

# WAR BRINGS MANY CHANGES TO PEOPLE OF FLORIDA TOWN

## Milton's Population Is Traditionally Democratic but New Dealers and Others Have Split; Taxes Chief Issue.

By BARROW LYONS

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This is one of a series of articles written for this paper by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union. He has just completed an extended trip through the nation and in these reports gives his first-hand impressions of what rural America is thinking as we enter the third year of war and the first weeks of a presidential election year. Any opinions expressed are the writer's and not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

MILTON, FLORIDA.—About 27 miles northeast of Pensacola, Florida, is this neat little town of Milton, the county seat of Santa Rosa county. The 1940 census counted 1,840 inhabitants. The population has about doubled since then because the navy has ringed the village with flying fields auxiliary to the great Pensacola pilot training center.

Much of the new population of Milton is transient, remaining only for construction work. But many civilian workers at the airfields have rented houses or rooms for the duration. Permanent residents have taken many as boarders in the interest of winning the war.

Despite this increase in size and importance, no one expects Milton soon to regain its erstwhile glory as the principal port through which most of southeast Alabama once shipped its cotton and timber to the world and received supplies. Those were the days when sailing ships slid up the Blackwater river from the Gulf of Mexico to pick up the cotton bales piled three miles along the river at Milton awaiting shipment. The ships came also to get pine lumber. Old inhabitants can remember timbers two feet square and a hundred feet long hewn from the giants that once stood along the river. Ox teams carted away into the interior supplies brought for Alabama farms.

But the sailing vessels long since have disappeared, and the cotton goes by rail elsewhere, and the mighty pine forests have been cut down, and only three years ago, the big sawmill of the Bagdad Land and Lumber company sawed its last log, while the newsreel cameramen ground out "finis."

Even before the Bagdad mill ended its long usefulness, many of the more ambitious young men of the county began to drift from Milton to places that were growing. With the exception of the merchant-banker-professional group left in Milton, those who remained were, on the whole, the older people.

During the depression, a very large part of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa county were on relief. One man placed the proportion at 75 per cent.

### Dairy Farming Is Gaining Headway

In the northern part of the county, there is fairly rich farming land. Cotton is raised; also beef cattle, peanuts, hogs, corn, and cane syrup. Government authorities have urged the farmers to go in for dairy farming, and that is beginning to gain headway. Most of them are traditionally Democrats.

But in recent years, a sharp split has come about in the kind of Democrats they are. Those who have made money in business or professional work, are as violently anti-



Left, S. D. Stewart, Milton, Fla., town clerk; right, J. J. Wilson, editor Milton Gazette.

New Deal Democrats as can be found anywhere. Apparently, it is paying large taxes that galls them most. The city of Milton was an incorporated town before Florida was a state. It doesn't levy very heavy taxes. Occupational licenses, liquor licenses, and a moderate personal property tax—now 21 mills—has paid the cost of local government.

There is now a sewer rental tax because of the \$43,000 sewer project which the Public Works administration made possible in the early New Deal days. So it is natural that those who are profiting from the huge expenditures of the federal government should rebel against the tremendous income taxes that are recovering some of those expenditures.

A large number of Milton folk, and many in the county, are more likely to be on the other side of the

### As Milton, Florida, Views It . . .

Around Milton farmers and business men who have lived longest in the town, are chiefly descendants of English people. There are few other than Anglo-Saxon names on the registration rolls. Most of them are traditionally Democrats.

J. J. Wilson has urged the business men of Milton to form a chamber

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## American Business

By JOHN CRADDOCK

New York, Feb. 7. — Confusion has been growing in the last several months as to where business was going — and when. Now the fog is beginning to clear and some definite patterns are appearing; some of them pleasing and some that we'll take gladly enough because we have to if we're going to win the war. Here are a few:

Civilian goods are beginning to get a "break," but don't expect any great increase in either the volume or the kinds of things that will be available again. Flatirons, razor blades, baby carriages with metal frames, aluminum collapsible tubes for denturifics and a number of medicinal items (for which you no longer have to turn in used tubes) are a few of the civilian items that are coming back — but gradually. Return of the manufacture of washing machines and refrigerators will come more slowly.

Meanwhile, some war plants are being cut back but they are not necessarily going back into civilian production. Where they're in "tight" labor areas, they can't go very far. If their normal products require materials which are still scarce, they're also likely to find hard sledding. This simmers down to the fact that some metals are now in "excess supply" — that is, supply in excess of strictly military needs — but there's not enough manpower. Where there's manpower, there isn't necessarily the needed material. To make a refrigerator, for instance, you need more than steel. You have to have motors, thermostats, bearings, etc., which are still needed for war.

