

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### CIO Girds for New Wage Drive; U.N. Closes Meet in Harmony; More Rental Units Planned

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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.



Elected to head interim French government, 74-year-old Leon Blum receives traditional embrace from Vincent Auriol, president of national assembly.

## LABOR:

### New Wage Pattern

Hardly had the hub-bub occasioned by the CIO's adoption of Economist Robert Nathan's formula for higher wages within current prices died down than United Automobile Workers hit for a pay boost of 23 1/2 cents an hour to compensate for rising living costs in 1946.

Gist of Nathan's report, to be used as a basis for CIO wage demands in coming months, is that record earnings allow industry to jack up pay appreciably while maintaining existing price levels. Although Nathan said that the unions should negotiate new scales with different companies and industries on the basis of their abilities to pay, he averred that the manufacturing industry can grant a 21 per cent boost without raising prices and still make double the profits of the 1936-'39 period.

In view of the high earnings of industry and the gradual transformation of a seller's into a buyer's market, business leaders will hesitate before adding additional wage increases onto prices, Nathan said.

### UAW Demands

In subscribing to Nathan's theory that industry can hike wages without boosting prices, UAW Chieftain Walter Reuther declared that corporation profits are running at a rate of 15 billion dollars a year in comparison with 10 billion during the war and 5 billion in the prewar period.

While business profits have been rising, consumer purchasing power has been diminishing, Reuther said. During 1946, living costs have climbed another 18 per cent, necessitating the 23 1/2 cents an hour wage raise for the 900,000 UAW members to maintain their "take-home" pay. At present, the average wage in the industry is \$1.33 an hour.

Reuther's claim of big business profits was challenged by major producers, who charged that this year's costly strikes and shortages of materials adversely affected earnings.

## FRANCE:

### Blum Comes Back

Leon Blum, whose Popular Front government in the middle '30's threw France into a turmoil, returned to head the new French interim government as the compromise choice of the left and right parties of the nation.

Though Blum's Socialist party commands only 100 seats in the 600 odd national assembly, the dominant Communist and Popular Republican parties agreed on his leadership after failure to work out a satisfactory deal between themselves for sharing the government. Ranting over the failure of achieving a coalition cabinet, Communist Representative Duclos accused the rightist Popular Republicans of "renewing the class struggle."

Reversing his liberal policies, which led to a wave of sitdown strikes and the bitter opposition of capital in the '30's, Blum announced that he would work for stringent economies during his brief term before a permanent government is formed. He also reiterated French demands for internationalization of the Ruhr and Rhineland.

## FOOD:

### Full Tables

After counting the bountiful yields of 1946 farm production, the department of agriculture told Americans that they would eat well again in 1947.

By intensive tillage of substantially smaller acreage than prevailed in the '20's, farmers produced record crops of wheat, corn, rice, potatoes, soybeans, tobacco and garden vegetables; near record yields of grapes, peanuts and oats, and better than average harvests of sweet apricots, sugar cane, sugar beets, dry peas, sorghum and hay.

If Americans will have plentiful supplies of cereals, vegetables and fruits, they also are promised a full table of meat. The department reported record numbers of cattle on feed in grain belt feedlots.

### Production Pattern

The department's final estimate of 1946 farm output suggested the shifting pattern of production within the past decade.

While such old American agricultural standbys as wheat, corn, potatoes and tobacco showed appreciable increases in 1946 over the 1935-'44 average, rye was down to 18,685,000 bushels from 42,356,000, and cotton dropped to 8,482,000 bales from 12,553,000.

Because of changing needs, emphasis was placed on other crops. To make up for a drop in imports, rice production was boosted to 71,520,000 bushels from the 10-year average of 55,257,000; to meet the demands for industrial and edible oils, soybean yields jumped to 196,725,000 bushels from 103,457,000, and peanut output soared to 2,075,890,000 pounds from 1,587,964,000; and as part of the program to raise nutritional standards, the harvest of dry peas increased to 6,926,000 bags from 4,580,000.

## SPORT:

### Gambling Menace

In the early 1800's, American youth held up the statesman as a tin god; in the late 1800's, it was the empire builder, and since the early 1900's, it has been the athlete.

Most touching example of the faith that the average American boy put in his athletic hero involved the young kid who clutched at "Shoelace Joe" Jackson's sleeve when that great outfielder emerged from questioning over his part in the Black Sox baseball scandal of 1919. With tears in his eyes, the kid pleaded: "Say it isn't so, Joe, say it isn't so."

