

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXX

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1944

No. 17

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S. Employment Shows Decline; Nazis Continue Retreat in Italy; Japanese Tighten Grip on China

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



Zero Hour—Yanks await signal to attack Jap machine gun nest in Burma.

EMPLOYMENT: On Decline

For the first time since the war began, the nation's manpower appeared in balance with needs, with supply of labor in critical areas the only problem, the National Industrial Conference board said.
Earlier the department of agriculture noted a 4 per cent decline in farm labor, with some of the decrease attributed to the inability to get into the fields because of unfavorable weather. As a result of the delay, many farmers were expected to switch acreage from small grains to row crops, necessitating additional work.
Reflecting the continued drop in manufacturing industries, there were 41,800,000 non-farm workers in March, compared with the peak of 43,000,000 in July, 1943. Only in transportation was there an increase shown over last year.

EUROPE: Foe Reels

With soldiers from six nations fighting shoulder to shoulder in Allied ranks, the Germans fell slowly back in Italy, their retreating columns under heavy fire of the advancing host, drawing closer to the Eternal City of Rome.
As the Allied blow fell in Italy, thousands of U. S. and British planes continued their heavy bombardment of Axis communications and industry in western Europe, their explo-



Mediterranean Commander Sir Henry Maitland Wilson (left) confers with Lieut. Gen. Mark Clark of 5th Army (center) and Deputy Mediterranean Commander Jacob L. Devers on Italian front.

sives twisting steel rails into fanciful forms and reducing segments of factories into smoldering pyres. Preparatory to a great offensive from the east, Russian bombers hammered at Nazi supply bases.
With the collapse of their Gustav line in Italy, the Germans fell back slowly toward the Anzio beachhead to the north, where their embattled troops clashed with massed Allied forces slugging for a breakthrough, which would trap the retreating army from the rear.

West Wall

The searching eyes of aerial photography have uncovered what lies ahead of Allied troops massed to storm Germany's formidable west wall.
Under command of icy, 60-year-old Field Marshal von Rundstedt, the west wall shapes up as a series of deeply entrenched steel and concrete fortifications stretching back far inland, and carefully camouflaged to prevent concentration of Allied fire on them.
Dotted the scenic French landscape are innocent-looking, little houses, sheltering the muzzles of big German field pieces whose carriages are sunk into the ground, and poking their noses from the sides of hills, are rocket guns buried in the terrain.

PACIFIC: 1,000-Mile Advance

With his forces taking another long jump of 125 miles to the north-west in Dutch New Guinea, Gen. Douglas MacArthur advanced closer to his cherished goal of the Philippines, there to avenge Bataan.
The latest gain drew U. S. forces nearer to the thick cluster of islands lying off Dutch New Guinea which the enemy reportedly has fortified with air bases to counter any Allied thrust against the Indies to the south or the Philippines to the north.
In advancing 125 miles westward, U. S. forces were 1,000 miles away from Milne Bay, far to the south-east and from which General MacArthur launched the campaign that has gradually pushed the Japs out of their farthest South Pacific holdings.

TRANSPORTATION: Overhauling Asked

Correction of inequalities and discriminations in present freight rate structures to reflect the cost of service, and creation of three permanent federal agencies to keep abreast of transportation problems, were among the recommendations made by a special board of investigation and research organized by congressional enactment in 1940.
At the same time, the board went into the south's protest against certain freight rate differences benefitting the northeast, declaring that figures showed that what the south really needed was a development of her own industry to utilize her abundant natural resources.
The board called for the shippers' freedom in the selection of reasonable joint routes and rates of the same or different types of transportation facilities to speed commerce.

CHINA: Seek Unity

With the Japanese tightening their grip on China through their control of her seaports and productive industrial centers, Chiang Kai-Shek moved to gird the country for a final stand against the enemy by drawing the Communists in the north fully into the battle.
As Chiang met with Communist leader Lin Tso-han, Chinese regulars continued their drive into northern Burma, in an effort to join up with Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's troops moving eastward from India, and thus open a new supply route to China.
Upon the extent of Chiang's concession of self-rule and participation in the Chinese central government to the Communists reportedly will rest the degree of their cooperation.

