

THE STATE PORT PILOT Southport, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Entered as second-class matter April 20, 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

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1941 Active Member

Wednesday, April 7, 1943

The War Is A Failure

THUS far the war is a failure, at least in our country. It has failed to bring our people down to earth, and to rock them back upon the foundation that was the "Faith of Our Fathers."

History records that during each period of conflict, when the days seemed darkest for civilization and all that was good in it, the people have experienced a reawakening of religion. There has been no such rebirth of Christianity where we could observe it.

Recently a preacher delivered a sermon the text of which was "The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." He wasn't talking about agriculture and farm crops, but about Christianity and human beings.

There is more for the church to do today than ever before in our history, but our people have not responded to the challenge of the times. Our minister dared to call a spade a spade: Declared that we are shirking our responsibilities as community leaders and Christian people right here in Southport; cited the lack of interest in Sunday School; noted the small congregations in attendance at church services.

It might be well for us as a people to remember that God is not mocked, and that if by our actions we cry out for a reawakening, then that is what we may expect. Not that God is vengeful, nor that he is playing Calliban and is daring us to overstep His boundary. But the things that mock God are the things that threaten our peace, our security and our ideals.

One result of this war could be to bring our people once more to their knees.

Keep 'Em Eating

THE food industry has warned government executives that thousands will go hungry in this country this year unless the government moves promptly to solve the pressing manpower and distribution problems of the food industry. Lack of manpower, beginning on the farm and ending behind the counters of retail merchants, is assuming grave proportions.

The position of retail distributors is critical at the moment. Officials have steadily failed to include the merchant in the war program as a war worker. They have so far failed to recognize the essential part he plays in putting necessities into the hands of consumers. They fail to recognize that without his expert cooperation, price and rationing controls would be demoralized; that competent merchandisers are vital to efficient distribution.

Collapse of efficient distribution would mean that food grown and processed could not reach the consumer. Waste and decay of precious food would assume tragic proportions to hungry people. It would promote inflation, and inevitable curtailment of war production.

The food industry has asked officials to make clear that food production, processing, and distribution ranks with armaments in importance. Pirating and drafting of essential employes must cease if we are to eat. They also have asked for the proper allocation of food supplies to maintain civilian health and morale, and the simplification of rationing procedure. They have asked for these things repeatedly. Beyond vague generalities no action has been taken.

Disaster will come if this policy continues. Either the appointed officials, or Congress must act.

Facts At Last

THE Secretary of Agriculture has frankly said before the Senate Appropriations Committee: "Since I appeared before you a month ago, I have become increasingly alarmed about our inability to get enough farm labor to reach the goals we have established for farm production. I am more alarmed today than I was yesterday."

"Economic planners" have largely taken farm crops for granted like air and water—something the Lord provides. They have considered almost everything else an "essential" industry ahead of farming. They have a farmer so tied up with red tape restrictions that the time required in complying with them is actually cutting down farm production.

We are not living in horse and buggy days. A minority of our people on farms are feeding a majority of our people in cities. They can't do it without manpower and machinery, nor can they do it on a price basis that ignores farm production costs as compared with industrial production costs.

"Are You Content?"

IF you are content with the present and with the present results in industry, in agriculture, and in our civilian life," said Secretary of War Stimson, "then I suggest that you go to one of our great Army camps and see our boys in uniform working. I suggest that you read the detailed dispatches from Tunisia and the Southwest Pacific about the fighting efforts of our soldiers. I suggest that you compare your comforts in life with theirs, and then ask yourself—Are you content?"

Few persons in civilian life can say they have yet made any all-out war effort. Too many are still more interested in planning personal and "social gains," first.

Shears And Paste

PAPER SCARCITY

(New Orleans States)

You have undoubtedly read of the advance in the price of white paper. This material on which our newspapers and magazines and other reading matter is printed has been advanced in price \$4 a ton.

