

The Eagle

Published Every Wednesday in the interest of Cherryville and surrounding community.

Entered as Second Class Mail matter August 10th, 1906, in the Post Office at Cherryville, N. C., under the Act of Congress, March 3rd, 1879.

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 118 WEST MAIN STREET CHERRYVILLE, N. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 One Year \$2.50 Four Months \$1.00
 Six Months 1.25 Three Months .75

NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
 NEW YORK, CHICAGO, DETROIT, PHILADELPHIA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1955

VISION AND FAITH

This country has 40 per cent of the world's coal reserves. But reserves of any resource in the ground are of limited value unless we have an efficient producing industry that can make the best and most economical use of them.

Our coal industry is the world's best, judged by any standard.

During recent years coal, like other enterprises, has had to meet higher cost in wages, taxes, transportation service, and material prices. Despite that, the cost of coal at the mine has been reduced.

This has been possible because coal has mechanized and redesigned its mining processes. At the recent Coal Show in Cleveland, almost unbelievable mechanical wonders were demonstrated—including a power shovel standing as high as a 12-story building, a new continuous mining machine that will mine coal at the rate of eight tons per minute, and a new electric bus which cuts the travel time of miners underground in half.

The industry has been spending huge sums of money on mechanization and other improvements at a time when profits have virtually disappeared. That is a measure of the coal's spirit—and of coal's faith in the future.

THE FARM EQUIPMENT DOLLAR

Modern farm equipment is an absolute necessity today. The time when human and animal power could do the basic work of agriculture has gone, never to return. The tractor and the other machines make possible maximum production at minimum cost in both money and effort.

The selling price of these machines is an important matter to the farmer. And no doubt, many a farmer has sometimes wondered if the price tag contained an excessive amount of profit.

An answer to that is found in a survey made of hundreds of farm equipment dealers scattered throughout the country and covering the 1947-54 period. It shows that profits have gone down steadily sharply. In 1947 those profits, before taxes, amounted to 9.35 per cent of the gross business. In 1950 they came to 4.95 per cent. In 1953 the figure was 2.5 per cent. And last year it was only fractionally higher—2.62 per cent.

The reasons why farm machinery costs more now than it used to are simple enough. In the first place, the expenses that must be borne by the manufacturers and dealers have soared, just as in the case of any other business. They must pay the high going price for labor and everything else. Secondly, the farmer has demanded and received more complicated and more versatile machines that do a better production job. But he can be certain that he is getting top value for his equipment dollar.

BUILT-IN-COOK SERVICE!

A publication of the American Meat Institute observes: "Price spreads—the difference between what the farmer gets and what the consumer pays for food items—have been steadily widening and for good reason."

The "good reason" in this case has various facets. Labor costs, direct and indirect, make up about 75 per cent of total marketing costs in the food business. These have risen substantially, and so over a period of years, have other such unavoidable operating costs as packaging, transportation, taxes, rents and so on. On top of that, one of the big and relatively new factors in the farm-retail price spread situation is found in consumer demand for foods in a form that will save labor and time in the home. As the Institute's publication puts it, "The housewife, buying more ready-to-serve, ready-to-cook and ready-to-mix foods, actually is getting what amounts to a 'built-in-cook' service." Processing of this character costs money—and the consumer must pay the bill.

Even so, our food dollar does a good job. Despite the rise in prices for foods, family purchasing power has kept up with it. Meat is a good example, being a food which practically everyone consumes daily in one form or another. According to Department of Agriculture figures, for many years, in good times and bad, the public has spent roughly the same proportion of take-home pay for meat—five to seven per cent. The only exceptions are war periods when government controls and other abnormal factors make comparisons impossible. We eat better than ever, and at a reasonable cost.

FREE ROOM AND BOARD

Farm and Ranch magazine is published in Nashville, Tennessee—right in the Tennessee Valley Authority region. And that fact gives unusual force and interest to an editorial which recently appeared in the magazine, signed by publisher Tom Anderson.

Mr. Anderson began by saying: "Here in the Tennessee Valley TVA is almost holy. I guess 90 per cent of the people are for TVA—and against socialism. He went on to show how TVA is a socialistic enterprise, with low rates made possible by tax subsidies, tax avoidance, and other taxpayer-paid advantages. He said, "Almost half of each power bill we valley residents pay is charged to the taxpayers of the Nation. I want to pay all of my power bill."

