

**MARION PROGRESS**

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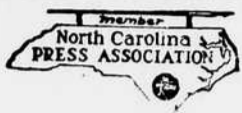
TELEPHONE 64

S. E. WHITTEN, Editor and Prop.

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**PATRIOTS SUPPORT RATIONING**

The OPA is moving to tighten control over ration currency by establishing verification centers throughout the country. These will receive ration coupons, count and examine them for counterfeits and evidence of abuses.

It is admitted that ration banks, which have attempted to do this work, have been overburdened, but several types of evasions have been discovered and special efforts will be made to eliminate them.

There are reports of the use of counterfeit coupons, especially in regard to sugar, which is in demand for illegitimate distilling, and gasoline, where the use of counterfeit coupons has developed into a major wartime racket.

The OPA will continue to require endorsement of coupons, thus tracing delivery to a dealer and a scientific screening will be used to detect bogus coupons. Deposits of coupons will be checked to insure accuracy and proper endorsement. If unendorsed, invalid or counterfeit coupons are discovered, the dealers will be required to make them good.

While it is probably inevitable that a nation with as many people as there are in the United States should have a percentage of chislers and cheaters, the frauds and abuses that have developed in the rationing system are a reflection upon the patriotism of the American people as a whole.

We call attention to the new plan for the benefit of the people of McDowell county in the hope that it will serve two purposes: (1) Encourage patriotic Americans to abide by rationing regulations and (2) discourage the small minority of selfish, uncooperative individuals from attempting to take advantage of other citizens.

It is vitally necessary that the rationing programs work effectively. The success of our war effort may well depend upon the proper handling of available supplies and their distribution upon a just basis. Every time an individual gets more than his, or her, share, the war economy suffers, reserve pool is unfairly drained and the possibility of increased quotas becomes more difficult.

Compared with the sacrifice and privation of our fighting men, the American citizen on the home front has been asked to do very little in this war. The Government has levied no capital tax to finance the struggles which, if successful, will preserve and protect property rights.

It has definitely requested specific cooperation in the use of certain scarce commodities, establishing fair and just rules for their distribution. Certainly, the home front patriot cannot do less than cheerfully cooperate in this respect.

**REVOLUTION NOT IMPOSSIBLE**

In addition to supporting the fighting men at the front the people of the United States have two important tasks on the home front.

The first is to unite in support of a peace, which in justice will punish aggressors and offer hope of avoiding another great war.

The second is to maintain a domestic economy that will offer opportunity to veterans to develop normal lives after their service of war.

There is not much evidence that there is understanding of the problems involved, much less their solution. There is much to reveal selfish designs to profiteer out of the nation's emergency.

Capital, labor, farmers and everybody else, might consider what will happen if this nation hatches another post-war depression. It is not idle to suggest revolutionary changes in the American way which, believe it or not, is enjoying a last opportunity to produce results that count in the lives of the millions who constitute the nation.

**SAIPAN A GREAT VICTORY**

The campaign on Saipan has come to a virtual end, reports Admiral Nimitz, although isolated groups of enemy troops must still be exterminated.

The capture of Saipan is a tremendous victory for American forces in the Pacific. It represents a bastion in Japanese defense structure and gives us valuable bases for operations in three directions, including Japan, China and the Philippines.

Before the war the Japanese, and most military experts, thought such a victory would be an impossibility. Ships would not dare approach land-based aircraft and, even so, the Japanese fleet was too strong for the American fleet, which would have to operate far from its base.

The record of achievement at Saipan reflects the extensive work that has preceded occupation of the island. Stretching back to the United States vast construction was necessary and, in this country, the fleet itself had to be completed.

The job has been well done, reflecting credit upon all arms engaged, the United States of America and the people at home, who have lent their hands to the tasks of war. It also serves notice upon Japan that her days are numbered.

**POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT**

The activities of the people of the United States have been greatly increased during the war emergency and there are millions of Americans working who never worked before.

When the war emergency ends, there will be an inevitable slackening of war production but it is hoped that some methods can be developed to maintain economic activity somewhere close to the present scale.

Some idea of the problem appears when we realize that there will be about seven million discharged military personnel and somewhere around twenty million war workers. The employment of those who intend to seek work will be a considerable undertaking.

Obviously, there will exist something of an economic cycle. The demand for goods will depend upon the volume of employment and vice versa. Undoubtedly, the initial demand will be tremendous, due to shortages during war years and to the fact that many Americans have managed to save some money for future spending.

**"EACH MORN A THOUSAND . . ."**

Roses, pink, white and red! They spill over stone wall and picket fence; they climb porch trellis and carpet vast banks along the high-road. In old and new gardens their perfume now fills the air. In homes, in offices, bouquets of their loveliness brighten restful or workaday corners, accent tables and desks. Out across the United States the hundreds of municipal rose gardens ---described by one authority as "the finest and most efficient expression in America of the park spirit" --- have begun their lavish, long-season bloom, and will be visited by thousands before the summer is over.