SPREAD YOUR VACATIONS — while it may seem a bit early to be thinking about vacations this year, vacation planning right now will help considerably in easing transportation pressure later this year, in the opinion of George A. Kelly, vice president of The Pullman Company. He believes that the railroad transportation burden is likely to reach its maximum in 1944, possibly reaching the staggering total of 100 billion passenger-miles. Kelly says that later in the year the industry may be able to build its first new equipment of the war and that this will begin to ease the pressure, but meanwhile, he urges business and the public in general to spread 1944 vacations as generously over the entire year as possible.

THINGS TO COME — Men's bathing suits of corduroy — vat-dyed and sanforized . . . The first college course in television programming technique — at New York University with Thomas H. Hutchinson, who is in the business himself, as teacher . . . Glues, adhesives and paper-stizing solutions made of wheat instead of corn starch and tapioca . . . An insulation for office safes which prevents valuable papers from becoming charred during fires.

OLDER MEN REGAIN STANDING — Older men, even those whose ages range as high as 80 years, have punched holes in the pre-war opinions that men over 40 years of age cannot keep step with factory hands who are many years younger, according to foremen and executives of the Brown Instrument division of the Minneapolis - Honeywell Regulator Company. The Brown Instrument Company has many employees whose ages range from 50 to 80 years. Most of these older men, the company has discovered, can turn out as high quality or even better work as men from one-half to one-quarter their ages. Most of the older workers, is was pointed out, have very low absentee records, are seldom late and where they may lack the speed of young people, they more than make up this deficiency in experience and the quality of their output.

WARTIME SWAPSHOP — The pioneer tradition of getting together to solve problems is still in force in America. In Chicago, someone figured a lot of people had electric appliances that were out of repair and therefore stored away unused, while a lot of others were in dire need. So Commonwealth Edison conceived a plan to do something about it. Using Commonwealth as a "moderator," dealers agreed to buy out-of-service appliances for war stamps, put them into shape for use again, and re-sell them to busy families. In the first three months, more than 10,000 appliances appeared — with electric irons accounting for 50 per cent of them. Toasters, vacuum cleaners, waffle irons were high on the list, too. Some 326 stores are cooperating, and many dealers now have waiting lists of customers who are ready to buy popular items when "swap" merchandise appears.

BITS O' BUSINESS — Cancellation of General Electric's war contracts in 1943 amounted to \$450 million, but it had a year's production in unfilled orders at the beginning of 1944 . . . General Motors is ready to make 1942 model cars as soon as the signal comes, perhaps before the end of the year, but they won't sell for \$400; they'll run about 20 per cent higher than pre-war prices . . . Harry Winston, New York diamond merchant, cut the 155-carat Liberator diamond, worth \$200,000 into three

pieces, which are now worth a total of \$275,000 at wholesale.

# Teachers Deserve More Pay Says Mrs. Roosevelt

New York, Feb. 5. — Due to the increasingly important position in society which schoolteachers hold in helping straighten out war and post war problems, the community must revise its attitude toward the teaching profession, according to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, wife of the President. This change should be brought about chiefly in higher salaries in some sections and the granting of greater freedom in teaching young people to think for themselves, she holds.

Speaking before the Progressive Education Association at its regional conference at the Pennsylvania Hotel here last night, Mrs. Roosevelt presented the Edward L. Bernays award of \$1,000 for "outstanding contribution to democratic education in 1943" to Miss Adele Franklin, Director of the All-Day Neighborhood Schools. These schools, located in problem areas of Manhattan, offer a special type of character-building education under the joint auspices of the Board of Education and the Progressive Education Association.

Increased Responsibility "It seems to me we are putting too much upon educators today," Mrs. Roosevelt declared. "but, nevertheless they have to do the thinking through of many problems which other people are shrugging off their own shoulders by saying, 'these are things the educators must do.'"

The increased responsibility American teachers must assume in world affairs, since this is the only great democratic nation in which the civilian population has not been visited by actual war will mean a greater need for teachers to be upheld by the community, she stressed.

"If we put the mark of importance on people through certain material returns, we are going to have to revise the way in which we pay our teachers," Mrs. Roosevelt added. "In addition, we have to make the communities realize that if teachers are to achieve what we expect of them, the position of the teacher must change."

Greater Freedom Advocating a greater freedom for teachers, Mrs. Roosevelt emphasized that in some places teachers find themselves "controlled" or forced to leave their positions when they place before pupils the whole picture of what is going on in the world.

"Teachers have to have freedom—not the kind that permits them to indoctrinate young people in Nazi teachings, but to spread before young people the whole picture and then insist that they think through what these facts mean today," she declared. "This ability to analyze is the most important tool of youth. Peace is not going to come unless the individuals we train today are people of real integrity and real character."