Then Mr. Anderson made a number of suggestions whereby TVA could be put on a business basis—including the payment of taxes, and interest on the money invested in it by all the people. He concluded with these words: "The above proposals would inevitably mean higher TVA power rates. But they would put TVA and other public power projects on a self-sustaining basis."

"Why not? If TVA is what its advocates claim, how would it be hurt? TVA is a big boy now. Twenty-two years old. Almost grown we hope. A big bank account of his own. Good job. A booming business."

"How much longer is he going to want an allowance? He's welcome to keep his feet under our table. . . . But ain't it high time he paid his room and board?"

There is plenty of evidence that this attitude is widely shared throughout the country. Something like 80 per cent of the taxpayers are subsidizing the power bills of the 20 per cent who are served by socialized systems—and they're getting sick of it. The proper ultimate solution is to sell the government plants to regulated, tax-paying private enterprise. Meanwhile, let every government commercial operation pay its own room and board.

WE'RE IN LUCK

How many Americans, in their day-by-day shopping in lavishly-stocked retail stores, ever seriously think about the system that makes all this abundance possible?

That system is called by various names—private enterprise, capitalism, a competitive economy, and so on. Regardless of semantics, it is based on just one thing—freedom. Producers are free to make what they like, retailers are free to stock what they like, and the consumer is free to buy what he likes and where he likes.

We take all this for granted. We know that some conveniently-located store will have on sale whatever we happen to want at the moment, and at a reasonable price which is held down by competition. But we wouldn't take it for granted if we could see, at first hand, what the situation is in countries where these freedoms don't exist, and the government owns, operates, or in some way controls everything.

Columnist Martin S. Hayden recently wrote about what communism has done to living standards in Czechoslovakia—a country which, before it was communized, was among the most prosperous and advanced in Europe. The average Czech worker has a monthly take home pay of about 900 crowns. This will buy the bare necessities, but little else. For, in Prague, a seven-inch screen TV set costs 2,000 crowns, a pound of coffee 109 crowns, a small car 27,000 crowns (30 months pay!) and a two-burner hot-plate 560 crowns. Mr. Hayden adds that housewives queue up at five in the morning in the hope of getting a piece of meat.

A sure-fire reflection of any nation's living standards is found in its retail stores—in the range of goods offered and the prices charged. We Americans, with our free system, are the luckiest people on earth.

WRONG NOTION

There is a fairly widespread notion that the growth of big business in this country has been made possible by the absorption and destruction of small business.

In 1900 there were 21 independent establishments per 1000 population—half a century later there were 27. And big business needs and supports small business. One of our biggest businesses has over 33,000 suppliers and subcontractors, most of them small. Another buys goods and services from 21,000 independent suppliers.

In some lines big business can do a job best—in others small business is superior. The country has to have both.

HERE'S HEALTH!

By Lewis



PLUMS ARE NATIVE TO THIS HEMISPHERE, BUT THE PILGRIMS PLANTED VARIETIES THEY HAD KNOWN IN THEIR HOMELAND

THE MISSION FATHERS AT SANTA CLARA WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO PLANT EUROPEAN PLUMS IN CALIFORNIA



THIS IS THE SEASON FOR DELICIOUS PLUM PIES! WHY NOT MAKE ONE?

THEY'RE DELICIOUSLY SWEET AND ONE PLUM CONTAINS LESS THAN THIRTY CALORIES! IF YOU'RE CONCERNED YOUR CALORIES COUNT! YOUR CALORIES COUNT!

BEHIND THE SCENES IN AMERICAN BUSINESS

—BY RENOLDS KNIGHT—

NEW YORK, Sept. 26—Home sales, after a two-month lull, have picked up again. When June and July saw new-home starts falling below the like months of 1954—the first such year-to-year decline in several years—some commentators hastened to say the vast housing boom was beginning to taper off.

August starts, just now being counted, reversed the brief dip. With 123,000 starts—8,000 more than in July—it was the best August since 1950. While the upturn seemed to be in the face of the slightly more stringent terms on housing loans, put into effect July 30, those terms were not effective for most August-started homes. That is because the new regulations exempted homes for which commitments on the older basis had already been made.

