

## Food Prices Hold To High Level In War-torn England

### Britishers More Hopeful with Increased Aid From the United States

Food prices apparently continue high in war-torn England, but according to the following letter received by Elder E. C. Stone a few days ago from his sister in Coventry, England, the Britishers are more hopeful now that aid is being increased by this country. Apparently the mails are not moving quite as fast as they once did, for the letter was mailed in August. It follows:

August 10, 1941.

My dear Brother,  
It is some time since I wrote to you but our lives seem so taken up these days. The shopping takes a lot of my time. I have done most of it since the war and one has to go several times very often just to get one thing. The shopkeepers never know when their goods will be delivered or whether they will be at all. Of course, we are always sure of our rations but we like a few things besides and there is never enough to go round and one has to be on the spot to get them when they come in. We never see any fruit nor very little. Before the controlled price came in there were just a few dessert gooseberries in the shops at 4 shillings (approximately \$1.00) a pound, and raspberries 3 shillings 6 pence (about 82 cents) a pound; currants 2 shillings (50 cents). I never saw any black ones.

Walter is going to save up his small allowance of petrol to take us to Wantage to see if we can get some apples. Fred has just said that he saw some small green plums that we should have bought for 2 pence (four cents) a pound in normal times priced at 2 shillings (50 cents) in the market yesterday.

On Monday the controlled price comes into force and then they will be 6 pence to 8 pence (12 to 16 cents) a pound. If there is a good crop we may get it, if not when the price is controlled they just disappear from our shops. Being in the midlands I think transport is very often difficult and other markets seem to get them.

People who went to London for week-end would put letters in the paper about the things that were so scarce here and yet could be easily procured there. We always see long queues (row) outside the tobaccoist. I get Fred's allowance from our grocer or he would never get the chance to get any. I am still doing my work at home and have put in a good bit of time these long evenings.

Our summer was very long in coming and seems to have gone early. Just the end of June and most of July was lovely but the last three weeks have been cold and wet. August Monday was most disappointing. Fred had a week's holiday the end of July. He got fixed up with some glasses and new teeth and got up late and went for some country walks and generally enjoyed a free time from factory routine and black-outs.

Amy and I go to Gloucester for a week before this month is over.  
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## Joseph John Modlin Died In Jamesville Early This Morning

### Funeral Services For Respectful Citizen-Farmer Tomorrow Afternoon

Joseph John Modlin, highly respected citizen and farmer of the Jamesville community, died suddenly at his home there this morning at 1 o'clock. In declining health for several years, he was in his usual health yesterday when he spent most of the day digging his sweet potato crop. His condition became suddenly worse and before a doctor could be called, he died.

The son of Mr. H. C. Modlin and the late Mrs. Modlin, he was born in Jamesville Township, about 45 years ago. In early manhood he was married to Miss Dare Mae Benbridge who survives with two children, a son, Jarvis, and a daughter, Farrell. He also leaves besides his father, six half brothers, Messrs. Arthur, Willie H., Rexie, Dennis, Arnold and Wendell Modlin, and two half-sisters, Mrs. Joe A. Hardison, and Mrs. Willie Mayo Gardner, all of Jamesville community.

He was a devoted member of the Baptist Church at Cedar Branch, holding membership there for a long number of years. He was an able farmer, and was held in high esteem by all those who knew him. Despite failing health, he, with a strong determination to do his bit in life, carried on until the end. Mr. Modlin was a thoughtful husband and a kind father, and found time to help others.

Funeral services will be conducted from his late home tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by his pastor, Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment will follow in the family cemetery, near the home.

## Illiteracy Flares Up In The Issuance Of Drivers' Licenses

"What's the trouble in this county with your compulsory school attendance law," yesterday Examiner McLeod asked yesterday afternoon after refusing to issue drivers' licenses to six young men, three white and three colored.

Most of the group could neither read nor write, while one or two others were ignorant of the road laws. It is quite evident that the applicant must be able to read the road signs and to know the rules of the road before he is issued a license to operate a car on the public highways of this State. A man who is unable to read or write has no business operating an automobile on the public highways, the safety examiners reason.

Talking about illiteracy, the safety examiner recalled a recent story centering around a young boy in this county. The lad, just turned sixteen,

applied for a driver's license. He could neither read nor write, and he explained his predicament to the examiner. "Our father kept us home to work and would not let us attend school," the boy said, adding that he had offered to work by lantern light if only he could attend school. The father would hear nothing of the plan, and now the young man, neat of appearance and possessed of a pleasing personality, butted up against his first obstacle in life as an illiterate.

