

# LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

## War Production Increases. Cargo Ships Coming Fast.

The latest report on war production, issued by Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, reveals that about three-fourths of our war production effort this year will be devoted to making weapons and ships as compared with a little more than half during 1942.

Government-financed construction of Army camps, munitions plants, war housing and public works is declining and the output of planes, tanks, ships and guns is moving upward, although there are special categories, such as naval vessels, which are below expectations.

Generally, it seems that the production of four-engined bombers is improving. February showed a thirty-six per cent increase over January, which showed a twenty per cent increase over December. Medium bomber production is also up, but fighter output is not.

In cargo ships, the report reveals that more vessels were built during the first two months of 1943 than in the first six months of 1942. In January, 88 merchant cargo vessels, of 976,000 deadweight tons were delivered and in February, 107 vessels totaling 1,186,000 deadweight tons.

While exact figures are naturally concealed, the report of Mr. Nelson confirms the conviction that American industry, liberally assisted by the Government, has made an outstanding record in the production of war material.

While there was some delay on the part of our industrialists in converting their plants to war contracts, once it became necessary, the productive power of American industry was cut loose upon weapons of warfare, which means that the soldiers and sailors of the United States will be equipped with the tools they need for the work which lies ahead.

## Rubber Program Ahead? Army-Navy Seek Priority.

There are two reports that the synthetic rubber program is proceeding "better than expected" and that, consequently, the Army and Navy are again moving to secure higher priority for escort ships and high octane gasoline.

The public will remember that not many weeks ago there was a general discussion of the situation, with the controversy referred to James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilization Director. In view of the progress being made, some military leaders are again insisting that Army and Navy requirements receive increased priority.

The Navy wants escort vessels for its war against the U-boats in the Atlantic and the Army wants to be assured of a new supply of high-octane aviation gasoline. Both programs compete with the synthetic rubber plant construction program.

## Selective Service Principle A Backbone of Democracy.

The backbone of the Selective Service system is the idea that the government, acting through local boards, will select men for service when, in the opinion of the officials of the nation, their military service will be of greater value to the country than their peace-time activity.

With the principle of selection at work there is no reason for any man to volunteer. The government decides the order of calling upon men and no reflection attaches to any citizen who sits quietly and permits the government to make its proper decision.

When Congress attempts to create blanket exemptions by legislation the selective principle is destroyed. Large numbers of men will be exempted from possible calls to military service and it is inevitable that some of them will not deserve the exemption that comes to them en masse.

This will tend to create reflection upon men who are deferred from active service. It will put pressure upon some patriotic young men to volunteer, regardless of exemption that should be accepted willingly and loyally under the principle of selective service.

We strongly suggest that the principle of selective service be retained as the vital program in providing men for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. This principle cannot be effective if the local selective service boards are to receive orders from Congress as to their ruling upon all members of a special class.

## Entirely Up To Congress

The mammoth report of the National Resources Planning Board is entirely too long for any quick study of its contents or an intelligent appraisal of its recommendations.

The President, however, has emphasized that the burden of planning the social and economic cushions for protecting the country against the let-down that will follow the war is an obligation that rests entirely upon Congress.

The chances are that Congress will appoint some type of committee to consider the problem and make its report. The findings of the National Resources Planning Board will, no doubt, aid the Congressional committee in its work.

## Lend-Lease Helps U. S.

Praising reciprocal Lend-Lease transactions between the United States and Great Britain, W. Averill

Harriman, American Lend-Lease representative in London, declares that 3,517,000 tons of supplies, including food and equipment, had been obtained in Great Britain for the United States' forces up to December 31st.

Mr. Harriman estimated that more than 3,000,000 tons of shipping space have been saved through the acquisition of supplies at the spot.

Along the same line, Major General Charles H. Lee, commanding the U. S. Army Service of Supply, points out that much of the labor needed for the construction of airfields and other establishments has been paid for by the British. He added: "Frankly, we couldn't be here and we couldn't have mounted the operations in North Africa if it had not been for reciprocal Lend-Lease."

## Churchill For Victory First.

### Postpones Post-War Issues.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in his radio address, declined to agree with the sanguine hopes of those who have been impressed by the favorable turn in Allied fortunes during the past six months.

He takes no stock in the popular idea that the "war will soon be over and that we shall soon all be able to get back to the politics and party fights of peace-time."

Mr. Churchill advises the British to "concentrate even more zealously upon the war effort," explaining that his discussion of "some post-war and domestic issues" was inspired by the hope that he might "simplify and mollify political divergencies and enable all our political forces to march forward to the main objective in unity and, so far as possible, in step."

Much of the Prime Minister's address was related to social issues in Great Britain, with advocacy of a four-year plan of reform but without details which would have to be the business of a future government.

He imagined that the war might end "sometime next year—but it may well be the year after" before Hitler and his powers of evil are beaten into "death, dust and ashes." Thereafter, he warned his listeners, "we shall immediately proceed to transport all the necessary additional forces and apparatus to the other side of the world to punish the greedy, cruel empire of Japan."

When Hitler is beaten the time will come for a "new declaration" as to the task of the British nation, which may relate largely to the rearrangements necessary, both in the British Isles and Europe itself. Then he hoped, the three great victorious powers, The British Commonwealth of Nations, the United States and Soviet Russia" should immediately begin to confer upon future world organization which is to be our safeguard against further wars, etc."

