

THE FRANKLIN TIMES
 Issued Every Friday
 215 Court Street Telephone 283-1
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One Year \$1.50 Six Months75
 Eight Months 1.00 Four Months50

Foreign Advertising Representative
AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
 New York City

Entered at the Postoffice at Louisburg, N. C. as second class mail matter.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat



New Year's 1944—My time for an Accounting

Annual Income	\$?
Annual Expenditure	The Same
<i>(Life as usual plus unnecessary spending)</i>	
Result	Worry and Want.

Annual Income	\$?
Annual Expenditure	Only enough for careful family living
Money to put into War Bonds, life insurance, savings accounts	To balance the account
Result	Happiness and Security.

ward to the postwar world, one fact stands out in bold relief. We shall have with us a tremendous re-employment problem. In possession of the necessary funds, the railroads can do much toward helping with that problem. Billions of dollars and an army of men will be needed to re-equip the railroads.

"Given just treatment, the railroads can make their own plans for their future and carry them through themselves. But, to do it, a simple amendment to the Internal Revenue Code must be made now and the whole question of justly and economically deferred maintenance funds settled on a common-sense basis."

NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT

There is strong evidence that the United States is abreast of Great Britain in the struggle to pay the cost of the war so far as possible from tax revenues. In this country, latest estimates place total Federal revenues for the current fiscal year of approximately \$45,000,000,000. Total Federal expenditures will be around \$90,000,000,000. This is about the same revenue-cost ratio maintained by Britain, and is apparently the practical maximum.

However, before we begin to brag about the sacrifice we are making in this country, we should consider just who is paying the taxes. Unfortunately, the burden is not distributed evenly. Politics has guided the enactment of our tax laws, with the result that large segments of the voting population have been let off comparatively easy, while other groups, corporate enterprise in particular, have been subjected to a crushing burden. This is perhaps the main reason why we have so far not controlled inflation.

The time has come to equalize the tax burden, not pass more punitive tax laws. Once taxes are distributed fairly, problems of economy and inflation can be solved.

"We are fighting not for democracy; not for four, or five, or a dozen freedoms. We are fighting for our very existence as a nation."—Edward V. Robertson, U. S. Senator from Wyoming.

A PEEK AT THE FUTURE

The chap who designs Greyhound Super-Coaches recently came up with the above idea. It's not built yet, but it will be as sure as Nippon's "rising sun" will set.

Yes, the bus riders' future is bright. Some day you may even travel by Greyhound helicopter if present plans pan out. So don't judge tomorrow's bus ride by what you're gettin' now, when we are short of buses and long on passengers. . . . doin' our best to serve the Armed Forces, war-workers and other essential travelers.

Bill—the bus driver

GREYHOUND

New "Azores" of South Atlantic

An airport gouged out of the volcanic rock of a tiny island in the wastes of the South Atlantic has become an essential pivot for flights that help us win the war. Ascension Island, measuring only five miles by seven, lies roughly half way between the downward bulge of Africa and the outward bulge of Brazil, and represents a most remarkable bit of American enterprise, guts, imagination and tenacity, in the opinion of John Gunther, noted author and radio news commentator.

He reveals for the first time the hitherto closely guarded secret of this remarkable airport, "God's gift to ocean fliers," in an article in the January Reader's Digest. Gunther's plane, which left Accra, Africa, in the morning, landed on Ascension Island around noon, resumed its flight in the afternoon, and landed in Brazil that same evening. The trip was comfortable and safe, thanks in large part to Ascension, Gunther claims.

The island's pride is a runway, which British engineers frankly said could not be built. We built it in 91 days, writes Gunther—scalloped it out of the side of a rust-colored mountain. We also built hangars, machine shops, barracks, hospitals, rifle ranges, mess halls, storage dumps, an overnight hostel for air passengers, and all the multifarious paraphernalia a great new airport needs, including even open-air theaters and baseball fields.

All this was created on what Gunther terms the loneliest and most isolated place he has ever seen on earth, or water. Except for St. Helena, about 800 miles away, "there is nothing but the vastness, the inconceivable emptiness of the Atlantic." He describes it as a water-swept, sun-scoured chunk of rock, and says that every cubic inch of food must be brought in, except eggs laid by the thousands and thousands of terns that cluster on the rock. There is no water on the island, but Gunther says that our chemists purify the sea water and make it fit to drink.

Ascension has no native islanders and was uninhabited until the early 1800's, when the British

Greetings

--- 1944 ---

An old adage assures us that "silence is golden," but, on the Eve of New Year's, we can hardly agree. We believe this is the time to speak up and tell you how much we have appreciated your patronage during the past year, and to wish you good luck in 1944.

RAYNOR'S
 Radio & Jewelry Shop
 "We Sell the Best and Service the Rest"
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TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Influenza and pneumonia are creating growing alarm in Franklin County, as elsewhere, not only among the people but among their doctors.

There is no reason for panic. Franklin County has weathered disease storms before. It can weather the present seasonal siege.

