

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXIX

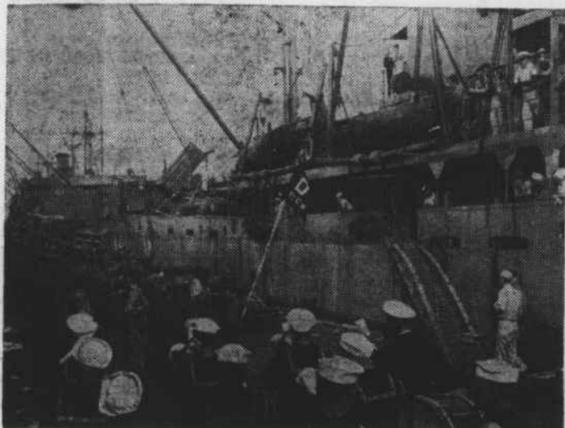
GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1943

No. 25

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

FDR, Churchill Seek Italy's Surrender As Allies Smash at Sicily Resistance; MacArthur Forces Gain in New Guinea; Farmers Get First Call on Gas Stocks

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Seabees are shown about to board a transport somewhere in Australia for duty in a combat zone. A naval band gives the men a lively sendoff. Although performing construction work, Seabees are also trained to protect themselves against attack.

SICILY: 'The Hour Has Come'

Axis resistance on Sicily stiffened as Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British 8th army moved on the big port of Catania, which is 55 miles from the terminus of Messina, where but two miles of water separate the island from the Italian mainland.

As the battle of Sicily raged, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill told the Italian people the hour had come to honorably capitulate.

While British troops clattered toward the great plains which roll around Catania, Gen. George S. Patton's 7th American army fought its way into the area of Vizzini, from which the British flank can be covered or an assault sprung toward the Axis rear.

Hundreds of Allied paratroopers continued to be dropped behind the enemy's lines near Catania. To the front, the 8th army recovered from a heavy Axis blow with which they had driven into Montgomery's base at Augusta before being repelled.

FUEL: Gas for Farmers

Predicting a tightening of the supply of crude oil in the West, the Petroleum Administration for War took steps to provide sufficient gasoline for farmers throughout the country by giving them first call on available stocks.

According to WAP, farmers are using about 100,000 barrels of motor fuel daily, 90 per cent of which is being consumed outside of the East. About 70,000 barrels are required in the Middle West.

As the WAP made its announcement, the big-inch pipe line running from Norris, Ill., to the East was opened. Eventually the line will pump 300,000 barrels of crude daily, thus draining the West of supplies that had previously abounded because of a lack of transportation facilities.

Meanwhile, the oil industry continued alarmed by the drop in oil reserves, partly caused, spokesmen said, because of a virtual cessation of exploratory drilling as a result of prices for crude. Between 50 to 60 billion barrels of new oil will have to be discovered within the next 20 years, it is said, to maintain present production.

RUSSIA: Giants Locked

Rain drenched the sprawling Ukrainian plains around Belgorod, hindering mechanized activity on the south end of the flaming Russian front, but Red armies attacked in force above the northern pivot of Orel, extending the battlefield to 225 miles.

Both the Germans and the Russians were agreed on one thing: the great number of men being used on both sides. Around Orel, the Nazis admitted that the Reds had broken their lines at two points, but had been driven back in counter-attacks.

Heavy ground action at Orel was supplemented by strong Russian aerial action. Red bombers blasted the principal railway installations of the town, from which the Russian lines bend southward in a great arc, thus offering the Germans a pivot for encirclement from the rear.

PACIFIC: New Guinea Victory

With the fall of Mubo, the big Japanese base of Salamaua in New Guinea lay in peril of capture by Australian and American forces operating from all sides.

Mubo fell about two weeks after the start of General MacArthur's Pacific offensive. American troops had landed on Nassau bay to the east of the town, and then marched into the interior to cut off Japanese forces from the rear and effect a junction with the Australians. At the same time, Allied soldiers attacked the enemy's main lines, and thus, completely enveloped on all sides, Mubo was overrun.

