THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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querors with a new desperation of fear, and look to the building of defenses in the North with sinking beart. She will, perhaps, gladly surrender her dreams of empire, even welcome the coming of United Nations soldiers. But there is, no way for her to be rid of the Nazi guardians, or to free herself from the coming sacrifice. Her doom

The State Has Almost 500,000 "Functionally Illiterate" Adults

"Functionally littlerate" Adults
The Army, though forced to lower its
standard for selectees has long clung
to its principle of "Incubana" littleracy." Men who have not the equivalent
of a fourth-grade education and cannot
cad newspapers are not acceptable, are
barred from the acceptable, are
barred from the acceptable, are
selected in the selected of the selected acceptable and cannot
said unprepared to meet their duties
a citizen. Yet no court of all North
to the court of the selected acceptable and the court
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Carolinians over 25 years old are classed in the category of "functional illiter-

That, if proof were needed, demonstrates clearly how far State education has to go. Exactly 433,053 of these adult illiterates were counted in the 1940 census. They outnumbered college graduates in the State by more than six to

one. Many a state ranks ahead of North Carolina in production of these citizens.—but we are far behind—almost twice as high as the national average.

New York, with more than a million, leads, followed by Pennsylvania, Texas and Illinois. But those problems are not our own—and the North Carolina case cannot be laid at the door of the Negro.

our own—and the North Carolina case cannot be laid at the door of the Negro. For the nation, illiterate whites outnumber illiterate Negroes by 7300,000 to 2,700,000, and though the ratio certainly changes in the South, the problem still belongs to the whites and their educational system.

An index of the progress made in the past generation is offered by Army figures: twelve per cent of present draftees are college graduates, against five per cent in 1918; 55 per cent are high school graduates, against 17 per cent in 1918. There is vast improvement, but North Carolina, like most other states, has scarcely begun to bring enightement to her people. One adult out of every four in the State is a living indictment of our policy of providoo little for education.

Hush Money

Farmers Won't Be Quieted By

Special benefit Payments

We feel every sympathy for the
farmer in wartime, even in the painful
moment of buying gold plated eggs.
It is upon him that restrictions and
rationing fall most heavily, that the
manpower shortage is a nigh-unbearable burden—and yet he hears the call
for ever-greater production. Washington continues to warn that a food shortare looms but if it comes it will be

age looms, but if it comes it will be none of the farmer's doing.

age looms, but if it comes it will be more of the farmer's doing.

But we believe that he has often been misrepresented by bloe spokesmen. His call for relief, expressed in complicated terms of parity, was generally misunderstood. He stood, by and large, against the patronizing treatment of Labor, and wanted to be heard himself. Now Secretary Claude Wickard offers him a reward to keep quiet, forget all of his troubles, and turn to record production.

We don't expect the average farmer to show appreciation of the policy calling for \$100,000,000 milenentive payments"—just as he did not appreciate the benefit payments in the early days of AAA when he was asked to curtail production. What your hard-working farmer wants is a fair price scale to enable him to produce at a profit under a new cost scale, and a stabilization at that point, the believe, no part in a memory of the part the national economy. He wants his share of the benefits in this time of adjustment to rising costs and no more. And we doubt that he'll relish the idea of being paid off in special benefits that keep him going, allegedly prevent price rises, and

Special Benefit Payments

One-Fourth

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1943

The Encore

President Follows Churchill In Promise of Coming Attacks

In Promise of Coming Attacks
Last night's message by President
Roosevelt, had it come a few days
earlier, might well have ranked with
the great challeuges of our time, a
ringing challenge born of faith and confidence. But because Winston Churchill
had preceded him to the rostrum, the
President left his people wondering if
he had said anything at all. He had,
and his words, despite endiess repetiand his words, despite endiess repetition, will remain forever new. He pledged his nation to attack, to vic-tory and to lasting peace.

pledged his nation to attack, to vic-tory and to lasting peace.

Like the Prime Minister, he spoke in a jordal, almost light-hearted mood. He saw on the broad chess board of the world before him the pawns of the United Nations outnumbering those of the Axis powers. He saw the coming offensives, and he told all that could be safely told of their comins. And, of vast importance to men at home and abroad, he spoke not of one or even two attacks, but many. He pictured them as being delivered with such be-videring force and speed that the Axis could not know from whence danger came. And he spoke of drives direct at the hearts of the empires of evil. In that, especially as he referred to

at the hearts of the empires of evil.

In that, especially as he referred to
the Japanese, he echoed the words of
his best military men. Admirat Halsey
and General Macaritur had already
east saide the old notion of advancing
through the Pacific Islands. The plans,
and there are many, call for bold, savage blows at Tokyo Itself—and they will
come, perhaps very soon.
Once again, the President committed
himself and his Administration to the
policy of standing together with our

Come, perings very sour.

