

A-P EMPLOYEES START 5-DAY WEEK

Get Same Weekly Wage For 48 Hours: Stores Stay Open 6 Days As Usual.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—Retail employees of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company in North and South Carolina today went on a five-day, 48-hour week, M. A. Hogewood, southern division vice-president of the A & P Company and head of the Charlotte unit announced.

The shorter work week — inaugurated for the first time in the history of the grocery business this spring in eastern outlets of the A & P—today became effective in the company's entire southern division from Florida to North Carolina and from the eastern seaboard to the Mississippi river and Texas.

"Stores will continue to serve customers six days a week as usual, though approximately 6,000 employees of the southern division will work but five days a week and receive the same pay for 48 hours as they received under the old schedule," Mr. Hogewood said.

In Jacksonville, Fla., R. M. Smith, southern division president, pointed out that the exten-

sion of the new policy placed the entire A & P organization on a five-day basis except where state and local regulations, agreements and customs prevent it. "In the last 25 years," Mr. Smith said, "the A & P has reduced the work week of its employees a total of 25 hours or 32.6 per cent. We broke with the traditional dawn-to-dusk hours of the grocery business in 1916, reducing the work week from 72 to 65 hours. As the efficiency of our method of distribution increased from year to year, other reductions have been made with the result that A & P employees have consistently enjoyed the best average wages and the shortest general hours in the food industry."

Mr. Smith emphasized that the employee advantages were gained through increased company efficiency and not at the expense of higher prices to consumers or reduced returns to growers.

"In 1940 we were able to give our employees pay increases and added compensation amounting to more than \$4,000,000. At the same time, the farmers supplying A & P with fresh fruits and vegetables got 53 cents of the consumer's dollar spent at retail compared to 46.8 per cent they received four years ago.

"Because of the continued increase of our efficiency and

consequent lowering of our operating costs, A & P customers are now enjoying the lowest retail price in relation to our costs in the history of the industry," he continued. "Our customers this year will save more than \$50,000,000 on food compared to the lowest prices we could have charged on the basis of operating costs five years ago."

He pointed out that in the last 10 years the company, besides reducing materially the working hours of its employees, has inaugurated vacations with pay, free insurance, half days off, sick benefits, hospitalization, compensation to employees entering military service, and frequent increases in the wage scale.

"The heads of our company have always been keenly conscious of their responsibility to their customers, suppliers and employees as well. Today they realize more than ever the importance of economical food distribution in the present defense emergency, and are striving for further increases in their efficiency in order to achieve greater savings to consumers, increased returns to growers and additional improvements in working conditions and benefits to employees."

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES

ACT ASSURES CONTINUATION OF BUILDING

New Authorizations Become Law; Debt Limit Is Raised

Continuation of all phases of the present Federal Housing Administration program under Titles I and II of the National Housing Act is assured by President Roosevelt's signature of amendments to those titles. Administrator Abner H. Ferguson announced recently.

Under the amendments, the authority of the FHA to insure property improvement loans and certain new construction loans under Title I is extended for two years to July 1, 1943. The maximum outstanding insurance liability under Title I is increased from \$100,000,000 to \$165,000,000.

The maximum amount of a Title I loan for modernization of a residential structure for two or more families is raised from \$2,500 to \$5,000, with the maximum term for loans above \$2,500 extended from the former three years to five years. The maximum amount of a Title I Class 3 loan for construction of a new dwelling is raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The President is authorized to increase the maximum principal amount of all mortgages insured under Title II which may be outstanding at any one time from the present \$4,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

The authority of the Admini-

strator under Title II to insure mortgages on existing homes is extended for three years to July 1, 1944, with a limitation of 35 per cent, against the former 25 per cent, on the maximum amount of insurance which may involve existing homes. There is no time limit on Title II insurance of new-home mortgages.

The extension of modernization loan insurance is important to national defense, Mr. Ferguson said. It enables property owners to meet urgent housing demands in many cities through conversion of old dwellings into apartments and through other modernization projects. Continuation of mortgage insurance on existing homes under Title II makes it possible for the FHA to maintain a fully rounded mortgage loan insurance system.

Most of the insurance operations of the FHA now involve homes located in the vicinity of important defense industrial areas, Mr. Ferguson said. This is true not only of Title VI loan insurance, which is operative only in designated defense areas, but also of the regular FHA program.

MISSIONARIES LEAVE JAPAN

None From U. S. Left In Country

Boston, September 11.—The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions announced today that all its missionaries now have been withdrawn from Japan, leaving the board with-

out American representation in that country for the first time in 72 years.

"While their Japanese colleagues advised the missionaries to leave in view of the present tense situation," Dr. Wynn C. Fairfield, American Board (Congregational) Far Eastern secretary, announced, "they also made it unmistakably clear that their return in

happier times would be expected and welcomed."

The board normally maintains at least 36 of a staff of 40 missionaries on duty in Japan. The announcement today said that a cable had been received reporting the arrival of the last nine missionaries from Japan at Shanghai.

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