still the foundation of its business."

The industry may not be blocking the war effort, but the Industrial News Review certainly makes it plain that the industry still has its eye on the civilian business, war or no war.

Indifference

Investigating recently conditions existing in the asylums for the insane the special committee found much of which we cannot be proud and of which we should be meekly ashamed. We North Carolinians have boasted much about this and that, but the records show this State ranks 45th in the list when it comes to spending for the care and treatment of the helpless insane.

Removed from our sight, the unfortunate apparently have not had a fair and square deal some where along the line. Because we did not see them we have remained indifferent to their fate and even to their being. A few have cried out in a wilderness in defense of the unfortunate, but the cries were lost in the din of merry-making and hustle and bustle characteristic of the day.

Our indifference, no doubt, caused great agony and suffering for many in our asylums for the insane. The question now is, "Will we remain indifferent to other problems of commanding importance?" Will we take life lightly and refuse to prepare for the proverbial rainy day? Will we drift along with the current until we have lost a hold on basic principles, including common decency, righteousness and fairness?

We can't remain indifferent in these trying days and even hope to come through with a claim to that which is good in the sight of the Almighty and in the eyes of righteous men.

May the renewed interest in our less fortunate fellowman created by an investigation of the asylums mark also a waning of indifference to other problems while possibly not so pressing but certainly equally as important?

Trailing Behind Schedule

Just as America trails behind other nations in converting its material resources into the production of war materials, it is also trailing in things spiritual.

Months ago in the fox holes of Bataan, soldiers, privates and ranking officers alike, found time to pray. All England, just a few days ago, found time to stop all its production wheels for a brief interval to offer a united prayer. In those countries where the time table is well advanced ahead of the one in our own, a greater value is being placed on things spiritual. In this realm we are trailing far behind. Religious leaders state that attendance upon the Sunday schools is at a low point, that the teachers and many of the pupils go only when they have no other place to go. The church leadership has in only a very few cases altered its schedule, enjoying the usual vacations while a fire of madness leaps at the door of religion, and while other men, including leaders and common workers, are asked to forego every holiday.

Just as our delay in preparing for war is costing the lives of men and countless dollars, our lethargy in the religious realm now is going to cost us much in the future.

Lead On!

By Ruth Taylor.

Now is the time for courageous leadership. In the past months there has been too much pleading and not enough leading. The people are readier to follow than the leaders are to lead—because the people look ahead and the leaders too often look backwards to make certain they are followed.

This is an hour fraught with opportunity—whether it be an opportunity to forge stronger the bulwarks of our democracy or a crisis in which we face the weakening of our system of government. We the free voters have it in our power to elect the men who can carry through, who dare to lead us to victory.

We cannot afford to repeat the tragic mistakes of the past. We cannot isolate ourselves as communities, states or sections any more than we can isolate ourselves as a nation. Those who thought so have too late seen the fallacy of their judgment.

Therefore, because of the democratic idealism of our nation, we must be especially careful to select as our candidate only that man or woman whose ideals are our ideals, who will not be swayed by pride of power, by favoritism, by prejudices, and who will not put party loyalties ahead of the public interest. They must not only have political honesty and honor but they must be able to recognize propaganda for what it is and see beyond purely local issues. They must feel that once elected they are the representatives of the whole people, not of any one group or clique.

We have enough to do to fight the enemy. We have neither time nor energy enough to fight one another. No individual or group at the present time has the right to think or act in terms of personal interest to the detriment of the general national good. To discuss and debate is a priceless privilege—but it is a privilege that must not be carried to excess.

We need men who dare to act as the occasion demands for the good of the nation as a whole—not for their own particular group or clique.

We need men whose eyes are on the road straight ahead—not on their political fences.

We need men who have courage to do the job without fear or favor—who once elected to office remember that their task is to represent all the citizens of their community, state or nation and who act accordingly.

We must pick our leaders for their ability and courage and then command them to lead.

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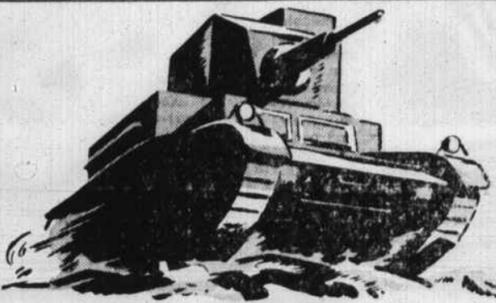
Cotton Has Major Role In Hospitals

Washington, D. C.—Cotton is playing a major role in treating the Army's sick and wounded, both on the battlefield and in base hospitals in this country, the National Cotton Council and Cotton-Textile Institute report.

Often housed in cotton canvas tents, field hospital equipment includes large supplies of cotton materials in the forms of bandages, absorbent cotton, adhesive tape, and

other surgical cottons. Ambulances are equipped with cotton canvas stretchers and first aid kits containing a wide assortment of cotton bandages and similar items.

Increasing quantities of cotton surgical supplies are now being built up in this country, not only to meet the needs of United Nations armed forces, but also to be able to meet demands in the event of air raids and civilian illnesses. Every effort is being made to have sufficient supplies of the cottons, so that epidemics such as the influenza epidemic of the last war may easily be forestalled.



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