The Allied success at Mubo came as American troops pressed closer to the Japanese air base of Munda on New Georgia island. Approaching the stronghold from the north and east, doughboys worked cautiously through jungle foliage to gain ground. Squeezed, the enemy launched one counterattack, but withdrew fire after being stopped.

CANNED GOODS: Cut Civilians' Share

Already rationed, canned fruits, vegetables and soup supplies for civilians will be cut another 15 per cent in the next 12 months, the War Food administration announced. Of the prospective pack of vegetables and soups, domestic consumers will get 70 per cent, and of canned fruits and juices, they will receive 53 per cent.

The total supply of canned vegetables and soups in the next year is expected to total 262,000,000 cases. Of this amount, civilians will be allotted approximately 180,000,000. The War Services will obtain practically all of the remainder, with about 4 per cent going to the Allies and other purposes.

About 61,000,000 cases of canned fruits and juices, excluding citrus, will be produced, WFA estimated, and of this supply, civilians will be allowed approximately 31,000,000 cases. Approximately 24,000,000 cases will be allotted to the services, with the remainder marked for the Allies and export.

FOREIGN DEBTS: Mexico, Canada Pay

An improvement in financial conditions arising from the stimulation of the war was noted in the action of the Mexican and Canadian governments in announcing plans for the discharge of their debt obligations.

For the first time in years, Mexico resumed payment on 15 issues of national debt, excluding all railroad bonds except the Tehuantepec National railway 5 and 4 1/2 per cents. Annual distributions on the issues will amount to only \$2,000,000, however, on a total Mexican debt of 1 billion 200 million dollars, including back interest.

Last December, the Mexican congress ratified an agreement to pay 40 million dollars in settlement of all U. S. claims except for expropriated oil property.

Canada's improved financial condition was reflected in its redemption and prior payment on 106 million dollars of bonds.

CABINET: FDR Restores Order

Hereafter, if any administrative heads in Washington are in conflict over fact or policy, they must resolve their differences quietly or else turn in their resignations. That, in short, was the ultimatum President Roosevelt laid down after Henry Wallace had charged Jesse Jones with interfering with the operations of the Board of Economic Warfare, which Wallace headed.

The President solved the Wallace-Jones fracas by abolishing the BEW and establishing the Office of Economic Warfare and then appointing as its director Leo T. Crowley, alien property custodian and chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance corporation.

The action relieved both Wallace and Jones of direction in the government's purchase of foreign materials. Previously, the two agencies had shared in the program, with the Reconstruction Finance corporation, which Jones heads, supplying the funds for the buying.

OPA: Raps 'Bright Boys'

Declaring the best thing that could happen to the Office of Price Administration would be a reduction of 50 per cent in its staff of 2,700 attorneys, Lou R. Maxon, deputy administrator of OPA, turned in his resignation.

Maxon's withdrawal came at a time when he was being prominently mentioned as a general manager for the OPA, a job later given to Chester Bowles, a New York advertising executive. He complained of the government's failure to establish a definite food program, charging that instead of working out a set policy, the administration was meeting each crisis with a makeshift compromise, thus creating the basis of another crisis. Price Administrator Brown replied that OPA had a definite policy in "roll-backs" to reduce retail costs to September, 1942, levels.

A Detroit, Mich., advertising executive, Maxon flailed OPA "theorists" and "professors" for attempting to institute a grade labeling program for goods, which would eliminate all trade marks and brands and have the effect of eliminating competitive merchandising.

But when the war is over, millions of former soldiers, sailors and war workers will be looking for jobs. Many will be entitled to unemployment insurance while they are looking. There will also be many who will need the insurance payments but will not be eligible as the laws now stand.

CATTLE: Marketing Increases

Marketing of cattle increased in the face of talk in Washington that the OPA was considering establishing ceilings on livestock to break the speculative angle of growers and spur liquidation of herds. Plans also called for modifying the government's support price of \$13.75 for hogs, to discourage feeding for heavy porkers.

