

Wilmington Morning Star

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS is entitled to the exclusive use of all news stories appearing in The Wilmington Star.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1942.

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

—Roosevelt's War Message

Star-News Program

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory. Public Port Terminals. Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities. Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island.

TOP O' THE MORNING What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to Him.

Officers' School

News that Camp Davis probably will be utilized for an officers' training school comes from Washington with peculiar gratification to Wilmingtonans who have seen soldiers depart in recent weeks with deep concern for the future of the camp.

Auto-Use Tax

Despite the treasury department's decision to put automobile-use stamps on sale at once, it will be some days before the Wilmington postoffice receives its supply and consequently auto owners here will be delayed in obtaining them.

It would be well for motor car owners to be on hand to purchase them as soon as they are offered, lest they be caught in a last-minute rush and compelled to spend tedious time in line awaiting a chance to be served.

ANONYMOUS LETTERS

The Star-News is always pleased to receive letters from its readers, written for publication, that will reproduce news that are anonymous.

They will be available at the postoffice only, and heavy penalties are provided for owners who do not comply with the law creating the tax.

Thus the way of the auto owner becomes harder. With the purchase of tires next to impossible the prospect is that few owners will be using their cars at all by spring.

If this money were not raised by this means it would be by another.

To Teach Economy

Because of the serious economic situation created by the war, and the necessity of individual saving, it is obvious that every consumer must learn new ways to stretch the dollar.

But that is not all. Such commodities as are bought must be used with the purpose of making them last longer.

The tremendous costs of war can fall upon the shoulders of the people only. No other source of revenue with which to meet them can be made available.

With the aim of educating the people generally to this new need for economy The Advertising Federation of America is sponsoring a campaign to teach the people how to make all articles, but particularly scarce goods, last longer and to make the process fashionable.

Elton G. Borton, the federation board's chairman, proposed the plan in an address before the Boston advertising club.

The program, he said, "should prepare people for shortages, discourage hoarding and itself to war merchandising conditions."

The general impression obtains, however, that within a matter of weeks the present rationing tires in a limited field only will be relaxed and even the jalopies will blossom forth in new underwear.

Synthetic Rubber

The fact that the country expects to be in position to produce 400,000 tons of synthetic rubber in a year and a half is consoling chiefly to auto owners with sufficient foresight to lay in a surplus of tires when the rationing period was first hinted.

Shares of oil companies responded yesterday to the overnight announcement in Washington that the United States Government had decided to construct plants capable of producing 400,000 tons of rubber annually.

The Administration's new set-up for the settlement of labor disputes in wartime is not reassuring. As compared with the old National Defense Mediation Board, which the new National War Labor Board superseded, there are doubtless a few minor gains.

Argentine Blindness

Argentina's refusal to enter any military alliances or "acts of prebelligerency" is so similar to the policy of Holland and Belgium before they were conquered one can only wonder at her blindness.

The Netherlands took the same position. Belgium took the same position. They were content to "stand on their neutrality" and rely on Hitler's promises for freedom from war.

And because they refused to join England and France they were overrun by Nazi forces, bombed by Nazi war planes, conquered by Nazi bandits and now exist in slavery to the Nazi fuhrer.

The situation may not be identical. Argentina may not be as near to falling as were Holland and Belgium in the January before Hitler emerged from the phoney war.

publicans can she hope to benefit by the united strength and resources of all.

Argentina has long been a favorite spot for propagating Hitlerism and it may be that these fifth column activities have really lulled the people, and government into a state or false security.

When his chosen time arrives Hitler will strike at the Americas, and the republic which seems to be nearest Wilhelmstrasse is most likely to feel the Nazi heel first because of its isolation from its natural allies.

More Food

The agricultural marketing cooperatives have a real job on their hands.

As Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has pointed out, we must increase our production of many foods both for us and for England, which depends on this country for a substantial part of the foodstuffs that she needs.

The marketing co-ops are today fighting a battle to get the consideration the farmer deserves. They are fighting for fair prices and reasonable profits.

Washington Daybook

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The other day a friend showed me a letter from his mother who had traveled from Chicago to the Pacific northwest on one of the country's crack streamline trains.

What occurred to me would have occurred to any one who heard the story and remembered 1917-'18, when wartime transportation demands caused a nightmare of congestion on American railroads which finally caused the government to take them over.

In World War I, there was practically no transportation in the United States other than that provided by the railroads and inland waterways.

The reasons lie in the vast improvement in equipment and speed. The average freight car today carries nearly nine tons more than the 41.5-ton freight car of 20 years ago.