Once again, the President committed himself and his Administration to the policy of standing together with our allies that the peace might be perindently as the perindently of the growing suppliently of the perindently as well as the perindently as the perind

Tide Of Blood

Italy Sees the End in Rising Casualty Lists

Rising Casualty Lists

Bitter memories of the grandeur that was Rome now come back with a new pang to the people of Mussolini's wastern that the property of the people of Mussolini's weating empire. And the sickening crash of the last Italian colonial bastion in Africa was not the climax. There was, to the Italian at home, a deeper significance of defeat. He could see, now, the price of following his jackal Fastels Government. The casualties were zooming upward, the last Istal sign that the end was at hand.

In January, say reports from Switzerland, Italian losses ran to over 50,000, killed, wounded, captured and missing—and the unmarked dead. In Russia's anows had not been counted. Everywhere, disaster was closine in, and the captive state of Italy was paying a horrible price. Worst of all, the Italian could know that the shastly figures would mount still higher, that soon there would be no mere handful listed as killed on home soil, and that British and Americans would soon bring the way to their very shores. and Americans would soon bring the war to their very shores.

war to their very shores.

On almost every, lighting front, now, the dismal failure of an Army has cost Italy a casualty roll that amounts to a potential loss of 600,000 men a year. When Rommel was running in Africa, when the Red Armies rolled in the East, and wherever Italian ships ventured and wherever Italian ships ventured in Mare Nostrum, Italy's sons were struck down. If the people have been told, they know with a certainty now that the rising toll means resistance is useless, blacker days are coming.

Tally must now one the Garman con-

off in special benefits that keep him going, allegedly prevent price rises, and restrain him from pressing for the rights he feels are his. The picture of a West Point wedding gives us the happy pair surrounded by the customary drawn swords. Under the circumstances, the groom wisely

The Worker Lag

Absenteeism Is A Danger

By Raymond Clapper _

WASHINGTON

A BSENTEEISM in war plants has become so high
it is some localities that War Production Board officials feel that something must be done to bring it
down. Some kind of competition may be inaugurated, or an incentive award like the "E" nennant for nro-

duction.

Thus absences, rather than strikes, are the present drag on production. Surveys indicate that in Los Angeles the rate is around ten per cent of absences. Other important production centers hit figures about as high. Detroit and Rochester, N. Y., are among the worst spots, so the data here indicate. Two per cent is considered a reasonable amount of absencesm, and ten per cent is considered out of absences in included at a press conference that he did not think absences in the press conference that he did not think absences was a matter of any consequence, although at the ame time the data in the hands of his own War Manpower Commission pointed to a most serious number of absences.

was a matter of any consequence, although at the same time the data in the hands of his own War Manpower Commission pointed to a most serious number of absences.

Those who take a complacent view of it, the professional defenders of labor in every argument, asy that many causes contribute to absentesism and that, you can't discuss it in balanch terms. They do not not contain the professional data, and then you have been decided to run rationing errands. And they will have to take still more time off for that if non-working wives do not stop their silly paricky hondring runs at the stores. That was to stores had to appeal to the public not to Jam their stores.

Washington, of all places where they ought to know hetter, put on one of the most disgrace-ful exhibitions in the country. Women doing grar work can hardly be blamed for taking time off to do panic shopping when they know that the

idle women in their neighborhoods are downtown clawing the shelves clean of everything on them.

Absence because of illness must be allowed for and unavoidable family emergencies such as sickness or death in the household or among relatives. Furthermore, some of the statistics undoubtedly are incrimore, some or anaturers unconsteady are questionable. Sometimes a person who quits a job is carried for the remainder of that week as an absentee, to simplify bookkeeping. Short layoffs because of lack of materials may result in absentee figures on the payroll account. Those should properly be blamed on management rather than labor.

alamed on management rather than labor.

Nobody here expects less than two per cent of absentectsm in a plant, and perhaps mers must be expected if hours are made longer under the new Frendential order and the other drains on the civilian working force. When men and women are pushed more than 46 hours a week, they and a rea pit to take a few days off overy little white. But conditions such as those reported by manpower officials in Maryland certainly are unnecessary. Three of the largest war plants in given weeke equal to sixteen to swenty per conditions are proposed by the conditions of the conditions of the conditions of the largest war plants in given weeke equal to sixteen to swenty per conditions of the conditions of

of their working force.

Paydays are followed in most plants by a sharp jump in absences. The records may show illness given as the reason for a majority or absence, but who ever heard of a fellow coming back after taking Monday off and reporting that his absence was due to a haugover?