Strength in the economy outside the home-building field must be given much of the credit for continuance of the housing boom. So many observers have been saying that postwar prosperity rested solely on demand for homes and automobiles that many of us had come to believe it. This summer, with sales of both non-durable goods and hard goods other than automobiles making new highs, the boom has shown itself to have a much broader basis than any two industries, important as those industries are.

CAN OUTPUT RISES—Americans are getting more and more from tin cans. Fruit, vegetables, juices, beer and pet foods were mainly responsible for the increase of almost 6 per cent in can production for the first half of 1955, compared with the first-half 1954, according to the American Can Company.

More than four and a quarter billion cans were produced for fruits, vegetables and juices in the six-month period, and more than three billion beer cans were turned out. Both figures represent 10 per cent gains, the company said.

Another gainer was the tinless motor oil can, a pioneer in Caneo's constant campaign to free the nation from the danger of shortages. Production of those tinless cans rose 6 per cent. Other production increases were registered in seafood and shortening containers.

THINGS TO COME—One pipe stem, made of gold-plated aluminum, comes with as many as 20 removable bells. An electronic dingbat for signaling when a shaft or bearing is wobbling can be attached to any machine which must operate for long periods. An aluminum device to be attached to a fishing line between hook and sinker is supposed to help the rig miss submerged obstacles as it's retrieved. A folding picnic table, complete with two benches, seats 16 persons.

BOTTLENECK BROKEN—For all the advances of aluminum in castings, its users have for years been faced with the problem of the metal's high oxidation, which made it necessary to melt ingots in small batches.

Now comes news that for a year the first automatic, continuous in-line melting of aluminum alloys for castings has been going on in the Pittsburgh plant of the Monarch Aluminum Manufacturing Co., a large maker of aluminum shapes in permanent molds.

A new type of radiant gas-fired furnace, engineered jointly by Monarch and Selsco Corporation of America, Philadelphia heat engineering firm, has made possible this radical advance in aluminum casting practice. Furnaces can be built to produce 3000 pounds of castings an hour, and start-up time is cut from 24 hours to three. Gas consumption is less than two-thirds that of the earlier "batch" process, and heat in the working area is no longer a problem.

The tunnel furnace uses 60 Selsco ceramic burners in the last

Drive, near 106th Street. Both the statue and its donor, Seichi Hirose, a Japanese businessman, were honored at a ground-breaking ceremony. Mr. Hirose said he made the gift to help create a spirit of "no more Hiroshimas."

Glenn Memorial Methodist Church, Atlanta, gives almost one-half its annual budget "for others." The 1954-55 income was \$118,711. Of this amount, \$50,435 was earmarked for projects outside the local church. The church, on the Emory University campus, supports two missionaries overseas and provides ten theological scholarships for white and Negro students. Glenn Memorial is believed to be the only church in the nation to provide a cottage at a Methodist orphanage, Glenn Cottage, now under construction at the Methodist Children's Home in Decatur, will cost \$68,000, the money being supplied by Glenn Memorial. The church gave \$12,000 to this project out of last year's budget. The Rev. Candler Budd is pastor.

The first Mormon temple of the European continent was dedicated in Zollikofen, Switzerland, recently. David O. McKay, president of the Church of Latter Day Saints; Ezra Taft Benson, United States Secretary of Agriculture, and Senator Wallace Bennett of Utah were among the 1,500 members of the Mormon Church from the United States and many European countries who took part in the ceremony. Before the dedication of this edifice, the 1000 Mormons in Europe had prayer houses in a number of cities, but no consecrated temple.

Reports from two major Christian universities in the Far East indicate record or near record enrollments for the academic year just closed. Aoyama Gakuin, an 81-year-old Christian school in Tokyo, Japan, had an enrollment of 9,500 students, both men and women, in the second semester last year. That was an increase of about 1,000 students over the first semester. Of that number, 3,700 students were enrolled in the college, 1,700 in night college classes, 900 in junior college, 1,600 in senior and junior high school and 57 in primary school. A new, 52-room primary school is being completed in 1955. A record 4,000 students enrolled at the Ewha Woman's University, Seoul, Korea, Dr. Helen Kim, the president, has reported. To accommodate the student influx, Dr. Kim said, 10 classrooms seating 60 to 80 persons have been added, a temporary dining room seating 600 has been built and temporary dormitories are under construction.

