

THE JOHNSTONIAN - SUN

M. L. STANCIL, Editor

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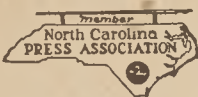
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I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP

She was a pretty little woman, brown eyed and brown haired, and she wore a sheer blue dress with a string of white beads around her neck. Not at all the costume I had expected to find an expert factory fore-woman wearing. But then I found that the floor where she and her girl companion were staying was as clean as spotless as a well-kept kitchen, and as cool as a breeze-swept living room. The girls themselves were gaily dressed too and as well manicured and waved as girls in offices or schools.

"Why not?" she asked me when I expressed surprise. "Working in a factory doesn't make a girl different, you know, She is just as fond of pretty things and good times as any other girl is."

Then to my astonishment I found that this older woman, who has become a supervisor and holds a position of responsibility and trust in a famous manufacturing plant, is pretty much like the rest of us too, just as eager to "do something useful" in this emergency as those of us who are simply housekeepers.

I went to see her because she is one of the women working on instruments for machines used in the Army and Navy of the United States—machines essential to defense. I wanted to get the story of her career and hear from her direct how it feels to be doing such important work for Uncle Sam. She explained about her work and told me how responsible she feels about it. But then, with eyes shining, she went on to tell me about the Red Cross courses she has taken this last year. She spent three evenings a week all last winter getting the training that makes her eligible to be a nurse's aid.

"But why?" I asked. "You couldn't be spared from this important production work."

"No, I couldn't. But I might be able to help in some extra way with this training. I'd want to be really useful and know how to give first aid and things like that. I couldn't bear just to sit by and let other people do all the work."

And so it seems that even a woman in the front line of defense production isn't satisfied with her important work, but wants to be ready to play a vital part in any emergency.

With a spirit of service like this among the women of the country in homes and offices and factories, there can be no question of America's ability to survive this crisis with our freedoms as well as our countryside and cities unscathed.

PAUL REVERE'S HORSE

Announcement of a tiny new auxiliary engine that will extend the flying range of bombers, now in mass production for the Navy, brought about a brief spurt of interest in its inventor, Charles L. Lawrence. Lawrence has invented other airplane engines in his time which were used to break existing flight records, but he has never sought or received the public attention.

The occasion of his latest invention, which will be of great service to defense, calls to mind a story told concerning him. Once a well-wisher inquired why Lawrence seldom received credit when others, who depended upon his inventions for their success, were wildly acclaimed.

"After all," Lawrence answered humorously, "who ever heard the name of Paul Revere's horse?"

That quiet spirit of service is characteristic of American industrial research. All over our country, thousands of research workers and engineers are making their individual contributions to our national security. They served progress in the past. Today they are helping to make sure that the results of that progress are preserved for the American generations that lie ahead.

Often their names are not known or remembered. But the composite result of their efforts is so plain that no one can miss seeing it—American industrial superiority, with its promise of security today and of better living standards tomorrow. Research, the "Paul Revere's horse" that has achieved all this, can well be proud of the role it plays.

SOCIALISTIC TENDENCIES

"There is but one way to make sure that help sent to Britain actually reaches Britain," said the New York Times recently. "There is but one way to insure the freedom of the seas. There is but one way to protect our own domestic freedom. That one way is to send our cargoes to Britain under the cover of our own naval guns, and if cargoes or ships are interfered with by Nazi pirates, shoot the pirates down."

That point of view is based on the belief that Hitler's system of total dictatorship and our system of total freedom cannot live in the same world. The triumph of Hitlerism would inevitably mean the end of individual freedom and free enterprise everywhere, and the death of social and economic democracy.

We are spending billions to aid England in fighting aggression, and we are spending more billions to defend ourselves against its spread to America. All of this is being done in the name of freedom and of the American way of life. The American people have shown their stern resolution to make any sacrifice to assure the perpetuation of this nation. Therefore, while we are arming against the enemy without, we must likewise defend ourselves and our institutions from the enemy within.

That means we must protect and encourage the free enterprise system—the system which has given the American people the highest living and working standards ever known in the world.

Only in a land where any man can go into any business he chooses and prosper to the limit of his talents and energies, can the people know true liberty. The private ownership of property—whether it be a home, a farm, a factory or a railroad—is the very foundation of freedom and democracy.

There are those in this country who would force some form of socialism upon the people. We have seen this applied to the private electric industry—despite the fact that this industry is vital to defense and has at all times proven its ability to meet any and all increases in demand for power. If such efforts succeed, all business, big and little, will be the prey of total government, and freedom will be but a meaningless word in the dictionary.

Our whole foreign policy today is based on the belief that liberty is in danger, and that every material resource of the United States must be given to building arms to defend it. That being the case, our domestic policy must have as its cardinal principle the perpetuation of freedom at home, and the maintenance of the private enterprise system which has made that freedom possible. Government control of private enterprise leads directly to socialism which just the reverse to the American way of life.

