

THE Perquimans Weekly

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LOVE OR HATE, THEY RETURN TO US: Blessings are upon the head of the just; but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.—Pro. 10:6.

Farm Land Values Rise

There are farmers, living in Perquimans County who have a vivid memory of the evil effects of inflation upon the value of farm lands in 1920-21.

The records show that farm land values stood at 103 in 1914, rose to 129 in 1918 and hit 170 in 1920. Nobody knows where they settled in the collapse that followed because, in most areas, there was no market for farm lands.

When the present war began the index of farm land values stood at 84. It has moved upward to 102. In the natural course a further increase is expected. Experts wonder where the rise will end.

The rising value of farm lands is based, fundamentally, upon profits made out of farming. Despite what the professional farm leaders and the politicians say, figures reveal that agriculture is making money.

In 1939 the net income of farm operators, after payment of taxes and farming costs, was \$4,500,000. Last year it was 10,200,000,000 and this year it is expected to reach \$12,400,000,000.

We do not suggest that it is unwise to buy farm lands, even at their present value. Individuals who know how to manage farming, and have the labor and capital to operate, can probably make money through the purchase of additional farm lands.

It is risky business for a novice and dangerous for anyone operating a farm upon slender capital. To mortgage what is now owned to gain an equity in twice as much land is a risk to be accepted only after considerable scrutiny, as many older farmers, who took the venture in 1920, will tell you.

Mail Christmas Packages

With more than two million soldiers in foreign lands, and thousands of sailors scattered over the oceans, the problem of handling Christmas packages becomes immense.

If those at home will follow instructions and mail their gifts to men in service the packages will be delivered by Christmas Day. Obviously, if everybody waits until the last day to mail their parcels the postal services will be overwhelmed and delays will be inevitable.

The War Department has announced that regulations requiring a request from an overseas soldier to be waived between September 15 and October 15. It urges the public to provide our men overseas with a "flood of Christmas spirit from their homes" and it pledges that every gift mailed by October 15th will be delivered by Christmas morning.

Last year the Army Postal Service handled 5,000,000 packages and the load this year is expected to be 10,000,000. Since every parcel must be opened, inspected and rewrapped before leaving this country, it is necessary that the deadline be observed if gifts are to arrive promptly.

Since around ten per cent of the packages sent out in 1942 were incorrectly addressed it is important for every sender to include the soldier's full name, rank, Army serial number, service organization and unit, A. P. O. number and the port of embarkation Postmaster.

We pass the information along to all our readers in order that Perquimans County service men will get their Christmas packages on time. Additional details can be secured from the local postoffice. Meanwhile, everybody should get busy and mail their packages as early as possible.

FDR says:

Every worker should increase the amount of bonds he or she is buying.

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Foreign Policy Not Clear Parties Should Speak Out

Fast-moving events in Europe, following the surrender of Italy, may make it imperative that the United States establish a foreign policy that can be accepted throughout the world as the expression of the considered opinion of the people and hence not subject to revision with every change in administration.

This definiteness will be extremely difficult to attain. It is possible that the presidential election of 1944 will give the people an opportunity to decide what our foreign policy will be but this is by no means certain. Consequently, it is probable that our role in world affairs will be circumscribed by the inherent obstacles to prompt elucidation of nation policy.

To give positive assurance of our participation in the establishment of a new world order, with adequate power to preserve peace, it would be necessary, at this time, for both major parties to make a declaration that is without the possibility of "interpretation" to please all factions.

The Republican conclave at Mackinac Island adopted a declaration urging: "Responsible participation by the United States in post-war co-operative organization among sovereign nations to prevent military aggression and to attain permanent peace with organized justice in a free world."

Now, with all recognition of the obvious difficulties that confront the Republican committee, we find its utterance far from the clarity of the suggestions recently made by Clarence Budington Kelland, former executive director of the Republican National Committee, or the forthright declaration of Governor Dewey of New York, for an outright continuing military alliance with Great Britain, together with the hope that Russia and China might be brought into a four-way arrangement.

Of course, the Republican party, when it assembles next year in convention, may give us an out-and-out declaration. It is assumed that the Democrats will have no choice but to support the President's foreign policy. This, however, must be more clearly defined, especially in regards to post-war matters. In fact, both parties must come out into the open in order that the verdict of the people, at the polls, will be conclusive as to national policy.

Russia Not Fighting Alone Soviet Has Received Aid

It may be perfectly natural for soldiers of the Red Army to attribute their clean-cut victory over the Germans to their own power and not to Allied operations in the West, as reported by Henry C. Cassidy, Associated Press correspondent on the Steppe front.

It is somewhat surprising, however, to find many people in the United States and Great Britain, who, despite clearer information as to the activities of their countries, seem to agree with the Russian soldiers.

When all the facts of the present war are available, it will be ascertained, we think, that the aerial offensive against Germany and the threat of an Anglo-American invasion in Western France exerted considerable pressure upon the Nazis and prevented the Germans from using their full power against the Red Army.

In strange contrast with the Russian soldier who believes that his country is fighting the whole war, some of our citizens are inclined to depreciate our war effort. The same observation applies to some of the people of Great Britain. They have accepted the propaganda from Moscow, relating to a "second front" and, like the Russians, will be satisfied with nothing less than a full-scale offensive against the German Army.

