

EXTENSIVE FARMING LIVESTOCK PROGRAM TO FEED PRISONERS

Prison Department To Utilize Every Foot Of Land Owned By Them

Despite prospects of wholesale food rationing by January and already increased difficulty of obtaining certain food, North Carolina's 8,000 prisoners will not go hungry next year.

Prison director Oscar Pitts is already mapping out plans by which every foot of land owned by the prison department at its 78 prison camps, two prison farms and even Central Prison and Woman's Prison here at Raleigh will be utilized in an intensified farming and livestock program.

In a recent meeting with prison supervisors and livestock and farm experts of the prison department, Pitts urged that careful study be made of land available and that it be turned into that crop to which it is most suited.

Including the 6,500 acres now under pasture and crops at Caledonia prison farm in Halifax county, there is a grand total of 7,700 acres under cultivation and 4,164 devoted to pasture, of prison owned land. In addition to this, Pitts hopes to rent land near the camps so that additional acreage may be built up.

At the present time, the prison department is better than fifty per cent self sufficient. Pitts hopes that this will be raised to nearer 95 per cent during the coming year.

The state division of purchase and contract is now unable to buy enough cooking oils, lard and fat back for the prison population. The answer to this is the raising of more hogs and livestock.

Another problem faced by the prison department is the increased cost of foods. Despite a reduction of more than 2,000 prisoners in this year's population as compared with last year, increase in the cost of foodstuffs has more than compensated for the reduction.

Still another spectre which faces prison officials is a decreased income. The prison department is a division of the State Highway Commission and derives much of

its income from that body. Revenues from sale of license tags and gasoline have dropped almost fifty per cent and that means a cut has to be made all along the line.

Too, the prison department has found it almost impossible to secure guards and other man power at the present wage levels established by the state budget bureau.

With a large proportion of highway work now being maintenance, enues from sale of license tags and more to replace a great shortage of free labor heretofore available for working the roads.

Pitts indicated that every prison camp will have its own truck garden. Also, more attention will be laid on diversification of crops. New crop for the prison department will be soy beans, already experimented with at the Caledonia prison farm.

Already great strides have been made in raising beef cattle and hogs at Caledonia prison farm. Most prison camps have small numbers of hogs as well as dairy cattle. In all cases the number of livestock will be increased to the peak capacity of the particular camp. Poultry raising is also in for a large increase in production.

"The state has entrusted the prison department with the responsibility of keeping prisoners well fed," Pitts said, "and though it means large numbers of the men will have to be shifted to farm work, it is the only way in which we can hope to feed the thousands of hungry men and women."

WELDON

Mr. W. J. Edwards spent Wednesday and Thursday in Richmond, Va.

Misses Frances Johnson, Frances Oakes and Bill Edwards of Duke University arrived at their respective homes here Thursday to spend the Christmas holidays.

Miss Lucille Oakes of E. C. T. C. is spending the holidays at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. James Tilghman of South Carolina are the guests of Mr. Tilghman's parents here.

Mrs. B. M. Bennett returned

home Wednesday from a visit to Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Crouch, Mrs. Henry House and B. M. Bennett spent Wednesday in Richmond.

Misses Alice and Frances Moore are expected to arrive in Weldon Saturday from Woman's College in Greensboro, to spend the holidays at the home of their parents.

Men are dying for the Four Freedoms. The least we can do here at home is to buy War Bonds—10% for War Bonds, every pay day.

Episcopal Will Hold Christmas Tree & Pageant

Instead of the regular service Sunday night at All Saints' Episcopal Church, the Y. P. S. L. will present a Christmas Pageant with carol singing, and the Sunday School will have its annual Christmas entertainment with tree and gifts at 7:30 p. m., Sunday, December 20.

The School of Prayer will meet

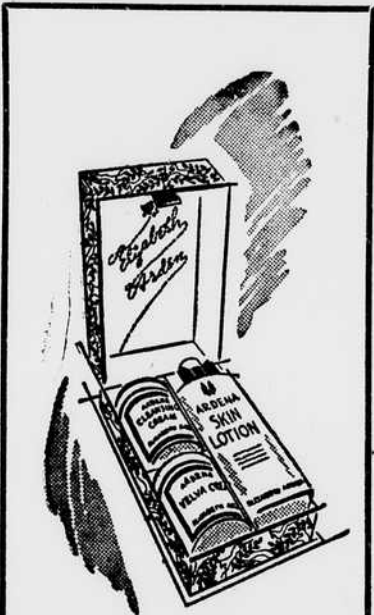
at Mrs. Tom Long's home to form an Intercessory Prayer Group for the Parish. All members of the Forward in Service Committee are especially invited, and all others who can come.

The Annual Congregational Meeting to hear reports of organizations, and to elect a Vestry for 1943 will be held immediately after the morning service, December 20.

Our fighting men are doing their share. Here at home the least we can do is put 10% of our income in War Bonds for our share in America.



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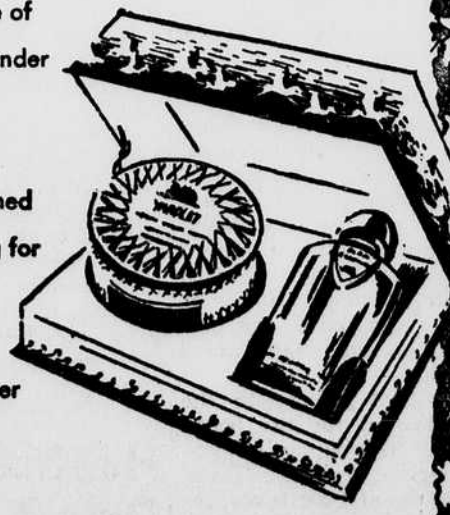
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