

Conditions Calling For Reduction In 1942 Tobacco Crop

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for defense needs has consisted in taking up the slack. A large part of the increase in production has come from increases in employment of labor and the use of partially idle plants and farms. There has been but little, if any, reduction in the substantial increases in the output of goods for ordinary civilian uses. To illustrate, sales of automobiles have been running 35 per cent to 40 per cent above a year ago, sales of refrigerators and kitchen ranges from 40 to 50 per cent, and on the farm the production of wheat, cotton and tobacco—products of which we have a surplus—has been maintained at or near or above the level of recent years.

As we further increase the production of war materials and of food products, such as meat, dairy and poultry products, we are going to have to make a reduction in the production of our non-essential industrial goods, such as automobiles, refrigerators, kitchen ranges, and of our export farm crops of which we already have large supplies, such as cotton, wheat and tobacco. It is not in the long-time interest of the people of this country to continue to produce goods that are not urgently needed when the labor and materials that are used in producing these goods could be turned to something else. It would be unproductive to continue to produce these non-essential and surplus products.

When the war is over there will no doubt be an increase in the demand, at least for a time, for cotton, tobacco and possibly wheat but we already have large reserve supplies of these commodities. Supplies of flue-cured tobacco in this country are approximately 500 million pounds above normal, supplies of cotton 6 million bales above normal, and supplies of wheat 400 million bushels above normal. These reserve supplies have already filled our warehouses, and if we are to continue to build up reserve supplies of these commodities it will be necessary to build additional warehouses. The materials and labor that would be required to build these warehouses are urgently needed to produce goods that are needed now. Some of the land and some of the labor that have been used in producing these surplus farm crops are now needed in factories to produce war materials and on farms to increase the production of dairy and poultry products, fats and oils.

A reduction of 10 per cent has already been announced in the wheat acreage for next year and, in my judgment, the best long-time interest of tobacco and cotton growers, of all the people of this country and of the democracies generally requires that a similar reduction be made in the acreage of tobacco and cotton next year. There is no way of estimating the probable cost of continuing to produce commodities that are not needed if such production interferes in any way with the production of articles and commodities that are needed. In the end, a small difference in ships or other war equipment or a relatively small quantity of food might prove to be the deciding factor in this conflict. It was never more important than it is now for us to think straight and use our resources and energies so that they may contribute most to the job ahead of us.

In this country we have a more productive farm plant than we have had at any previous time. Due to the increased use of legumes and improved soil-building practices crop yields are 15 to 20 per cent larger than they were ten years ago. However, this improved farm plan can serve the nation only by producing the commodities that are needed at this time.

Flue-cured tobacco is the most important crop in this area and the markets will open shortly. In general the marketing program for flue-cured tobacco this year will be similar to that of last year. The Imperial Tobacco Company and the independent dealers will make purchases on warehouse floors using the funds of and acting as agents for Commodity Credit Corporation. On the average, prices at which the export grades will be purchased by these agencies will be about 3 cents above the prices of last year. In addition, loans will be offered any producer or group of producers who arrange for the grading and pricing of their tobacco. Loans will not be available on warehouse floors.

Present indications are that the 1941 crop will be near that of last year and stocks in the hands of domestic manufacturers do not appear to be any larger, if as large as they were a year ago. Domestic consumption of flue-cured tobacco for the year beginning July 1st, is estimated at 410 million pounds, as compared with 390 million pounds for the year just closed, consequently domestic manufacturers, if the crop meets their requirements, may take slightly more of this crop than they took of the 1940 crop. However independent dealers may take less with their own funds than they took last year. Consequently the agencies using the funds of Commodity Credit Corporation would take a quantity this year approximating that of last year.

Stocks of flue-cured tobacco in this country now approximate 1,600,000,000 pounds. This compares with approximately 1,400,000,000 pounds on July 1, 1940, and 980 million pounds on July 1, 1938 and 1939. Stocks in this country are approximately 500 million pounds in excess of normal. Of this amount Commodity Credit Corporation holds approximately 350 million pounds and independent dealers 150 million pounds above normal holdings. Stocks are small in

foreign countries but present holdings of the Commodity Credit Corporation and independent dealers are ample to take care of foreign needs when the emergency is over.