Unfortunately, Joe couldn't, but fortunately, had any kid been waiting outside Mayor O'Dwyer's mansion in New York on the morning of December 15, Frankie Filchock and Merle Hapes of the New York football Giants would have been able



Playing the game on the level, Frankie Filchock (with ball) leads Giant attack against Bears.

to say so. By turning down alleged bribes from a gambling front, the two grid stars saved pro football from disgrace.

Efforts of the gamblers to get the two Giants to throw the pro championship game to the Chicago Bears marked the first known attempt by the "easy-money" boys to corrupt pro football and lessen the risk of their heavy wagering.

## INDIA:

### Troubles, Troubles

Mother India, long sorrowing for freedom, could see nothing but trouble ahead as she planned the achievement of her independence after centuries of British domination.

For freedom seemed to mean different things to the powerful political factions within the country: To the majority Congress party chiefly embracing the Hindus, independence represented a unified nation; to the minority Moslem league, it stood for "pakistan" or self-rule of Mohammedan provinces.

While the wily British professed their desire for a free India, they looked on apprehensively as Hindus and Moslems locked horns. Attending the constituent assembly being held in New Delhi to frame a constitution for the new India, the usually mild and compromising Hindu Leader Nehru breathed fire: The Moslem league was reactionary and the British may favor "pakistan" to divide India, he said, but the Hindus were determined to solve their own problems.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

### 'CHANGE' IN RUSSIAN POLICY MEANT TO DECEIVE WORLD

WASHINGTON. — It is strange and unpleasant to be required by the facts to report that the relatively congenial international conferences in New York did not bring a victory for the foreign policy of the United States—or even progress or advancement toward it. This country, frankly, lost ground, particularly in Latin America, which we must hold to sustain our doctrine, and in France, Italy, the Balkans, even Britain. Everywhere, except in Japan, China and this country, we gave political footage to one single political opposition force—Communism. Elsewhere around the periphery of this world, Communism is today much stronger than when the New York international meetings convened.

The American public may not fully understand this yet because the progress made at the conference was in superficialities, while the advances made by Communism are basic. But the delegates appear to understand it. Some authorities who have heard the debates first hand have been dismayed at the plane upon which they are conducted—a wandering plane of ideals wholly torn loose from bedrock.

### WANTS HER OWN WAY ALWAYS

On disarmament, for instance, Russia has changed position repeatedly, finally embracing ideal disarmament, but refused to let anyone know the size of the Russian army. On picking a site, Russia switched from New York to Geneva and back to New York. She would not go to San Francisco because it was too far to go for peace, although actually it is closer to Russia than New York. On paying the cost of this peace organization, Russia got a committee to favor her paying only six per cent, while we pay half the whole peace bill. While saying she would not use a veto on disarmament, in effect she used it immediately in reference to the Russian army and to the choice of a site. In the site she said if her wishes were not followed she would withdraw and not attend U. N. The meetings were all like that, as if sincerity were wholly lacking, as if her politicians were playing in shallow tactics which were not real.

Look around the world for the real answers. Russia has asked us for a loan of a billion dollars directly or indirectly, but it is the only nation in the world which has not said anything about settlement on the 10 billion dollars of lend-lease material already given her. We cannot find out even what she used, or what she has which could be returned, or what repayment she could make in kind as the agreement provided. About those things she says nothing at all but she wants a billion dollars more. It does not make sense, unless Stalin is simply taking us for a fool, and acting as a man does with a genial fool.

### ILLUSORY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On the surface we have gained five peace treaties with five little countries in Europe, but not yet with Germany, Austria or Japan; a disarmament agreement "in principle" which seems to be only a delusive Russian game in diplomatic tactics; a ludicrous budget proposal, an attempt by Russia to force the United States to place the permanent conference site where Russian pipelines are deepest and largest.

Measured against these accomplishments are the advances of Communism around the world while this congenial salinity was being effected. An underground Communist campaign has swept Latin America, noticeably heading its advancements in the Chilean labor unions. In Europe Communism has broken the Socialist opposition to bits, strengthening itself by elections in the Balkans and by closer delusive management of Tito and its satellites. In France it won plurality representation in the assembly with the parties of liberty. In Italy it is winning city elections and has broken the Socialist stand against it, gaining Socialist cooperation. In Britain it has driven a deep wedge. A Communist move to get at Spain through its colonies has been detected as being well planned.



(Editor's Note: This is another in the "Stories of the States" series.)

By EDWARD EMERINE

WNU Features

"Chust look at dis! It's coal!"

John Peter Salley, one of an exploring party, had picked up what seemed to be another rock, and found it to be bituminous coal. Today West Virginia, with its 585 mines, often is referred to as the "coal bin of America."

