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INFLATION

There is much talk, these days, of inflation. According to the dictionary inflation is a "state of being inflated." In other words a state of being blown up with air—perhaps "hot air."

From a political standpoint, inflation relates to money, and instead of being "blown up," money actually is "smacked down." An inflated dollar may have a deflated spending power of only fifty cents; perhaps even less.

Any number of things may cause inflation. The President has the authority to devalue the dollar by decreasing the amount of gold that it represents. In theory one can exchange a paper dollar at the U. S. Treasury, for a certain amount of gold. Actually, of course, he can do no such thing.

Another kind of inflation comes from paying such high wages that money becomes "cheap." We had that experience in the first World War, with the result that shoes worth about \$4 cost \$10; and other prices were in proportion. For a while we had a wonderful time, spending, spending, spending. And then came the depression!

History shows that inflation, regardless of cause, always results in a rise in price levels. History also shows that inflation always is followed by a depression.

If you feel like looking into your

own personal business affairs you will perhaps discover that there is a bit of inflation in your budget estimates, right now.

As to what is around the corner—well, there is an adage to the effect that "the future always takes care of itself."

Let us hope so!

MIXED

While North Carolina in general, and this section in particular is wondering why the Defense Program Santa Clause is leaving fat contracts everywhere but here, the vast majority of residents of Washington, D. C., and its many great suburbs in Maryland in Virginia are wishing, fervently, that contracts had gone somewhere else.

Those contracts have made a lot of people "nizer rich;" and also have made it difficult for a whole lot more people to make both ends meet. For there simply isn't any labor to be had, for ordinary purposes, except at premium prices.

This writer has just returned from a quick trip to the National Capital. Throughout all that section are half

finished homes, on which work has come to a standstill. The carpenters have all gone to one of the nearby defense projects, where they get a minimum of \$1.50 an hour; and where there are so many workers for every detail that lots of men draw pay, they say, "for just standing around."

As a result, if asked to take a private job, where they still have to put in a full eight hours of labor, they demand \$1.60 an hour. Since "white collar wages have NOT gone up, the half finished homes are being allowed to go to ruin.

It wouldn't be so bad if only the carpenters went to the defense projects. Nearly every other laborer, it seems, have gone there too. Anybody who wears overalls and says he is a carpenter, can get a job "on trial." All he has to do is agree to pay initiation fees and dues to the union—and he gets a three day trial.

A reporter on one of the Washington newspapers went to Camp Meade last week, and applied for a job. He had never driven a nail in his life, he told this writer, but he was hired for three days, and was paid \$24.00, the \$5 first installment on union initiation.

The waste that is certain as a result of such hiring of incompetents must be enormous.

Meanwhile, the big wages have packed the shops, and prices, in and around Washington have soared. Food has risen and so have rents. And the hundreds of thousands of white collar workers, with their re-

gular jobs, and regular wages, are dead up against it.

One building project in Washington, however, is going ahead, full steam. That is the grand stand on which Senators, Congressmen, Government officials, and their friends will sit to watch the Inauguration.

Rising at the East Front of the U. S. Capital, the 1940 structure is of finest dressed lumber and steel, and will be the most elaborate of its kind ever built. There is plenty of labor there—working on something that will not be in use more than two hours, at the most.

The whole business makes the plain, everyday taxpayer do a lot of serious thinking.

But he does NOT have to ask where the money is coming from. He knows, full well that it is coming from HIM.

SOMETHING NEW

"There's nothing new under the sun" says an old quotation that is often repeated by those who are bored.

Don't you believe it. Reports from the U. S. Patent office, from factories, from scientific laboratories, from all sorts of people in all sections prove that isn't true. For instance, soon there will be:

Radio sets that are built right into the wall—that a big, expensive job requiring a special wall, just small ones, with front panels in colors to match or harmonize with parlor

room wallpaper or bath walls.

An item of footwear called a "Mop-sock," combination slipper and mop, for cleaning floors a la Sonja Henie.

A new harmonica, or mouth organ, made of plastic, with removable reeds; whole thing can be boiled to clean and sterilize (war has choked off imports of harmonicas, mostly from Germany, that used to run from 9,000,000 to 20,000,000 a year).

A fruit and vegetable quick-freezer to help farmers preserve their produce for an all-year market. Scientists foresee "community" plants where produce can be quick-frozen and stored away under the grower's name, for releasing to market when demand situation is better.

A "Reducing" candy, a special caramel. You eat one 15 minutes before a meal and it cuts your appetite for meat and potatoes, so the theory goes.

A home-use coffee extractor, in which you make your own coffee extract or a cold water drip method, a whole pound at a time, then just put the extract with hot water when you wish a hot cup.

A new household portable electric heater with this safety feature: it turns off automatically when tipped over.

Finally, there are reports, a new and cheaper model Ford V-8, to come out in the next month or so—and an even lower priced Ford "six" next year.

Mrs. Gay Davidson left Sunday to join her husband who is employed with the T. V. A. at Kyle, Tenn.



COMPLETE PRIMARY TRAINING—Jerry W. Davidson Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davidson, of Murphy, was one of seven Western North Carolina youths who completed the five-week primary training course of the U. S. Army Air Corps at Hines Field, Texas. He is now stationed at Randolph Field for advanced training. The group, from left to right: Olen Cook of Blowing Rock, Duke Paul of Asheville, David Stentz of Waynesville, Judson Gray of Franklin, Rex Downtin of Arden, Jerry Davidson, and George Smith of Asheville.

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It doesn't cost much to borrow from this bank—and your monthly installments are scaled to fit your individual budget. You don't have to be a depositor to borrow!

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MURPHY



ANDREWS

NOTICE

The Library Board of Cherokee County, representing the people, wish to thank those individuals and organizations which worked so hard to give information about the use and need of libraries in the county. The election (asking three cents on the hundred dollars valuation for library support) carried with a safe margin of votes. Such support will not go into effect until July 1, 1941.

In the meantime we expect to carry on the services as usual, funds for operation coming from Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties. In the three counties the board has pledged to raise \$3,000 for cost of operation until July 1, 1941. So far, appropriations and donations have been pledged as follows:

Cherokee County Board of Commissioners	\$300
Clay County Board of Commissioners	192
Graham County Service Clubs	180

School donations are used exclusively for school service and in the unit from which the money is appropriated. Pledges are as follows to date:

Cherokee County Schools (Three Units)	\$500
Clay County Schools (One Unit)	200

The towns of Andrews and Murphy libraries are cooperating with the service. Their appropriation of \$500 each is used for maintenance of buildings (heat lights, water and upkeep) reference and other books used by the town and the town librarian's salary.

This leaves almost seven hundred yet to raise.

We shall be glad to have pledges from organizations and individuals. Please see Mrs. T. A. Case, Treasurer of the County Library Board, Murphy, or any member of the County Board.

Mr. E. A. Woods heads the subscription list with \$10.00.