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Deserved Commendation

An official connected with the USO stated this week that among the many who have cooperated in the good work that the organization is doing, none is more worthy of commendation for their efforts than Captain James B. Churchill.

According to all reports, Captain Churchill holds the USO as being next on the list to his house of worship, in being entitled to consideration and support. He is not devoting himself to the organization for the personal entertainment he gets there, far from it. He goes to work for the comfort and entertainment of the service men for whom the USO was created.

Plain Speaking Mr. Churchill

Sunday afternoon Mr. Winston Churchill, who stood almost alone in seeing ultimate victory during the darkest days in England, spoke over all British and American networks. In the course of his remarks he gave vent to expressions that some people may term more forceful than elegant. He declared that the guts of the German army had been largely torn out by Russian Valor and Generalship, adding that the British and American forces may win over the Japanese sooner than was expected.

That Mr. Churchill was optimistic during the former dark days in England is no reason for one to assume he is overly optimistic in his expressions of last Sunday. Three years ago when the heart was being bombed out of London he believed that England would survive and win, but not without "blood, sweat and tears."

Speaking, Sunday, of the critics who revile the British and American governments as being composed of a set of dawdlers and muddlers, Mr. Churchill said: "This country (England) should not forget that the administration brought the British Empire out of the jaws of death, back from the gates of hell, while all the world wondered."

We Agree And Disagree

It may be because we have a natural inclination to look on the bright side of things. Also we have a lot of confidence in our farmers, they always pull through in a pinch. The bad start that is attending this year's farming operations as a result of prolonged rains will be overcome, and so will be much of the labor shortage. Our farmers will pull through somehow this year, make a wonderful crop and then look back and grin at all the worries they had in the spring.

Last spring there was very little rain to hinder the preparation of farm land, but the labor situation was pretty bad and folks were gloomy. However, they settled down to what had to be done. They adjusted themselves and did well.

This year the labor shortage is still more pronounced and a source of real worry. Added to that has been continued rains. The limited supply of labor has had to stand by, helpless and unable to do much toward starting the several months of unprecedented effort that must be put forth this year. We agree with our farmer friends that things look bad. At the same time we disagree with them; the rains will be over before they realize it and everything will be adjusted to go forward despite labor problems. To those who work, the harvest will come this year, just as it has always come.

Lesson At Cassino

Perhaps in the ruins of Cassino an object lesson is being taught exponents of modern air power concerning the effectiveness of air power in forcing the capitulation of a people.

In what was called the greatest piece of concentrated bombing of the war, Cassino was so completely destroyed that not a building was left standing. If air power ever did its worst, it did it at Cassino. When the smoke lifted and the city at the foot of Mt. Cassino

came again clearly into view, there was nothing but rubble and ruin where a city once stood.

The blow was timed with the opening of a new ground offensive aimed at breaking the stalemate on the Cassino front. When the bombs stopped falling, the infantry moved expecting to find little opposition. But on the contrary, the new offensive to take Cassino is just as bitter as the one which failed before the saturation bombing, and at this writing the siege of the city has entered its 50th day and still the Fifth Army has not ousted the enemy.

How did the enemy stand that type of bombing without being blown into eternity? Speculation would say that they burrowed underground where the bombs couldn't get them and when the bombing ceased came out like so many rats to keep up the fight.

Roosevelt once chided Hitler for having failed to put a roof over his fortress. Now it's Hitler's turn to chide the Allies for having failed to produce bombs that would reach the underground basement of his fortress.

If such bombing as Cassino underwent couldn't wrest that storied city from the enemy's control, that in itself should provide the answer to whether air power alone can win this war. Obviously, all of Germany cannot be bombed as Cassino was.

Austere Reminder

With hot lava as ammunition and an open volcano as a cannon mouth, Mt. Vesuvius, restless, implacable, and awesome, has joined the warring elements to demonstrate that war in Nature's way of making it is still the superior to anything that man can invent.

Reminiscent of ancient days when the City of Pompeii became the victim of Vesuvius' wrath, recent days have seen the swallowing up of villages by molten weapons from Nature's armament in a manner befitting the anger of the gods.

