

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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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 MONTHS75



Wednesday, December 16, 1942

About Hog-Killing

OVER and over we hear the rumor that a farmer cannot kill his hog without: 1. Giving one to the government; or, 2. Getting a permit from the county agent; or, 3. Paying a sum of money for a permit to kill hogs.

We are taking this opportunity to brand all of these rumors as false, and we refer our readers to a release printed in the Pilot last Wednesday from the office of Dean I. O. Schaub.

When there is a change in the present rules, you may depend upon seeing the official announcement in your county newspaper.

School News

THIS is an open letter addressed primarily to students of Leland, Bolivia, Shallotte and Waccamaw high schools.

Maybe you boys and girls have been reading the school column that is written each week by high school students at Southport. If you haven't, we want to commend it to you, and we want to invite you to have a column for your own school just like it.

This news is written and turned in each week by a staff of four high school seniors. Of course, it is passed through the hands of a faculty advisor, who makes suggestions and gives valuable advice. But, practically speaking, it is a column conducted by the students.

We'd like nothing better than to have a similar school column from each school every week. We'd like to have it written and mailed so that it will reach Southport not later than Monday afternoon, and we'd prefer that it be typed. This latter provision is not a necessary requirement, however.

Start taking about a column for your school, and beginning with the first of the year, let's have your school represented each week in The State Port Pilot.

Optimism Dangerous

TOO many people, because of the initial success of the Allies in Tunisia, have been inclined to be overly optimistic with regard to the war, and lost sight of the fact that a long, hard fight lies ahead. Even the Tunisian battle itself is likely to take weeks and even months.

We hear reverberations about the lowering morale in Italy and the impending crack-up of the Fascists' government, but if we are wise we will not take too much stock in it.

It may be entirely true that there is dissonance in the ranks of Italy's populace, and that there is seething unrest. It may further be altogether probable and even likely that after the Allied battle has been won in North Africa, Italy may be next on the list of victims.

Unquestionably, the recent heavy RAF raids on the cities of Italy have dealt staggering blows at Italian morale, and the constant threat of an impending Allied invasion adds fuel to the already flaming fire.

All these facts may be undeniably true. It may be said that they conform entirely to the plans of the Allies. Italy may be now in the process of being "softened up" for Allied invasion.

But all these things are merely speculative. We have no assurance that Italian morale is near collapse, and even if it does crack up that doesn't necessarily mean that the war is near its end. The United Nations would then have Germany and Japan with which to deal.

The safest and by far the sanest course for the American people is to count upon a war to last at least two or three years, if not longer, then if by some stroke of good fortune, the conflict should be brought to a victorious conclusion before our expectations, it would be a happy surprise, whereas if our expectations for a short war did not materialize, we would be in for disappointment, and the country as a whole might suffer.

So you needn't count on the end of the war bringing back the things you've had to give up—at least not anytime in the near future.

Does The Administration Want To Forestall Inflation?

THE starry-eyed idealists in Washington have an entirely different conception of what constitutes inflation, or more specifically, what causes it, than a lot of us here at home. Leon Henderson may slap a ceiling on the price of everything that might possibly be purchased, and that still will not forestall inflation as long as wages continue to go up and up.

We heard of a Brunswick man last week who is making \$170.00 a week in a nearby defense plant. Truthfully enough, he worked 80 hours to get that fabulous amount, receiving time and a half for the last 40 hours that he worked.

We know of innumerable persons in the county who, before the war were averaging perhaps \$25 to \$30 a week, who are now making in excess of \$100 per week at defense plants.

We know that as long as such wages are being paid, that people are going to spend that money. Exhort all you wish, but as long as people have money to spend they are going to spend it. The Administration implores the public to invest their surplus cash in war bonds and stamps, which would be a fine thing if they would do it, but how many people, having not had more than the bare necessities of life until recently, are not going to try now to have some of the luxuries from the fruits of their labor?

This situation spells inflation with a capital I. You cannot help it. That man who is making \$170 a week cannot be blamed for getting all he can.

The President's attitude toward labor for a long time has been commendable, but now, it's practically reached the stage where it's an obsession with him. His firm stands against lengthening the work week in vital war plants is bringing down upon his head severe criticism. There is a recourse. Why does not congress act in this matter?

In the light of the present attitude of the administration, we can question the genuineness of its desire to forestall inflation.

Hunting Rules

THE Morganton News-Herald observes that the woods and fields have been filled with hunters recently, and suggests that during the remainder of the hunting season it would be a mighty good plan for hunters to observe some simple rules of safety while enjoying one of the most popular of American pastimes:

"Never carry loaded guns in automobiles or other vehicles.

"When afield hunting birds, keep abreast of your companion.

"In loading never point a gun in the direction of your companion.

"In climbing over stone walls and fences, first break or unload your gun.

"A bird quartering to the right in the vicinity of your hunting companions should never be fired on by a hunter on the extreme left and vice versa.

