

Wallace Enterprise
OF DUPLIN COUNTY
Published Every Thursday By
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WALLACE, NORTH CAROLINA
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Subscription Rates
In Duplin, Pender and Sampson Counties

One Year	\$2.00
Six Months	\$1.25
Three Months	.75

Elsewhere

One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	\$1.50
Three Months	\$1.00



National Advertising Representative
MERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
New York • Chicago • Cincinnati • Atlanta • Dallas

This paper does not accept responsibility for the views of correspondents on any question.

Entered as Second Class Matter January 19, 1923, at the Postoffice at Wallace, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
Sustaining Member

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1946

Shift To U. S. Plan

Newspaper correspondents in Paris, attending the Peace Conference, report that there has been an encouraging drift toward American proposals for a world trade organization.

Some of the other nations which have been cool to the proposal of the United States that discriminatory trade regulations be removed, have seen what happened when Russia secured an agreement with Rumania, making the Rumanian economy subservient to the Russians. The reflection of what this will mean to the world, if followed by other nations, explains the sentiment now shifting to the American plan.

Banker Talks For Farmers

Mr. T. V. Bailey, president of the American Bankers Association, is giving us the spectacle of a banker intensely interested in the welfare of agriculture.

In speaking recently to a group of financial advertisers in San Francisco, Mr. Bailey pointed out that a well-balanced rural banking structure is essential to a sound national economy and discussed the present position of agriculture.

On the favorable side, he finds that the farmers of this nation have reduced their mortgage indebtedness to about \$5,000,000,000 from a figure that once approached \$11,000,000,000, that farmers have the largest cash balances they ever held and that they have created soil reserves of equal importance with cash reserves.

Mr. Bailey found that the unfavorable side deals with problems connected with the rise in farm land prices. He pointed out that these are inevitable when farm land prices rise above that value from which a profitable income can be taken over a period of years.

Big Business Man

W. Averill Harriman, who has just taken office as Secretary of Commerce, candidly admits that he is a big business man, with no pretensions of being anything else.

This is refreshing because it is the truth. However, Mr. Harriman, in connection with taking office, gives expression to principles, which, if followed by Americans, would do the country a lot of good.

Asked whether he regarded himself as a representative of the business point of view in the Cabinet, the new Secretary pointed out that he was hired by the American people as a whole and that while he would further the point of view of American business, he would do so only when it was in the national interest.

"The welfare of the country as a whole is of overwhelming importance," declared Mr. Harriman, in urging patience and goodwill on all sides. He suggested that we "earnestly attempt to understand the point of view and problems of other individuals and groups" and that we particularly "must not take advantage of the present dislocation to further unfairly our own special interests."

No. 1 Killer

"High blood pressure is the No. 1 killer of the average business executive," declares Dr. Irvine H. Page, research director of the Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Page says that adequate rest, peace of mind, keeping weight down and following a normal diet are measures that will prevent high blood pressure. He also advises business men to "take a nap at noon whenever possible."

There is, of course, no way to persuade the average business man to take a nap, but the chances are that Dr. Page is thoroughly correct in saying that this is advisable if business men expect to live long and have a useful life in this area of high-speed living.

Radar "Saw" Through Clouds

Clouds that marred or obliterated the celestial display of meteors trailing the comet, Giacobini-Zinner, could not prevent scientists using radar from "seeing" the display above the fog and clouds.

The comet, which approaches the earth every six and a half years, was 24,000,000 miles away but its tail, consisting of pieces torn from the main body, passed the earth early this month within 131,000 miles.

In a few places, where favorable weather conditions permitted, observers reported many dashing projectiles and one observer, in Chicago, counted 149 in ten minutes. He regarded the exhibition as unmatched in the United States since 1900. Other scientists called the display the most spectacular they had ever seen.

Authors Who Know Nothing

General Dwight L. Eisenhower, Commander of Allied Armies in Western Europe, takes cognizance of certain books that have been published on both side of the Atlantic and expresses wonder that certain misconceptions have gotten about and how some men could be so authoritative when they know nothing about it at all.

One of the books was written by Ralph Ingersoll, with the title, "Top Secrets," and the American General admits that he cannot account for Mr. Ingersoll's book but that it looks as if someone thought he had a torch to carry. Mr. Ingersoll was rather critical of Viscount Montgomery, the British Commander, and implied that there were strained relations between the British and American commanders.

General Eisenhower was emphatic in asserting that close friendly relations existed at all times between him and Viscount Montgomery and in general between the Americans and the British. He said he himself had sworn that he would not write his memoirs but he was beginning to feel that at least, he could tell the truth even if he did not know how to write.

It is also interesting to note that the General admitted that the book by General Montgomery is the only one that he had read and that, in his opinion, it was a very workmanlike account of what had happened.

Farmers Set New Records

The farmers of the United States produced the greatest crops in the nation's history, according to the Department of Agriculture, which says that production will be 2.5 per cent more than the previous record of 1941 and 26.4 per cent above the 1922-32 average.

With record crops of corn and wheat, the Department reports that feed grains will run four per cent above the 1942 record and that food grain production likewise topped any previous year.

In addition to corn and wheat, record crops are already assured for potatoes, tobacco, peaches, pears, plums and truck crops. Near records are already set for oats, rice and peanuts and probably grapes, cherries and sugar-cane. Cotton production, on the other hand, has dropped to the lowest level in twenty-five years. Other below-average crops are rye, broom corn, dried beans and pecans.

The mammoth production has been accomplished by the farmers of the nation under severe handicaps. The lure, of course, has been prevailing high prices, which after all, are the spur of producers, whether one is thinking about crops, products or machines.

Many prominent men have asserted that agriculture is the backbone of the nation's prosperity and, if this is correct, it behooves responsible Americans to attempt to provide a permanent price situation that will encourage all-out production by our farmers. Naturally, the growers will have to switch their crops and use good judgment in selecting what to plant, basing their conclusions upon statistical positions, the probable price and the possible need for what they intend to produce.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The divine purpose through the ages has been that we should become "the sons of God" (I John 3:1). In "the fullness of time," He sent His own Son into the world, and "as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12). Sons of God! Heirs with Christ! In fellowship with the divine Father! "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us!"

Weekly CHURCH COLUMN

Pastors are invited to take advantage of this column for sermons, church notices, etc. Mail sermons and contributions to Church Column Editor, care of this newspaper.

The Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church have appealed to the people of the United States for "faith and fellowship with the Russian people." To conclude that the only way in which the tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States can be resolved is by war would be calamitous," they say, "and to contemplate such a war in the name of religion is unthinkable. It would be to reject completely the power of goodwill, understanding, and cooperation between peoples which we are seeking to implement in the United Nations . . . In view of



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the enormous peril to civilization in modern warfare, both nations must be prepared to make reasonable concessions.

The newly formed Protestant Fund of Greater New York, Inc., will launch a campaign in that City in January, 1947 for \$1,200,000 to meet the financial needs of some scores of Protestant church, community and welfare services. Hitherto funds have been raised separately by the Protestant Council of the City of New York (composed of churches), and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (composed of community and social welfare institutions and activities related to the churches). Thomas M. Peters is chairman of the board of directors of the Council.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church—usually known as the A. M. E. Zion Church—is now celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is the oldest Negro religious organization in the United States and one of the largest. There is dispute whether or not it started in New York in 1796 when a handful of Negroes met in a carpenter shop in New York; or in the previous decade when a some what similar group met in Baltimore; but the celebration seems to settle upon the later date. This church,

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