Exports to foreign countries, after remaining at an extremely low level for 18 months, are again being restored. Stocks of tobacco in the United Kingdom which at the beginning of the war were sufficient to last more than two years have been greatly reduced. Exports to the United Kingdom under the lease-lend program during the coming 12 months probably will almost reach annual exports prior to the beginning of the war. There will be some exports to other countries and total exports during the coming year may exceed 300 million pounds. This, added to our domestic consumption, would give us a total above 700 million pounds. Last year only 550 million pounds were consumed in this country and exported.

With a crop this year not in excess of last year's crop, stocks a year from now probably will not greatly exceed and they may be less than present stocks. However, it does not appear that we will export any considerable quantity of tobacco to continental Europe until the war is over and exports then may not be maintained at pre-war levels. Partly because of the shortage of ships and increased shipping rates it is becoming more and more difficult to ship tobacco to China and Japan.

As already indicated, due to the needs for other products and a shortage of storage space, it appears advisable to make a 10 per cent reduction in the flue-cured tobacco acreage in 1942. It now appears that the United Kingdom market, about which so much has been said during the past 18 months, has not been impaired to any great extent if the lease-lend program is continued. On the other hand, present indications are that the continental Europe market, which normally before the beginning of the war took more than 50 million pounds annually, has been lost, at least for the war period, and there may be substantial losses in other markets.

However, it now appears that flue-cured growers can expect a total domestic and foreign market of around 700 million pounds annually during the remainder of the war period if shipping lanes are kept open to the United Kingdom. If developments are favorable for the British and unless unforeseen developments occur on other fronts, with a 10 per cent cut in the flue-cured acreage next year the next change in acreage is more likely to be upward than downward.

In conclusion, I want to emphasize as strongly as I can the need for a full realization of the tremendous job that is ahead of us. In my judgment we have never before in this country been confronted with a problem that is going to require quite as much organizing and working and pulling together as this one. During the past two years we have seen people in one country after another in Europe become slaves because they were not organized, because in some cases of differences of points of view within the country, and in brief, because they were not fully fitted and prepared to meet the Axis powers.

In this country we have the opportunity to profit by these mistakes. We are preparing to pit our resources, our organizational ability and our ingenuity against those of the Axis powers. We know that we have greater resources than they have. We believe that we are a more ingenious people than are the people of these countries. In civil life we have demonstrated that we have greater organizational ability, but I will tell you all of these must be applied to the task ahead of us. The odds are not so great in our favor that we can loaf and get this job done. The less loafing we do the quicker we will get it done.

Production is going to have to be stepped up along many lines, probably many that we do not know about in the farm field. Farm people are probably going to have to make sacrifices that none of us now knows anything about. We are going to have to buckle down to this job. We no doubt will make some mistakes; we may produce some products that we don't need, but in such cases we will protect producers as best we can until they have time to turn to the production of products that are needed.

If we are to do this job ahead of us, if we are to maintain this democratic way of life, each of us must be alert and ready to serve in the particular field in which we can render most effective service. It is no time to quibble over small issues. I believe that if we use our resources and all our abilities to the greatest possible extent and match the Axis powers, fully match them, in defense equipment, we may be able to avoid a conflict with them that will result in any large loss of life. But I believe just as firmly that we must have this equipment, we must match them gun for gun, we must match them in every field if we are to defend ourselves and the principles for which we stand and remain a free people.

This we can, we must, and we will do.

More Selectees To Leave County For Army On August 6

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advance more slowly.

In filling the August 6th quota, the draft board exhausted 1,319 order numbers, meaning that the next call for white selectees will take those new registrants whose order numbers range from S-567 to about S-1300. There are now 147 new registrants on the draft books, and official order numbers are being posted today.

THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Martin County motorists made the safety honor roll last week. Patrolman Whit Saunders stated that not a single accident was reported during the period. It was one of the few times, if not the first time, this year that some one wasn't injured or damage done to property. Little attention is paid to a perfect record, but such a record could mean that some one is living today who otherwise may have been killed had the record been marred by carelessness.

If Martin County motorists can go an entire week without an accident, they can do it again. Certainly it is a feat well worth working for.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

30th Week Killed Dam'ge			
Accidents	Inj'd	Killed	Dam'ge
1941	0	0	\$ 000
1940	2	0	65

Comparison To Date			
1941	53	44	2 \$17,175
1940	55	37	2 6,470

Colored Native Dies At Philadelphia Home

Jane Rice, well known colored native of Williamston, died at the home of her son, George Rice, in Philadelphia last week. She had many friends here and was highly respected. She had made her home in Philadelphia with her son for about a year. She was about 74 years old.