You also have noticed that your favorite newspapers and magazines are having to reduce their size, because of the shortage in paper and because the government has ordered a cut in consumption. WPB says that another cut will be necessary in a few months.

We hope you don't run short of reading matter, but if you do, the department of labor has a series of brochures just off the press telling about office work in various cities. This document for Richmond, Va., contains 61 pages; for Kansas City, Mo., 74 pages. In fact, tons of paper are used because practically all the cities in the country are covered on this one subject alone.

The information contained in them is out of date, but that makes no difference to the government. The records were made for 1940, before war industries flooded many of the cities discussed, but, what the heck! There are tens of thousands of words in them and some complicated and intriguing tabulations. If you need reading matter, here is your chance. It might put you to sleep and fill your thoughts with useless information, which won't be a strain on your mind.

This illustration of the publishing activities of the labor department is only a drop in the bucket if you understand the reams of paper, mountains of paper and tons of paper being consumed by the government. The hundreds with bureaus with their dictatorial heads and sometimes contributing half-baked experts are pouring out printed words from presses all over the country.

Senator Harry Flood Byrd, of Virginia, who is trying his best to curtail government expenditures not directly concerned with the winning of the war, has shown where millions of dollars of the taxpayers money has been and is being spent. He has tabulated long lists of publications, useless and inconsequential, emanating from bureaus with thousands of federal employes. Many of the latter could be saved if their misplaced energies and frequently cracked ideas could be diverted to other channels.

The advance in cost of white-paper seemingly has had little or no effect on the size and number of government publications, despite the fact that this will cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

The almost countless list of publications gotten out by the government not only consume paper which could be used to better advantage, but also clog up the mails and the express and freight agencies which could be used for transporting war materials or printed matter pertaining to the prosecution of the war.

But we suppose the people must know about office work in various cities in 1940 and about other equally useless things.

The government found it necessary to devise a way to curtail the size of letters to our fighting men all over the world from their home folks, such as the V-letter, but it apparently hasn't found a way to cut down the size and number of circulars and pamphlets gotten out by the various and sundry bureaus in Washington and elsewhere.

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Volume of mail and telegrams from the folks back home will have more to do with the attitude of Congress toward taxation and farm legislation than all other pressures. The military and naval battles raging on all fronts in which our forces are engaged take on a semblance of routine compared with these domestic matters having grave political and economic implications which give the solons cause for concern. Actual voting on a proposal to override the Presidential veto of the so-called Bankhead farm price parity bill and reconsideration of the Ruml and other tax adjustment plans will be stalled by parliamentary devices until tests of sentiment among constituents can be correctly gauged.

The return of the tax measure to the House Ways and Means Committee for further study did not, as expected, effectively submerge this red-hot economic issue with such heavy political trimmings. The warring House factions are endeavoring to reach a compromise while marking time and public reaction to the present tax stalemate. Predictions are that the Senate may decide to ignore the President's unusually forceful language in his veto message on the farm price measure. Not so in the House where the members boast that they are closer to the people than their colleagues in the Senate. The White House disapproval has confronted Congress with a test of organized blocs' strength. The Roosevelt veto that his action was "impelled by the deep conviction this measure is inflationary in character" and "an unwarrantable bonus at the expense of the consumer" was calculated to place the responsibility for marked increases in foodstuffs squarely on the lawmakers.

The other powerful lobby, the trade unions, has also added to the woes of the farm bloc by suddenly switching their position regarding wage increases. They have stated that the labor groups were anxious to keep living costs down to the September 1942 level and might forego their demands for wage increases if inflation could be held down. This strategy added to the predicament of the farm price advocates and who would bear the burden of blame for inflation. Another bitter pill was the official report of the Department of Agriculture: "Price rises in recent months have been greater for agricultural than for nonagricultural commodities."

