

The News-Journal

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Medical Care—The Latest Southern Goal

This month, Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer and Chairman of the North Carolina Hospital and Medical Care Commission, in an article in his magazine, compares the present movement for better medical care with the Southwide movements for better schools and better roads.

The two great historic movements of this century, from 1900 through 1920 when the educational movement started throughout the southland, and from 1920 through 1940 when each of these states adopted a program for the development of their highway systems.

These movements brought great advances, they cost much money but they have proved their worth. "In the twenty years from 1940 through 1960" says Mr. Poe, "we must spend as generously for Better Health—and it will be an equally good investment."

The article continues:

"That there is desperate and even alarming need for better health programs for all classes of our people—this is abundantly shown by rejections at our army camps. For example, my own farm home is at the city's edge, and my younger son was sent to camp with 52 other young men largely from the city—men, mind you, who had survived one sitting by the local draftboard—and yet 35 of these 52 were rejected! And we are told—

"The rejection rate is higher in rural areas than urban, due to the inferiority of rural medical, dental, and hospital services. Moreover, draft rejections are highest in Southeastern states where incomes are lowest and medical facilities least adequate.

"In Rex James' striking phrase: 'Modern Medicine as we best of it today is an urban phenomenon. The benefits of modern medical and hospital service has scarcely reached rural America.'"

"Take three tests in my own typical rural state:

1. A generally accepted rule is that there should be one doctor for each 1,000 people—but 21 rural counties here average only one doctor for 5,297 people.

2. There should be 4 hospital beds per 1,000 population—but 63 of our rural counties average only 1.3 beds and still fewer for Negroes.

3. The entire state has only 3 cancer clinics—against 400 in the rest of America.

"As the American Farm Bureau Woman's Section points out, medical clinics are available to only 2 per cent of our rural population, and even at the peak of prosperity 80 per cent of our rural areas lacked adequate medical care—and the per cent of doctors in rural areas grows constantly less. Farm people once longer-lived than city people are now shorter-lived, mainly due to lack of medical and hospital care—and this in turn is due to the greater poverty. Thus in a New York City study there were 500 per cent as many baby-deaths in proportion to numbers among families with less than \$500 income as among families with \$3,000 and up. The slaughter of infants all over the South because of preventable infant mortality and the shockingly high death rate of mothers in childbirth disgrace our Southern people.

"It is time and high time to do something about these conditions. Doctors are gratefully active and cooperative. Our churches, followers of the Great Physician, should get busy. Governors and legislatures should act. Congress must help the states help themselves.

"Already the South is showing a fine reaction to the startling revelations made by army rejections. Louisiana has entered upon a health and hospital program which has attracted national attention. In North Carolina Governor Broughton and the State University trustees have inaugurated a hospital and medical care program designed to reach and help all classes, both races, and all sections, with the inspiring declaration: 'The ultimate purpose of this program should be that no person in North Carolina shall lack adequate hospital care or medical treatment by reason of poverty or low income.'

"In Arkansas which has only 2.15 hospital beds against the 4.40 American average, we are told that—

Arkansas will vote November 7 on a \$15,000,000 proposal to improve hospital care for the masses of her people by establishing 5 general hospitals, 70 clinics and emergency hospitals, and a research laboratory.

"This is the sort of action it is going to take in all the states. Each state in 1900-1920 spent millions more for education—and found it not a loss but a good investment. Each state in 1920-1940 spent millions more for roads—and found it not a loss but a good investment. Now each state must begin to think in terms of millions for programs of hospital and medical care—and will find it not a loss but a good investment. Meanwhile, such cooperative self-help hospital-and-medical insurance programs as have been developed by the Blue Cross movement and the Farm Security Administration should be studied and will be discussed in our future issues.

The next great campaign for rural progress and social service in the South must be to so equalize and distribute the costs of hospital and medical care for all classes as to make real a new ideal of democracy—"The equal right of every person born on earth to needed medical and hospital care whenever and wherever he battles against Disease and Death." I hope you will help in this movement."

