

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY JAMES M. HARPER, JR., Editor Entered as second-class matter April 29, 1928, at the Post Office at Southport, N. C., under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Rates ONE YEAR \$1.50 SIX MONTHS 1.00 THREE MONTHS .75



Wednesday, May 13, 1942

The Germans claim they'll win in the long run—well, they seem to have won the run out of Russia so far.

Job Well Done

Too much cannot be said about the fine job performed last week during registration of consumers for War Ration Book No. 1 by the teachers of the county and other volunteers.

We have found that the idea still persists in the minds of many of our citizens that the Ration Board and the teachers were drawing big pay for this work.

Not one cent was paid, either directly or indirectly, to anyone who worked on the sugar registration. All travel and other necessary expenses were paid by the persons who did the work, and in the case of the teachers, they remained over for a week after their school had closed and paid extra board in order to give their services to their country in one of the measures deemed necessary in connection with the war effort.

Price Control

The new price control bill has an unusual distinction: It pleases no one. It is a complicated hodgepodge of conflicting points of view, and most economists are exceedingly doubtful of its ability to really hold down prices.

In the light of this, a report recently made by a sub-committee of the Retailers' Advisory Committee is of great interest. It observed that there is no such thing as a good price control plan and that, when price control becomes necessary as a result of scarcity, the only fair method is to apply a cost-plus system.

1. The retailers have discouraged speculation which could have caused serious and unjustified price increases.

2. Inventories have been kept on a reasonable basis.

3. Prices have been based on the cost of goods, and not on a replacement system.

4. When increased sales made it possible, merchants have absorbed increased costs out of their own profits. That accounts for the fact that many large retail systems are doing a greatly increased business—but are showing little if any increase in net profits.

The results of these policies are clear. In the food field, for example, the price paid farmers has increased 56.2 per cent since June, 1939, and wholesale food prices have risen 31.5 per cent. Yet retail prices have risen only 19.2 per cent.

The future of legislative price control is shrouded in mystery. In the meantime, the consumers of America owe a vote of thanks to the thousands of far-sighted retailers who are battling price inflation with all the weapons they possess.

Geared To The Times

One of the biggest war jobs is that of the medical profession.

Many thousands of doctors have been called into army service. Other thousands are giving a considerable part of their working time to governmental bodies of a military and quasi-military nature. In most cases, this involves a financial loss for the doctor. But you don't hear him complain. He realizes the responsibility that is his, and he means to discharge it, irrespective of his own individual welfare.

War also makes the task of guarding civilian health far harder. Millions of men will work long hours at arduous jobs. A considerable proportion of these men are leaving office positions which involved no particular physical strain, to

take industrial work where muscle and stamina are required. Many of them will be exposed to the inclement weather, and to extremes of heat and cold. On top of that, plans are being made to enlist women by the thousands for certain industrial operations which once belonged exclusively in the male province. Keeping these legions of people healthy under the rigors of war conditions, is a mighty difficult undertaking.

The American system of private medicine will show the stuff it is made of. That system has given us the highest general level of health in the world. It has permitted every doctor to go as far as his abilities and ambitions allow. It is geared to the onerous demands of these discordant times.

A Hard Job Becomes Harder

War and defense make the job of the banker—which is hard in any period—infinitely harder.

It would take many pages to chronicle all the duties that fall on banking in this emergency. Here, for instance, is a partial list of what banks, large and small, are doing now: financing war production; selling government securities; handling payrolls for war industries; providing banking facilities for service men and civilian employes of war plants; furnishing vast amounts of cash for paying enlisted men; advising customers on government contracts; working with the government in freezing foreign funds; cooperating in consumer credit control; helping to maintain confidence, prevent hoarding and encourage orderly security and money markets.

Every one of those jobs is necessary. Every one of them requires the highest degree of knowledge and competence on the banker's part. All of them must be handled swiftly and efficiently, without delay or confusion.

Banking is the backbone of war industry and peace industry alike. Today it is showing the fine stuff it is made of.

Shears And Paste

OUR STATE FORESTS

There is hope for the forests of South Carolina. Until a comparatively short time ago they were subjected to vandalism that cost the state large losses every year. They were given little protection from fire and many thousands of trees were destroyed or permanently dwarfed. Sawmills were permitted to cut indiscriminately and young growth suffered along with larger trees.