"Never leave a loaded gun standing against a tree or lying on the ground where a dog may get at it.

"Always keep your gun pointed away from your companions when you stop to talk.

"In handing a gun to a person for inspection, be sure it is unloaded.

"Never shoot in the direction of your companions because you consider yourself a good marksman. You are taking a dangerous chance.

"Carry a gun pointed down to the left. If you shoot left-handed, walk at the extreme right of the party.

"At all times be careful."

Shears And Paste

"WHITE CHRISTMAS"

(Christian Science Monitor)

With everyone calling for a "war song" along comes Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" hitting an all-time popularity high in Berlin tunes.

It isn't a war song. It isn't even a love song. Yet it has sung its way into practically every home and heart in the country. No one seems to be able to explain just why. Even Mr. Berlin himself is puzzled. "People read things into that song I had never dreamed of," he admits.

It amazed the public-wise Hollywood producers of "Holiday Inn", the film in which it was introduced, who had confidently plugged "Be Careful" to care for itself—which it did, to the tune of more than 850,000 copies.

THE HOME FRONT

The United Nations, it is estimated now are producing twice as much combat armament as the Axis, and by the end of next year it is expected that the United States, alone, will produce almost as great a volume of fighting weapons as all the rest of the world combined. In order to attain that vast output of war goods, civilian goods and services must be cut to a bare minimum. Not more than 75 billion dollars worth of goods and services will be available, in 1943, to all the people of this country.

But at the same time our total national income has steadily been rising, until it has reached a level of about 115 billion dollars a year, even with taxes taken out which means that for every \$1.15 that we have to spend, there will be only about 75 cents worth of goods or services to spend it on.

Part of our 40 billion dollar surplus buying power will be drained off by additional taxes, while voluntary restrictions in buying and voluntary savings also will help check the rise in living costs caused by competition to buy scarce goods. If, however, we want to make our stocks of scarce goods go as far as possible—and we do—if we want to make sure they're evenly distributed, then we must rely on rationing. We must rely on both the coupon rationing with which we are now familiar, and the new system of "point" rationing which will start after the first of the year.

POINT-RATIONING IS NEEDED

The present coupon "unit system" is well adapted to rationing such products as sugar and coffee, which can be divided up on a simple per capita basis, but it cannot well be used for rationing diversified foodstuffs, since tastes vary quite as much as do supplies, and not all persons want the same items in their daily diet. By giving a higher point value to scarce commodities and lower points to those that are plentiful, the consumer having a total number of points to "spend" for a particular group of products during a given ration period is free to "pay out" more of his points for scarce items, or to consume larger amounts of low-point, abundant foods that may be substituted for the scarce ones.

Whatever the details of the measures used in controlling prices, it is inevitable that everyone concerned with handling merchandise, from raw materials to finished products, must keep records and engage in bookkeeping to an extent that would not be necessary under peacetime conditions. For price control, to be effective, must be based on accurate figures. Since last April, when the General Maximum Price Regulation went into effect, retail stores have had to file with their local boards ceiling prices on fewer than 200 items of food, clothing, furniture, hardware, and fuel—all of them of greatest importance in the family expense budget. If extra time and labor are involved in these operations, they pay immense dividends in the billions of dollars saved by consumers. And everyone is a consumer.

PLANNING BETTER USE OF LABOR

In the meanwhile, more efficient use of our present labor force is being developed through the work of labor-management committees in 1,700 war plants—by means of programs for training and upgrading workers and a multitude of time-saving operations. A labor-management group, representing the railroads, is working on a plan for temporarily shifting labor from one road to another to meet shortages, and another plan calls for organizing a mobile corps of experienced farm workers, aided by local volunteers, to meet peak-

season labor demands. Traffic on the country's rural roads in this first month of nationwide rationing is expected to be 35 to 40 percent less than a year ago... Traveling salesmen engaged full time in the sale of products essential to the war program may receive up to 65 percent of their last year's gasoline consumption, or a mileage of 8,600 miles a year, whichever is less... More coal and wood-burning stoves are being made available for those who want to change over from fuel oil heating equipment... There will be no wartime regulations imposed on Christmas trees, and war workers are advised to make Christmas Day a holiday, if possible, since there have been no other full holidays in war production since the fight for freedom began.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By National Editorial Association

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Holiday vacations taken by the expiring Congress are of two major varieties. Those re-elected at the November hustings have returned to their bailiwicks to check on recent developments in the political sentiment among their constituents. The other segment—the "Lame Ducks" especially those of the Democratic persuasion, are in a more humble and petitioning mood. Hat in hand, these defeated Senators and Representatives are anxiously waiting for Mr. Roosevelt to play Santa Claus in generously bestowing high-priced Federal jobs. Contrary to expectations the solons did not clean up the odds and ends as a parting gift to the White House. The House Committee on Ways and Means shelved a bill intended to augment the Chief Executive's wartime powers over immigration, tariffs and related subjects.

