

The Clinton Chronicle

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CLINTON, S. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1943

Reading Habits Change

The war has brought surprising changes in the book-reading habits of most people—with Bibles, cook-books and textbooks showing the greatest increase in popularity.

Records of book sales compiled by Marshall Field & company, which can be taken as a fairly accurate yardstick of our nation's reading habits, also show a great increase in interest in children's books as well as in books about the foreign countries in which the war is being fought.

There are many obvious explanations for these changes. In the first place, people are reading more than they used to because of gasoline rationing and more evenings at home. The war naturally stimulates an increased interest in religion and the Bible as has been true during all war periods. Rationing and shortages make cook-books more necessary than ever before, their popularity being offset by the wane of the ever-popular can-opener. Textbooks are being eagerly sought after by men who hope to get a commission in the armed forces or to learn a war job. All of which shows that what is transpiring across the waters is affecting our reading habits at home.

Bowing To Lewis

The new 48-hour week requirement in war industry areas where there is a manpower shortage may have some merit, though we doubt it. It appears to us to be largely inspired by the government's desire to appease labor.

Congress has a whole bagful of measures ready (but never uses) to clamp down on labor if any major strikes or unreasonable demands for further increases again threaten to delay production. John L. Lewis and other rabid labor leaders have indicated that they aren't satisfied with the pay limitations being dictated by the government. It looked as though there was a fight brewing—and there still may be—but labor is going to fall less like fighting now that it is guaranteed a 48-hour week with eight of those hours at the high overtime rate of pay. To many workers this means an increase in income of about 30 per cent—which is much higher increase than Lewis or any other labor leaders were angling for.

This move is going to increase the national income by many billions and will make inflation a greater threat than ever. It is going to create another hardship for many small businesses. The only argument for it is that it may release manpower from industries which are not too busy and make it more easily available to those industries which are handicapped by a manpower shortage. It will not help the farmer. Plow, on, old boy—you don't belong to the union, Washington says.

The same goal could have been accomplished without raising prices and payrolls by requiring a 48-hour week at regular rates of pay.

Our soldiers and sailors in North Africa are not demanding shorter hours and overtime pay as they risk their lives.

Why should the Washington administration forever bow to Lewis and his crowd?

The Housewife's Job

The United States in recent months has gradually been put under a rationing system covering a large number of commodities its citizens eat, wear and use. Germany, Italy and Britain have similar systems of essential items that are hard to get. We borrowed the idea from these countries.

The primary purpose of rationing as we all must know by now, is to provide a fair distribution of essential commodities of which there is a shortage. This is not true in all cases, however. Take sugar as an example. There is more available now than ever before in the nation's history. There would be a still much larger supply available for consumption were it not for government restrictions on growers. Florida has been begging to be allowed to grow sugar cane but the Washington crowd says no. Another object of rationing is to decrease consumption and thereby preserve a dwindling supply. This, however, does not always work.

The latest point system of food rationing is the most complicated yet devised. It has many headaches not only for merchants, but for the nation's thirty-five million housewives who must now buy with the utmost care and intelligence, who must watch the fluctuating point prices as well as the money prices.

This point system which is used in England, is said to operate successfully. Just after our plan was announced the United Press interviewed women in food stores in London and asked them to give advice to American women. One English woman urged that rationing books not be allowed to fall into the hands of hus-

bands because, she said, men were unable to understand the point system and never could make it work. Our observation is that she was right.

This means the point system is a job that must be mastered by the housewives, those who buy and plan meals for their families. It is not a case now of luxuries or semi-luxuries, but applies to every-day staples. This the buyers must watch, else they will exhaust their points long before the month period is over and will be confronted with serious food difficulty for lack of food coupons, now more precious than money.

If general confusion is to be averted throughout the country, housewives must make the system work. It is their burden.

Post-War Planning

The U. S. Treasury department is now considering a plan for the sale of post-war purchase certificates which would give those holding them a priority on the first automobiles, refrigerators and other high-priced items for which there will be a tremendous demand after the war.

We had better be concerned now over winning the war in the shortest time possible instead of planning after-war programs or sending up trial political balloons on fourth term sentiment.

But getting back to the plan, we are told that its purpose would be to start us all paying installments now on the things we will want later—and to insure post-war prosperity by building up enormous orders for manufacturers before they consider having a breathing spell between record wartime production and record peace-time production.

To keep the millions of men now employed in wartime industry working after the war, and to make room for the millions of soldiers who must be given work as soon as they return to civilian life, it is imperative that our factories keep booming without interruption.

How is this to be done? Not by government restrictions, regimenting, dictating and interference. Not by extravagance, wastefulness, exorbitant taxes and hamstringing business. If there is to be business expansion and opportunity for work after the war it must come through intelligent planning and an end by government in attempting to regulate everything and everybody, and going further each day into competition with private industry. Jobs will be needed, millions of them. Give business an opportunity to expand and make money, make it attractive and profitable for new enterprises to open up. Give capital an opportunity. This will quickly create jobs and is the only way in which to escape a serious depression.

