WASHINGTON SNAPSHOTS

(Cont'd from front page)

broken up and spread throughout industry. Military officials have argued that many small producers are high-cost producers, failing to realize that in times of emergency, higher cost producers have their place. A time of emergency is certainly a time for utilizing all machines, all equipment, all producers.

Many businessmen warned the Administration time and again that small business must be utilized more fully. The National Association of Manufacturers early this year instituted a self-census by industry whereby every manufacturer, no matter how small, was urged to register, to make known his facilities available for defense contracts or subcontracts. More than 18,000 individual concerns were registered in addition to about 12,000 which the armed services had already surveyed. All the data was filed with the OPM.

Manufacturers in many small towns also arranged to pool their facilities in the plan fashioned after that used in York, Pa. And some startling results were achieved by industry's own efforts to spread the work. For example, in the New York City area more than $500,000,000 of defense work is sublet. In the Rochester, N. Y., area, the 170 prime contractors let work to 2,000 main subcontractors who in turn spread the work out even wider. But such efforts left many communities still untouched.

Mr. Odium found when he took office that the government contract service had 39 field offices in September. He plans to have 200 offices and to employ 600 persons (all but 400 in the field.) He has requested a budget of $25,000,000. Already in preparation are three exhibit trains which will tour through 27 states to display to manufacturers the parts and pieces the Government wants somebody to make. You'll probably be seeing these trains beginning some time in November.

Congressmen who've been getting frantic appeals from their communities back home, where labor is slipping away, factories working half-time or closing up, and relief loads increasing, are bitter about the failure of the Administration to take heed of the problems of small business. In addition, they accuse the government planners of failing to plan at all, of instituting a system of raw-materials controls that gives nothing for non-defense industries and creates artificial scarcities.

Stories of panic-buying by the Navy and the War Department are reaching Congressional ears. Reports are that the Navy Department, for example, ordered six million dollars worth of monel metal valves, thus placing a top priority on this alloy largely composed of hard-to-get nickel, though the valves couldn't be used until other parts were finished—in a year. Older reports even than this come in—of companies receiving steel with which to manufacture munitions before they could get steel to start building the munitions plant, of steel plates being stored for months before the ships' keels could even be laid.

So Congress is worrying about whether Mr. Odium will be able to stem the flood of unemployment arising from the muddled handling of defense orders and of raw materials allocations. Preliminary returns o a nation wide defense unemployment survey point to reduced employment and production in many communities throughout the country. Industries producing stoves, clocks, watches, radios and phonographs, engines, and others have been markedly hit. How many can change over to defense if they are given the opportunity? And if they cannot make the switch, will they be able to obtain materials enough to keep alive?

The 21 percent increase in wholesale prices which has occurred in the past two years is attributable chiefly to increases in farm products and to higher hourly wage rates.

Boneless beef is rapidly gaining favor with the Fourth Corps Area Quartrmaster department. Official estimate the saving in storge space, alone, is 25 per cent. Recently tested on maneuvers, soldiers were given 2,000,000 servings wthout spoilage.

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Frances Fedden, attractive Bronxville, N. Y., artist's model, is the 1941 Red Cross poster girl. Thousands of posters like the one pictured above have been distributed throughout the country calling attention to this year's Roll Call membership appeal. Painted by Bradshaw Crandell, prominent New York illustrator, the poster carries a national defense theme, portraying the active part being taken by the Red Cross in serving the armed forces.

N. C. Farmers May Use Same Land, Equipment

North Carolina farmers are being advised by state agricultural leaders to use their present farm equipment and cropland in the united effort to raise more food in 1942, says G. Tom Scott, Johnston County farmer and chairman of the state USDA Defense Board.

The Tar Heel delegation of agricultural leaders which attended a 22 state food for freedom conference at Memphis, Tenn., last week agreed that North Carolina farmers could meet their share of the nation's food increase goals with "just a few new investments in land and farm equipment."

Chairman Scott declares however that farmers will work carefully with AAA fieldmen and committeemen in setting up 1942 farm defense plans which will provide the requested food increases — increases brought on by the government's pledge to feed 10,000,000 more Britons next year and to feed its own people better.

Local committeemen already have begun the task of visiting every farm in the state to work out 1942 farm plans. Under the plans North Carolina is expected to increase production by: 58 million pounds of milk; seven million dozens of eggs, 10 million pounds of beef and veal; indefinite quantities of hogs, soybeans and peanuts, the increased beans and nuts to be crushed for badly needed oils.

In the final campaign last year, Chairman Scott continues, the first objective of workers and farmers will be to avoid the disastrous mistakes made by farm folk in trying to meet adjustments necessitated by World War I. The plan is to preserve good farming practices all the way through, to protect the farmers' land and his future markets, the defense board chairman said.

Milk production in 1942 is expected to be the highest on record, due largely to a 3 percent increase in cow numbers and a larger production from individual cows.

Present indications point to a greatly increased 4-H Club enrollment in Jones County this year, reports Jack Keller, assistant farm agent of the N. C. State College Extension Service.

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