It is one of those awesome spectacles which leaves man conscious of his own inferiority in the face of the eternal elements. Fomented somewhere, somehow in the bowels of the earth by natural disturbances inexplicable to the human mind, the erupting lava of Mt. Vesuvius has been a spectacle to temper the vanity of men from the eternal ages past. It is one of Nature's austere reminders that man is linked with the infinite and that in the presence of the infinite he is infinitesimal.

Pulpwood Vital To Red Cross

Unless there is a continual flow of pulpwood into the mills, the American Red Cross Will be severely handicapped in its far flung missions of mercy among Allied service men overseas.

The Red Cross drive this month and the Victory Pulpwood Campaign have a similar objective: to help American fighting men wherever they may be. Pulpwood does its part by protecting their equipment, medical supplies, and food in transit to the battlefield. More than 2500 medical items are packed in paper. Pulpwood makes the surgical dressings and supplies the blood plasma containers which Red Cross field men use in saving the lives and easing the pain of the wounded.

Every box of food, candy, and tobacco that goes to American prisoners of war in enemy territory is packed in paper-board made of pulpwood. And so is the welcome Christmas package which went to our fighting men by the thousands last year.

Many of us cannot give the service men the personal attention that they get from the Red Cross. Our job is on the Home Front. But we can make their tasks easier, their lots more comfortable. We may indirectly save their lives. Pulpwood is one of our mediums. Contribute generously to the Red Cross and cut pulpwood for American fighting men everywhere.

We cannot rise simply by demanding a higher place, or by assuming qualities we do not really possess. If we rise to the top, it must be by honestly and patiently earning our place.

Egyptian rulers, as evidence of their greatness, built useless pyramids; Americans built skyscrapers they did not need.

Were one to ask the old oak the secret of its success, and the tree were given a tongue to answer the question, the answer of the old gnarled veteran would be, "Indirection, the meeting of basic conditions fundamental to life." That is the message of the trees.

New Unit May Be Adopted

Movement Under Way To Abolish Old Unit Of Measuring Pulpwood And Returning To Original Measure

If present plans for the measurement of pulpwood are adopted, the establishing unit of 160 cubic feet in the sale of this wood will be abolished and the original cord measure of 128 cubic feet will be used. C. D. Baucom, of the State Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures division, said recently.

"The committee set up to study the measurement of pulpwood sold in North Carolina has unanimously agreed that one standard of measure should be established, and one only—and that this standard should be the cord—128 cubic feet; and that all measurement, regardless of the length of size of the wood, should be converted into the cord or a fraction thereof," declared Baucom.

He said that the committee, composed of representatives of pulp manufacturers, forestry experts, farmers, and weights and measures officials, is of the opinion that "the term, 'unit,' as used in measuring pulpwood is ambiguous and unstable in dimensions."

The committee has drawn up an amendment to Weights and Measures Regulation No. 14 and has instructed Baucom to rewrite this rule for subsequent submission to the State Board of Agriculture for formal adoption, according to Baucom.

He declared that details for converting wood too long or too heavy to stack were also included in the committee's recommendations.

Small Grain Crop Is Looking Fine

Crop Has Been Staging Wonderful Comeback During Past Few Weeks And Prospects Are Now Excellent

County Agent J. E. Dodson says that the Brunswick small grain crop continues with the remarkable comeback which started a month ago after the crops had suffered heavily from the abnormal rains and severe cold weather.

A like report came in this week from Joe Ramsauer of the Pleasant Oaks Plantation on the River Road. The plantation grows a large acreage in small grain and it is said to be looking exceptionally well now.

The small grain on the Garand Chain Farms in North West township is also said to be exceptionally good. This concern operates States. In this county they lease farms throughout the United States. In this county they lease the Gaylord and other lands in North West and are making a specialty of growing small grain.

KILLED FOX WITH BUS

Among the dozen or more reports of mad foxes being killed during the past week was one wherein a school bus was used as the instrument of execution. The bus belonged to the Leland school. It was in the vicinity of Winnabow when the driver, Jack Wells, saw the fox cutting up in the road just ahead of him. He bore down on it with his vehicle. Another mad fox was shot the next day at almost the same place, Bud Robinson being the executioner in this instance.