CONNECTING ALASKA Congress now has before it a proposal to speed up the proposed highway to Alaska.

The military importance of the project is no longer open to serious question, but the project is now being opposed on the ground that it cannot be completed in time to be of service in the present war.

Editorial Comment

THE NEW WAR LABOR BOARD

The Administration's new set-up for the settlement of labor disputes in wartime is not reassuring.

Granted one assured factor, namely, that of machine tools, America's gigantic industrial machine would easily meet the President's goal of 60,000 planes in 1942.

THE BIG HUMP IN 1942

Although it ranks today as a minor annoyance rather than a major inconvenience soon to become a hardship, the proposition of unofficial rationing of sugar to combat hoarding illustrates how unthinkingly people rush out to meet unpleasantness and thereby making a problem out of something that really isn't a problem.

SUGAR HOARDING

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PROUD, BUT OF WHAT?

A pastor, new to the Harford country, was discussing his burdens with a sympathetic friend. "Harford people are interesting to me because of their intense family pride," he said.

BUILDING UP THE PUBLIC MORALE!



As Others Say It

NIX ON CAROL

A suggestion that leaves us plumb cold is the one that there shall be established a "Free Rumania" government with headquarters in the United States and that King Carol be the head of it.

Interpreting The War

Tokyo Admits Strength Of MacArthur's Line

The skill and daring with which General Douglas MacArthur timed and executed his withdrawal from Luzon into Batan peninsula is now doubly underscored by Tokyo advice admitting the strength of his defensive line.

Is That So?

The Japanese parliament has just gone into its 79th ordinary session in Tokyo.

Factographs

The first bishop of the oldest Episcopal church to be ordained in the United States was Francis Asbury.

As war has interfered with the monopoly of French factories in the manufacture of cigarette paper, an American mill, first of its kind, is now making cigarette paper at home-grown flax fiber.

When fish don't bite it may be that the water in that vicinity contains a variety of desirable bait and that the fisherman's bait is lost among objects at which the fish may bite.

53 YEARS IS ENOUGH IN PUBLIC LIFE MAHWAL N. J. — After 53 years in public life, Mayor James Devine has returned to his farm to raise flowers and vegetables.

During his career he held elective office in the township, several county and state positions. He says now, "Public life is a thing for young folks, but it's good for old folks."

Clapper

Watches Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The Secretary Knox, in his address at the conference of mayors, announced the nation's question of the week: Where is the fleet?

In a word, the Secretary of the Navy tells us not to expect large scale naval engagements in the Pacific, or a conclusive showdown with the Japanese navy, in the near future.

That should be sufficient information for our purposes here. Of course we all have that personal curiosity for more details. But of what use would those details be except possibly to supplement the information of Japanese intelligence services?

For our purposes we know that is necessary. Our common sense will tell us the rest. We know we have suffered a severe blow in the Pacific. We are not to expect a full-scale assault on Japanese forces in the near future. We know that Japan thus far has advanced rapidly through sea and air superiority.

What else do we need to know here at home? Nothing. The job is plainly marked out. It is to pump planes and more planes and yet more into the southwest Pacific until the Japanese are driven out of the air. That job starts here at home.

It is that job and a whole lot more. For there is also the battle of the Atlantic, and the organization and dispatch of American forces to various parts of the world as suggested in President Roosevelt's annual message.

But here at the center of the effort we have shaky, unfused, uncertain direction, a lack of direction. This is having a baffling effect on the whole town and likewise on those who must deal with Washington in doing their work. The place is seething with feuds and backbiting.

JOB MARKED OUT

Because Mayor La Guardia is a strong defender of the defense, despite the appalling satisfaction inside and outside the organization, Mr. Roosevelt makes a slight reshuffle and slips in an executive officer Prof. James Landis of Harvard. He is a brilliant man in his field but he had no notable experience in a nation-wide job of organization and handling large numbers of people scattered throughout the country as the civilian defense requires.

Not only Republicans like national Chairman Joe Martin, but many ordinary citizens, are asking when Mr. Roosevelt is going to use the talents of Wendell Willkie in every county of the country we can get things done, is left outside to sell soft drinks.

Plenty of others could be used great advantage in this total effort. Mr. Roosevelt is finally asking Bernard M. Baruch, after term in the doghouse.

Some fresh faces around here would be a tonic relief from the feuding, from what Secretary thinks of Harry Hopkins and the versa, and what Secretary thinks of Leonard Henderson and the gougoung around OPM and SPB.

Total harmony is a futile dream but the demoralization here has reached the point where it is interfering with the wholehearted aggressive direction of the war effort that has been had in the short time that has been runs out.

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