Officials of states, cities, counties, towns and villages will probably resent the findings of the Federal Committee on Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations after a two-year study. They reported, "Local governments, particularly city governments, are in a 'bad way' from the fiscal standpoint, and to extricate them calls for reorganization of the sources of local revenue." Desperately in need of revenues, these governmental sub-divisions may find themselves obliged to accept the recommendations which this committee sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, especially if they want to find a market for their securities. One outstanding recommendation called for reorganization of local revenue sources should be effected "in such manner as to preserve and restore local autonomy, and to enable local governments to tax their own resources, according to their own discretion, without the development of more overlapping taxation." These findings will figure prominently in political campaigns for public office where taxation is an issue.

War is changing the complexion of Uncle Sam's prison population. New types of offenders are listed as jail inhabitants. Selective Service violations are reported currently to Federal attorneys at the rate of 12,000 per month and usually net about two to three per cent of this total as inmates of Uncle Sam's prisons. A large number of these violations are adjusted in the field without prosecution, in court and committal to jail. About one-half of the violators of the Draft Act are those who refuse to fight because of so-called religious or philosophical reasons. Some of the other draft dodgers are considered mental cases or "queer." Others are just "ducking the draft" through false information to local boards, but the percentage which are in prison through this device is relatively small. Some inmates are the result of military court-martials. Another source of prison registrations are young girls committed for prostitution in the vicinity of Army camps. Most of these girls have never been previously sentenced, although some have minor arrest records. The Federal government's present population is increasing at the rate of 3,000 to 5,000 a year.

There is a small army of volunteers who make an important contribution to the home and war fronts without any expectation of publicity. About five thousand individuals serve as observers of rainfall, and hings like that, throughout the country. They are the cooperative observers of the United States Weather Bureau

climatological service who usually serve during the growing season without pay. Congress was informed recently that these people take much pride in their service and even resent any attempt to place a valuation on their work by compensation from the government.

DICK REYNOLDS GIVES FARM MOVIES TO STATE COLLEGE

A gift of a series of motion pictures on agriculture to the recently organized State College Foundation, Inc., by Richard J. Reynolds, of Winston-Salem, has been announced by Col. J. W. Harrelson, dean of administration of the college and president of the Foundation. The moving pictures, to be made in sound and color, will be produced to aid North Carolina farmers in increasing the value and output of their farms, particularly during the war emergency.

When completed, the pictures will be given to the State College Agricultural Extension Service, for use of this and the other College Agricultural agencies in their rural educational activities.

Mr. Reynolds, now a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve on active sea duty, completed arrangements to make the movies during a recent leave.

"I am doing this," he said, "because I think that nothing is more important to the war effort than the production of food. The farmer has a big job, and needs such aid as I believe these educational movies can give." Mr. Reynolds' interest in agriculture has been stimulated by the operation of his own large farm on which he raises the typical crops of the Piedmont section.

Col. Harrelson expressed appreciation to Mr. Reynolds for the gift.

Dermid Maclean, of Winston-Salem, is making the movies, with the co-operation of the office of F. H. Jeter, agricultural editor of State College, and the technical assistance of Extension specialists and county farm and home agents. Mr. Maclean also photographed "North Carolina, Variety Vacationland," the film which Lt. Reynolds produced and gave to the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, and "Winston-Salem—A Balanced Community," a picture recently completed and presented to the City of Winston-Salem. Lt. Reynolds received a leave of absence as mayor to serve in the Navy.

Present plans call for the production of five pictures, all to be made on North Carolina farms. Subjects to be treated are: home gardening, swine, dairying, poultry, and repair and maintenance of farm machinery. Other pictures on subjects of vital interest to North Carolina farm families will follow as rapidly as time and the seasonal activities to be photographed will allow.

FARMERS MUST CONTINUE DRIVE TO REACH GOALS

With the campaign to enlist every farmer in the State in the 1943 agricultural production program virtually completed, farmers were warned that efforts to meet goals must be continued throughout the growing and harvesting seasons.

This warning came from G. T. Scott, chairman of the State USDA War Board, who declared that "no pledge to grow war food crops will do any American farmer any good until that food is harvested, processed, and delivered to him wherever he may be."