POOLE'S MEDLEY

By D. SCOTT POOLE

If the Germans and Japs fight to the last man and the last dollar, it may be some time yet before it is all over, over there.

I remember the hard times of the Civil War. I had sweet milk and corn mush for supper and for breakfast I had warm hockecake, syrup and a small bit of butter. I read of an American lady, who was visiting in Germany when this war started. She told of her breakfast the morning she left that country, one roll, a cup of tea, and a small allowance of butter. Hitler was saving up for years before this war started.

I got out an eight-page newspaper for 14 months without help, except the little Cockman girls folded the papers for me. I solicited no work and I only did the job printing which came to my office; but I worked from 5 o'clock in the morning until 11 at night, six days a week. I worked my own garden, or we would not have had one.

The people of Hoke County, and the people of the United States, have suffered no deprivations because of the war, nor have we suffered the horrors of war, but our contributions in men and materials, and suffering by our loved ones who are in the actual war service, in strange jungles and wild seas, contending with skilled cannibals.

I have seen strings of wagons a mile long going to Fayetteville on the old Morganton road, loaded with cotton and other produce, many a Monday and Tuesday. On Saturday they would be on the road going back home, and those wagons were heavily loaded with salt, iron in bars 20 feet long.

The farm tools, horse shoes and the like were made at home those days. On farms where there were slaves there were blacksmiths and carpenters among them. Many of these wagons were large, and were drawn by 4 horses and there were bells on the lead horses. Those which wore bells—the team of four—all stepped proudly.

Brother John had been to Fayetteville the year before I got to go, and he never did finish telling me about the sights he had seen, and the next winter it was my time to go and John went too, and I was all the gladder for we had a better time.

The CIO is unpopular because that

organization has displayed extreme selfishness since this war began. It is the duty of patriots to suffer deprivation for their country's needs, but when men being paid \$1 or more per hour, strike for more, shows pure dog.

Old folks told me that a good part of the area now occupied by the business section of Fayetteville used to be the best huckleberry hunting. I remember when Fayetteville streets were a chain of mud-holes—in links.

There were markets, fresh meats, in some of the departments of the old market house the first time I saw it. Brother John, two years older, told me there was a clock on the top of the old market house on which you could tell the time of day a mile off. I could not believe it. But it was true.

In 1905, and the court house stood out by the Wilmington branch of the Coast Line Railroad, and I thought it was a nice building. Why anyone thought it necessary to build a new and greater building, I never understood, unless it was for the reason the jail could not be kept sanitary. They might have changed that.

Things in the minds of prosperous people are strangers to economy. This state's business is open to criticism, because they do not intend to pay the state debt with an accumulated surplus of tax-deprived money, and that accumulated money will encourage extravagance.

There are people who do not make much money, yet they live as well as any folks should. There are others who have an abundance of money who live poorly—they never get a satisfactory meal unless they get it away from home. They are constantly wanting to eat away from home, because they are hungry, and stay so.

Laxness is an awful disease. It has brought more people to want than war, famine and pestilence.

Most of you read in the news last Saturday of the blinding flash of light and accompanying thunder that frightened the people in four states, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. It has not determined what that was, but it is believed to have been a meteor.

In the first days of July, 1887, a heavy thundercloud came one evening about 5 o'clock, and a heavy rain. It was still raining slowly at 9 o'clock. I was closing a window before retiring for the night, and there came a blinding flash of light-

Idea In A Carpet Bag

This country has always done big things in a big way because the American people as individuals have never known anything but complete freedom. And though it may sound like a blast of hot air from the chamber of commerce, the right to create and build a business or an industry and earn a reward for doing it, is an inherent part of American freedom. If that right is taxed and regulated out of existence, the greatness of America and her freedom will become a myth.