If the compulsory school attendance laws had only been enforced or even if more interest had been shown in their enforcement, possibly the young man and many others, too, would not be starting out in life handicapped. Recently the inspector or examiner, issued thirteen licenses and rejected fourteen applications.

### DWINDLING

With sales dwindling to a low point, the local tobacco market officially announced today that the season would be brought to a close next Tuesday at the end of the sales.

Hardly 25,000 pounds of the golden leaf were on the market today, and it is believed that farmers will have ample time to complete the marketing of the crop by next Tuesday. Several markets are planning to close this week, and it is understood that the entire belt is making plans to end the season on Friday of next week. Prices today, while not at a season's peak, continued high and the sales were successful.

## Bryant Is Charged With Manslaughter

John Robert Bryant, Durham white man and a former Martin County citizen, was placed under a \$500 bond by Justice J. L. Hassell at a preliminary hearing held here last Friday afternoon when probable cause of guilt was found in the case charging him with drunken driving and manslaughter. Bond was furnished and Bryant's trial was scheduled for the December term of the Martin Superior court.

Bryant, driving on Highway No. 11, near Hassell, ran down and killed Zenious Sneed, Jr., young colored man, on Sunday afternoon, October 12th. The driver of the car was alleged to have been under the influence of some intoxicant, but the defense maintained that he had had nothing to drink but a bottle of beer.

Carried before the justice of peace, Noah Andrews, charged with being drunk and disorderly, was fined \$3.50 and taxed with the costs.

## Colored Selectees To Leave For Army

Eleven colored boys, nine selectees and two volunteers, are to leave the county on Tuesday, October 28, for induction into the armed forces of the nation at Fort Bragg.

No future quota has been assigned this county, and while it has been officially announced that no men will be called in November, it is possible that a call for a large number of men, both white and colored, will be made in December or January.

The names of the boys scheduled to leave next Tuesday are: Willie Grover Mason, of Williamston; R. F. D. No. 2; James Morris Cherry, Milton Rollins and Richard Hymen, all of Robersonville; R. F. D. 1; Shelbert Ores and Jeremiah Brown, both of Williamston; R. F. D. 1; Woodrow Marrow, of Hobgood; R. F. D. 1; Edmond Pierce, of Jamesville; R. F. D. 1; James Curtis Roberson, of Robersonville; Eddie Lee Smith, of Oak City; R. F. D. 1, and Milton Roberson, of R. F. D. 1, Jamesville. James Curtis Roberson and Milton Rollins are volunteers.

### NAVY MAN

All Martin County men interested in joining the United States Navy or the Naval Reserve may without any obligation whatever contact R. M. Best of the recruiting office at the Enterprise office on Friday afternoon of this week at four o'clock. Officer Best will answer any questions and explain the opportunities available to young men, especially.

It is understood that young men in line for the regular army draft may enlist in the Navy or Naval Reserve and not report until their order number is called.

Officer Best starts to be in Williamston a short time only, and any one wishing to talk with him is asked to be at the Enterprise office around four o'clock Friday, October 24th.

## This Week In Defense

The Navy announced the destroyer Kearney was torpedoed while on patrol duty near Iceland. The boat was able to proceed under its own power. Ten men were injured and 11 reported missing. The President told his press conference the vessel was clearly within American defensive waters when attacked.

### Arming of Ships

The House passed a bill modifying the Neutrality Act to permit arming of merchant ships. Navy Secretary Knox told his press conference the Navy is ready to put guns aboard American merchant ships as soon as Congress authorizes the action. He said there are sufficient guns for all merchantmen although not all can be used against both airplanes and submarines. He said arming merchant ships will slow down submarines and impair their marksmanship because they will have to stay below the surface and use their limited supply of torpedoes instead of attack with shellfire.

### Lend-Lease Aid

Navy Secretary Knox announced two average submarines are being transferred to Britain under the lend-lease program. The President announced lend-lease transfers during September reached a record \$155,000,000 in equipment and services—about three times the monthly average of the past six months. The President said aid is going to Britain, China, South America and the refugee Polish and Norwegian governments. Russia, he said, is paying in gold and strategic materials for supplies sent to that country.

The President reported only five per cent of the original \$7,000,000,000 for lend-lease remains unused. The House voted \$5,711,000,000 for further lend-lease activities.

### Production

Price Administrator Henderson, speaking in Detroit, said although the U. S. is producing 35 per cent more than ever before—45 per cent more than in 1929—only 12 to 14 per cent of national income is going into defense. He said America is giving only one hour of eight for defense work. Although OPM schedules show this will be increased to two out of eight hours by next June, he said, Hitler is using five of every eight hours for German war efforts.