The sign-up campaign is being conducted throughout the State by county and community committees of the AAA who are visiting each individual farm to explain production needs to the operator and assist him in mapping a 1943 farm plan for maximum war production.

The fact that the sign-up is nearly completed is more reason why we must continue our efforts," Scott declared. "This is no time to quit. The farmers' most important work begins where the sign-up leaves off. If every farmer in the nation carries out his pledges to produce, the persons who are charged with the responsibility of feeding this nation and our allies will have a catalog of farm production almost a year in advance."

In addition to visiting farms in the sign-up, he said, AAA committees have been directed by Secretary of Agriculture Wickard to find unused land in their communities and, on their own initiative, see that these "idle acres" are brought into active production this year.

STATE COLLEGE HINTS TO FARM HOMEMAKERS BY RUTH CURRENT N. C. STATE COLLEGE

Quick, stinging statements made to children are remembered far longer than grown-ups realize and may be responsible for some of the inferiority complexes of later years. A thoughtful consideration and a sympathetic understanding of children, on the other hand, pay big dividends in family happiness, joy, and contentment.

Making friends feel welcome, is one of the chief achievements that makes a house a home.

--- NOT EXACTLY NEWS ---

Bert Causey, promoter of the wrestling shows at Thalian Hall, Wilmington, was in Southport Thursday, and among those who met and talked to him was Harry Aldridge, one of his most faithful patrons. Bert says that Ed (Strangler) Lewis is to appear on his show in Wilmington on Tuesday, April 13. Also coming are Jim Londos and Maurice Tillet, the French Angel. Causey said that there will be another Victory Jamboree at Thalian Hall next Sunday afternoon featuring the Tobacco Tags.

We've had a lot to say in this column about saddle horses, but little about the workers of the breed. Well, Layton Swain out at Mill Creek has a pair of roan mares that weigh more than 1700-lbs. each and they make a mighty fancy team. What's more, they're supposed to foal within a month. We had a look at Lockwoods Folly in let for the first time the other day, and in our opinion Mr. Wash Holden has the prettiest site for a home in all Brunswick county.

Poultry and eggs are especially helpful in a meat shortage. A family with its own chickens and eggs is sure of its own protein food and helps ease the demand on the market. Thousands of women, who grew up on farms and know how to raise poultry, can be of the greatest help in the country's food situation this year, if they will turn to raising chickens.

Count on 10 chicks for each member of your family when you order your baby chicks this spring. But before you get your chicks, make the right preparations for housing, feeding, watering and keeping them in good health.

A bulletin board placed on the kitchen wall and used for inter-family reminders and messages is helpful in many households.

If you are having a busy Sunday morning and are planning to produce a warm, syrupy apple pie for Sunday dinner in record

time, try this idea. Prepare the pie completely the day before and store unbaked in the refrigerator overnight. Then, after church and while the dinner is cooking, place it in the oven for baking.

They're talking tennis around here again, and this time the added impetus of a newcomer may put over the project. Doc Morrissey, Clinton boy who is stationed here with the highway department, is interested enough in getting the tennis courts in shape to do some work. Reasoning board officials who find it hard to turn down service men on leave when they ask for special gasoline will welcome more boys like David Watson, who borrowed a couple of bikes Saturday so he and his girl could go sight-seeing.

The only government installation made in this section thus far during the war and named for a resident of the county is the liberty dock at the yacht basin. It bears a paint sign "Freedom Dock"—in honor of hizzonner, the mayor, to reckon. Russell Johnson, of Winnabow had a near-record calf born at his dairy last week. It was a Holstein bull, weighing 118-lbs. at birth. The world's record is 120-lbs. for a new-born calf.

Applications for gasoline to be used in tractors and other machinery should be mailed to War Price and Rationing Board or turned over to County War Boards for certification.

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The State Port Pilot

"Your County Newspaper"

SOUTHPORT, N. C.