The record of labor reparding strikes has been excellent. The loss of work from strikes has been excellent. The loss of work from strikes has been engligible. But from slowdowns and from sbenteelsin it is serious, so Government production people say, mover been on before, excessive absenteels becomes an increasing burden on the manpower pool.

The \$500-a-Year-and-Up Question

-By Herblock



Caution Advised

Hospitals Can Be Burdens

By Dick Young

AT FIRST flish, the City and County Governments Awould. I think, do well to steer clear of any further hospital entanglements and their officials might well turn a deaf ear to any proposal to take over and operate the old Charlante Sanatorium. This deal looks like it might turn into a "white elephant" and I am are Municipal and County officials are going to be careful about grasping a rope that might lead to an albino peach/germ.

libino pachyderm.

The City Government already has a hospital problem and the early struggles of the Memorial Hospital to get gieling and municipal administrators lying awake at nights, worrying over plat on their hands. Under Carl Flath's administration, the Memorial is stepping out and this problem is fast being solved. But the City has no business taking on any more troubles of this kind and I am confident they wort.

kind and I am confident they wont.

The medical advocates of the plan to safeguard
Charlotte's hospital facilities by dumping the responsibility of the Sanatorium on the City and County
Governments are assuredly indulging in a bit of wish-

ul thinking.

I may be wrong and I stand ready to be shown otherwise but in this movement by the dector-owners of the Sanatorium property I can dector-owners of the Sanatorium property I can expiring institution upon the shoulders of the Government and thus ultimately upon the tax-payers. And, brothers, it aint right—as laudable as mislatriation to the side really is. The com-

munity's obligation to its indigent can well be met at the Memorial Hospital in which the City Gov-ernment has ample interest. From Pillar to Post on City Hall Square: Once

From Pillar to Post on Gity Hall Square: Once again I move my typewriter and doke and this time I cave the second floor of the Gity Hall and for the Irea time in nearly seventeen years my news hall-wick is beated off the official second floor. Because the civilian defense needed the space I was shifted to the third floor. And that's O.K. by me. . . A lady whose dog was missing from home was worried and distracted. To ease her mind and learn the fate of her last dog, the telephoned the sanitary department. From the companies of the same of t

ought not to pass unnotized. T. Blackley whose sister did this week. . . Mrs. Z. Reed Dillingham, sacretury to Police Colléd Anderson, has such a cheery topological that I call her Sunshine. . . Congratumarkable record of collection of cutrent taxes, which aiready exceeds the 87 per cent budget estimate for the entire year.

Quote, Unquote

IT IS estimated that 50,000 pairs of shoes are lying idle in closets or being worn only occasionally. Put idle shoes to work. The leather from one pair of men's oxfords means a pistol noister. Save leather for war and give our troops the shoes with which to march to victory.—OPA Director Prentiss M. Brown.

I feel certain that the day for the liberation of my people is not far away. All of the enslaved nations must now feel that the hour for their redemption has struck.—Philippines President Manuel Quezon.

A jujitsu peace attempt would be typical of the Japanese: and that they would lower their guard and then strike again.—Joseph C. Grew, former ambassador to Tokyo.

Assance to Juoyou.

The South Pacific story might have been vasily different for the last three or four months had we not established ourselves in the Solomons successfully.—Navy Secretary Frank Knox.

I think General Giraud is an extremely gallant French soldier. I should feel very proud if I had his record in fighting Germany.—British Foreign Secre-tary Anthony Eden.

ering momentum towards its climax-so far we have every reason to rejoice.-Winston Churchill.

have every reason to rejoice.—Winsion Churchill.
Our hope is to distribute available supplies of rubber and gasoline so that essential war activities may proceed at full speed. Farming, our food production, ranks at the top of our basically necessary war activities. The less essential uses of gasoline and tires must never be permitted to slow down our essential food production.—Our production.—O

We never are able to get the Germans to come out and meet us in a tank to tank combat. They don't like to play our way because we prefer to slug it out.—Major James S. Simmermann, in Tunista,

Tunisla.

Then the dirty bums opened up in earnest. Three minutes later a ship on my right was hit, then we got it, and while we were abandoning ship a fourth vessel blew up.—Mchael Barry, skipper of merhantman topeneds off South America.

And the ship of th

Side Glances



"I told you when you were doing all that buying that you were getting too much of this darned corned beef hash!"

It's A Game

The Home Front

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK

SOMETIMES it snows, sometimes it rains, sometimes the sun ahines, but obscurantism goes on every day and forever.

But obscurantism goes on every cuty and lotever.