OPM Research Chief Stacy May, speaking in New York, reported spending for defense in September rose to approximately \$1,347,000,000—\$203,000,000 higher than August. He said Hitler could be beaten if the U. S. shifted 50 per cent of its productive capacity to armaments and suggested a \$50,000,000,000-a-year defense program.

The War Department announced  
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### PEANUT MARKET

Entering its second week and reporting comparatively few sales, the local peanut market has hardly determined a definite price trend. Sales are ranging anywhere from 4 1-2 to five cents a pound with the bulk of the sales ranging from 4 3-4 to 4.90 cents a pound.

It was estimated today that between 2,500 and 3,000 bags of the goods are moving to the local market.  
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## Road Accidents Claim Another Life In County

### Man Suffers Broken Neck In Auto Wreck Early Last Sunday

### Patrolman Saunders Is Kept Busy Handling Wrecks In Two Counties

Another life was added to the highway accident toll in this county Sunday when Raleigh Rawls, former citizen of Martin County, was fatally injured in an automobile accident at the intersection of the Bear Grass Road and Highway 17, near R. L. Perry's farm. His neck broken in two places and paralyzed from his shoulders down, Rawls died in Duke hospital Sunday night about 10:30 o'clock.

Leman Mizelle, of Washington, R. F. D. 3, accompanied by J. D. Gurganus and Junior Wynne, of Bear Grass, and Rawls, was driving out of the Bear Grass Road about three o'clock Sunday morning during a heavy fog. While he and Gurganus and Wynne escaped uninjured, they were greatly excited and could give no coherent account of the accident. Mizelle, apparently shocked, cried and shouted and had to be carried home after doctors examined him and found nothing wrong with him. Leon Hall Rawls, driving home with his chauffeur, pulled the injured man from the car and brought the group to the doctor here. Rawls was carried to the Durham hospital in a Biggs ambulance that afternoon after X-rays had been taken showing that his neck was broken.

The old model car, worth hardly more than \$25, was a total wreck. Patrolman Saunders stated that the car caught on a road sign and possibly prevented it from crushing the four young men.

Late reports state that Mizelle continues at his home, that apparently he has not recovered from the shock. He is being formally charged with reckless driving and manslaughter, but no hearing in the case has been arranged. Patrolman Saunders said this morning.

The son of Mrs. Nollie Rawls and the late W. M. Rawls, the young man, about 32 years of age, moved to Bertie with the family about two or three years ago locating in the Republican community. Besides his mother, he is survived by five brothers, Messrs. Jay, John and Elbert Rawls, all of Norfolk, and Clyde and Willie Rawls, of Bertie County, and two sisters, Mrs. John Taylor, of Norfolk, and Mrs. Joe Henry Webb, of Bertie County. Funeral services are being conducted at the late home in Bertie this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will follow in the Mizelle Cemetery in Bear Grass Township, this county.

No one was hurt but considerable damage resulted when the cars of John Andrews and James Gray, both colored, crashed on the Robersonville-Gold Point road during the heavy fog Sunday morning about eight o'clock about a mile from Robersonville. The cars, sideswiping each other, were being operated at a slow speed. Patrolman Saunders estimated the damage at about \$50.  
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### CARDS

Tobacco farmers are being asked to return their marketing cards just as soon as possible to the office of the county agent after they complete the marketing of their crop. The cards are checked against the allotments, the method offering the office an opportunity to check up on irregular marketing activities, if any. Soil conservation payments will be withheld until all the cards are returned. It was pointed out in those cases where the farmers have lost their cards, they are urged to take their bills of sale and report to the office of the county agent.

All cards are supposed to be in the office within ten days after the farmer completes the marketing of his crop. So far, only about 100 out of the approximately 1,500 tobacco farmers have returned them.

## Mrs. Susan Thomas Died Last Evening

Mrs. Susan Peteway Thomas, widow of the late Captain Wm. T. Thomas, veteran railroad man and rural free delivery carrier in this county for a long number of years, died at her home here on Warren Street last evening at 5:30 o'clock following a lingering illness of several years' duration. Suffering from a complication of ailments, she was able to be up most of the time until a few months ago. Her condition became worse about a week ago, and hope for her recovery was abandoned yesterday about noon.