They are not impressed by the aerial offensive against Germany, the successful operations in the Mediterranean, the volume of supplies shipped to Russia, the burden of maintaining sea control or the fact that the United States and Great Britain are carrying the entire war against Japan.

Parcels Sent To Prisoners Now Being Held By Japan

Now on the high seas the Swedish ship Gripsholm will proceed to Mormogoa, Portuguese East Indies, where it will meet a Japanese ship for the exchange of passengers and cargo.

Of great interest to the people of this country is the dispatch of parcels to Americans, now held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. The next of kin of every designated prisoner was given the opportunity to send a parcel.

Where next of kin was not designated, or could not be located, the Red Cross provided parcels, similar to those being sent by the next of kin, so that practically every American will receive a package from home. In addition, the Red Cross provided special 13-pound packages of food in sufficient quantity to permit the distribution of several to each prisoner.

The Army and Navy also provided food and clothing and the ship carried medical supplies supplied by the Red Cross.

These packages will be the first won't get any pleasure out of it.

received by many prisoners and give them their first news of relatives in this country. The failure to provide earlier packages has been due entirely to the unwillingness of the Japanese government to cooperate in the exchange of packages for prisoners of war.

Two Years of War Ahead, Hopkins Warns of Sacrifices

Harry L. Hopkins, friend and adviser of the President, has had many opportunities to appraise the war situation. In his position, he has information not available to many Americans and it is interesting to report his prediction that Germany and Japan will be crushed by 1945.

Mr. Hopkins warns that the loss of Russia on the Allied side would greatly lengthen the war. He says that because China has fought bravely for several years, we cannot assume that she can fight forever. He further says that the people at home face two years of increasing sacrifice and "must work harder and go without more things."

Warning against over-optimism, Mr. Hopkins declared that the principal Axis powers are not economically desperate and that despite bombings, blockades and ship sinkings, they are still militarily solvent. The German home front morale has suffered a heavy blow, but Hitler's group is fighting in the hope of "a long war, a stalemate and a compromise."

Declaring that although one-third of the German Ruhr industrial district probably has been demolished and Nazi war output is down ten per cent from raids and other causes, Mr. Hopkins says that industry in Europe is still functioning.

With nearly 13,000,000 foreigners working in Germany, the Nazis are able to maintain armed forces of approximately 10,000,000 despite total war casualties of 3,000,000. "The Axis is not critically short of manpower," declares Mr. Hopkins, who asserts that "the United Nations are."

Discussing the matter of transportation, Mr. Hopkins says that these facilities have been heavily strained, but reliance upon inland waterways and successful repair techniques go far to offset weaknesses.

As to Japan, Mr. Hopkins points out that for years reserve industrial strength has been developed in Manchuria, North China, Korea and Formosa, and declares that if Japan lost all the islands she has seized in the last two years, "she would not be licked by any means."

The views of Mr. Hopkins are presented in The American Magazine and are apparently designed to prevent the development of over-confidence on the home front, based on the growing popular belief that the collapse of Germany and Japan is not far distant.

Problems For Congress Taxes, Fathers, Election

The end of the Congressional recess will find returning solons confronted with several serious legislative matters. After conferring with "the people," it may be assumed that the members of the House and Senate will more accurately reflect popular sentiment but we do not expect any radical changes in the expressed opinions of the nation's governing body.

There will be much discussion of the proposed drafting of fathers. Already strenuous opposition is apparent, with the suggestion that unmarried men be taken in higher age bracket and the idea is also advanced that, after all, the Army and Navy are planning an unnecessary increase in size.

The ever-present subject of taxation will occupy considerable attention, with the President anxious to raise an additional \$12,000,000,000. The chances are that Congress will not provide so much although it is recognized that increased levies cannot be avoided.

Higher rates are reasonably certain upon corporate, excise and personal income taxes. Cigarettes and liquor will pay more. Discussion as to a general sales tax runs into a certain presidential veto and Congressmen are not enthusiastic about a spending levy. Compulsory savings, advocated by some, present difficulties in connection with continued sale of war bonds.

There will be much heard about subsidies to hold down food prices, with particular emphasis upon dairy products. Improved crop conditions indicate record yields of foodstuffs, with attractive prices, but the farm bloc will have demands for agriculture to engage serious attention before Christmas.

Above all, the legislators will not lose sight of the presidential election that comes in 1944. Statesmanship will give way to the necessities of "the record" which is very important to those who want to be re-elected. Consequently, there will be much talk, in both Houses, about the war program, the peace ahead and the establishment of the future world order.

One-Sided

Mr. Smith—May I have the pleasure of the next dance?

Miss Slim—You may. I know I



THESE ARE AMERICAN SOLDIERS GOING INTO ACTION. You need not worry about their finching or failing—no matter what tough going they may meet. You can count on them to do what we're asking of them—to pay, with their lives if need be, the price of victory. But victory cannot be bought by these men alone. We've got to pay our share of the cost too. This month, that share is at least \$100 EXTRA—over and above all other buying—in U. S. War Bonds, for every man and woman in this country. Invest your share—today!

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