Taken altogether the British leader delivered a grim warning to his people that the war is still to be won, that it is idle to talk too much of social reforms and peace plans until victory secured.

## Grows Beef Cattle On Practical Basis

Many North Carolina growers of beef cattle are doing a thoroughly practical job of livestock production, says L. I. Case, extension animal husbandman of N. C. State College. C. W. Mayo of Tarboro is a good example.

Mayo has always kept his production of feed ahead of his number of cattle, Case said. The Edgecombe farmer has one old permanent pasture and two new ones, all of which have received limestone and phosphate. In addition to his permanent pastures, he uses lespedeza as a supplementary grazing crop, when needed. Otherwise, the lespedeza is cut for hay or allowed to produce seed.

He also has a silo, and a part of the silage is reserved for spring, after his grazing crops are eaten down and before the permanent pastures are ready. This fills a gap in the feeding program, which many livestock growers fear.

Mayo started in the beef cattle business through the use of a registered Hereford bull on cows of dairy breeding. He still has some of these grade dairy cows and last year steer calves from them, born from January to April, sold in October for an average of \$64 per head.

At present, he has nine registered Hereford cows and heifers of serviceable age and three yearling heifers, in addition to the calves at foot. He has sixty head of grade cattle of other kinds, all in good flesh.

He has practiced controlled breeding and all of his calves are dropped in early spring. In this way, they can be weaned at the same time.

In commenting on the excellent record of Mayo, specialist Case also called attention to the third annual association of Herefords at Wilson on April 16, when about 20 bulls and 40 females of excellent value will be offered.

## Farmers Must Have Permits To Sell Meat

Farmers who kill animals for home use do not need a slaughter permit, but they are required to secure one if they deliver any part of the meat

to others, says I. O. Schaub, director of extension at N. C. State College.

The Government issued three permit orders which become effective after midnight March 31. They require: (1) All livestock slaughterers who sell meat, including farmers and local butchers, to operate under a slaughter permit system and, as an aid to enforcement, to stamp their permit number at least once on each wholesale cut;

(2) All livestock dealers to obtain permits to buy and sell livestock and to keep complete records of their operations (Farmers are not required to obtain dealer permits, but they are asked to keep records of their purchases and sales);

(3) All slaughterers, operating under Federal inspection, to set aside designated percentages of their production for war use.

## TAKES GUARD POSITION

Mrs. A. B. Keen, of Norfolk, Va., has accepted a position as senior Guard at the Norfolk Supply Co., Norfolk, Va. Mrs. Keen is the former Cleo White, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. O. White.

"Who yuh shovin'?"  
"Dunno; what's your name?"

## Sweet Potato Prices Will Be Supported For County Growers

In an effort to assist growers in meeting the 1943 production goal, prices at which sweet potatoes will be supported for Perquimans County growers have been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to Dr. E. S. White, chairman of the County AAA Committee. The prices, applicable only to the 1943 crop, range from \$1.15 to \$1.45 per bushel, depending on seasonal differences.

The 1943 national sweet potato goal recently was increased 32 per cent over the earlier goal, which called for the same acreage as planted in 1942. North Carolina's present goal is 72,000 acres, and the goal for Perquimans County is 270 acres.

Prices will be supported through purchases by the Food Production Administration at \$1.15 per bushel during the harvesting season from August through November; at \$1.30 per

bushel in December and January; at \$1.45 per bushel during February, March and April, Chairman White said. These prices apply to sweet potatoes grading U. S. No. 1 and packed in either bushel crates, baskets, or hampers. U. S. No. 2 potatoes containing 75 per cent or more of U. S. No. 1 quality will be supported at 15 cents per bushel below the prices for U. S. No. 1's.

When a purchase program is started in any area, Dr. White said, arrangements will be made by the Food Distribution Administration to purchase the sweet potatoes from growers at the scheduled support prices. Potatoes offered must be in standard containers, either row or secondhand, but must be durable and clean. Purchases will be made only in carload lots, but any number of growers may pool their potatoes to make up a car. All carlots offered must be inspected by Federal State inspectors at the expense of the sellers. Loading places and time of loading will be designated by county

USDA War Boards and purchase agents of the FDA.

Chairman White said potatoes also will be purchased in 50 pound sacks, but at a discount of 10 cents below the designated bushel prices. This differential takes into consideration the lighter weight of the packed sacks and the lower packing costs.

The seasonal price spreads should assure orderly marketing of sweet potatoes throughout the marketing season, officials say, and the announced prices will apply to any variety in any state which has an established goal for sweet potatoes.

## CLASSIFIED AND LEGAL NOTICES

WANTED — WOMEN AND MEN attendants in State institution for mental defectives. Good physical condition. Must be United States Citizens but need not be residents of New York State. Age 18-70. \$54.00 per month, increasing to \$62.00 after three months service

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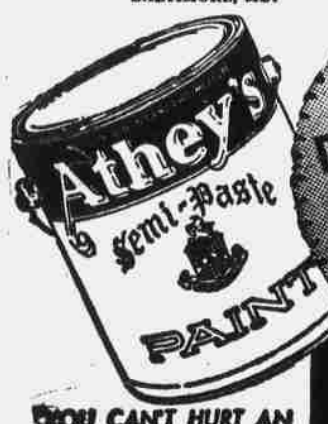
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