

THE Perquimans Weekly

Entered as second class matter, November 15, 1934, at Post Office at Hertford, North Carolina, under the Act of March, 1979. Published every Friday by the Perquimans Weekly, a company of Hertford, N. C. **MAX CAMPBELL**, Editor



SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year \$1.50

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FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1949.

HCL To Drop

American consumers may expect a drop of about ten per cent in the cost of living during the present year, according to Dr. Ewan Clague, U. S. Commissioner of Labor, who says that statistics do not lead to the expectation of a greater increase.

A ten per cent decrease in the cost of living would be welcome, of course, but there are many Americans who look for a more substantial reduction. However, the welfare of the national economy as a whole must be considered and it is probable that more than a ten per cent reduction in the course of this year might cause severe dislocations in the economic machinery upon which all of us depend for our income.

More People For U. S.

The population growth of the United States continues to confound the experts, who predicted, during the 1930's, that a falling birth rate would lead to an equilibrium between birth and death rates by 1960.

Last year, the population of this country increased nearly 2,500,000.

The increase was largely due to the number of births, 2,650,000, which exceeded the lowest death rate in the history of the nation by about 2,200,000. The other part of the increase came through immigration.

An increase in population, coming about by the increase of births inside the country, is much better than a similar increase through immigration. It is natural to expect that native born citizens will have a better comprehension of American ideals than those born in foreign countries who come to the United States in later years.

The extent of the increase in the number of births is indicated by the fact that in the eight years, 1941-1948, more than 25,000,000 babies were born in the United States. This compares with a little more than 19,000,000 in 1931-1938.

It should be noted in this connection that there are now 48 persons per square mile of land area in the United States. This compares with 25 in 1900. While there have been considerable shifts of population, it is interesting to note that the ten most densely populated states in 1947 were exactly, in order, the same as in 1900: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Delaware and Illinois.

One of the revelations that come with a study of population figures shows that the death rate in 1948 was a trifle over 9.9 per thousand, which was a little below the previous low rate established in 1946. Moreover, the infant mortality rate in 1948 declined to a new minimum low of about 31 per 1,000 live births, which is nearly 40 per cent under the comparable figure of only a decade ago.

Indicative of social, political and economic changes is the fact that the percentage of our population, 65 years or older, continues to grow appreciably. In 1900 it was only four per cent, or nearly 3,000,000 people. In 1940, it was 6.8 per cent, or about 9,000,000 people. This phase of our population characteristics is expected to continue to accelerate.

While these figures apply to the United States, as a whole, the figures for the various states and counties naturally vary considerably. Every state has shown an increasing density of population in the years of this century, but the relative increase has varied. In Vermont, it was only four per cent, but jumped more than two hundred per cent in Florida and the states of the Far West.

The World Situation

In Europe and Asia, the military forces of the Soviet Union constitute a dominant power, at present unbalanced by any group of nations.

In the world at large the strength of the United States is dominant, outside of the land areas of Europe and Asia, and the possession of the atomic bomb makes this country almost irresistible in warfare for a limited period of years.

The impasse in Europe constitutes something of a deadlock between Eastern and Western Europe, which could be broken, no doubt, by the use of Soviet force. That Russia does not attempt to solve these problems by force, as she did in Eastern Europe, is due entirely to our possession of the atomic bomb, in the opinion of Mr. Winston Churchill, who is a man with great knowledge of world affairs.

The burden of the United States in international affairs will be greatly lightened, when the nations of Europe, outside the Communist orbit, become strong enough to balance the preponderance of might that now belongs to Russia. When this happens, the United States, separated by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, will be the decisive factor in world affairs. We will occupy the position that Great Britain held for many centuries in Europe and if we use the position intelligently, we can largely determine the course of world affairs.

We sleep, but the loom of life never stops, and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up in the morning.

—Henry Ward Beecher.

N. C. RURITANS CHALLENGE VIRGINIA



These are the top men in the Ruritan corn contest, Swin L. Lowery of Elizabeth City, former president of Ruritan National and chairman of North Carolina Ruritan 100-bushel club (center) challenged Virginia Ruritan clubs to grow more corn during the 1949 season. O. L. Holt of Wakefield (right), chairman of the Virginia Ruritan 100-bushel corn growing contest, accepted the Tar Heel challenge. At the left is Senator Garland Gray of Waverly, president of Ruritan National, who has offered a \$20 hat to the victorious Ruritan state contest chairman.

Multiple Insurance Tried In Perquimans

One out of every five eligible farmers has applied for multiple crop insurance in Perquimans County this year, according to Julian E. Mann, State director of the Federal Crop Insurance Program.

The county is the first in the South to offer this new type of insurance, which covers more than one crop on the same farm. The program is open to farm owners, tenants and sharecroppers. The closing date for applications this year was March 31.

"I am particularly gratified," Mr. Mann said, "by the fine response of Perquimans farmers to the new idea of protecting their investment on operations for the entire farm. Formerly in North Carolina insurance has been offered on only one or two crops, and principally on one crop."

Mr. Mann said farmers in Perquimans have already reduced their risks by greatly diversifying their crops, and now those who are taking advantage of multiple insurance are going one step further and assuring themselves that they will get the return of their cash investment.

Of approximately 1,200 eligible farmers in the county, incomplete reports indicate that 225 have applied for multiple insurance. Mr. Mann stated that the success of the program was due to the splendid cooperation received from County Agent I. C.

SUNDAY AMERICAN COMICS IN TWO BIG SECTIONS

Effective Sunday, April 24, the comic supplement of the Baltimore Sunday American will appear in two bright sections in full color. The two-section comic supplement will make it easier for the family to enjoy their favorites of funland. Be sure to look for the two comic sections in

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CIRCLE MEETING

The Blanche Meekins Circle of Anderson's Church met Friday night, April 8, at the home of Mrs. Anderson Layden with Mrs. Archie Riddick as hostess. Ten members and two visitors were present.

The vice president, Mrs. Elliott Layden, called the meeting to order with all joining in singing "Near the Cross."

During the business session the roll was called and minutes of the last meeting read and approved and reports from the various officers heard.

The devotional for the evening was given by Mrs. Fred Floyd, using as her subject "God! Everything to Everyone." The Scripture was taken from the 15th chapter of I Corinthians 61-67 verses.

Mrs. Hazel Matthews had charge of the program for the evening, using as her subject "Light in Latin America." Those taking part on the program were Mrs. Hazel Matthews, Mrs. Louis Howell, Mrs. John N.

Winstow and Mrs. James H. Parry. The program closed with all joining in singing "Take the Name of Jesus With You."

The meeting adjourned with prayer by Mrs. Wayland Howell, to meet in May with Mrs. Joseph Parry.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.



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