BRITISH EMPIRE: Favor League

Having concluded their long conference with Prime Minister Churchill, Britain's dominion premiers packed their bags for the trip homeward, but not before issuing a statement favoring a world peace organization and avowing a fight to the finish against the common enemy.
"We affirm that after the war a world organization . . . should be set up and endowed with the necessary power and authority to prevent aggression and violence," the premiers said.
"We rejoice in the unquenchable spirit of our comrades in every country still in the grip of the enemy," the premiers declared. "We shall not turn from the conflict till they are restored to freedom. Not one who marches with us shall be abandoned."

REHABILITATION: Navy Program

After six months of operation of the rehabilitation program for men and women at the U. S. naval hospital at Great Lakes, exhibits told an interesting story of the success of the project under direction of Lieut. Comdr. R. E. Kinneman.
On display were fancy scarves, purses and belts in yellows, whites and greens. There were such useful articles as ash trays and bill-folds, and such chipper bric-a-bracs as clay turtles and yarn dogs. Pictures caught the charm of the outdoors and depicted naval life.
Created to stimulate the minds of patients as well as restore the mobility of injured limbs, the rehabilitation program also has served to help the convalescents to uncover many talents of which they were never aware.

OIL: New Field

With the discovery of a promising big oil field in Mississippi which already has brought in two large wells, attention was focused on a whole tier of southeastern states.
According to oil authorities, approximately 155,000 miles of territory at the roots of the Appalachian mountains in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi are underlain by sedimentary rocks, which might bear much petroleum.
Although a 130,000 mile territory in Texas and Louisiana has already given up 14 billion barrels of oil, authorities' enthusiasm for the prospective southeastern field has been tempered by reports that its zones for accumulation of petroleum are fewer in number and the thickness of the sedimentary rocks are less than in the Texas and Louisiana regions.

LABOR: Foremen Back

Three thousand five hundred members of the Independent Foremen's association of America trooped back to their jobs in Detroit, Mich., plants after the chief of the army air forces, Gen. H. H. Arnold, declared their strike had already cost production of 250 long-range P-51 fighter planes and could affect invasion operations.
As a result of the foremen's walkout over demands for union recognition which industry opposed on its traditional grounds that foremen are a part of management, nearly 50,000 workers had been laid off because of the lack of adequate supervision of production.
Following General Arnold's testimony, the association's national president, Robert H. Keyes, issued instructions for ending the strike, charging the government with delaying settlement of the case.

REFRIGERATION: Ease Space

With warehousemen and food handlers cooperating fully with the War Food administration's information centers, cooler occupancy was at 82 per cent in May, with much space of this type not ordinarily used at this time well filled.
At the same time, WFA announced that freezer occupancy stood at 85 per cent in May, with much room made available by the clearance of fruits, vegetables and poultry.
With demand for cooler space expected to continue, WFA revealed that it would push its program for converting cooler space at 32 degrees to 50 degrees to freezer space at 31 degrees and lower, and vice-versa.

JOINT COMMAND: Draws Support

The touchy question of combining the different branches of the services into a single command, so strongly favored by the army, drew the support of President Woodrow Wilson's secretary of the navy, Josephus Daniels.
Mincing no words, Daniels declared that the disaster at Pearl Harbor resulted from a divided command, and asserted: "History is replete with the squabbles between the army and navy which prolong wars, showing the necessity of combination."
When he was working for unification of the services during World War I, Daniels said, Secretary of War Lindley Garrison told him: "Joe, I don't care a damn about the navy and you don't care a damn about the army. You run your machine and I will run mine."



Talk about different angles: Julie Haydon, the actress, is doing a book, which she illustrates as well. It's about her dog. The theme: One day in its life . . . She studied its every move and emotion for a day and night. The title: "Every Dog Has Its Day" . . . The recent tribute to Eddie Cantor (by over 1,500 admirers) was the first sincere testimonial in a long spell on Broadway . . . It commemorated his 35th anniversary in show business. Flowers to the living . . . Joan Crawford and her husband, P. Terry, are doing a Hayworth-Welles. Wearing suits made from the same material.