Although cattle marketings increased over recent abnormally low levels, supplies still were well below last year's runs. Calves remained



Calves scarce in market.

exceptionally scarce. Continued heavy shipments of hogs and sheep, however, bolstered the over-all meat production.

OPA's plans for livestock ceilings have been bitterly contested by congressional farm spokesmen, meat packers and cattle raisers. Under the present system of setting wholesale ceilings, small packers have found difficulty operating since no bar has been set on prices paid for stock.

BANKING: Deposits Rise

The extent to which banks are financing the war was illustrated in the announcement that the investment in government securities by 20 of the nation's largest banks approximated 18 billion dollars on June 30, an increase of 7 billion dollars from a year earlier.

The announcement also revealed that the 20 institutions had total deposits of 31 billion dollars on June 30, a rise of six billion dollars over 1942. Total resources amounted to 33 billion 700 million dollars.

Current Social Security Board Report: Visualizes Coverage of Added Millions

Benefits Outlined For Farm Help, Domestic

Our social security program as a nation-wide undertaking began eight years ago this August. In its seventh annual report the Social Security board points out that while great progress has been made toward security for the American people, there are serious gaps in the program as it stands.

While many millions of people are covered by the insurance features of the social security act, other millions are not. More than half a million are regularly drawing monthly insurance benefits amounting in all to about 1 1/2 million dollars a month. These are benefits paid under the old-age and survivors insurance system which covers wage and salaried workers on business or industrial jobs. The benefits go to these workers and their families if the worker qualifies at age 65 or over and is no longer at work, or to the family in case of the worker's death, whatever his age. There are, however, some 20 millions of workers who are now excluded from old-age and survivors insurance.

The same is true of unemployment insurance. Millions of people are covered by the state unemployment insurance laws, operated by the states but with administrative costs paid by the federal government. During one year when jobs were hard to get nearly 5 1/2 million people who were out of work received benefits for weeks at a time. Now during the war boom when jobs are so plentiful, fewer than 120,000 people are getting unemployment benefits in any one week. The number may go down even further as the war continues.

But when the war is over, millions of former soldiers, sailors and war workers will be looking for jobs. Many will be entitled to unemployment insurance while they are looking. There will also be many who will need the insurance payments but will not be eligible as the laws now stand.

Under the public assistance programs of the social security act, three million needy people are receiving monthly cash payments which last year amounted to more than \$770,000,000. These payments go to persons who do not have enough to live on and cannot provide for themselves because they are old and cannot work, because they are blind, or because they are too young to work and have lost a parent's support or care. There are about two million old people and one million children on the lists. The blind number around 55,000. But many other people who lack the bare essentials of life cannot be helped under the present public assistance programs because they are neither over 65, nor very young, nor blind.

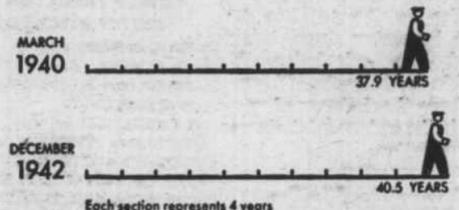
Most serious, however, according to the social security board, are the gaps and shortcomings in the insurance features. The purpose of these programs is to furnish some income for families to live on when the breadwinner cannot earn wages or salary. But wages or salary may stop for reasons other than unemployment, old age, or death. If a person cannot work because he is sick or disabled, not only does his



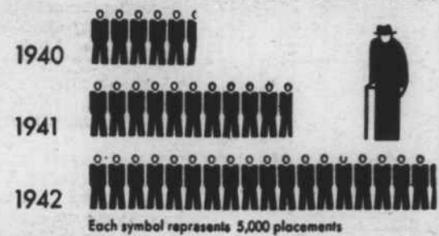
When a worker loses his income through sickness or injury, he generally is unable to support his family for long, after he is unemployed. Frequently he must meet heavy medical costs, so his savings are soon exhausted. His wife and children then often suffer privations. The social security board recommends that the laws be amended to cover such cases.