The coming of pulpwood enterprises to the state opened the way for further destruction of forests, but the managements, realizing that reckless cutting would endanger their source of supply of raw material, encouraged selective cutting.

Southeastern states have suffered tremendous loss in past years because there were no laws to control the cutting of timber. Virgin forests of yellow pine were destroyed and prime pine lumber was shipped to many parts of the world at prices that were ridiculously low.

Governments of European countries centuries ago valued their forests and enacted laws for their protection. France, Germany, Belgium and other countries imported southern pine lumber in order to save their trees. Selective cutting was ordered in France and Germany long before the Napoleonic wars. Great forests, now hundreds of years old, annually yield their crops of timber.

The South Carolina forestry department has not only been working for the conservation of our forests, but also to reforest denuded tracts. The planting of young trees during the past decades has been encouraging and it is expected to increase. Forests are of value for the crops of wood they yield and also for the prevention of soil erosion and droughts.—Spartanburg Herald.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GOOD BOOK

To look forward to a good book from Cecil Brown, one to place by the side of 'Shirers', is a consolation left to collectors of a shelf that might well bear the general label, 'Now It May Be Old.' It should be grim, vivid, packed with adventure. The man who was persona non grata at Rome, saw Malaya and Singapore from the inside, went down with the Repulse has a story to tell.—Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal.

DEPENDING ON VIEW POINT

Hitler's mustache, Mussolini's jaw and Hirohito's teeth may be funny, but not funny enough until their owners are inspected from outside iron bars.—Lynchburg (Va.) News.

THE HOME FRONT

Steel is the raw material of victory, steel is perhaps the most important single material in modern warfare. All the tanks and the howitzers and the machine guns that will drive the Axis from Europe and Asia are epitomized in that one word—steel.

Most Americans know this well and probably weren't surprised when the War Production Board last week took steps to remove steel from civilian life and divert it almost entirely to war production. But the order which halts the use of iron and steel in the manufacture of more than 499 major commodities contains some real surprises for the Home Front, at that.

One of these surprises is to discover the vast amounts of vital steel which went into the manufacture of very little things—of such things, for instance, as toilet articles—manicure scissors and nail files and nippers and cuticle pushers, hair pins and bobby pins and tweezers and gadgets for squeezing blackheads.

Altogether the items on the above list consumed 1,815 tons of steel in 1941, enough to have made more than 170 big 155 mm. guns. The 110,000 pounds of steel which went into blackhead squeezers alone would have made four such big guns.

Many Items To Disappear WPB's steel order is so drastic and far-reaching that as time passes it will work major changes in our way of life. Scores of things we had come to accept as essential to our standard of living no longer will be made after a 90-day tapering off period and gradually will disappear from dealers' shelves.

The business man will find his surroundings changed by the choking off of office machinery of all kinds, advertising novelties, letter shutes, openers and trays, lockers and telephone booths. The housewife will be unable to buy new book-ends, teapots, cutlery, bread boxes, butter knives and cake cutters. The glamour girl will have to hold on to her present lipstick holders and compacts, the athlete will look in vain for new sporting goods.

Only two metals, the order specifies, may be used as substitutes for iron and steel—and these are gold and silver. This shows how vital to the war effort are steel and its workaday cousins and how unimportant—the so-called "precious metals"—traditional tokens of romance and finance.

OPA Urges Patience The Office of Price Administration urges us to be patient with our retail storekeepers in the next few months, while the new price ceiling is going into effect. OPA points out that "the regulations impose many novel and difficult burdens on retailers and their supplies" and that "the long-run success of the program requires the complete cooperation of the consumer." A three-point guide to shoppers—

1. Before July 1 educate yourself as to how the prices rules work but don't try to be a price-policeman.

2. After July 1, report established violations to war price and rationing boards.

3. For the duration, remember that you have a personal obligation to buy at or below the ceiling price and the plan won't work unless you make it work.

The price ceiling will not hold down the cost of living unless its companion regulations, the roof-on-rents, is made effective. OPA charged last week that some landlords in unspecified defense rental areas "are undertaking to evict tenants to regain possession of their properties" in the hope of evading the order: "We cannot and will not tolerate wholesale evictions of war workers," Price Administrator Leon A. Henderson declared. "We will not permit the war production program to be sabotaged by a few landlords who have the mistaken notion that they can somehow wiggle outside of the essential wartime program."