The daughter of the late Redden S. and Elizabeth Edmondson Peteway, Mrs. Thomas was born in Rocky Mount 63 years ago the seventh of last month. She spent her early life there and in 1881 was married to Captain Thomas. They moved to Latta, S. C. a few years after their marriage and in 1892 moved to Williamston where Mr. Thomas engaged in the railroad business for a number of years, later going with the postal department for a long period of faithful employment in that service.

Mrs. Thomas joined the Methodist Church in South Carolina, and moved her membership here nearly half a century ago. Her's was an unpretentious life. She placed a high value on honesty and honest toil. Through the years she operated a boarding home, and the weary traveler, even though penniless and friendless, found a refuge there.

Mrs. Thomas, the last member of a large family of children, leaves three daughters, Mrs. T. A. Peed and Mrs. E. P. Whitley, of Williamston, and Mrs. J. T. Thompson, of Roanoke Rapids, and a son, W. H. Thomas, of Williamston.

Funeral services are to be conducted at the Biggs Funeral Home on West Main Street here tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock. Rev. B. T. Hurley, her pastor, and Rev. J. H. Smith, Baptist minister, will conduct the last rites. Interment will follow in the family plot in the local cemetery.

## Local Teacher Will Leave For Service

R. J. Slay, of Greenville, building principal and seventh grade teacher at the Williamston Grammar school, submitted his resignation yesterday afternoon to join the armed forces of the nation. Come here in September with the expectation of being called to a Marine officers' training school next spring. The young man received orders from the War Department Saturday to report to the Marine base at Quantico, Va., the latter part of this week.

Well liked by both children and adults who came in contact with him and performing his duties efficiently, Mr. Slay leaves Williamston today with the best wishes of the local community.

### MONEY - MONEY

Few believed it, but there was money in those tobacco fields last summer as transpiring events are now proving without doubt. Purchasing a \$1.200 paper a few days ago, a Martin County farmer dug in one pocket and pulled out about \$50 he dug into another one and dug out a couple of \$100 bills. When he had finished digging he had well over a thousand dollars. Seeing he did not have enough cash, he called for a blank check. Asked which bank he would draw the check against, the farmer replied, "It makes no difference," the report adding that he could write a check not only on either of the local banks but against any one in nearby towns.  
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## Russian Lines Are Reported Holding In Moscow Battle

### Administration Will Not Ask Immediate Repeal of the Neutrality Act

Ordered by Josef Stalin to fight until the last man falls, Moscow today was reported holding its lines against an ever-increasing foe and despite land attacks unequalled in history and aerial bombings described as even worse than those dealt Coventry and London months ago.

With the aged and women and children now to armed fortresses with defense lines formed at intervals in an area extending as far out from the capital as sixty miles. Late reports state that the lines are holding, but that the Germans were estimated to have thrown two million men, 25,000 tanks and about three-fourths of the air force into the battle.

German spies, saboteurs and terrorists were reported parachuting behind the city's defenses, and the Moscow radio was heard warning the population against them, but according to today's communique, the German ground forces still were being held back in the same Moshaisk and Maloyaroslavets sectors mentioned yesterday. Those points are 60 miles west and 65 miles southwards of Moscow.

The communique said stubborn fighting continued at Taganrog, on the Azov Sea 40 miles from Rostov, representing no gain for the Germans in that sector the past 24 hours.

The German drive in the south now was becoming a menace to the Mauseaus communications system over which much of the British and American war aid was destined to come, but the Battle of Moscow, in which approximately 4,500,000 civilians were joining for a life-death struggle, was the most spectacular phase of the war to date. Latest reports from the Moscow radio told of the descent of parachutists on the first gusts of the approaching blitzkrieg storm.

Some parachutists were said to be disguised as Russian officers and it was believed they were trying to disorganize the citizens' army now moving into battle alongside the Russian soldiers.

"The enemy will now send increased numbers of parachute spies," the Moscow radio said. "You must double and treble your vigilance."  
Workers held mass meetings throughout Moscow, pledging themselves to "uphold the defense with all our strength," the radio said.

Only meager reports were heard of fighting elsewhere than on the Moscow front, although the Budapest radio was heard broadcasting that Axis troops had broken through to the rear of Russian positions in the Ukraine, and were continuing the pursuit.

The battle line fanned out in a half-circle to the north, west and south of Moscow, and the pivot points, Kalinin, 100 miles northwest and Orel, 200 miles south, were believed to be changing hands repeatedly.  
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## Prominent Farmer Passes At Home Of Nephew Last Night

### Last Rites This Afternoon For Alexander Peel In Griffins Township

Alexander Peel, member of a family long prominent in the agricultural, civic and religious life of Martin County, died at the home of his nephew, Mr. Noah T. Tice, in Griffins Township, last night about 8:30 o'clock. He had been in declining health for five years or more, but was able to be up and about until about a month ago. His condition, gradually becoming worse from a complication of ailments, was reported critical last week-end, the end coming gradually two days later.