Too many teachers are "cowed" today, Dr. Robert K. Speer of New York University, declared at an afternoon panel, and have been made to feel like "inferior citizens" by those in authority. Dr. Frank Baker, President of State Teachers College in Milwaukee Wis., was elected President of the Association.

### ELECTRICITY

The average farm consumption of electricity has increased by 14 kilowatt hours in one year, as much as 26 hours in some cases, says REA reports.

# J. C. Avery Gets Report On China Relief Fund

United China Relief sent to China for its 1943 relief program amounted to \$8,612,155.02, it is announced by J. C. Avery, Chairman of the United China Relief Committee in Selma.

This is an increase of more than three and a half million over the sum sent in 1942, almost five million more than was sent in 1941. Administrative cost for 1943 was 5.92 per cent, including servicing the relief program in China, as compared with 8.73 per cent in 1942.

The 1943 relief program covered five fields of effort: education, medicine and public health, child care, direct relief and self-help projects.

Inflation, which has brought special hardships to the white collar class living on fixed incomes, made assistance to teachers and students of primary importance in 1943. Through the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China, the United China Relief Committee for China Relief and the National Student Relief Committee, United China Relief gave aid in the form of scholarships, "rice subsidies" and other grants to 3,000 faculty members and 20,000 students in middle schools and colleges.

In the field of medicine and public health, United China Relief continued its support of army and civilian hospitals and emergency medical service training schools; aided the transportation of medical supplies and gave assistance to the personnel training program and the anti-epidemic work of the Chinese Health Administration.

Members of the Friends Ambulance Unit, supported by United China Relief funds, transported drugs and medical supplies and maintained mobile medical and surgical teams on various fighting fronts. Through China Relief gave help to the International Peace Hospitals of the guerrilla areas, and the clinics and medical teams serving the guerilla soldiers and civilians. Mission hospitals, clinics and health stations received help through the Church Committee for China Relief. Army hospitals and training schools, government medical schools and projects of the National Health Administration, were supported by the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, which also set up a Blood Bank for the Chinese Armies, which after being successfully tried out in New York City from June until November, is now en route to China.

Training schools, nurseries and orphanages and health nutritional pro-

jects for children received support through China Aid Council, the Church Committee for China Relief, the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China, China Child Welfare, and China's Children Fund.

Famines and floods, which took a heavy toll of lives in 1943, notably in Honan and Kwangtung provinces, called for special grants from funds reserved for emergencies. Other direct relief included aid to refugees and soldiers, grants to lepersariums and assistance in emergencies of many kinds, administered through the Church Committee for China Relief and the China Defense League.

Self-help projects — the industrial cooperatives, trade schools for refugees and orphaned boys and girls seeking means of livelihood, the smuggling of workers from occupied to Free China, and rehabilitation projects for disabled soldiers — were supported through Indusco, the American Committee in Aid of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, and the Board of Custody for projects supported by the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O.

"The past year, during which China was virtually blockaded by the Japanese, and great natural disasters brought tremendous additional suffering to the Chinese people, has been a test of our relief program in China," Chairman J. C. Avery said. "We rejoice that, through our affiliated groups in China which have built up through the war years, an ever-growing chain of trained and willing helpers throughout the length and breadth of the country, we have been able to meet many difficult situations promptly and effectively."

# Produce Market In Benson 20 Years Ago

The following is taken from a copy of The Eastern News, published in Benson, N. C., on January 31, 1924:

Cotton	.....	32c
Corn, per bushel	.....	\$1.15
Peas, per bushel	.....	\$3.50
Eggs, per dozen	.....	35c
Sides and shoulders	.....	17 1-2 to 18c
Hams, per lb.	.....	27 1-2c
Young chickens, lb.	.....	25c
Butter, lb.	.....	40c
Fat cattle, on foot, lb.	.....	5c
Fat cattle, dressed, lb.	.....	10c
Flour, bbl.	.....	\$6.50 to \$7.50

Rutherford county doubled its pulpwood production last year, shipping 6861 cords, reports County Agent F. E. Patton. Greatly increased quantities are needed for war purposes.

**North Carolina Milk Producers— Look to the Future**

**PRODUCE GRADE A — Increase Your Incomes**

<b>GRADE A Producer</b>	Daily Output → 10 Gal.	Selling Price (per gal.) 34c	Daily Income \$3.40	Yearly Income <b>\$1,241</b>
<b>UNGRADED Producer</b>	→ 10 Gal.	24c	\$2.40	<b>\$876</b>
	Extra Income from GRADE A	\$1.00		<b>\$365 Extra Yearly Income</b>

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**HERE YOU WILL FIND MANY NEW ARTICLES OF WEAR JUST RECEIVED FOR SPRING. DON'T BUY UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER YOU.**

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# WALT GODWIN

Selma, North Carolina