The United Council of Church Women—arm of the National Council of Churches and representing some 10,000,000 Protestant women throughout the United States—will hold its national assembly in Cleveland, Ohio, from Nov. 7 to 10. Mrs. James D. Wyker, national president, will preside over the sessions of this body that is "fast becoming one of the major church agencies in effecting social change in the local communities" of the nation. According to the UCCW, American women in thousands of communities are tackling community problems as organized councils of church women. They point out that in Atlanta church women, aided by other community groups, have carried out successful housing and nursery projects; and are now grappling with mental health.

In Des Moines they have been busy in fighting race discrimination and "many doors to employment, previously opened only to whites, are being gently battered down." Sioux City has found jobs and homes for 26 displaced families; and Greenwood, Conn., has resettled 60 refugees. In Gainesville, Ga., and Lenoir, N. C., church women have established day-care centers for children of working Negro mothers. The women of Bloomsburg, Pa., have purchased play equipment for the children of migrants; and in towns scattered as far apart as Washington State, Long Island, Ohio and Arkansas, they have directed Halloween "tricks" into collections for UNICEF. In Ponca City, Okla., and in Modesto, Cal., and in many other communities, the women are promoting better race relations; elsewhere they are fighting the sale of comic books, aiding students from countries overseas, opening schools and providing food, shelter and relief for needy families. Their Cleveland assembly will devote its efforts to the "building of a world Christian community" through action in local situations.

A huge bronze statue that escaped the ravages of the Hiroshima atomic bomb has been unveiled in New York City as a "religious symbol of peace and serenity." The two-and-a-half-ton figure of buddhist religious leader, St. Shinran, is at the entrance of the New American Buddhist Academy chapel, 331 Riverside

News In The World Of Religion

BY W. W. REID

A huge bronze statue that escaped the ravages of the Hiroshima atomic bomb has been unveiled in New York City as a "religious symbol of peace and serenity." The two-and-a-half-ton figure of buddhist religious leader, St. Shinran, is at the entrance of the New American Buddhist Academy chapel, 331 Riverside



What is a Lutheran?

On October 31, 1517 there was only one Protestant and one Lutheran, and that was Martin Luther, a former Roman Catholic priest. Luther had "protested" against the Church's sale of certificates called indulgences, which were said to reduce the time a soul must spend in purgatory. From Scripture, Luther had learned that FULL FORGIVENESS OF SIN IS PROMISED THROUGH FAITH IN THE MERCIFUL GOD, REVEALED IN CHRIST. This and other similar differences led to an open break. Lutherans don't claim any doctrines different from the common Christian faith described in the New Testament and first summarized in the Apostle's Creed.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Leroy C. Trexler, Pastor

Gov't. Encourages Needed Conservation

The state summary of participation in ASC's Agricultural Conservation Program shows that \$5,849,000 was spent by the government last year to encourage needed conservation over the state.

H. D. Godfrey, administrative officer for the state ASC committee, says that this figure represents only a small fraction of the value of the conservation purchased through Federal funds. This compares with federal cost-sharing in 1953 amounting to \$5,400,000.

One out of four Tar Heel farms took part in this program last year. Godfrey says that although 25 per cent of the farms in North Carolina took part in the program last year, farms participating in the program represented nearly 40 per cent of the state's cropland.

This Federal assistance, Godfrey says, was made for carrying out the primary objective of the Agricultural Conservation Pro-

gram. Under the program, the government shares the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation practices that are necessary to achieve a good system of soil and water management. The 1954 ACP was used to advance conservation farming in the state by assisting farmers carrying out approved practices that would not or could not have been carried out without this assistance.

Godfrey says that agriculture in our state is far from reaching any sort of conservation goal. He urged farmers to do everything they can to conserve soil and water on their farm and to improve the productive capacity of their farm. This, he said, should be done as far as possible with the farmer's own funds; however, he says the ACP was designed to look out for the public's interest in our limited agricultural resources, and for this reason, all farmers should make use of the program to carry out additional conservation.

Reports of damage to pines by bark beetles are becoming more frequent in the northeastern section of North Carolina.

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