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, March 29. — Congress is determined to take a recess of two weeks or more. The House will finish most of its major appropriation bills for the next fiscal year. Only an unexpected development will prevent closing down the law-making factory about April first. Already a goodly number are absent on various pretexts which could be summarized as "political preservation." Hot primary fights are requiring the presence of those legislators seeking retention of their jobs. Many pending measures which the sponsors consider vital are kept bottled up in preliminary pigeon-holes until the Easter vacation is ended. The decision to shut down the Capitol Hill machinery early in the spring is well-calculated. Legislators would not dare leave town for a holiday once the European invasion is actually underway.

Many legislators anxious to return to their home districts are chafing under the uncertainties of the week's program. A message from the President regarding the highly controversial soldier vote bill momentarily due is keeping the restless solons chained to their office duties. If it is vetoed, the leaders have the problem of mustering a heavy voting strength to over-ride White House disapproval. Because of political repercussions, the Congressmen are trying to ascertain just what the governors of their respective states telegraphed in response to

a recent White House poll of gubernatorial sentiment. The Chief Executive can hold up his statement on the ballot bill until Friday. In the meantime, he is delaying definite plans for a recess.

With the manpower situation increasingly grave, the struggle for a workable solution continues in government circles. The armed services are calling for able-bodied men in large monthly quotas. It has been charged that many soldiers and sailors are not being efficiently utilized. Assurances have been given Congressional committees that the armed services have set up special procedures to check on efficiency of utilization and to reduce or eliminate military installations that are no longer fully useful. A Senate committee recently stated the success or failure of such policies can be evaluated only after the war, when the conclusions reached will be largely academic. They feel that a blank check on manpower had to be given to the military because the secrecy that necessarily enshrouds military strategy makes it undesirable to scrutinize the accuracy of the estimated requirements. Despite recommendations of the Army and Navy for national service legislation, Congress shows no inclination to go along with their ideas. It is an explosive home-front issue which may not come to a head until the effects of the pending invasion is felt here.

With shortages of certain food items noted in many grocery stores, people often wonder what chances we have to produce in larger quantities. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics supplied the House Appropriations Committee with an estimate. The food production in the United States in 1943 is about 30 percent higher than it was on the average in 1935 to 1939. It is more than has ever been done before. The government experts figure our prospects like this: In the period from 1935 to 1939 we produced food in this country for 130,000,000 people. In 1945 we produced food for 170,000,000 people. Then they took a good look ahead and we said if they had 10 more years under the whip and spur of war they could produce enough food for 350,000,000 people at the 1943 level of civilian food consumption. In general, the conclusion was that this could be done in about 10 years if the necessary labor, machinery, fertilizer, and other supplies were made available. In general the experts say that in 2 more years, if everything were available, we could increase production enough to feed 220,000,000 people. On the basis on which we are consuming now, which is somewhere between what we were accustomed to and strictly a rationed basis.

Insurance companies, banks and others with substantial investments in farm property are carefully watching the effect of war conditions on values. Developments in the farm real estate market since the beginning of the present war are strikingly similar to those which occurred between 1914 and 1918. Farm real estate values have advanced 25 percent since March 1, 1939, which compares with a 25 percent increase during the period between 1914 and 1918. From these data it is found that actual sales prices have increased 10 percent or more in most of the important agricultural areas of the United States during the past year.

In some areas sales prices on farm real estate are up over 30 percent in past 12 months. The basic cause for these substantial rises in sales prices of farm real estate is the sharp increase in farm income. The estimated yearly cash farm income of American farmers reached an all-time high of 19.9 billion dollars during 1943. It would be also significant if the average size of mortgages recorded continued to increase as it has up through the third quarter of 1943. Both of these trends occurred in World War I and were clear indications that rising values were being financed with liberal credit.

Change Is Made In Farm Gasoline Ration, Says OPA

"R" Gasoline Coupons Not To Be Valid At Retailing Station After April 1

RALEIGH, March 27. — Based on a test which was successful in Georgia and Florida in February, "R" gasoline coupons issued to farmers, boat owners and other off-highway users over the nation will not be valid at any retail filling station to purchase gasoline after April 1, the Raleigh district Office of Price Administration announced this week.

This means that after April 1 only non-highway users who buy their gasoline at bulk plants or who have it delivered into storage tanks on their own premises will use the "R" coupons, while those who get their gasoline at filling stations will use the one-gallon "E" coupon.