Bigtown Vignette: On the George Washington bridge, the other Sunday afternoon, flocks of young girls in their colorful summer dresses were decorating the scene . . . Far below was a grey war-like freighter at anchor . . . The sailors on guard by the stern gun were like little toys. They were waving to the girls . . . They shouted and called back and forth but no one could hear what they were saying . . . The wind was blowing and the distance was too much . . . Then a sailor came on deck . . . He had a trumpet . . . And pointing to the distant span he played some beautiful horn music . . . He must have been a professional in civilian life . . . One of his renditions was: "Come to Me, My Melancholy Baby" . . . He looked like a little toy on the deck of the ship . . . His trumpet looked like a toy, too . . . His music came up through the air, thin and clear, like music from a toy horn . . . And down the Hudson you could see the bay and the open sea . . . Where the freighter would sail soon for the fighting . . . The trumpeter really "sent" the girls . . . There sure was a lot of youthful yearning on the breeze.

We Hadn't Heard It Before: About the fat whale and the skinny whale. The fat whale said: "My goodness, you're thin! What's wrong with you?"
Replied the skinny whale: "I've been having bad luck, been in bad waters and no food."
"Tell you what," said the fat whale, "why not swim to the English channel? The Allies are exploding a lot of Nazis into the air there."
So the skinny whale swam and swam, and six weeks later, skinnier than ever, swam back to his fat friend.

"Well," puffed Fats, "why didn't you do as I told you?"
"I did," said the skinny whale, "but when those Nazis came down into the water—they all had marks on their chests saying they were supermen—and I just couldn't swallow that baloney!"

Hitler was never either a house-painter or a paper-hanger. (He was a very poor artist who at one time used to put his paintings in an oven to "antique" them.) . . . He has had a longer life than Napoleon (52) and Alexander the Great (32), but Caesar died at 56 and Genghis Khan at 65 . . . Although Adolf's father was named Schicklgruber, der rat who became der fuhrer was never called that . . . Hitler's father was a ne'er-do-well, who died in the belief his son was a zero . . . The old man wed three times. At 27 he married a woman 41; at 48 he married a girl 25 . . . At the end of World War I Adolf trimmed his left Hindenburg-type mustache to the ridiculous lip-patch he wears today.

Himmler is the only one to get away with imitating der fuhrer's mustache, and even that is an unreasonable whacksniff . . . Robert Ley, creator of the German labor front, quaffs a pint of brandy before breakfast . . . Fritz von Papen became military attache to Washington on the strength of his wife's money. He twice failed the entrance exams to the War academy, yet he wore the insignia of the General Staff . . . Von Ribbentrop got rid of Koester and von Hoesch (German ambassadors to France and England respectively) with shots in the arm which produced air embolus.

Goebbels attended six universities and entered Heidelberg on the strength of a scholarship from a Jewish professor named Gundolf . . . When Hitler spent his early days in a Viennese snoop-house, the only man who befriended and helped him was a Jew named Neumann . . . Nazi street fighting tactics originated at the world premiere of "All Quiet on the Western Front," the most pacifistic of all German pictures. The Hitler gang objected to Remarque's theories.

Chemists Strengthen Low Grade Lumber, Promise Profitable New Field for Farmers

Treated Wood Almost Hard as Metal.

By BARROW LYONS
(WNU Washington Correspondent.)

The alchemy of modern chemistry suddenly has prepared a new field of profit for farmers. By the use of relatively inexpensive equipment and by the application of certain cheap chemicals, ordinary soft woods can be transformed into material of almost any desired hardness and color.