The son of the late Noah and Millie Roberson Peel, he was born 77 years ago in Griffins Township where he lived all his life. He never married and made his home with a brother, Mr. Ephraim Peel, until about ten years ago when he virtually retired from an active life on the farm to make his home with other members of the family. About three years ago he went to make his home with his nephew, who with other members of the family was comfortable on earth pleasant and comfortable. While he never affiliated with any church, he attended services regular, attended first service church and then another and leaned to the Primitive Baptist faith. Thoughtful of others, he was a friend of his fellowman. He walked humbly before his Maker, and appreciated the finer ideals and things in life.

## Chas. Smallwood Recalls Boyhood Days In Williamston More Than Half Century Ago

By CHARLES SMALLWOOD

(By special request, Mr. Charles Smallwood, of Smallwood Place, Washington, N. C., has sketched a few of his recollections of Williamston more than half a century ago. The Enterprise offers the first in the series of sketches today.—Ed.)  
The Good Book says that "In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth, and all that in them is," and it has always seemed to this individual, that He sprinkled a little extra quality of morning dew over the spot where Williamston, N. C., is eventually to grow. My connection, and identification with the town of Williamston and its county of Martin, began away back in the days of my earliest recollection, and as advancing days advanced me further into boyhood, they also advanced these connections and identifications, eventually bringing me to be an actual part, for a time at least, of these communities; and it is my recollections of Williamston and Martin County and some of the people who populated them, and a few events leading up to them that these articles are intended to recall, hoping they will be of sufficient interest to Enterprise readers to cause, at least, normal acceptance. The narratives are from memory only, and of long standing, therefore it is hoped that all errors and mis-statements will be taken with forbearance and condolence.

The writer was born in Beaufort County, adjoining the south side of Martin, and it was early in the years of 1870 that he first became cognizant of dear old Martin. My maternal grandmother, Sallie Ann O'Gain, had been born during the year 1813, in the northwest corner of Martin County, at or near the hamlet of Palmyra, of a mother whose maiden name was O'Bryan, which plainly indicates that she was full-blooded Irish, and which may help account for her many traits of outstanding individuality, self-reliance, and capacity to deal with life's problems during those days of crude devices necessary to the every-day needs, such as open fireplace cooking, home-made tallow candles for lighting, home-woven clothing and carpets, hand-seeded cotton for the spinning and weaving, garden herbs for medicinal purposes. Doctors were not called for such ailments as toe aches and growing pains, in fact the doctor did not appreciate such calls over dusty or muddy roads with a slow-moving horse and buggy for the scant pay he was apt to receive. He wanted a patient to be really sick when he arrived, then he would "stand by", pay or no pay, for he had a heart next-door-to-the-preacher's, and of such a doctor it will be my pleasure to tell you pretty soon. Such maneuvers of my life was my grandmother's long before little-me came into the world. The O'Gain family at some date, had moved to Washington in Beaufort County, where grandmother's father, William O'Gain, conducted a mercantile business on the southeast corner of Main Street and Union Alley, where the Keys Hotel now stands. Grandmother (Nannie), as all her grandchildren called her, first married Samuel Lu-

cas of Beaufort County, and it was the acts of their children, and their children's children, which was to tie and re-tie all of us back so closely to Williamston and Martin County.  
My mother, Emily Lucas, the elder of the two Lucas girls, married John Waller Smallwood, and lived at Smallwood Place, just north of Washington and Williamston road. "Nannie" and her younger daughter, Sammie, had joined my mother's family after losing their home in town during the un-civil war conflagration which leveled the town. And it was Aunt Sammie who wove the thread, that tied the knot, that held all of us then, and what's left of us now, back to the dust of grandmother's birth, and made it possible for me now to be having recollections of Williamston and Martin County and some folks there in during the 1870's and '80's, and if those now present can find an interest in this attempt, then the writer will be pleased with his endeavor.

Among my earliest recollections are Aunt Sammie and her bustle. Dame Fashion had devised an addition to created anatomy of the human kind, and Aunt Sammie, being yet unmarried, evidently desired to appear in the then proper form, so, though the South was in the throes of another kind of re-construction, and times were hard, she had managed to procure and bring home a new and stylish dress with bustle to match.  
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