The plan, which is designed to seal off one large source of black market gasoline, has been approved by OPA's advisory committee from the oil industry, gasoline dealers and farm cooperatives after a survey of the test in

Florida and Georgia. Because farmers cannot always estimate their needs exactly in advance, many of them have found themselves with more coupons than they can use and "R" coupons have been showing up even at city stations. This, OPA says, has unacceptably contributed to illegal drains on the limited civilian supply of gasoline.

There will be no change in the buying habits of non-highway users, OPA explained. Those who have been accustomed to buying their gas at filling stations will continue to do so, and will simply use "E" coupons instead of "R". Holders of "R" coupons can exchange these for equivalent value of their local war price and rationing boards after demonstrating their need for "E" coupons.

To facilitate endorsement of coupons, farmers are now permitted to make a single endorsement on the face of any unit or block of "R" or "E" coupons turned over to the dealer for a single purchase.

Endorsement, in pencil or pen, consist merely of writing the purchaser's name and address just once.

Watch For Mold In Tobacco Bed Plants, Warns

Recent weather conditions have been favorable for the development of tobacco blue mold and growers should be on the watch for this disease in their plant beds, particularly in the South-eastern counties, warns Howard Garriss, Extension plant pathologist at State College.

He points out that spray treatments should begin before the disease make its appearance, if they are to be effective. They are preventive measures. On the other hand, the gas treatment with P. D. B. can be begun when the blue mold appears in the bed because it is a "curative" treatment.

The supply of heavy muslin cloth needed in the gas treatment is definitely short. "Certain substitutes such as tarpaulins, bed ticking, or closely woven cotton sacks may have to be used this year. Growers should not try doubling regular plant bed canvas to substitute for the heavy cover, as unsatisfactory control will result," Garriss says.

He warns against "quack" treatments for blue mold control. Only tried and tested materials should be used. The idea that blue mold can be controlled by moth balls is erroneous, according to the pathologist. He reports that "the gas coming from moth balls is not known to have sufficient toxic effect on the blue mold 'germ' to kill it or slow up its growth."

He suggests that growers write the Agricultural Editor, State College, Raleigh, for a free copy of U. S. D. A. Bulletin AWL-77, entitled "Tobacco Blue Mold Control."

HOG CHOLERA

Hog cholera outbreaks in the U. S. last year, as reported, were about one-fourth greater than in 1942. Veterinarians attribute this increase to the fact that there were more hogs on farms.

BEEF CATTLE

The cash income from beef animals last year was more than from all of our cotton and wheat combined, and it is usually more than the cash income from hogs, statisticians report.

Lt. GENERAL CARL SPAATZ

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Number Of Hogs Has Effect On Cattle Market

Livestock Marketing Specialist Sees No Reason, However, For Discouragement Among Farmers

RALEIGH, March 27.—The great number of hogs now being marketed has "necessarily" affected the cattle market to some extent, but this situation will undoubtedly be relieved within the next few weeks," according to T. L. Gwyn, livestock marketing specialist with the State Department of Agriculture.

"I see no reason for discouragement among producers, for cattle can be raised profitably at present prices, and these prices are likely to hold for some time," said Gwyn. He added with emphasis that "there is now no surplus of beef or of live cattle."

Gwyn pointed out that last fall there was some forced liquidation of cattle in certain sections where drought conditions existed and where the feed shortage forced some stock men to reduce their herds.

"With the exception of a few congested markets where these conditions prevailed, there has been no serious decline in prices of finished beef or of the better grades of replacement cattle." It is Gwyn's opinion that with the rising costs of feed and labor any further Government regulations would tend to raise rather than lower price levels to producers.

To illustrate a statement of the

effect that the production of heavy breeds of cattle is increasing in North Carolina. Gwyn stated that the first out-of-State cattle sale sponsored by a North Carolina breeder's association was held in Demopolis, Alabama, on March 29. He said that a total of 75 Hereford bulls would be sold at this auction, which is supervised by the North Carolina Hereford Breeders Association.

Among the bulls to be sold are many from Hereford herds in this State. W. H. Booker and J. I. Case, both leaders in Hereford work in North Carolina, are selecting the animals for sale, which is expected to attract hundreds of the outstanding cattle men in the Southeast, according to Gwyn.

FREEZER LOCKER
A freezer locker plant is proposed for Elkin, reports D. Perkins, assistant county agent at the State College Extension Service.

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