



GREGORY, S. DAK.

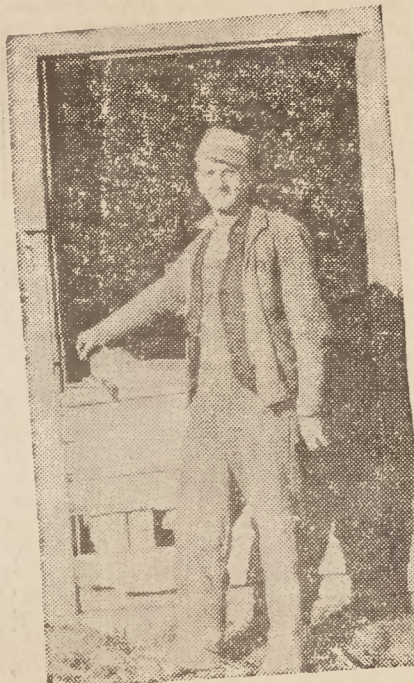
# Rural America in Cross Section



PAXTON, ILL.

In this final article of a series by Barrow Lyons, staff correspondent of Western Newspaper Union, he gives the graphic results of his swing through the nation to gather an impression of political and economic thinking in rural America. All of these pictures were taken by Mr. Lyons, and opinions expressed or quoted are either those of persons pictured or the writer's. They are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Shown at left is E. C. Biggins, wheat farmer of Gregory, S. D., an early settler who "saw the land come up from nothing." Biggins, who is 67 years old, doesn't like to be told how much wheat to raise and what to do. He believes that many of the farmers around Gregory are spreading themselves too far, buying too many steers, sheep and hogs at prices that are too high. They are putting themselves on the spot for the coming deflation, Biggins believes—counting their chips too soon.



Sentiment in Benton, Arkansas, is strongly divided. Business men and farmers deeply resent the many controls and restrictions imposed by the New Deal, and assert Washington has bungled badly. The bauxite miners support the administration. Section of Benton's business district is shown at right.



Many farms in Ava, Mo., are changing hands, as indicated by these sale posters displayed in an Ava restaurant. These reflect the nation's current land turnover. George Mullins, Douglas county FSA supervisor (inset), has helped many farmers around Ava to rehabilitate themselves.



J. G. Saurenman, general foreman of the Rock Island roundhouse in Eldon, Iowa, finds this labor-dominated town a good place to live. It has excellent schools,



M. H. Bourne, editor emeritus of the Owensboro (Ky.) News-Herald, says Kentuckians don't like too much government control, but tobacco growers approve AAA program.



Milton, Florida: "Population doubled since war's beginning."

Buy War Bonds Today! Buy War Bonds Today!

## BEHIND THE SCENES

### American Business

By JOHN CRADDOCK

New York, April 3 — One problem always faced by our Congressional representatives when writing a tax bill is that of distributing the burdens equitably. It seldom can be done. The new excise and postal rates of the 1944 Revenue Act, which have just become effective, afford a current example of an added cost to one group and a windfall to another. Retailers who handle cosmetics, jewelry, furs and other items of merchandise classed as luxuries will have to add 20 per cent to their prices instead of 10 per cent under the new excise rates. On the other hand, the banks of the country, both commercial and savings, are looking forward to a great deal of additional business because of increased rates on postal money orders. The new post-office charges run from 10 cents to 37 cents for money orders on sums up to \$100, compared with 6 cents to 22 cents previously. The banks figure they can now undersell Uncle Sam in this important field of service. Banks will be able to advertise savings of four cents and upwards over post office rates. To many bankers this looks like a golden opportunity not only to obtain larger volume sales of their own money orders, but also to stimulate greater use of their no-minimum-balance checking accounts.

#### LIGHT METAL OPPORTUNITIES

— Recently, numerous manufacturers have obtained approval to use aluminum for experimental purposes in models of post-war civilian goods. To small industrial companies engaged in war work who are now thinking about what they can make and sell in peacetime markets, this opportunity to experiment with what was once our most strategic war metal should be of interest.

