

**MARION PROGRESS**

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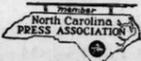
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MARION, N. C., OCT. 17, 1940

**SOME STARVATION LIKELY**

While Continental Europe, as a whole, does not face famine this winter, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that the situation in certain areas is definitely precarious, because of (1) the low average crops of 1940, (2) inability to import bread grains, feedstuffs, oils and fats, and (3) inequality in the distribution of food supplies.

Stringent shortages are expected in Belgium, France and Poland and lack of bread grains is being felt in The Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries. Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia will be able to continue existing rationing for a large portion of Germany's population. Italy will get through the winter with a margin of safety. No substantial contribution of food and feed supplies is anticipated from Russia.

The danger of starvation for some of the people of Europe, it seems, is due to poor crops and to war-time measures, the British blockade which shuts off imports and the unwillingness of the German Reich to distribute available food supplies among the nations upon the basis of need. Because it asserts and exercises military or economic control over most of the European continent, the prime responsibility rests upon Germany.

The German Reich, seizing territory to acquire economic assets, cannot appropriate them without accepting responsibility for existing liabilities. If Germany, for political or economic reasons insists upon absolute control of Europe and by force of arms makes her control complete, there is no reason to expect the nations fighting Germany to weaken their defense by contributing to the solution of the problems that the invader inherits.

**SCHOOL DAYS**

History used to be something that was written long ago. Geography "stayed put". When you learned a thing, it was so. But just go back to school now, as countless children have just done throughout the United States.

We all ask touchstones, the littlest of us most urgently of all. In a world where boundaries are here today and there tomorrow, where human concepts of freedom and justice may be expanded or just stretched, where might may not be right but still can look terribly persuasive, where all the good and true things we have a right to know as real are seemingly belied by human experience—who will be satisfied with remembering dates and names, like 54 B.C. or Napoleon?

Of course there's still mathematics. Two and two are still all right. And there are qualities of character to be discovered and developed that are still as dependable as the multiplication table. There are fixed boundaries for human prerogatives. So many things that men cannot change with whatever violence they may command. And when all is said, including the commencement address by some personage, what have we learned from dates and names, from places and equations? Chiefly that these have their meanings, after all, in the truths they help us discover about ourselves — touchstones as changeless as the boundaries of summer, as inevitable as the schoolhouse bell.

With census figures being announced, city boosters have to be careful about their estimates of population. By next year, however, they will be going strong and you will be surprised at the rapid growth of many cities.

No community in the world ever made progress when it was dominated by a "tightwad" mentality.

If we need a better place to live in, let's get busy with Marion!



**BLOCKADE MAY DECIDE WAR**

The unrelenting blockade of Germany and occupied territories is not spectacular but the steady pressure of British naval supremacy is having some effect on Germany.

British strategists continue to believe that eventually the blockade will bring Hitler to his knees just as it brought the Kaiser to a collapse some twenty-two years ago.

It is impossible to estimate German supplies of oil, alloys, rubber, lead, copper and other necessary war materials. Whatever the situation may be, it is intensified by the tight blockade which stops imports of these supplies. There is every indication that an effort will be made to persuade the people of this country to send food to the peoples of Europe this winter. While there may be a scarcity of food in certain areas British officials assert that there will be plenty of food to go around if it is equally distributed and not carted off to Germany.

**FOREST FIRES COSTLY**

The attention of landowners is directed to the 212,671 forest fires in the United States last year. This means one every two and a half minutes. A loss of nearly \$30,000,000 was caused by the burning of 30,000,000 acres of forest land.

Exactly what these figures mean is seen by a statement of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which asserts that an average timber production of two hundred board feet an acre annually on the total burned over area, would represent enough lumber to build a third of a million six-room frame houses. This ought to mean something to the individual who owns forest land.

The Forest Service points out that of 565,422,000 acres of forest land needing it, there are 162,167,000 acres without organized fire protection. Seventeen per cent of the unprotected area was burned over in 1939, but less than one per cent of the protected area suffered fire damage.

These figures demonstrate that adequate forest fire protection is economically sound and that land owners should insist upon proper safeguards to protect forest lands from fire.

**CHRISTIANITY ITSELF THREATENED**

One thing to remember in the world conflict with pressure now being attempted against the United States, is that the countries of the Axis are now mostly rank pagans. We are not merely arming ourselves against force but also against paganism.

The Japs, now threatening America with war unless we "behave," are pagans of the worst sort, knowing nothing of and caring less for Christianity. Germany's leaders have turned their backs upon Christianity, sending pastors to prison camps. If Mussolini, the Italian jackal, has any religion whatever, nobody has ever heard of it or seen any evidence of it.