TELEFACT

MORE OLDSTERS AT WORK (AVERAGE AGE OF MALE WORKERS)



JOBS FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED (PLACEMENTS BY PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICES)



Right now more old and physically handicapped people are employed than ever before. But everybody knows it's the war boom. When peace comes, these marginal workers will be dropped. Then, whether supported by relatives or private charities, many of these people will be hard pressed to live decently. The social security board proposes to extend the benefits of social insurance to millions who will fall into the over-age or crippled class in a few years.

pay check stop but he has the extra expense of his illness. The social security board thinks we should have insurance against disability and the costs of hospital care, along with our present unemployment insurance and old-age and survivors insurance.

About 20 million workers, including some of the lowest income groups in the country, are not covered by the old-age and survivors insurance provisions of the social security act. Most of these do not have the protection of any social insurance system. Farm workers, domestic servants, employees of non-profit educational, religious and charitable organizations constitute the largest groups of wage and salaried workers left out in the cold. The self-employed, such as farmers and storekeepers, are also excluded.

More than 600,000 persons already are drawing monthly payments under old-age and survivors insurance. Thousands more have earned rights to benefits and will be able to claim them whenever they stop regular work. The benefits go to insured workers and their families when the worker is 65 or older and is no longer employed, and to the families of insured workers who die either before or after they are 65.

As the law stands today, the old-age and survivors insurance system covers wage and salary workers on business and industrial jobs—that is, all kinds of jobs in factories, shops, mines, mills, stores, offices, banks, hotels, restaurants, laundries, telephone and telegraph offices, and other places of business or industry carried on by private firms, corporations, or individuals. This leaves, however, a good many who are not covered, merely because of the nature of their employment. For example, the \$10,000 executive employee by a corporation comes under the federal insurance system; the man working for himself whose income may fall below \$1,000 a year is not insured, because the present law excludes the self-employed.

When a Worker Is Disabled. Every time the clock ticks off a second, five people in this country get hurt or get sick, to such an extent that they are unable to carry on their ordinary activities for one day or longer. If the disability is slight, the worker may not lose much, but to a man dependent upon his earnings, every dollar counts. The loss is especially serious if the injury lays him up for life.

Yet the big majority of workers disabled off the job have no insurance protection—nothing to make up, even in part, for the pay they lose and the extra expense they have to meet. Congress has directed the Social Security board to make recommendations for such changes in the present regulations as will provide for insurance payments to ease the blow of these calamities.

Disability insurance is one of the missing girders in the social insurance structure we have been building in this country since 1935. Already in place are two of the main supports—unemployment insurance, which pays weekly benefits to in-

jured workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own and cannot get other jobs within a short time; and old-age and survivors insurance which pays monthly benefits to insured workers and their families when the worker is old and retires, or to his family when he dies, whatever his age. The social security board believes the next step is insurance against disability, temporary or permanent, with provision to cover also the costs of hospital care.

The need for such a program is pointed up by the fact that of more than 3 million disabled workers between 16 and 64 years of age, nearly one million have been disabled for more than a year. Around 7 million people are ill on any one day in the year—many of them for protracted periods of months and years; many with no prospect of recovery.

Six Cents on the Dollar. No new governmental agency would be necessary to administer disability insurance, and no additional reports would be required of employers. The cost of the entire social insurance program, including disability protection, could probably be met through a total contribution rate of 5 or 6 cents on each dollar of pay roll from employers and 5 or 6 cents on each dollar of wages from employees. The total of 10 or 12 cents on the dollar (the rate would depend on the exact benefits provided) instead of 9 cents which will be the figure in 1949 under the present law would provide insurance protection against all the most important economic risks faced by all workers. American families would be assured of an income when wages of the breadwinner stop because of unemployment, old age, illness, disability, or death and would also have insurance protection against the costs of hospital care.