When William Tompkins used natural gas as fuel to evaporate water from brine in 1841, he became one of the first men in the United States to use gas for industrial uses. West Virginia's natural gas production in 1944 was 213 billion cubic feet.

In 1797 Elisha Brooks began extracting salt for commercial purposes from a brine spring in Kanawha valley near the present site of Charleston. Other West Virginia salt works have been operating for more than 100 years.

### Develop New Industries.

As early as 1790 a furnace was built by Peter Tarr of Kings Creek, near the present site of Weirton, now one of the biggest steel producing cities in America. Cannon balls made here were used by Commodore Perry's fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813.

Michael J. Owens, son of a coal miner, invented a bottle-making machine in 1903 and started a new epoch in that industry. West Virginia produced, in prewar years, glass, china and pottery valued at 50 million dollars annually.

Mifin Marsh made stogies and sold them to passengers on Ohio river boats in 1840. M. Marsh & Son, Wheeling, is reputed to be the largest stogie manufacturer in the United States.

And back in 1915, when World War I cut off the German supply of playing marbles, Akro Agate was founded at Clarksburg, and today the concern makes over half of the world's glass marbles.

But lest West Virginia's industrial achievements blind us to her other claims to fame and distinction, let us look farther than bituminous coal production, natural gas, petroleum, chemicals, salt, stone, hardwood timber, steel and iron manufacture, textiles, glass, pottery, ceramics and others. There is also the romantic and historic West Virginia. And there is the mountainous and scenic West Virginia which has become one of the nation's greatest recreational areas.



### CHIEF EXECUTIVE . . .

Clarence Watson Meadows was elected the 22nd governor of West Virginia in 1944. A former lawyer, he had served as state attorney general and judge of the 10th judicial circuit court before his election. He is a native of Beckley, W. Va., where he was born February 11, 1904.

ected, not with the Civil war as a cause, but rather as an opportunity. On December 31, 1862, the congress of the United States gave its consent to admit West Virginia as a state, and the next spring, on April 20, 1863, President Lincoln issued his proclamation. West Virginia became the 35th state of the union two months later.

### Many Historic Shrines.

Three states and two rivers meet at historic Harpers Ferry where John Brown's anti-slavery raid was staged. Blackwater falls, Seneca rocks, Pinnacle rock, the burial mounds at Moundsville, the state capitol building, the historic shrines—all are interesting and worthwhile.

From mountain tops to blue grass farms, the agricultural side of West Virginia is a revelation. Anyone must marvel at the agriculture and fruit that are produced in a state that ranks among the first in industry. Prize beef and bituminous coal? Yes, anything is possible in West Virginia.

Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson was born at Clarksburg, and West Virginia also gave the nation John W. Davis, Pearl S. Buck and Ann Jarvis. In case you've forgotten, it was Ann Jarvis who in 1907 asked a group of Philadelphia friends to wear white carnations on the first anniversary of her mother's death—and thereby founded Mother's Day.

### State of Contrasts.

The state's northwestern border is the Ohio river, the aquatic highway that opened the west. But the Monongahela and the Kanawha rivers are important too. West Virginia's elevations range from 240 to 4,860 feet above sea level, with the highest average elevation of any state east of the Rockies. Yes, it's a mountainous state, but every wooded hill, every shady nook and every sparkling stream belongs to just such a state. About 60 per cent of the state's area is covered by forest, with trees ranging from spruce in the highlands to prickly pear cactus and other semi-desert plants in the lowlands.

### Story of Controversy.

West Virginians heartily supported the Revolution and sent troops to help New England and the Middle Colonies, but the history of western Virginia before 1861 is a story of controversy with eastern Virginia. Socially, politically and economically, the two sections were unlike from the very beginning. Western Virginia was democratic while eastern Virginia was aristocratic. The idea of separation was foremost long before the Civil war.

When war broke out between the states in 1861, there were bound to be repercussions through the entire state. Eastern Virginia was the heart of the Confederacy. Western Virginia was opposed to secession. The long desired separation was ef-

Scenery, wildlife and extensive, semi-primitive areas combine to lure vacationists to West Virginia's two vast national forests, the Monongahela and the George Washington. The state also has 15 state parks and seven state forests.

Fishing, hunting, hiking, riding, swimming, golf, tennis, boating—well, what do you want for recreation? And what is your trade, what are your business ambitions, your specifications for success? And what of your "dream" home where nature is loveliest? Perhaps the answer is—in West Virginia!



### THE PANHANDLE STATE . . .

Surrounding the map of West Virginia are typical scenes of the state: (1) Blackwater falls; (2) the administration building at Babcock state park; (3) a modern coal tippie; (4) New River canyon, and (5) apple growing.