We have heard a great deal about "the home front" lately. We have heard a that the draft ought to be limited, to protect the home front, that synthetic rubber should be given precedence over aircraft and high-octane gasoline to protect the home front, and that the Army should not setter 200,000 automobiles, as it desires to do, because that would be a blow to the home front, and, in fact. centern about the home front has reached so high a level of intensity that the Wall Street Journal has devoted a startled front-page story to the story that the startled front-page story to the story the story that the story that

One of the biguins of isolation has even made up a kind of cilitorial slogan, or disorderly prose poem, about "the muscle and the seart," showing that while the Army is our muscle, the home fronts the heart. The proposal to take our spare tires gives some men, naturally, heart attacks.

naturally, heart attacks.

You will remember that last Fall, while we were enjoying our (annual) argument over wiping out overtime pay, there was little mention of the home front. The basis of that argument was the war front. Overtime pay was bad for the war front; overtime pay disheatened the boys on the war front, overtime pay should of this argument the boys on the war front, overtime pay should of this argument the boys on Guadalcanal were presumed to have no relatives back home. For it was hard to see how any of them would be stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear ann, you will be glad to know that I am no longer receiving averance, you will be glad to know that I am no longer tending averance and the stiffened by the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear ann, you will be glad to know that I am no longer tending averance, and the stiffened by the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: "Dear the stiffened by a letter from his old man, asying: a

Now this business of shifting the base of current argument about war from the war front to the home front, and back again, accordio convenience, is one of the prime examples of obscurantism in

the war from the war front to the home front, and back again, according to convenience, is one of the prime examples of obscurantian in the war front to the prime examples of obscurantian in the we must, in effect, not give up one-fourth of our automobiles, because that would be bad for the home front. We must end overline pay, because overtime pay is bad for the war front. We must end overline pay, because overtime pay is bed for the war front. We must end overtime pay to be a second of the war front in the war front to protect the home front. But when last Fall the argument ran the other way, that we should keep the size of the Army down to perfect an immediate invasion force, in other words, keep the also of the Army down for the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front, there were the sake of a more vigorous war front.

The thing is rich in examples: We must not send too much food, etc. to our allies, for the sake of the home front. Then the twist: We must not send too many men to our allies, for the sake of the home front. Then the twist: We must not send too many men to our allies, for the sake of the home front. Then the should send supplies, instead, the same supplies, of course, that we should not send, for the sake of the home front.

home front.

Further, and am I having fun: Mr. Roosevelt and other civilians should not interfere in military decisions, but leave them to military men, for the sake of the war front, which is a highly technical field. Then the hop, skip and jump: Congress should look into the question of the property of the property of the process might be entirely innocent, but I've been struck by the thought of how rarely the obscuratalists, in the course of their obscurations, in the course of their obscurations, in the course of their obscurations, and once the property of the process might be the process of the obscurations of their obscurations, in the course of their obscurations, in the course of their obscurations in a plea to give our alike an overshelping amount of help, in a hury. I'll hold the presignable until I timk that one over

Figures Talk

Aid To Russia

New York Times

PEAVERBROOK and others complain about the allegedly small perofficially stated that we and Britain have given Russia 4.800
planes and 5.900 tanks. Now in the official communique of Feb. 3
about the find cutchin at Stalinerar die Russians 390, that between
Jan. 10 and 7eb. 2 they accounted for 195,000 Natis with 750 planes
and 1.800 tanks.

nd 1.500 tanks.

In other words, the Allies have given Russia the tank equipment of three-quarters of a million Naul troops and even a greater
ment of the requirement of the result o

mobilized by filter for the contemparts anscend of Standgran-But there is this further danger about afrily tossing off precentlages without regard for the concrete circumstance. When you say that China or Russia received only two per cent or five per cent or the per cent of our output in tanks and plantes the standard of the contempart of the per cent of the per c

Li'l Flower

"IN a few hours." came the ingratiating voice of the Mayor over the fraction on himself, the OPA will announce the freeding of another mornings paper for the announcement, which may come as a surprise. It will not be food, and in the meantime do not do any unnecessary walking."

The result of this hint was to fill East Side shee stores, open on Sunday, with frantically buying customers eager to beat the gun. This is precisely the result that James F. Byrnes, the Director of Economic Stabilization, sought to avoid by freezing shoe sales prior to rationing.

It will office be necessary for Washington to apprize local officials confidentially in advance of similar actions. These officials can co-operate only by keeping their confidential information confidential, in all such cases it should be left for those in charge at Washington to break the news first.

What should we think if a lieutenant-colonel broadcast an announcement that the Continent would be invaded temerraw merning at an unexpected point which could not be revealed, but