It seems unthinkable that nations which have been purified by the Christian religion throughout the long, slow centuries, by a religion which in its essence is abnegation of self and which glorifies the ideal of helping the helpless, should bow before the pagan. Paganism is self-interest carried to the last degree, the exaltation of greed, lust and hatred of everybody else. It is unthinkable that Christianity should fall before paganism.

The world has immeasurably changed during the past decade but surely it has not reached the point where cleanliness must give way to filth, where idealism must prostrate itself before the ideals of dirt, where the principles of Christianity must be in the dust and be contemptuously trod upon by base men relying solely upon the basest instincts the world has yet seen.—Shelby Star.

**PLAYING GOD**

Playing God is as old as history. Caesar tried it and ended up on the Ides of March with twenty-odd daggers in his body.

Alexander the Great had a fair run in the same role but the blade of his own sword snuffed out his life in his early thirties.

Napoleon made a brilliant start in the part. A barren rock ultimately served as his throne.

The Kaiser had some desires along the same line. He is now fairly proficient at chopping wood.

Hitler and Mussolini are charging about in royal robes, playing God. They will get the same results as those who went before them. They will not profit from history, for they are egotists.

No other type of men feel supreme of themselves.

No man can play God and succeed. This is the great lesson of history, enabling us all to keep our minds and hearts clear, bright and shining with the faith that however sorely we are tried, there can be only one result.

Hitler will fail. No man is big enough to play God. Only small men try it.—Grit.

**391 PERSONS RECEIVE BENEFITS IN THIS AREA**

Three hundred and ninety-one persons are receiving monthly payments of old-age or survivors insurance in the area served by the Asheville office of the Social Security Board, according to Graham Martin, manager of the Asheville office of the board which serves McDowell and 17 other Western North Carolina counties.

Of the 391 recipients, Mr. Martin said, 180 are insured workers who have reached the age of 65 and who have retired from regular employment in business or industry.

Some 45 of the annuitants have wives who are 65 years of age or older, and they, too, are receiving monthly payments of old-age insurance.

There are 38 children of annuitants (retired workers) who are receiving monthly payments. Eighty-eight children of insured workers who died this year also receive monthly benefits. Widows who receive survivors' monthly benefits total 37.

All these payments, Mr. Martin said, now total more than \$5,744.44 each month.

Mr. Martin pointed out that the above summary represented only claims that had actually been proved and certified to the U. S. treasury for payment. In addition there are 68 claims that have been filed and are now awaiting final approval. When these 68 claims are certified to the treasury, more than \$2,000 each month will be added to the amount now being paid to claimants in the Asheville area.

Mr. Martin said that payments of old-age and survivors' insurance are made without regard to the needs of the recipient. Monthly benefits come to the worker or to his family as a matter of right because of the earnings in covered employment.

Payments of old-age and survivors' insurance in the Western Carolina area range all the way from \$10 a month to \$92.40 a month. No annuitant ever receives less than \$10 a month.

**JOHN M. HOYLE, CROOKED CREEK CITIZEN, PASSES**

John M. Hoyle, 82, prominent farmer of the Crooked Creek section of McDowell county, died at his home Wednesday, October 8, after being in failing health for some time.

The funeral services were conducted at the Bethlehem Methodist church Thursday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock and burial was made in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Ada Allen; four children, Mrs. W. A. Davis and Walter Hoyle of Asheville, Charles Hoyle of Miami, Fla., and Mrs. Sam Clontz of Old Fort; and 11 grandchildren.

**CHEESE WEIGHING TON MADE IN ASHE COUNTY**

West Jefferson, Oct. 11.—A 2000 pound piece of cheese has been made at the Kraft cheese plant here for display purposes in various sections of the country. More than 2,000 gallons of milk were used to make the mammoth cheese, which together with a hundred 300-pound cheeses was shipped to Atlanta this week. The cheese plant here is reported to be one of the largest in the south.

**WRITE, CALL OR PHONE THE NEWS OF SELF AND FRIENDS**

We want to print the news. Regardless of how unimportant you might think a particular item is, we want it. If you visit somebody or somebody visits you, let us know about it. If it's a birthday dinner, a marriage, party, or whatnot, write or call us at the office.

**WHO KNOWS?**

1. Who are meant by "Defenders of the Faithful"?
2. To what extent is Japan dependent upon the United States for scrap iron and steel?
3. When was George V crowned in London?
4. How many members has the American Legion?
5. What American city made the fastest growth, 1930-1940?
6. How large are American investments in Japan?
7. Has Great Britain guaranteed Greece against attack?
8. What is copra?

9. What is an equinox?
  10. What is a "flaming onion"?
- (See answers on page 7)

The first successful night baseball game was played at Lynn, Mass., in 1923.

**BRIDGES REBUILT**  
North Wilkesboro, Oct. 11.—The state highway and public works commission has rebuilt 240 bridges in the division since the August floods. Patrolize home merchants.

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