This perhaps most loved of all flowers may be found in every country of the civilized world and is praised in music, in poetry, and in records that reach back to pre-Babylonian times. In some form it thrives wild in every State in the United States and is the official flower of four States and the District of Columbia. It is also England's national flower. In its long and distinguished history it has been the insignia of two royal British houses and has named a civil war; it has been carved into dome and architrave; it has inspired civic festivals. Famed hybridizers have spent their lives developing the rose aristocrats of our gardens. No flower has been more widely honored.

Sweetest of them all to most flower-lovers is the wild rose of the roadsides. Whether Rosa Carolina, prairie rose, or a wild rose of any other name, it is a symbol not of wars and fame but of modesty and grace. Undaunted by rough hedgerows and rugged boulders, it lifts dainty stems above burdock and bramble to flower into tiny pink buds and wide-eyed single blooms that appeal to man's love of gentleness and of their unstinted gift of fragrance.--Christian Science Monitor.

**FRIENDS**

A friend is like an old song grown sweeter with the years,

A friend is one who shares our joys and wipes away our tears;

A friend will look for goodness in everything we do,

A friend is one who knows our faults, yet finds our virtues too;

A friend will share a crust of bread, or help to lift a load--

Happy are we who find a few good friends along the road.

**Awaiting the Rider**



**NO ATHEISTS THERE**

The following poem was reported to have been found on the body of an American soldier killed in Italy:

"Look, God! I've never spoken to you, But now I want to say 'How d'you do?'"

You see, God, they told me You didn't exist, And like a fool I believe all this. Last night from a shellhole I saw your sky:

I figured then they had told me a lie; Had I taken the time to see things You made I'd have know they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand,-- Somehow I felt You'd understand. Funny I had to come to this Hellish place

Before I had time to see Your face. Well! I guess there isn't much more to say:

But I'm sure glad, God, I met You today. I guess the zero hour will soon be here,

But I'm not afraid since I know You're near. The signal! Well, God, I'll have to go.

I like you lots,--this I want You to know. Look, now, this'll be a horrible fight:

Who knows? I may come to Your house tonight. Though I wasn't friendly to You before

I wonder, God, if You'd wait at Your door? Look, I'm crying, me, shedding tears!

I wish I had known You these many years. Well, I have to go now, God. Good-bye.

Strange, since I met You, I'm not afraid to die."

**SCHOOLS OF N. C. LEAD IN SALE OF WAR BONDS**

North Carolina led the entire nation in the number of war bonds sold through the public schools between January 1 and June 15, according to a statement received here from Allison James, of Greensboro, executive manager of the war finance committee.

The public schools of the state sold bonds which accounted for the purchase of 289 airplanes at a cost of \$8,525,000, Mr. James stated.

California was second with \$4,890,000, Pennsylvania third with \$4,595,000, Texas fourth with \$3,705,000, and Michigan fifth with \$3,350,000.

Buncombe county schools were one of three units in the state to pass the \$450,000 mark in the sale of bonds. The figure for this county was \$669,476. The other units were Columbus county and Marion elementary school of Shelby.

**WEAPONS**

Declaring that its monthly goals of war material deliveries are not being met, the War Department has requested the WPB to exert "even more vigorous efforts" to increase manufacture of weapons. Failure to meet schedules will delay military operations and will be "costly in loss of lives and in prolonging the struggle," declares the department.

The man who buys a bond is doing nothing for his country; he is merely taking out some insurance, without net cost to himself, against losing his property to the Japs and the Germans.

No minority makes permanent gains through exerting pressure upon the rest of the population.

No nation fights to the last man; watch Germany and Japan.

**NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK JULY 23 TO 29**

Cicago, July 19.--The labor lost through farm accidents in 1943 alone could have produced the nation's entire wheat crop for one year.

The number of farm people killed by accidents in America's first two years of the war was greater than the number of American fighting men killed on all battlefronts in the same period.

These facts were cited today by the National Safety Council in urging nationwide observance of National Farm Safety Week July 23-29.

Purpose of the week is to focus national attention on the need for year-round prevention of accidents that waste farm manpower and production vital to victory.

The Council and all agencies concerned with agriculture and farm life have joined in sponsoring the farm safety week, which has been proclaimed officially by President Roosevelt.

"Loss of life and limb by accident among our farming population has already reached an appalling figure," said the President, "and the risks have lately been increased by longer hours of work and consequent fatigue."

"It is essential to our war effort that this waste of vital farm power be minimized in every possible way."

"I, therefore, request all persons and organizations concerned with agriculture and farm life to unite in an effort, during this National Farm Safety Week, to stimulate among farmers a full realization of the need for constant attention to the old and familiar precautions against the hazards of their calling, and also to awaken in them a sense of responsibility for the proper instruction in rules of safety of the young and inexperienced persons now being employed on farms in all parts of the country."

In endorsing the observance of National Farm Safety Week, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard and War Food Administrator Marvin H. Jones pointed out that prevention of farm accidents in this time of stress means more food for freedom.

**VICTORY GARDEN**

Prepare now for the fall Victory Garden. Play safe by producing your own vegetables, because war needs must be met.

Victory Gardens are important; suppose victory arrives and you have no garden!

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