Funeral services were held in the Shiloh Baptist Church on Elm Street here Sunday afternoon by her pastor.

Selective Service Head Issues Ruling On Marital Status

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that the wife was pregnant, or conclusive evidence of absolute dependence wherein the wife would suffer undue hardship if compelled to live on the registrant's income as a soldier, etc."

This modified policy, General Metts pointed out, is in line with a recent amendment to the regulations, which is as follows:

"It is not advisable to defer any such registrant if he acquired such status for the purpose of avoiding training and service, and, therefore, no registrant should be placed in Class III if he acquired such status after the day when he was required to be registered unless (1) he or his claimed dependent or dependents present to the local board written statements of facts peculiarly within their knowledge, showing the history leading up to and the circumstances under which such status was acquired, and (2) such facts show that the status of the registrant was acquired in a manner consistent with the ordinary course of human affairs and was not acquired to provide the registrant with a basis for a claim for Class III deferment."

General Metts was careful to point out that in the application of these principles he anticipates that some mistakes will be made. But he stated he was satisfied that Selective Service agencies in the State would endeavor to do substantial justice in every individual case.

Rev. L. T. Bonds, Burial was in the local cemetery.

Three sons, George, Sheppard and Wheeler Rice, survive.

This Week In Defense

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ing the New England States New York, eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Oil

Defense Petroleum Coordinator Ickes requested a voluntary cut of 33 1-3 per cent in motor fuel consumption in the Atlantic Coast States to avoid rationing. Congress passed a bill authorizing federal aid to private firms in constructing interstate pipelines, and Mr. Ickes recommended that the petroleum industry construct a \$70,000,000 pipeline from east Texas to the Atlantic coast with a daily capacity of 250,000 barrels. He also asked the industry to construct 40 to 50 large, high-speed-oil tankers in addition to 139 now on order.

Civilian Supply

Price Administrator Henderson announced a tentative program to cut production in the automotive, domestic mechanical refrigerator and mechanical household laundry equipment industries to make more materials available for defense. He said the cut will be offset by defense work these industries would undertake. OPM Director General Knudsen said the proposed shift should coincide with increased defense orders to the industry to avoid unemployment.

Aluminum Collection

OCB Director LaGuardia announced that on July 30 local aluminum collection committees will send materials collected in the voluntary program to concentration points in the large cities of the 48 States. He said the Treasury Department's state procurement offices will then offer the scrap to smelters having defense contracts, at OPACS prices.

Plans Go Forward For Widening The River Bridge Here

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of 80 feet) on each side of the pivot pier, and a vertical clearance of 16.7 feet, above low water, when closed.

The temporary bridge to be used while construction is in progress on the existing bridge, will cross the river at a point about 150 feet upstream from the existing bridge. It will have a draw span with a horizontal clearance of 40.0 feet and a vertical clearance of 10.0 feet, above low water, when closed.

Miss Virgil Ward visited at Nags Head last week-end.

IN MEMORIAM
Ellis Nassif Ramey

In loving memory of our dear husband and father, Ellis Nassif Ramey, who departed this life July 29, 1940.

A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is still,
A place is vacant in our home
That never can be filled.

He bid no one a last farewell;
He said goodbye to none;
His loving heart had ceased to beat,
Before we knew it, he was gone.

His loving heart was true and tender,
He worked hard for those he left
and ever will be remembered.

A loving thought, a silent tear;
A beautiful remembrance of
one so dear.

Until memory fades and life departs
You will live forever in our
hearts.

His Wife and Children.

Betty Thompson, 67, Dies At Home Here Yesterday

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Betty Thompson, 67-year-old colored citizen, died at her home on East Main Street here last evening at 8 o'clock. She had been in ill health for seven years. She was married twice, first to Dave Williams and following his death to Denson Thompson—who preceded her in death. She is survived by her mother, Matilda Jones, four sons, a daughter and a brother.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday afternoon at 2:30 by Rev. D. L. Tillery in the Cornerstone Church of which she was a member. Interment will follow in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Misses Mary Carstarphen and Katherine Hardison are visiting at Virginia Beach.

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to buy or sell, contact me. D. L. Turnage. Phone 2715. Greenville, N. C. jly25-5t

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