The talk of legislative "hand-outs" for soldiers is both stupid and unwise. They are making no such requests, but such suggestions come from politicians. What these young men will desire above all else when they return home is an opportunity to work, to earn an honest living, and to receive fair wages for their services. To all of this they are entitled.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

By GEE MCGEE

Happy Days Are Here Again

Well, the government has done it at last. It is definitely understood at this writing that "city dwellers" will be sent to the country to help us poor farmers, and the wages that the farmers will have to pay for this efficient labor will be the prevailing schedules, or what have you.

A sweet little toilet articles sales lady will get about \$1.50 per day for milking from 8 to 16 cows. Milliners will receive \$1.60 per day for pulling fodder, and a shoe salesman might expect to get as much as \$1.75 per day for cutting cord wood, shaking the oxen, digging ditches, chopping cotton and doing other small chores around the house.

These wages will just about keep the young ladies supplied with finger-nail polish, lipstick and talcum powder. (We don't know how "she" will manage about food and clothing; guess the "government" will permit nudist colonies if the worst comes to the best). The men will get enough cash for this farm work to keep them supplied with cigarettes, dopes, and an occasional glass of beer.

We can see the city workers (?) going to the farms now! Everybody rushing to get there! It won't be any trouble for them to do the farm work. Within 3 or 4 years, they might learn how to plow and sweep, sow and reap, shovel and dig, and feed the pig. The average city boy, and girl will require at least 3 weeks to know

"Meet the People..."

(Each week in this space will be presented a picture and word portrait of someone whose name is news.)



Charles E. Wilson

• Charles E. Wilson left the high salaried presidency of General Electric to help straighten out, at the invitation of the War department, the difficulties that were slowing up aircraft production. And, after surviving recent WPB scuffles, he has emerged victorious to become vice chairman of WPB, in charge of all production.

• His particular talents nicely supplement those of WPB Chairman Donald M. Nelson, whose training makes him particularly capable of allocating the goods Wilson is equally capable of getting produced with what most people hope will be a maximum of efficiency, a minimum of red tape.

• The son of a widowed mother, Wilson went to work at thirteen in the electrical equipment business (for \$3 a week), went to night school, and before he reached the presidency of General Electric in 1940 had mastered the details of production.

exactly how to wrap a leg around a hoe handle. Not one out of 50 will ever learn how to set a sweep, or put on a goober point, or adjust a brooder, or make a hog trough, or sleep on a straw tick, or make a fire in the stove, or dig worms for going a-fishing, or get up at 4 a.m., or attach a clevis to a plowstock, or eat by kerosene lamps that have no chimneys. By reason of our getting help from the cities, we will produce nearly one-tenth of one per cent more stuff (this year) than we could have produced without it.

News From Flat Rock

dr. hubbert green had a blow out monday night betwix his house and a patient that had the new-mony. he did not get to see her for 4 days and by that time she was setting up, the blowout proved lucky for her, so mrs. holsom moore says.

our poleman did not get his job with the f.b.i. he has withdrawn his request for a position. he says politics are behind his trouble and are standing in his way. he has decided to give up the finger-printing business. flat rock do not have enough crime for same.

miss jennie veeve smith has made another effort to jine the waves. she has lost enough flesh since her last application, so she says—to qualify as to weight and bust measurements. she knows she is o. k. as to intelligence, education, book-learning, and the rhumba. she is also a crack-shot with a pistol.

mr. slim chance has rote back from affera to his ma that him and mr. eisenhower and gen. degaulle have everything in hand at present, and the drive has started. he was not allowed to say where they would strike at hitler; he thought it would be in europe, asia or affera, but said they might change their plans and hit italy, or sweden or grease, and possibly turkey.

everybody is getting reddey to farm for the ensuing year. noboddy that has a grain of sense expects anny outside labor to be drafted in for farm work. mr. bert skinner says if we depend on furrin labor being sent in, we will all starve to death and lose the war. the trend is towards food, but cotton is the old standby. cotton can't be et.

ASK GROCERS TO DISPLAY LIST OF UNRATEDIONED FOOD

Columbia, March 9.—The state Office of Price Administration suggests that South Carolina food retailers post in conspicuous places in their stores a list of the commodities which are not included in the point rationing program.

Pointing out that this would be a service appreciated by consumers, OPA officials said that the list of commodities specifically not included among the foods to be rationed has been expanded to include:

Candied fruits, branried fruits, cereals, chili con carne, fruit cakes, fruit puddings, mince meat, bouillon cubes, milk, olives, maraschino cherries, potato salad, popcorn, nut meats, frozen fruits and vegetables in containers over 10 pounds, fruit and vegetable juices in containers over one gallon, jams, jellies, marmalades, fruit butters and other similar preserves; meat stews containing some vegetables, fruit drinks containing 50 per cent or less by weight of natural fruit juices; prepared spaghetti, macaroni, noodles or similar paste products packed in hermetically-sealed containers even if mixed or combined with added vegetable sauces; pickles and relishes, including pickled watermelon, cocktail onions, cocktail mushrooms, cocktail oranges, and other similar pickled specialties; and by-products of fruits or vegetables such as soybean oil, soybean milk, fruit and vegetable dyes and similar products.