A number of unfinished projects on the book for the incoming legislature bode ill for many high-ranking Federal officials. The top-ranking leaders of many agencies are fully cognizant that various influences will be responsible for a long parade on the witness stand. The word has been passed that the aftermath of the farm lobbies resentment against Price Administrator Leon Henderson may be found in the tentative program to probe his office and policies. If the hue and cry of Capitol Hill investigations fail to dislodge office-holders, there is always the second string to the bow. An effective Congressional approach to downtown officialdom is to hamstring these agencies through drastic curtailment of appropriations and in grants of authority. It is noteworthy that the powerful House Appropriations Committee which usually conducts a series of hearings on next year's money program has been strangely idle this season. Of course, one answer is that marked changes in the political complexion of the House will require alterations in the partisan balance on each committee. Budget agents of the Departments who have been accustomed to free and easy spending expect to encounter trouble with their estimates for the fiscal year of 1944. It all stems from the apparent "show me" attitude developing among the solons.

Unions fighting among themselves for a larger share of the war worker's income in membership dues is apparently a major motive back of the current hearing about the shop practices at the famous Kaiser shipyards. It is reported that when Henry Kaiser started his mammoth shipbuilding project that he signed with the American Federation of Labor and saddled them with the task of finding all workers for his expending plants. Because they could not meet the requirements for thousands of trained men, Kaiser recruited on the Eastern seaboard. The result was that a number of employees carried

--- NOT EXACTLY NEWS ---

With all of this coffee rationing going on, it makes a lot of people feel mighty bad when they remember that 45,000 bags of coffee were lost last spring when a merchant vessel went aground within sight of land off Southport... "The Man Who Came To Dinner," starring Bette Davis, will be the feature attraction at the Amuzu tonight and tomorrow. Incidentally, the pictures during the past ten days at the local theatre are just as good as have been shown anywhere in the same length of time. Twice recently the Southport movie house has had pictures that turned up a week later at a leading Wilmington theatre.

Although many of the former volunteer firemen are now in service, the ones left at home did a smart job Sunday night in putting out the blaze

at Lewis Hardee's. We always have said that our local fire fighters do the most with the least of any group we have ever seen... About the only thing you could depend upon during the past football season was an upset—and Sunday's game between the Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins proved that. Anyway, the Washington outfit had a little revenge coming to them after that 73-0 drubbing of two years ago.

The same bird dog that caught the fox squirrel last week made the mistake of trying to catch another one a few days later—only the latter one was black-and-white. Pheu! You guessed it... All reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there are some faithful bird hunters here who do believe there is much of a quail crop this fall.

C. I. O. cards and now the bitter struggle for jurisdiction. Another union issue turned up on the desk of the President this week. It involves the use of one word in a union dispute with the Montgomery-Ward Company. The controversy has reached a point wherein the prestige of the War Labor Board is at stake. Being forced to sign with the unions under White House instructions, the employer wants to insert the ominous word "duress" in their contract while the Board desires to substitute "protest." There is a wide gulf in the meaning of the words bound for a legal test.

Just how selective service withdrawals have forced a shortage of skilled workers in private industry is revealed in the survey of the age of all workers in each occupation published this week by the Bureau of Census. The data gathered in 1940 required many months to tabulate. It was found that three-fifths of the five million men who were employed as skilled craftsmen were between the ages of 18 and 44 years. The

figures show that within these age limits the draft would affect 46 percent of the farmers and 70 percent of the farm laborers. Four million men in this age category were in sales, clerical and service occupations.

Flooded by protests from business men and farmers the Congress has attempted to halt the practice of administrative agencies sending out their questionnaires. The new measure which passed the Senate and House is not considered too restrictive as certain government departments like the income tax division and other fiscal groups are exempted. Instead of dispatching question blanks with a threat of heavy penalties to citizens failing to file an answer, the bureaucrats must now justify their proposals before mailing inquiries. It was established that business men and agriculturalists had been subjected to questions when the material was seldom analyzed by the agencies. The situation was so bad that many small enterprises were obliged to employ specialists to supply answers to technical queries.

MEDICAL PATIENT
Oscar Knox of Bolivia, entered Doshier Memorial Hospital as medical patient last Wednesday.

FOR TREATMENT
Mrs. Virginia Johnson, Southport, entered Doshier Memorial Hospital Wednesday for treatment.

PATIENT
Master Clifton Gore, of Leland, entered Doshier Memorial Hospital on Friday of last week as medical patient.

SURGICAL PATIENT
Ensign W. C. Cathey, of Well Section Base, is a surgical patient at Doshier Memorial Hospital.

HOSPITAL PATIENT
Joseph B. Willetts, of Wilmington, entered Doshier Memorial Hospital Saturday as a medical patient.



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERY WEEK

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