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Friday, December 4, 1942.

Money For War

Quite a few Martin County citizens, occupied with every-day duties and plugging away at the task of feathering their nests, thought they gained a pretty good idea of war financing last week when an extensive drive was advanced by the ladies for the sale of war savings stamps and bonds. We were told that money was needed right here in this county for war financing not in hundreds or tens of hundreds but by thousands and tens of thousands of dollars. Early reports indicate that Martin County citizens responded nobly to the call.

But while we were being told that large sums were needed last month, the United States Treasury comes forth this month with an urgent appeal for the largest single loan in history. December requirements are estimated at nine billion dollars, the amount eclipsing the previous seven billion-dollar Fourth Liberty Loan of 1918.

We get all tangled up when we try breaking down so big amounts so as to show how many bonds each person would have to buy to successfully float a nine billion-dollar loan, so we'll skip those figures and just stress the need for everyone, man, woman and child, to invest down to the last penny in an undertaking that means so much to everyone of us.

Still Serious

The problem created by a rubber shortage is still far from being solved and the situation continues infinitely more serious than we have been told. That the problem can be handled is not to be doubted, but until the East Indies are regained it'll require a great deal of ingenuity and possibly some sacrifice. To date, there has been a marked inclination to grumble and complain with little sign of ingenuity or cooperation.

The rubber situation today presents a dismal picture. Back yonder when there was considerable argument, the proponents of rubber from oil won the argument. Now it seems that the oil and rubber are both badly needed, and one can't be had without robbing the other. No one knows, but it is reasonable to believe that a mighty portion of the 700,000-ton stockpile on hand a year ago has been depleted, that the pile has not been added to since that time.

It'll be next year before the synthetic process enters the picture on any appreciable scale, and the relief that will follow is not guaranteed. The status of the nations' transportation system today can be determined by the condition of those tires now in service. If one has fairly good tires on his vehicle and he exerts every effort to conserve them, he may be in the race until the end. Of course, there are a few who will get allotments, but the available supply will only meet the requirements of a very few. It is encouraging to hear about what we will have in the future, but for the present we will do well to consider the rubber situation as serious if not critical and act accordingly.

A Pledge Of Citizenship

By Ruth Taylor.

Citizenship is not a commonplace to be taken for granted. It is a badge of honor—a prize for which to strive, to be earned day in and day out, not to be remembered only at election days. Many commodities are realizing this and are expressing the solemnity of inauguration day by using the oath which was taken centuries ago by the young men of Athens when they became of age.

In this time of war, when like the Athenians of old, we are fighting against the savage barbarian to preserve a democratic way of life, this oath should not only be made by those about to take office but by every one of us. Let us repeat it together.

"We will never bring disgrace to our city by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks." That is, we will be honest and courageous in all our dealings with our fellow men, regardless of class, race, creed, or color. We will not shirk—we will work and fight and pray for the good of the whole nation and we will not allow prejudice or intolerance to deter us in any way from our task.

"We will fight for our ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many." That is, while we fight the enemy without with all our force, we will keep alive the spirit of democracy and freedom for all, which is the guiding light of our republic. We will not compromise our ideals.

"We will revere and obey the city's laws and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those about us who are prone to annul them and set them at naught." That is, we will not only keep the laws of our community in the letter of the word, but in the spirit as well. We will keep our community free from subversive influences which attempt mental sabotage against our institutions and ideals, and we will teach to the younger generation reverence for the high principles which govern our Constitution and which guide us as a nation.

"We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty." That is, we, by taking our part in all activities for the preservation and protection of the community, will act as an example to others, encouraging them to join in work not for themselves alone, but for all our people.

"And thus, in all these ways, we will strive to transmit this city not less but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us." Our duties as citizens are not only to ourselves and our neighbors, our community and our nation, but to those who follow. The only way we can pay our debt to those who bequeathed to us a free way of life is to pass on to subsequent generations a free nation, united in devotion to the cause of liberty, better and more beautiful because of that unit. Thus it came to us.

Common Men

From The Common Defense.

We are so impressed and overjoyed by the smashing victory of the British Eighth Army in Egypt that we have forgotten, perhaps, how the dismal prospects for the British of a few months ago have been changed into the present triumph.

After all, no victory in Egypt was possible without providing the armed forces with reinforcements as well as new equipment and supplies of all kinds. These could be brought to Egypt only by ship and, since the Axis controlled the thousand miles of coast between Bardia and Tripoli, convoys from Britain could not reach Egypt by way of the Mediterranean—a journey of only 3,000 miles. Instead, they had to make the much longer trip of 12,000 miles around the Cape of Good Hope to Alexandria. That they did successfully is now clear enough, for the British Eighth Army, which has routed the Axis, is well supplied with both men and material.

There is something very important, as well as moving, about this patient and determined performance of duty by those unknown seamen who transported soldiers, tanks, and guns to Egypt over 12,000 miles of dangerous sea lanes.

Their names will never appear in the headlines. They will not receive citations for bravery. Few people in all the world know any of them well enough to call them by name. They will probably go on for the rest of their natural lives just doing their duty in the same obscure and purposeful way. But, without them, there could have been no victory in Egypt.

These seamen represent the common people of the earth of whom Abraham Lincoln said that God must love them because He made so many of them. They are everywhere. They walk the main streets of our towns and cities. They are in our churches and shops and factories. They run our trains, till our farms, and mine our coal. They are our doctors and lawyers and legislators, our teachers, publishers, and clergymen, our firemen and policemen, our soldiers and sailors and airmen. They are the common people. They are us.

We have praised famous men. Now let us praise men upon whose strength and loyalty the future free world depends so much.

Just One More Gallon

Christian Science Monitor.

Eastern motorists who are complaining about losing that fourth gallon of gasoline on each ration coupon might feel better after considering the feeling of men on the fighting fronts as they hear the sputter of a gasless motor. There is the case of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions who undoubtedly wished for just one more gallon. What civilian motorist would not gladly have given up his whole ration book if it would have helped these men to reach their destination?

Maj. Ben S. Irvin, home on furlough at Washington, Ga., tells of flying with other officers over the wastes of Borneo with the gas gauge sinking fast. "For a while we thought we were goners," he relates, "but finally we identified a river in the jungle and found our way to an airport with only about ten minutes fuel supply left." So far, demands at home have not forced any plane to go out without a full tank. But today full tanks over Africa may require empty tanks in America.

If Eastern motorists, by temporarily giving up one gallon on each gas coupon, can release enough tanker space (which is the real shortage) so that the boys who really need it can have the one more gallon required to bring them safely back, they may well feel a glow of satisfaction that comes from giving where it is needed.

So many who clamor for increased production are the very ones who are doing the least to increase production or help the war program in any way.

IT'S
CHRISTMAS TIME
AGAIN!**TOMORROW!**
BELK - TYLER'S
CHRISTMAS
OPENING

In this War-torn World Today . . . The Spirit of Christmas should mean more to us than ever before. With all nations on earth gripped in a death struggle . . . with malice and hatred on all sides . . . the spirit of thoughtfulness and love . . . the spirit of giving should bind us closer together. Yes, the Spirit of Christmas should be of paramount importance this year as never before.

Shop Early This Christmas

Select a few Gifts each day. Stocks of merchandise are at their peak just now. It will be impossible to replenish the items as they sell out.

Don't Delay!**Buy It Today!**

Be sure to attend our Christmas Opening tomorrow . . . Make a good start on your Christmas Gift List!

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DEPARTMENT STORES

WILLIAMSTON, N. C.