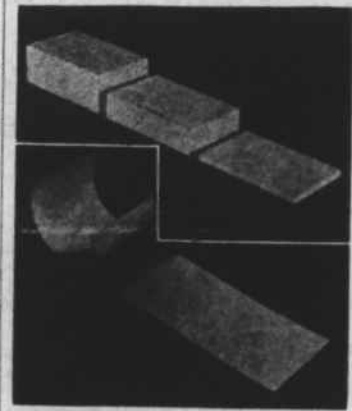
Not only does this multiply the uses for which wood may be used in building and furniture manufacture, but opens possibilities for its use under conditions of pressure, humidity and moisture that formerly only metals and plastics could satisfy. Also, the decorative value of many woods can be vastly enhanced. And fast growing species of trees, use of which was formerly limited, can now be grown like crops to replace the slower growing varieties.

These facts were revealed recently by Dr. J. F. T. Berliner of the ammonia department of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and company, who recently told a group of scientists and writers about the development of the chemical called methylolurea, the reagent which transforms the inner structure of wood into new substances.

The chemicals used in this process cost only 3 1/2 cents to 4 1/2 cents per board foot treated, although the cost of equipment and labor will add to that figure in producing the new product. For the average veneer the cost of chemicals used amounts to less than two-tenths of a cent per square foot.

This development assumes unusual significance in view of recent efforts of the department of agriculture to bring about a new realization of the potential importance of the woodlot to the farmer. John F. Preston, U. S. soil conservation service, estimated a few weeks ago that the income to farmers from farm woodlands could be increased to \$500,000,000 a year, or more. The discovery of the Du Pont chemists may considerably raise this estimate.

Income from Woodlot.
"Farmers are interested in woodlands not only as sources of income with which to pay taxes, buy seed,



Top—Compressed treated wood becomes very hard and dense. The three balsa blocks in the picture were all originally the same size, but the second and third from the left have been subjected to heavy pressure. The thinnest, at the right, is now harder than any known wood, and 10 times as heavy as the original balsa. Balsa is one of the softest and lightest woods known.
Below—Remarkable resistance of treated wood to warping is shown by this test, the result of which is pictured. Two strips of veneer, one treated and one untreated, were placed on wet towel. The untreated strip curled up, while the impregnated remained flat.

shoes, clothes and put up buildings," Mr. Preston said, "but also as means of building up wood reserves to create an income balance wheel. We might call it an ever-normal woodbin. Farm forestry has long served such a purpose in European countries.
"Originally there were 913 million acres of forest land in this country, but 60 per cent of this was converted into farms, and farms now occupy fully half of the land area of the United States. The move now is to reconvert much of this cleared land to farm woodlands.
"On farms today, 12,500,000 acres—mostly abandoned fields and gullies—are suitable only for reforestation. Of this large acreage, only 15 per cent is in the south. Sixty per cent is in the central region between Iowa and Missouri on the

west, and New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York on the east. Three and one-half million acres are considered desirable for shelter belts."

The soil conservation district program, under which the farmers themselves decide what lands are suitable for woodlands, today offers a practical opportunity for giving the Du Pont process a real tryout.

By means of the process, wood can be made for the manufacture of doors, windows and drawers that will not swell and stick, or contract and become loose. Wood can be made strong enough to substitute for even steel in certain machinery parts. In a few days woods harder than ebony, which take a century to grow, can be made at small expense.

Poplar becomes harder than hard maple, which in turn can be made



Impregnating apparatus in the Du Pont experimental laboratories is rather simple. The wood is placed in the horizontal cylinder. The overhead tank contains the solution of methylolurea, which flows down and impregnates the fibers of the wood. A vacuum is first created in the cylinder, then pressure.

harder than the hardest tropical woods. The compressive strength of wood is so increased, and other properties imparted, that in fact a new material is created, which can be called "transmuted" wood. By this process, near-at-hand species of woods that grow on your own woodlot can be made as useful as the costlier, scarcer varieties, many of which are imported from distant lands.

Won't Warp or Shrink.
Furniture made from the transmuted wood can be shipped throughout the world to humid tropics or dry areas with assurance that it will not warp, swell or shrink. A built-in finish is imparted so that scratches may be removed by simply smoothing and rubbing. By mixing dyes, with the impregnating chemicals, light-colored pine may be given the color of cherry, mahogany or ebony; or the wood may be made green, purple or any bright color throughout.