Twenty-eight nations now provide insurance protection to their workers against temporary disability. With only one exception (Spain), the United States is the only country which provides insurance against old age without also providing against the risks of chronic or permanent disability.

"When can we best afford the additional cost of an expanded social insurance system?" asks Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of the social security board. "Now, when earnings are high and all the wheels of industry are turning, workers and employers can set aside the contributions needed to ensure future rights to benefits," he replies. "There is no way in which increased earnings could be better invested, from the standpoint of either the family or the nation. For the family which actually meets with disaster—sickness, unemployment, chronic disability, or death—insurance benefits give a far greater protection than could have been obtained if the worker's insurance contributions had been kept as his individual savings. In any period of recession, the money now saved would be paid at a time when it is most needed and to those who most need it."

Who's News This Week

Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—Hitler himself must doubt the persuasions of Nordic kultur on noting that Poznan provides the new Polish premier to replace the dead Sikorski. Poznan is the most western province of Poland. Germany half embraces it, and from it for a hundred years Germans have tried to squeeze all Polish flavor. Once the squeeze got so tight that even the Poznan school children went out on strike.

Stanislaw Mikolajczyk was five then, and might have led a kindergarten sit-down, but he was all the way across Germany in Westphalia. His father, a farm laborer, was trying his luck there. Luck was poor and when Stanislaw was ten and the first World war only three years away the family trekked back to their old home.

When Stanislaw was 16 he stood in the thick of the waxing revolution against Poznan's weakening Prussian rulers. The Polish Republic followed and he rose to leadership of the Peasant party and to a seat in parliament. He is himself a true peasant, off a 50-acre farm, stocky and thick-necked. His half-inch of bristling moustache is only a minor concession to urban influence.

When the Nazis struck he enlisted as a private, the rank he held in the war against the Reds 19 years earlier. After Warsaw he was interned in Hungary but made his escape.

In the years since, first under Paderewski, then Sikorski, his main assignment has been to run the Polish underground, and his name has become a household word to patriots inside his oppressed country. His blacklist of Nazi criminals is the longest in Europe. This, also, must be of depressing interest to Hitler.

IT IS a long time since President Roosevelt got salt fish three times running. The housekeeper called in by the much-traveling first lady now

could offer 19 luncheon menus if the President-demanded variety. Now there has been added the confusion of ration coupons, but Mrs. Henrietta Nesbit, placid, bespectacled, middle-aged, sorts these resourcefully and to date has not been made either red or blue by the new responsibility. The fact that her husband is White House custodian of supplies may help.

It is 14 years since Mrs. Nesbit signed up to see that when the master gazed around "with the prophetic eye of appetite," there should be victuals to suit both his scrambled eggs and truffles moods. That was in his first governorship. Mrs. Nesbit, Duluth - born, with casually fluffed hair, had a catering business in Hyde Park previous to this, and Mrs. Roosevelt was sure that the author of such whole wheat bread was the needed woman.

Nowadays, bossing a staff that jumps to 124 for a state dinner, Mrs. Nesbit never consults her mistress, even when her mistress is near enough to be consulted. She will even put on evening dress and drift gently among the ambassadors to make sure every tidbit is as it should be. She doesn't live in the White House and her usual shift runs from eight to six. She doesn't, however, mind working overtime in the kitchen she and Mrs. Roosevelt modernized from knife rack to range.

THE Federation of Musicians lays its fight against radio music transcriptions on the doorstep of Labor Secretary Perkins but it still seems pretty plain that J. Petrillo Makes Lewis Look Like President Short Order Cook James Caesar Petrillo has carried on one of the longest strikes since Pearl Harbor in a war-occupied country whose labor leaders have promised, "No strikes." He has dished it out for more than 11 months.

Petrillo has been boss of the Federation and its nearly 140,000 members for three years. He is president, too, of the Chicago local and between 1922 and now he jumped the membership of that from 4,000 to 11,000, all well paid.