A lesser-known aspect of the conservation drive is the use of reclaimed rubber for rubber heels. Postmen and policemen of Washington, D. C., have volunteered to act as walking laboratories to test heels made of scrap rubber. On the results of their findings will depend whether millions of pedestrians get a durable reclaimed rubber heel.

American women will not be brought into the war effort on a compulsory, nation-wide basis—they will be allowed to sign up voluntarily as the need arises. Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt is chairman of the new War Manpower Commission. He reports that 1,500,000 women are already registered with the U. S. Employment Service and predicts that as many as 4,000,000 women will be engaged on war work within two years. That is, one out of every five war workers will be a woman.

"War Ration Book No. 1" is now a prized possession in almost every American home. On the first day alone 27,312,063 persons

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, May 14. — Significantly featured in the formal instructions to gasoline rationing boards, which start operations in 17 Eastern states this week, is the official warning "remember at all times that the whole idea of rationing is new to the American people." These few words carry implications which officialdom and professional observers of public opinion cannot gauge accurately. It reveals to the thousands of rationing agents that Federal officials are definitely on the anxious bench awaiting the reaction of the citizens in all walks of life to a regimented existence in wartime.

The enforcement officials are, of course, hopeful that the public will accept rationing in the spirit of war sacrifice and let it go at that. In fact, the preface to the official gasoline regulations contains excerpts from President Roosevelt's speeches on the sacrifice theme. The practical politicians, particularly those who must go before the electorate this summer and fall, are not optimistic to the point of assuming that the average has been psychologically attuned to accept any and all restrictions solely on a patriotic motivation. Many of the office-holders, who owe their positions directly to the voters in their districts, frankly admit an avalanche of embarrassing questions follow the imposition of drastic strictures on ordinary modes of living. In the end, the net result is a long political casualty list which may change the complexion of the present Congress. Muddled policies of administrative officers augur ill for the legislators who clothed them with vast power.

The sea battles in the Pacific, with the ups and downs of victories and reverses in other areas, are calculated to have a helpful effect on the acceptance of governmental restraints. So much emphasis has been placed on so-called "transportation bottlenecks" that mail from constituents is already slanted on the inquiring mood of the people. Folks in states now covered by gasoline rationing which bids fair to place millions of cars in storage for the duration want to know the whys and wherefores. The letters reveal they can understand the unusual strain on rail transport due to shipping war supplies and the increase demand for tank cars to replace the ocean-going tankers sunk along the Atlantic coast. One recurring question has to do with the real causes which delayed installation of pipe-lines from oil fields to consuming centers. Those more directly affected by the rationing pertinently raised points about the failure of government agencies to permit larger stockpiles of vital raw materials. Add to these the trend of recent primaries showing a disposition to oust the "ins" from their high office and you have a rough idea of the worries of the lawmakers as rationing with many inequalities has its early tests.

Within a few weeks the housewife will be obliged to take cognizance of government restrictions on metals for civilian use. Orders have been issued by the War Production Board to prohibit the manufacture of 400 articles containing steel and iron and over 100 products of copper, brass and bronze. Many items of common use in households will no longer be manufactured after June. In the meantime, the Office of Defense Transportation has called a halt to more than one delivery by motor vehicles of groceries, hardware, milk, newspapers and other articles which have heretofore been brought to the doorsteps at call. The idea is to conserve rubber tires. The conservation plan may go to the extent of requiring that all vehicles were registered for their weekly allotment of sugar and the balance of the population on the following two days—thanks to the voluntary efforts of the nation's school teachers. OPA advises you to guard the book zealously—it may entitle you to other commodities later.

The Bureau of Industrial Conservation has seized 200 junked cars in an automobile graveyard in the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area because the owner refused a fair offer to sell. They reaped more than 150 tons of metal for war weapons. WPB suspended a division of General Motors Corporation for three months for violation of priority regulations on the grounds that it used quantities of chrome steel and aluminum in the manufacture of decorating automobile parts. . . . And three Puerto Rican rum distillers have been penalized on charges that they continued to distill rum from molasses after Jan. 15. Motorists in 17 Eastern States and the District of Columbia are warned not to hoard gasoline to beat rationing. . . . It is not only unpatriotic but it may lead to a serious fire. . . . Electric ranges for house use now held by manufacturers, distributors and retailers may not be sold. . . . They are being saved for new defense housing. . . . Passenger travel on the nation's railways must be cut down and luxury equipment reduced or eliminated, says the Office of Defense Transportation.

