

PAGE IS SEEKING AID OF MINISTERS

TO AROUSE PEOPLE TO REALIZATION OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

Raleigh.

The increasing seriousness of the food situation has led State Food Administrator Henry A. Page to make a stirring appeal to the Christian ministers of North Carolina to arouse their people to a realization of what the situation holds and of their individual responsibility in meeting the situation. Other letters have been written to the hotels and restaurants of the state and to the educational institutions and other places where food is handled in considerable quantities. Mr. Page in some of his letters has made two particularly starting statements:

First: The United States has already exported to its allies and neutral Europe this country's normal export surplus of wheat, while the same is approximately true of beef and pork and fat; and we have drawn largely on our normal supply of sugar to help out the French and English.

Second: Tens of thousands of women and children and old men must die in Europe this winter from starvation in spite of all we can do.

Because of the transportation situation practically all the food which reaches Europe during the next few months must come from America and with our ordinary surplus already gone a marked reduction in our normal consumption of wheat, beef and pork products, fats and sugar, must be made in order to save our allied countries from a collapse and to save as many as possible of the people of neutral Europe from starvation.

The situation has sifted down to where it can be very clearly and definitely stated that every ounce of wheat and beef and pork and every particle of fats or sugar which is saved by any individual by substitution of other products or through economy will help not only to win the war but to save the life of some starving woman or child in Europe.

"The heartrending part of it all," declares Mr. Page, "is that our people have not waked up to a realization of the horrible death that threatens several hundred thousand individuals in Europe, or even to the terrible menace of a complete German victory if our European allies should collapse because we do not supply them with the foodstuffs which they must have if they are to hold out. The critical period is NOW."

It has been announced by the Food Administration that the price of \$0.046 a pound for the new crop of raw sugar in Cuba will mean 8c sugar to the consumer during the coming year. The Cuban crop, which is now being harvested, is estimated at three millions to three and a half million tons which, added to our own crop of 600,000,000 tons of beet sugar and 300,000,000 tons of Louisiana cane sugar will be more than ample for our needs with the exercise of reasonable economy in using sugar.

The raw sugar from Cuba will begin reaching our refineries within the next two or three weeks and the sugar problem will be very largely solved so far as any actual sugar famine is concerned. The utmost economy in the use of sugar, however, will be necessary during the period of the war on account of the very great decrease in the beet sugar crop of France and Italy.

Thrift Stamps Prove Popular.

The Thrift Stamps are proving very popular wherever they are understood. The buying of these stamps ought to help materially those who have had steady wages, but have not gotten into the saving frame of mind, and ought to help vastly the men and women who are just beginning to be wage earners. The small sum at the beginning is an assurance; the fact that each investor may suit his own convenience in the time of buying each stamp; the perfect safety; the good return—these and other considerations make a happy form of saving. Cannot each one of us explain these stamps to some one who needs to save? It will be as patriotic to sell one of these blocks of stamps as it will to buy one. N. C. Council of Defense.

Federal Court Clerk Dead.

Leo D. Heart, clerk of the federal court for the eastern district of North Carolina, died at his home here. The death was entirely unexpected although he had been suffering somewhat from heart trouble for some time. He was 68 years old and was for many years a prominent banker of Durham and Raleigh, and for more than a year served as clerk of the federal court succeeding the late Mr. Blow of Greenville. He is survived by Mrs. Heart and three daughters and one son.

Interested in Pork Production.

Returning from a trip to the South-eastern counties of North Carolina, Mr. J. C. Anthony, special agent in swine production for the Agricultural Extension Service, reports that growers in Columbus, Sampson, Bladen and Brunswick counties have become very much interested in the question of pork production and that a carload of pure bred swine will be brought for Columbus county at an early date. New Hanover county has been greatly interested in the pork question since the establishment of the packing plant at Wilmington and since one of the banks in the city sold a good number of pure bred pigs to several young men of the county taking their unsecured note until the boys had become established in the swine business.

Sampson county has also made good strides in pork production and Mr. Anthony states that he was somewhat surprised to find so many pure bred animals in the county. It is his intention to procure a number of hogs from this county for farmers who wish to take up the work in other adjacent counties. Both Mr. Anthony and Mr. J. E. Moses, Pib Club agent, have expressed themselves as being very much gratified with the way the farmers of the state are taking up the work of more pork production and are securing pure bred animals for breeding stock. Several banks over the state are now making plans to finance the pig club work in their counties, containing the practice begun during the last two or three years.

Will Take Soldiers Word.

The executive offices of Governor Bickett and the office of the adjutant general here are being flooded by letters of inquiry as to the federal aid for dependents of soldiers. The state authorities appealed to the headquarters at Washington for definite information and brought reply from the Washington bureau as follows: "Every enlisted man is required to make a truthful statement of his relatives and only in case the wife or the representative of the child in class A dependents believe the soldier will not make a truthful statement of such relations, should application be made by them, as the statement of the soldier is sufficient on which to warrant action by this bureau.

"As to dependent members of class B, parents, brothers, sisters and grandchildren, it is useless for them to make application unless the soldier has made a voluntary allotment of his pay for them and requests the family allowance, as the matter can only be determined from the soldier's statement."

Fires Increased by Extreme Cold.

The increased danger of fire and the need of extra precaution to prevent fires during extreme cold spells is called to the attention of the public in a statement given out today by Insurance Commissioner Young.

"The danger of fire during extreme cold snaps like the present one is very much increased," says the statement, "this is especially true in large manufacturing plants, warehouses or stores. In plants where automatic sprinklers are used frozen pipes might render the system temporarily useless at a time when its need was most imperative. A year ago several large industrial properties throughout the country were destroyed because pipes in the system were frozen when it was called upon to do its work. The same thing applies to inside hydrants for fire protection. A frozen hydrant in a building may not thaw until the burning building thaws it and that will be just too late. Frequent inspection and every precaution to prevent freezing of fire prevention apparatus is necessary more at this time than at any other.

"When extreme cold spells come furnaces are run so as to produce the maximum heat. Dust or trash of any sort accumulated on pipes or behind and close to pipes may ignite and spread a fire which is much more difficult to handle in freezing weather

Lenoir County Moving Ahead.

A news note the other day tells us that Lenoir county is seriously considering the plan of consolidating all her 40 or more little rural schools and establishing eight well organized, well equipped, conveniently located schools. In order to provide for those pupils living some distance from a school system of transportation will be worked out.

This would be a wonderful piece of school administration and county reorganization if it can be put through. Just consider what a splendid opportunity would then be offered to every child in the county. Better schools, longer terms, better attendance, better teaching, because there would be less shifting of the teaching force, better health for the children and a general toning up of the whole educational system.

It is far better to sign the food pledge card late than not at all.

Farmers who chop wood to save coal in our cities this winter will be making the chips fly for freedom.

Food in the mouths of our allies is ammunition no less important than the shells in their siege guns.

The sugar that goes to waste in the bottom of American teaspoons would help to sweeten the life of many a French home.

Christmas candy that requires little or no sugar is a gift to our allies as well as to the receiver.

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