The history of the express business is typical. For more than a century, the word express has stood for speed, pioneer railroad conductor, had an idea. He quit his job and devoted himself to the business of putting it to work. He became the world's first express messenger, traveling between Boston and New York by the fastest conveyances of that day, carrying a carpet bag. The carpet bag contained packages of money, documents, jewelry, gold and other valuables and articles entrusted to his care. Gradually Harnden's express business expanded. The carpet bag became inadequate, and in time a railroad car was needed to hold all of the things that people wanted to carry. That still was but the beginning. Today the Railway Express Agency maintains 23,000 offices scattered throughout the United States. It uses more than 200,000 miles of railway lines, 13,000 miles of steamship lines, 45,000 miles of airlines, and 16,000 miles of motor truck lines in its regular daily operations. As an example of what such a service means to the war effort, it is sufficient to point out that in a single month of May, 1943, 253,380 pints of blood were handled by express for the Red Cross.

In this land of 3,000,000 square miles, new ideas are springing forth in men's minds every second of the day. Some of those ideas are the seeds of new industries which may one day benefit all mankind. No one could conceive of the future in store for the idea that began with a carpet bag. What we can and must do in this country is to save the right of the man with an idea to put his idea to work profitably. In saving that right, we are saving the meaning of freedom in America.

ning, accompanied by a deafening peal of thunder. There had been thunder and lightning for an hour before this bright flash and heavy peal came. Many people believed that to have been a meteor passing near the earth. I heard of this phenomenon for twenty miles west of Jackson Springs, and 20 miles east, and the same report came from both directions—just about as I described it.

The Farmer and War Bond Purchases

by Charles W. Holman, Secretary
The National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation

AMERICAN farmers have a great deal more at stake in purchasing War Bonds than simply a patriotic urge to assist in financing the war so that it may be prosecuted to an early and victorious conclusion. Modern war demands governmental expenditures far in excess of those which may be met by current revenue receipts. This means Government borrowing. If a large part of this borrowing is through commercial banks additional inflationary spending power is created through the expansion of credit. On the other hand, if the borrowing is largely from individuals much of their excess funds are drained off. Hence, the pressure on prices resulting from unusually large funds bidding for limited amounts of goods and services is relieved, and thus inflation retarded.

A tremendously increased agricultural production and some increase in average prices received above those paid by farmers have raised the net income of all United States farmers from the 1935-39 average of \$4.7 billion to \$6.3 billion in 1941, \$9.4 billion in 1942, and an estimated \$12.5 billion in 1943. With available supplies of farm machinery replacements and building materials limited, agriculture has a fund available for either debt retirement, savings readily liquidated for future purchases of machinery, buildings, etc., or for present investment in land.

A marked decrease in farm mortgages in recent years indicates that much of this fund has been properly applied to debt retirement. However, activity in sales and a very marked increase in land values demon-

strate that farmers are probably diverting a large part of this fund into land purchases. From March 1, 1943, to March 1, 1944, average land values per acre rose 15 per cent, with the larger part of the rise taking place in the last four months of the period. The increase during this four-month period was the highest on record, being 20 per cent greater than the average monthly rate of increase for the 1919-20 boom year. Average values per acre have increased more than one-third in the past 3 years. In the 1916-19 period the rise was about the same.

It appears that an overcapitalization of probably temporarily high farm commodity prices is in process just as in World War I. Large mortgage debts incurred now, at high levels of income, will prove disastrous when both total agricultural production and prices fall. Land values are based on the net return to land. With the end of the war in sight and with the prospect that farm labor and other costs will require a relatively larger return leaving the return to land less, the logical course for land values at present would appear to be downward rather than upward.

Therefore, it appears that farmers would do well to invest every available dollar, beyond that needed for debt retirement, in Government Bonds. These can be held against the day when necessary farm replacements will be available and when farm land values will have become more stable. In this way the individual farmer may assist in hastening the day of return of his son, and also have capital available to help finance him in ventures of his own choice. U. S. Treasury Department

OPA Wages War On Black Market

Raleigh, Aug. 22—The A-11 gasoline coupon, which is now valid for three gallons, has already been extensively counterfeited, Theodore S. Johnson, Raleigh district OPA director, said today.

