

Protection For The Cotton Industry?

EVERYONE who is interested in cotton or cotton textiles—and that includes, of course, every Southerner—will find food for thought in the theme that ran through the speech-making at the annual meeting of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association in Augusta, Ga. The industry, the manufacturers' association and the government are all agreed, is embarking upon a battle for survival.

At the moment prices, markets and profits are more than satisfactory, but in the long range prospects are not bright. Cotton goods may meet the domestic competition of synthetic fibers by increased efficiency on the farm and in the factory, but even the most optimistic manufacturer of foreign competition.

ACMA Chairman Montgomery of Spartanburg and President Jacobs of Charlotte voiced a demand for "protection" of domestic markets. And Senator Maybank of South Carolina went the whole hog, pressing his conviction that the cotton trade should survive in an era of "free trade and world competition."

"We must insist that no American dollar be expended for the purchase of foreign cotton or textiles and we must subsidize our exports if necessary to assure our workers full protection," Senator Maybank said. The program of the International Trade Organization, which would require "work serious hardships upon those segments of this country's agriculture and industry which are least capable of protecting themselves."

The threat of foreign competition is not peculiar to the textile industry, of course. This means, as Senator Maybank recognized, that the United States cannot finance any program of rehabilitation without at the same time exposing a deadly rival competition along with new markets. In his judgment foreign competition out-

weighs the prospect of increased trade; bluntly he stated his belief that the United States should let the shattered nations solve their own problems as best they can.

As a matter of practical business experience it is not a fact that there is only one workable, and permanently profitable way in which impoverished nations can be rehabilitated? That is my helping themselves, by returning to work and by getting off the dole. If with limited capital this will take more time, what of it? Has it not taken centuries for our democracy to obtain maturity and strength, and did we not earn our security by hard work and privation?

Even those who agree with this thesis must recognize that it does not jibe with current American foreign policy. This is a form of economic isolationism based on the belief that American industry is a self-sufficient unit capable of standing alone in an impoverished world. Moreover, there is a vast overproduction in the Senator's assertion that it really makes no difference whether the ruined nations recover soon or late. If President Truman's estimate of the world situation is correct, every nation in Europe and Asia is today faced with a choice between capitalism and communism. If America does not assist them, Russia will, and if that happens they will certainly become competitors for American goods, and without also becoming customers. In time they might also become enemies.

But if we have reservations as to Senator Maybank's solution to the problem, we certainly do not question his position. He is involved in a discussion of this sort. At the time they might also become enemies.

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DISPLACED PERSONS

People's Platform

South Of The Border

LAURENS, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I HAVE just finished reading the letter from Rev. C. L. Henderson, pastor of the First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Charlotte, I presume.

How I wish we had more people in our United States of America, who had the courage to express their views.

Now I'm not a Wesleyan Methodist and I don't think that any one denomination in particular is involved in this discussion.

I'm a Missionary Baptist in my convictions, and I think the Scriptural side of the liquor question was pretty well covered in Mr. Henderson's article.

Let us look from a social and business standpoint on the question.

First, do Fathers and Mothers, want whisky for their sons and daughters can see their attractive window display?

Don't you think there is lots of young folk who would buy from legal stores, that would never come into contact with bootleggers?

Does it stand to reason, that legalizing whisky would improve the homes of North Carolina?

Would it add prestige or culture to its young or old?

And from a business view, just who would profit most? The State? The city? The liquor dealer or the people who bought?

If you have been reading after the doings of the South Carolina legislature, you will note that they have appropriated a \$400,000 appropriation for an alcoholism home or hospital, and we have not had but a few years of legalized liquor.

Every man or woman who goes to fill up this home, (there are an estimated 30,000 of alcoholics in the nation and on a national state proportion that would give South Carolina, 10,000 of unfortunate people) has a family or someone who cares. It makes us wonder how many broken hearts to estimate.

Oh yes, I understand that there will be a new heavy graduated maximum gross profits tax on the liquor dealer (if the bill goes through).

How many broken hearts will that tax money heal? How many homes will it repair? How many young men will it keep from our liquor stores?

And as for leaving the bootlegger without a business, just pick up any South Carolina newspaper and you will find the bootlegger is turning down even their oldest customers. The motive for this lock-out is not quite clear. One bootlegger is reported to have grown weary of doing business with customers who do not pay. He decided to let some of these "dregs" see what it's like to be without a drink of liquor," he told a reporter.

This, of course, sounds as though the bootleggers were joining in an effort to bring legal stores to Rowan, a course that makes no sense at all. Leaders of the ABC organization interpret the action in a very different light; they believe the bootleggers are trying to make Rowan an actual desert for 30 days before the election in order to deprive the State of its protection campaign and perpetuate their own lucrative trade.