The Truman Committee of the Senate, in its third annual report says "it is reasonable to assume that substantial amounts of most types of aluminum fabrication could be made available in the near future for civilian use." The report commends the Aluminum Company of America "for the prompt and effective manner in which it expanded at its own expense its annual production from 350,000-000 pounds to more than 830,000,000 pounds per annum, as well as the expedition with which it constructed the government-owned aluminum and alumina facilities." In that picture of unprecedented and prompt expansion in a time of emergency one finds the real answer to why it is possible today, in the midst of a war so dependent on airpower, to spare aluminum for industry generally to use in designing postwar products that will help to maintain business activity and jobs at a good level.

THINGS TO COME — Round-trip airplane flights to Bermuda from New York for \$30 after the war . . . Fresh meat shipped direct from packing plants in portable refrigerator . . . Increased supplies of the miracle drug, "Penicillin," for civilian use.

TEST FOR STANDARDIZATION — While war production still is the

first order of business for the nation's railroad carbuilders, they will get another chance this year to test the advantages to railroads of large-scale, standardized railway car design. The War Production Board has released materials for building during 1944 up to 60,000 freight cars, of which about 30,000 are expected to be of the all-steel, standard "victory" design. Another test of standardization, earlier this year, resulted in the delivery by Pullman-Standard Car Manufacturing Company of 1,200 troop sleepers for the Defense Plant Corporation in just four months, one-third of the time which would have been required for a like number of assorted passenger cars built to customers' specifications.

RUG DEARTH — Many of the looms of companies like Mohawk Carpet Mills have been converted to the production of such military necessities as blankets, cotton duck and tarpaulins. So don't be surprised if, during the spring cleaning season, you decide to replace that old 9X12 in the living room but find the stores fresh out of a suitable replacement. A survey indicates that the rug industry is producing only one-fourth as many wool carpets as in 1941. It is reported that stores have only one-seventh as many wool rugs on hand as they did in 1941. These and other statistics lead to the conclusion that, even if the war should end right now, it would take at least two years to build up store inventories again to a normal level. Better not spare the moth preventive on the family rugs this spring.

BITS O' BUSINESS — Gasoline consumption in automobiles will drop

445,300,000 barrels in 1941 to an estimated 246,000,000 barrels this year . . . Stockholders prefer that their companies keep dividends low at present if it's going to mean a stronger post-war competitive position, according to replies to a questionnaire sent to stockholders of General Foods Corporation.

#### IN THE NAVY

I know that you are lonely,  
But there's nothing I can do  
Till this world is peaceful  
And I am home again with you.

I can even send you flowers,  
To express my love in part  
But a carload of flowers  
Wouldn't ease an aching heart.

Now, dear mother, please keep smiling  
And at times when you feel blue  
Remember other boys are fighting  
And their mothers miss them too.

So you mothers stick together  
Please don't worry 'bout us men  
And before you even know it  
We'll be marching home again.  
Written by Rudean Stallings of Durham, formerly of Selma.

#### CLEAN - UP

A thoroughly organized Clean-Up Campaign throughout farm areas and towns will be a tremendously worthwhile contribution to the war effort this spring, suggests the National Fire Prevention Association.

#### LARD

There is more lard on the market than cold storage warehouses can accommodate and it is suggested that housewives store a small amount of extra lard in their refrigerators.

# Easter Harmony



Raise Your Spirits to a New High.  
Start the Easter Holidays off  
with a new outfit

## Griffon and College Park Suits

All of the finest fabrics—worsted, flannels, chevots, gaberdines—100 per cent all wool, every one of them. In good-looking colors and patterns — and styles that make you look your best.

**\$29.50-\$37.50**

Hickok Belts  
Interwoven Socks

Botany — Cheney  
Palm Beach

## TIES

Wilson Bros. and  
Arnaw  
Underwear

Dobbs — Mallory — Clifton

## HATS

\$4.85 to \$6.50

Thompson — Florsheim

Johnny Bull  
Fortune

## SHOES

\$4.85 to \$10.00

# Austin & Hamilton

"A TRIAL IS ALL WE ASK"

SMITHFIELD, N. C.