OPA's special agent investigating counterfeiting has obtained information from various sources that large quantities of A-11 counterfeits have already been printed, distributed to peddlers, and sold to black market dealers. Some may also be in the hands of motorists.

Acting on this information, OPA is making every effort to discover and arrest those who are trafficking in these coupons in order to prevent as many as possible from competing with honest coupons for gasoline, Johnson said.

Several types of A-11 counterfeits have been seized. Most of them are printed on bad paper, making them fairly easy to detect.

Johnson emphasized, however, that the service station operator's best protection against inadvertently accepting counterfeits from motorists is still to follow two simple rules:

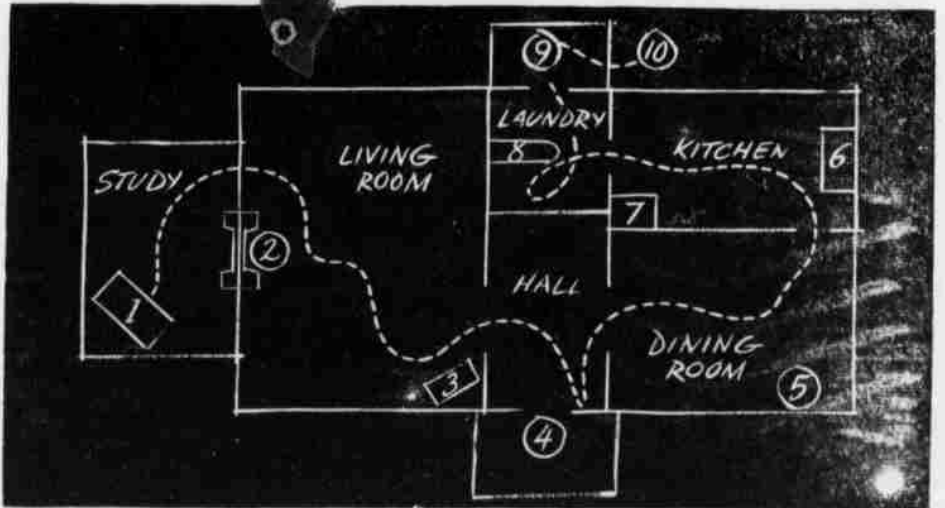
1. Be sure that every "A" coupon you accept is torn out of a valid ration book; and
2. Be sure that the motorist has endorsed the coupon with the license number of the car into which you deliver the gasoline.

All A-11 coupons deposited in ration books will be carefully examined in the newly-established Regional Verification Centers, Johnson added. Prompt investigation will begin at all points where counterfeits are found, and vigorous action will be pressed against those who have dealt in them.

The U. S. sweet potato crop is 9 percent smaller than last year. Prospective civilian supplies per capita are estimated to be the smallest in two decades.



SCENE: First floor of the Hastings home
TIME: The evening of August 1, 1944



1. The desk at which Mr. Hastings opened his monthly bills and wrote an indignant letter to the electric company, protesting their advertising that the average family gets twice as much electricity for its money as it did 15 years ago.
2. The electric clock at which Mr. Hastings looked to see if he had time to mail his letter before dinner.
3. The family radio, with Junior parked close beside it, listening to "Jerry and the Jeeps."
4. The porch light which Mr. H. switched on to guide the dinner guests.
5. The percolator, ready and waiting to do dinner duty.

6. The electric range, filling the kitchen with appetizing odors.
7. The refrigerator, from which Mrs. H. was taking trays of tinkling ice cubes.
8. The iron, with which Nancy was pressing a dress for her date.
9. The back porch, on which Mr. H. paused to think things over—realizing that his family did use a lot more electricity nowadays, and maybe the company was right after all!
10. The trash can into which he tossed his crumpled letter.

DON'T WASTE ELECTRICITY JUST BECAUSE IT'S CHEAP AND ISN'T RATIONED!

Carolina POWER & LIGHT Company

DON'T WASTE ELECTRICITY JUST BECAUSE IT'S CHEAP AND ISN'T RATIONED