LIBERTY OR DOLES

"Nothing is ever going to be free in this country," wrote Paul F. Cadman, Economist of the American Bankers Association, recently. "Somebody will have to pay. To the extent to which the government dispenses bounty of all kinds and for all purposes, the burden on those who work and save will increase. When the rich, as a class, have been reduced to bankruptcy, and when the middle class have been driven to dependence, further, contribution will be forced in the form of compulsory labor. The skilled will be compelled to offer their best. The unskilled will be driven to offer the little which they have, and the whip of the super-government will be the incentive to human effort."

That is a dark picture, but history fully justifies it. When any nation divides the wealth, the result is to multiply the poverty. The price we pay for a super-state is the ultimate complete loss of liberty. Germany and Italy, with their slave economies, are sufficient proof of this.

Today we have government in credit, government in business, government in farming, government in all lines of endeavor. Let that trend continue and increase—as it will unless an awakened public stops it—and the future envisioned by Dr. Cadman will come true. In our search for something for nothing, we have lost sight of our traditions, of our system of free enterprise, of all that history teaches. We are destroying the sources of wealth, which means we are destroying the sources of employment and progress. That is the road to dictatorship with a vengeance.

CONVOY AND PATROL

Theoretically, our Navy is not convoying British shipping. It is simply patrolling the Atlantic. In actuality, many authorities believe, there is little difference between a convoy and a patrol. It has been announced that an American destroyer dropped depth charges over a German submarine. And American fighting ships are at sea now, warning the British whenever they come on a Nazi raider. The American Navy, in other words, is pretty much in the war.

OUT OF HARM'S WAY!



This Week In Defense

President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress saying "we stand, as we did in the closing months of 1915, at the beginning of an upward swing of the whole price structure," and asked authority to set ceilings for prices and rents, to purchase commodities when necessary to assure price stability, and to deal more extensively with excesses in installment credit.

He said the "facts today are frighteningly similar" to the situation in the last war when the wholesale price index increased nearly 140 percent between October, 1915, and June, 1920. In the past 60 days wholesale prices have risen more than five times as fast as during the preceding period since the outbreak of the war in Europe, he said.

"The whole production machinery falters under inflation," he said, and "the unskilled worker, the white-collar worker, the farmer, the small business man and the small investor all find that their dollar buys ever less and less."

The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its index of prices, as of July 26, stood at 88.8 percent of the 1926 average, 15 percent above a year ago. Price Administrator Henderson said the crisis in the Far East necessitates a price ceiling on raw silk and may make necessary a ceiling on its prices. He asked dealers and consumers not to pay high prices for high grade waste paper above those prevailing in the price structure.

Economic Defense

President Roosevelt created an Economic Defense Board consisting of Vice President Wallace, Chairman, seven Cabinet members, and such additional members as Mr. Wallace may select. The President said the new Board will formulate the nation's international economic policy, coordinate the economic activities of defense agencies and plan for post-war reconstruction.

Foreign Affairs

The President ordered the freezing of all Japanese credits in the United States and extended the order to Chinese assets to protect China against Japanese use of assets controlled from occupied China. The President also placed the Army and Navy of the Philippine Commonwealth within the command of the armed forces of the United States, and named Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur, former Chief of Staff, commanding general.

The State Department protested the dropping of bombs by Japanese planes near the United States Gunboat "Tutuila," and announced the incident closed after the Japanese Government promised full investigation and reparation. Acting Secretary Welles denounced Germany for its note to the Mexican Government with regard to the blacklist recently issued by President Roosevelt and for the Nazi Government's reported threats of reprisal.

Aid to Russia

Lend-Lease Administrator Hopkins arrived in Moscow to discuss expediting of needed war materials to the Soviet Union and the Russian Military Mission conferred with President Roosevelt and the State Department. Acting Secretary Welles said Lend-Lease aid has not been discussed because the Russian Government can purchase needed materials with cash.

Tax Anticipation Notes

The Treasury placed on sale at Federal Reserve Banks tax anticipation notes intended to help taxpayers

set aside sufficient money to meet increased tax bills of the coming year. The notes are redeemable in cash or as payment for income taxes and bear interest up to 1.92 percent. Secretary Morgenthau, in a letter to all banking institutions, said, "It is important that the taxpayers of the nation become aware of the unprecedented taxes they will have to pay next year on this year's income, and they should be encouraged to set aside funds now with which to meet those later payments."

Army

The War Department created five air support commands in order to coordinate the activities of aviation units and ground forces. The Department announced the Signal Corps has developed electrical sentries that will warn of invading aircraft "long before they are actually sighted," but said the Army needs 500 men from the radio engineering field to learn to operate the secret devices.

War Secretary Stimson said 1,000 airplanes and 10,000 Air Corps officers and enlisted men will take part in maneuvers stressing coordination of ground and air strength in the Beauregard, La., area from Sept. 1-30 in the simulated warfare between 50,000 men of the Second and Third Armies, and in the First Army maneuvers to be held in the Carolinas, Nov. 3-30.