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THE NATIONAL SCENE As Washington Sees It

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, March 9.—"The thing that amazes me most about Washington," said a prominent member of the government, "is that in spite of all the fights, the confusion, the waste, the fast-changing regulations and the many changes in personnel, we still seem to be getting things done."

That statement expresses a general attitude in Washington. Practically everyone here is extremely conscious of the many muddled and complicated situations, but they are optimistic in the belief that we can accomplish more, in spite of muddling, than other nations can accomplish no matter how efficiently their war program is managed.

The most dangerous fight, of the many pitched battles going on in Washington, is that between the army-navy leaders against the War Production board. As it stands now the WPB has the upper hand in that it has been given power by the President to direct the scheduling of munitions output—a function which the war and navy departments are convinced should be given to them. This fight has reached the point, said one military official, where Chairman Nelson of WPB will either be forced to quit or the under-secretaries of war and navy will resign.

Mr. Nelson, however, has indicated that he has no intention of quitting or of giving in to the army and navy—and he has strengthened the power of WPB by giving Charles Wilson, his executive vice chairman, practically the same powers as he wields himself.

The army and navy are also battling with congress over the selective service. Congress feels strongly that there is no need to draft fathers until all other available men have been drafted, and it favors legislation to provide that no fathers in a state shall be called until all unmarried men under 38 as well as those without children are taken.

There is also another battle regarding selective service being waged by the farm bloc which is pressing for legislation to provide that no more farm boys be drafted until next January and that farmers now in the army be released during the farming season. Because of the critical shortage of labor in farm areas, the congressmen from farm states believe such a regulation is imperative and they also want the Manpower commission to rule that men cannot leave the farms to go into war industries without approval of their local farm board.

Action by both houses of the new session of congress makes it apparent that the members intend to get

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the legislative body back in the driver's seat of government and will no longer simply be "yes men" for the President. The most obvious example of this so far is congressional action to get rid of the \$25,000 limitation on income which went beyond his constitutional powers in issuing this order in the first place and they feel that, even if a curb on large incomes is to be continued, it should be as a result of congressional action.

It is expected that the greatest test of power, as between the President and congress, will come when legislation is considered to curb labor unions, to prevent strikes and slowdowns and to freeze labor's wages. This is admittedly a touchy subject which may be avoided temporarily, but it is apparent that the present congress is in no mood to make any further concessions to labor and, as soon as any new difficulties flare up, a flood of labor regulation measures are apt to be introduced.

Although strikes, slowdowns and absenteeism among war production workers hold the limelight here, the problems of help for farmers and taxation are continuing to receive great attention. One of the major problems on the farm front which must be settled quickly is whether to give farmers increased "incentive" payments for producing more crops or whether to permit price rises which would assure greater income to farmers. In addition, the plans for providing farm labor are still considered inadequate and it is agreed that if farmers are to be expected to plan for greater production a workable plan for supplying help must be offered at once.

Congress' worries over tax legislation have been increased by reports of people being unable to meet their March payments and a large number having borrowed the money to make such payments. It is agreed that a pay-as-you-go plan is absolutely necessary if the treasury hopes to collect in full taxes from the people during 1943—and congress is agreed on enacting some pay-as-you-go plan. But those who favor collecting taxes on 1942 incomes in addition to pay-as-you-go collection on 1943 wages are becoming increasingly aware of the collection difficulties, which this would cause. For this reason, the Ruml plan, which calls for the forgiveness of all 1942 taxes, is being given greater consideration and it now seems increasingly likely that by June we will be on a straight pay-as-you-go basis with the last half of 1942 taxes erased from the books.

Prohibition For Duration Proposed By Bryson

Washington, March 6.—The house judiciary committee today had a bill, introduced by Representative Bryson of the Fourth South Carolina district yesterday, which would outlaw the manufacture, sale and transportation of liquor in the United States and possessions "until the conclusion of the present law and thereafter until the termination of mobilization," as determined by the President.

The bill was described by Bryson as a move to curb absenteeism in war industries. He said it had the support of some prominent national organizations, but Edward B. Dunford, attorney for the Anti-Saloon league, said in a statement that the league "has not advocated and did not seek the introduction."

In support of obtaining prohibition for the duration through an act of congress, Bryson said a constitutional amendment was not necessary. "The courts have held that congress has the power to enact such legislation, and a bill similar to mine was enacted in 1918," he declared.

He emphasized that the bill called only for temporary prohibition.

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Your Magazine Man

FINAL SETTLEMENT

Take notice that on the 17th day of March, 1943, I will render a final account of my acts and doings as Administrator of the estate of William James Benjamin in the office of the Judge of Probate of Laurens County, at 10 o'clock a.m., and on the same day will apply for a final discharge from my trust as Administrator.

Any person indebted to said estate is notified and required to make payment on or before that date; and all persons having claims against said estate will present them on or before said date, duly proven, or be forever barred.

ALICE B. JONES,
Administrator.

Feb. 16, 1943.—18-4c.

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