Whatever the reason for them, these fantastic events seem to demonstrate the solidarity, and even the respectability of the liquor trade in Salisbury. However the role may be on the 31st the thirty citizens of Rowan seem to be assured of an adequate liquor supply in the future.

—MRS. IONA EPPLEY FLEMING.

FLORENCE, S. C.

Editors, The News:

I THINK it about time someone take the side of the wet, in the ABC issue, and I may, a non-resident of Charlotte, I'd like to join the fray.

Why can't these Dregs see and realize that they are playing straight into the hands of bootleg rings, who pay no city, state or Federal taxes whatsoever. People always have and always will drink.

For the travel orders for Private Anenberg show that he was attended by a full complement of military and police forces. This is a big retort of medical attention to go across the continent with a patient who can walk. In addition, each attendant was given "ten days leave in route chargeable as leave."

Letting them about the ten days leave is that Colonel Keeler's order to himself ordering himself from Tacoma to New York, that his ten days leave was taken at New Haven, Conn., his old home. The Army order also states that Private Heding will spend his ten days at Two Harbor, this home. He is to be sent to go to visit Private, Minn.—his home.

Another interesting fact: after Colonel Keeler issued his "leave" order, all copies were picked up and suppressed.

FDR's Plans For Jews

View of the current Palestine debate, some of the unwritten history of Franklin Roosevelt's ideas on Jewish refugees may be important. This columnist is indebted to Morton D. Eisenhower, who is now in England, to discuss the Jewish question with the British, for

Alaska's Defenses

WASHINGTON

THIS is a tale with a moral. In fact, it may have more than one moral.

Not long ago, the Navy decided to conduct secret submarine maneuvers in Alaskan waters. These maneuvers were so secret that not even the Army was told about them.

But the presence of the submarines in Arctic waters was reported to Army Intelligence in Alaska. For the moment, at least, it produced tremendous excitement. They might, officials thought, be Russian submarines. The report was soon cleared up, with some red faces all around.

Not the least interesting part of the story was the way in which the submarines were detected. It was an outbreak of World War II, Alaska was pitifully unprepared. There was a great deal of talk that the Japanese might conquer the Alaskan mainland from bases established in the Aleutians.

At the time, the defense measures taken by Alaska officials was to organize an Alaska Territorial Guard.

COMPETITION KEEN

Alaska's able Governor Ernest Gruening would like to see the nucleus of the wartime guard preserved in a unit of the National Guard.

He is competing for National Guard units with the Army and the competition for Federal funds with the State.

He is also competing for the preparation a base for a National Guard unit.

In this competition, Alaska is hopelessly outdistanced by the fact that it is a territory. The territorial position as the political mumpkin. They send delegates to the U. S. House of Representatives, but their delegates cannot vote and therefore they have only the most limited influence in Washington.

A bill to grant statehood to Hawaii has been approved by the House Public Land Committee. A powerful case was made for Hawaii. But the statehood bill was referred to the House Rules Committee, where it has been bottled up ever since. At this writing, there is no sign of when it will be allowed to come to a vote.

Hearings have been held on a statehood bill for Alaska. With most witnesses favoring it, the bill is still in line for statehood. The need is almost greater for the northernmost territory. It is too strategic an area to be left to the northmen and the Secretary of the Interior such as A. K. Rice, who has worked hard in Alaska's interest during the past year, a territory occupies a dubious position.

DEFENSES DECLINING

The disturbing fact is that Alaska's defenses today are declining rapidly toward the pre-war level. And the pre-war level was close to zero.

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They were drifting rather swiftly back to normal. While we talk big about Russia and the danger we fail to take steps which would help to insure that national defense is kept relatively up to date. Statehood for Hawaii and Alaska is one of the answers.

The tale about the submarine may also point a moral about cooperation between the military and the civilian. There is a deep undercover resistance to even the kind of unification of the military and the civilian. The services also seem to be drifting. The direction is backward. The civilian is at the center, but when general completed with admiral for appropriations and acclaim.

Joseph Alsop

The Next 18 Months

WASHINGTON

THE danger to the United States today is a very real, very grim one. It is the danger of a breakdown in domestic and foreign affairs will almost certainly occur in the next 18 months.

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Teen-Agers

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News:

AS president of the Teen-Age Club I would like to express to you and to the staff of The Charlotte News my appreciation for the recreation center for the youth of Charlotte, Me. We agree with your editorial that the youth of Charlotte should certainly bring their citizenship to the attention of the community.

We would like to see the "teen-agers" of Charlotte.

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The Matter Of Rent Control

THE Congress seems to be wrestling with its soul in the matter of continuing rent control, and while all the parties are undoubtedly involved, even a tenant would have to concede that the problem isn't a simple one.