Oil

Defense Petroleum Coordinator Ickes recommended 100,000 gasoline filling stations in the following States be closed from 7 p. m. to 7 a. m. every night beginning Sunday, Aug. 3: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, District of Columbia, and "all marketing areas in or east of the Appalachian mountains in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia." He appealed for a voluntary cut in consumption and said he hoped closing the stations in Eastern States nightly "plus voluntary curtailment will be enough to put us across."

Priorities

Director of Priorities Stettinius issued an order freezing all stocks of raw silk because of "unsettled conditions in the Far East." Mr. Stettinius announced a new plan to grant blanket preference ratings to projects which must be completed promptly. He issued a limited preference rating to 40 manufacturers of mining machinery and to 75 producers of cranes and hoists needed by defense manufacturing plants.

Agriculture

OPM Director Knudsen told Agriculture Secretary Wickard the OPM will cooperate to meet shortages of farm equipment and machinery now hindering efforts to increase farm production. The Office of Price Administration revised its allocation program to increase storage space for farmers for the current grain harvest by increasing the quantities of steel and zinc for grain bin construction.

Materials

The OPM Production Division formed a defense advisory committee of the pulp and paper products industry and said defense requirements will increase consumption of the industry's products by 2,000,000 tons this year and an additional 2,000,000 tons next year.

OPM announced plans to increase the scrapping of worn-out automobiles by 1,000,000 tons a year, and

Washington Snapshots
by JAMES PRESTON

The influence of Dr. John Maynard Keynes, the British economist who visited Washington recently, is seen by Washington observers in reports that Administration officials are considering a new plan to give a man money but not let him spend it—that is not for some years to come.

The proposal under discussion is a tax plan that is not a tax plan, for the money that is collected now in taxes would be repaid later on.

Briefly, the idea is to keep money received as a result of wage increases from forcing prices upward, causing inflation. The taxpayer would be given a credit (up to a certain maximum) in baby or defense bonds, savings stamps, or special postal savings certificates equivalent to the increase in taxes resulting from reductions of exemptions under the income tax law.

Some government officials estimate that as many as five million citizens may be brought into the income tax structure under such a plan. If the plan goes through it will probably be labeled a "compulsory savings plan," or some equivalent designation, in the knowledge that the word "savings" has a good connotation which is readily acceptable to the people.

One school of thought in Washington has held consistently over a period of months that rising living costs justify labor's demands for wage increases. Figures just developed, however, raise an interesting question regarding this argument.

Living costs, it is revealed, increased 3.5 per cent between last October and the end of June. Factory wages, on the other hand, increased 22 per cent from October, 1940, through May of this year.

At a time when business men serving the government in Washington are generally agreed that "business as usual" is no longer possible and at a time when one industry after another is curtailing normal production in the interests of defense, Washington observers wonder when politicians will come to a similar recognition in connection with "pet projects" of one kind and another.

In this connection, the proposed St. Lawrence seaway and power project has been criticized roundly by representatives both of labor and of industry. One industrial spokesman summed it up as follows: "The first order of the day is naturally the production of arms, equipment and supplies necessary for the Army, the Navy and civilian defense to protect America. Anything that hampers or impedes this prime objective should be rejected promptly or deferred for consideration at a later date. The seaway project should be definitely rejected because it will result in a tremendous diversion of labor, funds and materials to a non-essential project."

Commenting upon the fact that the House of Representatives, while considering means to raise some three and one half billions in revenue, takes time out to consider an appropriation bill to spend over seven billions for the Army, Navy and Maritime Commission, one Congressman was heard to say: "That's catching up like the frog in the well that slipped back two hops to every hop forward."

said one car provides enough scrap for a light cannon, and 20 cars will provide enough for a tank. OPM asked zinc producers to set aside 27 percent of their June production during August for an emergency pool, and said the supply of fabricated alloy steel for air-craft manufacture will be tripled before the end of next year.

Labor and Employment

Labor Secretary Perkins reported non-agricultural employment increased by 484,000 during June to reach a new all-time high of 38,799,000 - an increase of 3,365,000 since June, 1940, and 1,900,000 more than the June, 1929, record. WPA employment dropped 77,000 and NYA, 96,000, she said. OPM Associate Director Hillman asked airplane companies to employ and train women in defense jobs without lowering wages or working standards.

The Navy, War and Commerce Departments jointly proposed the 60,000,000 Americans born in this country but without documentary proof of citizenship apply to State bureaus of vital statistics and similar agencies for "delayed birth certificates" to break the bottleneck by which native-born workers are barred from jobs in defense plants for lack of such proof of citizenship.

Gyrene—Going north for maneuvers this summer, sailor?

Gob—Ye-up, we're being sent down to Iceland.