It is doubtful that it would do any good to close all public gatherings. Certainly it would not be wise to close the schools and turn the children loose to run where they will. At the same time, each one of us can begin to look after himself and his family.

If you have a cold, pamper it; cure it. It may develop into something serious, meaning loss of manhours on the home front, the infection of others, even death. If you have a cold or are ill at all, stay away from theatres, crowded stores, even churches, until you are sure you will not spread illness among your neighbors.

Finally, take the normal precautions before you get so ill that a doctor's care is necessary. Save the doctor's time and strength. The doctors are badly overworked as it is. Get plenty of sleep, eat properly and be sure of a proper diet. Avoid unnecessary exposure during the changeable weather of the Winter season. Take care of yourself and Franklin County probably will have nothing to worry about.

RULE BY FORCE

Under the threat of strikes, the government's entire price and wage stabilization program has degenerated into a series of sparring-for-time compromises.

The final surrender to force came with imposition of the current work contract between the government-operated coal mines and John L. Lewis. The country needed coal. The miners seized upon that need, to get more money, even if it wrecked the war effort. They got it by striking. Of the subsequent contract, Wayne L. Morse, public member of the War Labor Board, observed: "The contract proposed in the instant case is not a collective-bargaining contract. Its legal status is an anomaly. However, it does purpose to set forth the terms of a wage agreement which is to prevail in all the coal areas. It is to be applied to the private property of citizens who were not parties to the contract. It is true that the contract supposedly is to govern for only the period of time during which the mines are operated by the government, but it is a virtual certainty that the mine owners will have to accept a contract embodying the same conditions when their mines are returned to them, or be faced with strike action. The mine owners best of all know this to be a fact. They had no voice in determining the terms of the contract, yet their property interests are vitally affected thereby. Private property interests throughout the country have the right to be concerned and alarmed over such a procedure."

Individual liberty cannot be retained where unbridled force is superior to law.

DROP IN THE BUCKET

Pleading for the right of District of Columbia residents to vote, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt says that they were discriminated against originally, for fear "government employees might be controlled and in turn control the people of their country." But, she adds, "now they are but a drop in the bucket of voters."

That ain't the way we heard it. The proportion of Americans in government employ never approached within shouting distance of what it is now. Nor did the founding fathers dream, in their most fearful moments, that it ever would.

Washington residents should have the right to vote, of course. But not on such disengenuous grounds as Mrs. Roosevelt cites. We suggest that the First Lady go to the record when she purposes to write on such subjects.—Reidsville Review.

A COMMON-SENSE AMENDMENT

The Department of Internal Revenue continues to collect heavy taxes on the "deferred maintenance" funds which the Interstate Commerce Commission is allowing the railroads to set aside against the day when materials and equipment (currently on the list of war shortages) will again be available for rail rehabilitation. The tax collector takes up to \$4.26 out of every \$5.26 of these funds.

This would be bad even if the railroads were being subjected to normal wear—which they are not. Actually the railroads are operating at a rate that has cut the life expectancy of their equipment and rolling stock in half.

When the war is over, much of the rail's equipment will be obsolete as well as worn out. If they are to meet the competition of trucks and airplanes, they must spend billions of dollars replacing and rebuilding their plant. While the existing taxing policy continues to drain away railroad reserves, the sincerity of government postwar planning remains open to question.

The Saturday Evening Post observes: "Looking for-

built a cabin station there. Today, writes Gunther, the whole island is swarming with crowded activity. Several thousand American troops are garrisoned there, and are officially considered a task force. Officers and men wear steel helmets always, and, according to the article, eventually is kept in mind, even the possibility of a landing attack by Axis submarine.

Gunther found morale on the island first class, despite the fact that Ascension is the loneliest and most inaccessible spot any American troops are called to serve in.

Nowadays he's a lucky man who has what it takes to find out if he can take it or leave it alone.

With more cows on farms than last year, milk production was down 2 per cent in November. Egg production was about 4 per cent higher.

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CAPUDINE



Not much like Christmas

A WHITE CHRISTMAS . . . sleigh bells in the snow . . . the laughter of little children, and then—clear and nostalgic on the frosty air—the miracle of tiny voices singing "Peace on earth, good will to men." There's the Christmas we all dream of—but especially those of our sweethearts, sons and brothers who are fighting in the muck and mud of a trench . . . Think how they must dream of it! And they do . . .

"It was like any other day—" so wrote a soldier (a boy you might know) of Christmastime last year. "We landed about

noon and tried to sleep . . . In the evening we went into a funny little African town and saw an old movie . . . then turned in. Not much like Christmas."

He's in the tropics now, that boy; it won't seem much like Christmas there, either. But this year—this Christmas—the folks back home are buying him the one present that can help to bring him back—back to a white Christmas—War Bonds! Decide now to give your boy an extra War Bond or two! And so there'll always be a Christmas, make every gift "The Present With a Future"—War Bonds!

FOR PEACE ON EARTH * BUY WAR BONDS

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