Veneers sufficiently treated become self-bonding, requiring no adhesive to be formed into plywood, since heat and pressure fuse the product into a hard, dense substance. Even sawdust, shavings and similar woodwastes may be moulded into articles with dyes incorporated.
Methylolurea—pronounced methyl-ol-urea—is compounded by adding urea to dimethylolurea. Both materials are white and soluble in water. They are produced from ammonia, carbon dioxide and methanol, which are synthesized from coal, air and water. Urea results from the reaction of ammonia and carbon dioxide. Formaldehyde, which is derived from methanol, condenses with urea to form dimethylolurea.

These chemicals are being produced cheaply on a large scale, but are under allocation by the war production board. Small quantities for investigation and preliminary tests, however, can be obtained without formal allocation. After the war large quantities can be obtained.

The equipment required may be quite simple. In fact, most of the apparatus now used in impregnating wood with various substances, such as creosote and flameproofing chemicals, can be adapted with minor alterations.

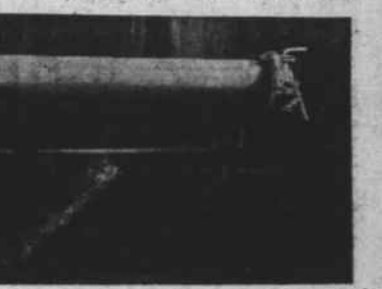
Because of shorter treating periods, however, smaller scale equipment can be used. An ingenious mechanic who understood the principles of the new process could rig up equipment from elements on hand in most plants, the chemists declare.

Equipment Simple.
All that is required is a chamber capable of withstanding the neces-

sary vacuum and pressure in which the wood is placed. A steam jet ejector is an effective, simple means of producing the vacuum. The chamber should be equipped with a pressure door or removable head, and with a source of vacuum and of pressure. A tank for preparing the solution, an auxiliary overflow tank, and means for drying the wood are also needed. Mild steel equipment may be used.

The chemicals are no more corrosive than water, and are neither flammable nor poisonous. To prevent rusting, it is desirable to apply a waterproof finish to the exposed surfaces of the equipment. This type of equipment could be set up and operated in almost any lumber handling concern throughout the country.

A chemical change takes place in the actual fibers of the wood under treatment. Methylolurea in solution enters the wood structure. In the course of drying it gradually reacts with itself and with the components of the wood, first to form insoluble but fusible products. Given sufficient time or heat, the reaction is completed and an infusible product results. If the wood is subjected to sufficient heat and pressure while the resin is still in the fusible stage, the resin will melt, flow and allow the wood to compress. This treatment converts the resin to the final infusible form, maintaining the wood



In the dimension resulting from the press.

Thus, treated wood may be compressed to produce a stable, extremely hard, dense product with a consolidated closed surface requiring no filling, sanding or polishing.

It is possible to apply moderate pressures sufficient to compress and consolidate only the surface or outer zone of the treated wood to produce a hard finish. If polished or embossed platens are used, these finishes can be reproduced on the surface of the wood. As far as is now known, the treatment does not have any adverse effect on the gluing and finishing characteristics of the wood. Flame resistance is improved, and the wood is also more resistant to fungi, rot and pest infestation.

But from experiments made in Du Pont laboratories, it appears certain that a process has been developed which will give new value to the trees standing on every farm woodlot. That should give an impetus to reforestation of many marginal farms, bringing back a woodland



Treated wood doesn't swell while wet, or shrink when dry. In this test, two dowels of exactly the same diameter were fitted with brass rings that would just slip off. Then the dowels were soaked for about 24 hours. It was found that the ring on the treated dowel would slip off as easily as before, but the untreated dowel was so swollen that the ring could not be removed.

cover to the soil that will conserve rainfall and lessen the danger of floods.

The scientists who perfected this process say there are in the United States some fifty species of tree now used for industrial purposes, and nearly 1,000 types for which no practical use has been found, largely because of their softness. With this new magic applied to the very soft woods, all can now be added to the resources which will help to make a victorious postwar America something like the dream which the technicians have envisaged.