The housing shortage being what it is, there is no doubt that rentals would be higher if all controls were removed. Moreover, there would be no prospect of their coming down again for many months to come, for the construction of sufficient rental housing units would not be possible. The most optimistic estimates, a slow and uncertain process. Thus some of the Government continues to protect their interest.

On the other hand, there is an obvious incentive in taking ceilings off all other goods and services and holding the property-owner to pre-war levels. Landlords may use the last vestige of citizens who are unable to compensate for rising costs through higher prices or higher wages.

Under the circumstances the most logical solution seems to be to maintain the ma-

chinery of Federal control while permitting a reasonable amount of freedom for the private market. But the rent control proposal with some vehemence and wound up by passing an inconclusive measure which affords a backdoor method of getting rid of controls altogether. The bill would empower state, city and county governments to decontrol rentals when and if they saw fit.

Although this scheme has some merit, it looks suspiciously like a straddle designed to pacify both sides and not to solve the problem. The bill was passed to the Senate, a slow and uncertain process. Thus some of the Government continues to protect their interest.

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Beyond The Looking-Glass

WHATEVER may be said of the ABC controversy in Mecklenburg, it can't compare with Rowan's. Our neighbors, so far as we can divine from late reports, have gone through the looking-glass into the realm of fantasy.

Rowan was a charming little scene in Superior Court in Salisbury not long ago. One of the town's leading bootleggers came up for trial and several police officials and private citizens stood by to testify to his character. He sold liquor illegally, they conceded, and had done so for many years, but he did it in a gentlemanly manner. He was polite to the police when they came a-raiding, and often he helped them with their stock in their cars when they confiscated it. He paid his bills, including his frequent fines, promptly, and he had, indeed, contributed materially to the well-being of the community through the employment of his men. He had paid over to the courts. All in all, the police said, even though he was a bootlegger he might be called one of Salisbury's leading citizens.

The presiding judge then asked the men over with the defendant and suggested that he retire from the whisky business. The defendant agreed, the judge suspended sentence, and the police applauded politely. The judge added his own opinion that the defendant had great ability as a businessman and was bound to do well in any field he cared to enter.

Now comes word that Rowan County's leading bootleggers have closed down their establishments until after the ABC election on May 31. Most of the smaller places (there are an estimated 500 whisky outlets in the county) will continue to operate, but the larger ones, which are turning down even their oldest customers. The motive for this lock-out is not quite clear. One bootlegger is reported to have grown weary of doing business with customers who do not pay. He decided to let some of these "dregs" see what it's like to be without a drink of liquor," he told a reporter.

This, of course, sounds as though the bootleggers were joining in an effort to bring legal stores to Rowan, a course that makes no sense at all. Leaders of the ABC organization interpret the action in a very different light; they believe the bootleggers are trying to make Rowan an actual desert for 30 days before the election in order to deprive the State of its protection campaign and perpetuate their own lucrative trade.

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Another Voice

The Saga Of The Smelts

FOR fortitude, for perseverance in a cause not theirs than lost, for proof that Robert Louis Stevenson knew where he spoke when he said that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive, read the saga of the smelts. Sixteen million eggs, matched from salty May waters, were planted in the Canadian wilderness 40 years ago. They thrived, they multiplied incredibly, they should have been happy, but an atavistic urge drove them like the lemmings to

men, finding smelts twice as large as natural men, in their nets, promptly shipped the smelts to the United States. The smelts were sold at a small Canadian fishing village near the ancestral home in Maine. There the astonished and delighted fishermen, who never heard of food.

A sidewalk opinion poll shows a hearty mood of steak and potatoes. If still the smelts are sold at a small Canadian fishing village near the ancestral home in Maine. There the astonished and delighted fishermen, who never heard of food.

Drew Pearson's : Army Should Stop Free Vaccination Junks

WASHINGTON

If the Army really wants to save money here is one way they can do it: eliminate such vacation-travel rackets as that pulled by Col. Maxwell Keeler, commanding officer of the Medical, General Hospital, Tacoma, Wash.

Colonel Keeler recently had occasion to send an ambulatory patient, Pvt. Alvin Anenberg, from Tacoma to the General Hospital in Washington for treatment of his leg. Ordinarily, one non-commissioned officer is detailed to attend a patient of this kind who can walk.

However, Colonel Keeler apparently saw Private Anenberg's trip as an excuse to go along himself, thereby visiting his old home in Connecticut; also to give several other men trips home—all at Government expense.

For the travel orders for Private Anenberg show that he was attended by a full complement of military and police forces. This is a big retort of medical attention to go across the continent with a patient who can walk. In addition, each attendant was given "ten days leave in route chargeable as leave."

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