NOT EXACTLY NEWS

The horse trader who came to Southport Friday had a field day, for in addition to selling a couple of saddle nags he disposed of a buggy. Dr. Fergus and Ormand Leggett got the horses, Dr. Daniel got the buggy. And we hear now that there's a little boy in town who is going to own a new pony within a couple of weeks. . . . Johnnie Simmons had a big surprise Friday when he went over to secure a birth certificate necessary to meet the requirements for a defense job he was seeking. In the first place he learned that he was one of a set of twins—he had known about the thousands of rationing agents that Federal officials are definitely on the anxious bench awaiting the reaction of the citizens in all walks of life to a regimented existence in wartime.

"The Death Dodgers," a group of thrill artists, open their 1942 season Friday night at Legion Stadium in Wilmington, and we have heard this show is highly recommended by those who have

seen previous performances. . . . Billie probably takes gardening more seriously than any other kid in town. And if he grows enough vegetables to feed his father he's entitled to a kind of certificate of merit.

The town turned out Sunday afternoon for its most recent bride, the former Vera Jurgens, plowed into a fire hydrant. Both car and hydrant suffered serious injuries, but the occupants of the car escaped with only shattered nerves. It was close to twenty minutes before the water was turned off, just long enough for a goodly number of citizens to view the geyser which flooded the streets. It was the kind of thing you see in the movies. Brother Christian led the barefoot brigade which tried to give the busted hydrant First Aid.

A "wrestling royal" is billed for "Italian Night" Friday night, with Cowboy Luttrill, Barto Strangler White and Chiel Saunooka hooked up in a dog-eat-dog contest. Appropriately enough, Al Massey, professional boxer, will referee. One of the swellest attractions of the year comes Monday and Tuesday to the Amuzu when "Wednesday In Havana" is shown in technicolor.

Marines Need Men 17 To 30

Unmarried Men Between These Ages In Great Demand In The U. S. Marines; Must Have 7th Grade Education

RALEIGH. — With the United States Marine Corps rapidly expanding since the outbreak of war the need for still more men is being sought. At the present the Marine Corps is in need of men between the ages of 17 and 30 who are not married.

Though at one time those entering the Marine Corps had to have a high school education only a 7th grade grammar school education is sufficient for enlistment in the Marine Corps. Those who as yet have not reached their twenty-first birthday will have to secure the consent of their parents and have this witnessed by a notary public. Parents' consent forms can be secured from any Marine Corps Recruiting Station located in Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Raleigh.

Upon being found physically qualified the enlisted men will be sent to the Marine Corps training station at Parris Island, S. C. for a six weeks recruit training period. Upon the completion of this training the Marine will be given the opportunity to select the type of work that

he would like to perform in the Marine Corps. Marine Corps schools are located at Quantico, Va., and it is here that applicants will be able to learn a most useful trade that will prove valuable to the Marine Corps and to the enlisted man upon his discharge from the Marine Corps. Radio operators, aviation mechanics, electricians, and other trades will be taught to the enlisted men are greatly needed by this branch of the service.

Three Trainmen Killed In Wreck

Boiler Of A. C. L. Locomotive Explodes Near Bainbridge, Ga.

BAINBRIDGE, Ga. — Three trainmen were killed and several soldiers were injured, none believed seriously, early today when a boiler exploded on one of two locomotives pulling an Atlantic Coast Line train, derailed several coaches.

The accident occurred about four miles west of here along tracks paralleling the Dublin Ala. highway. The injured were brought to two hospitals here.

Dr. Gordon Chason, one of the owners of the Riverside hospital said "between six and eight soldiers" were admitted. He said none was seriously hurt, adding that military officials told him to release any name.

Large advertisement for The State Port Pilot featuring a \$1.00 coupon and subscription information. The coupon is for one dollar in payment for a subscription to The State Port Pilot to January 1, 1943. It includes fields for R.F.D. No., Box, and City or Town.