Social News and Events of Cambridge

Mr. and Mrs. William Meyers of Baltimore spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. John H. Brannock at their home on Cedar Street.

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Miss Mary Virginia Jones and Miss Gertrude Jones of Baltimore spent the weekend visiting relatives and friends in Cambridge.

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Mr. Harrington Pritchett is spending sometime with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilby Pritchett.

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Mrs. Logan Wynn and daughter, Miss Betty Wynn are spending this weekend in Baltimore.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Wood of Baltimore and Washington spent the weekend with Mrs. Wood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Austin.

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Mr. Edward Smith and Miss Fay Cullen of Baltimore were weekend guests of Mrs. Mabel Smith.

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Miss Hennie Pritchett is spending the weekend in Boston, Massachusettts.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Byrd spent the weekend in Baltimore, Md.

Mr. John Groff is spending several days this week in Lancaster, Penn.

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Mr. Hubert Parks of Baltimore spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Parks.

BIG DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS IS FORECAST

Within the next twelve months a million and a half new workers will be needed in defense industries of this country. At least a third of this number will be brought in from places outside the war industry localities. Mr. Moore, manager of the Cambridge office of the United States Employment Service, said today that men and women who want one of these jobs should register at the local office of the United States Employment Office. "Don't pull up stakes in your hometown — don't start roaming the highways on the chance of finding a job for yourself in some other State." he said. "For a job in your hometown or for a job elsewhere register at your local Employment Service Office."

Mr. Moore called attention to the fact that the shipyards, the aircraft plants, steel mills, gun factories, chemical works, and various manufacturing industries now getting ready to produce war materials will be needing men within the coming months; but there are two ways of looking for a job, he said, the first is to head for a defense plant and try to find a job; the second—is to go to the local United States Employment Office. That office can help him find a job wherever defense production is going on. Those who are unemployed and skilled workers who are capable of filling better jobs than they now hold should go to the Cambridge office of the United States Employment Service at 101 Race Street, Cambridge, Md. and talk with a member of the staff. The service is free to all and information received at this office may sometime save useless expense and unnecessary traveling.

Mr. Moore said that thousands of men and women have been stranded, far from their hometown, where they went to find jobs which did not materalize. He emphasized the fact that job information is sent out from headquarters to every office of the Employment Service from time to time, and consequently, the local office knows where jobs are available and what kind of skills are needed.

MERCHANTS IN THE EMERGENCY

Current plans call for doubling the proportion of the national income spent for war purposes, inside the year. Some believe that an even higher rate of arms spending may be achieved.

The effect of that on the civilian population is clear. Many once-common articles will disappear from the market—motor cars and tires are a case in point. Other articles will become far more scarce, such as electrical labor-saving devices. In many instinces, prices will substantially and unavoidably increase.

That presents a real problem to the consumers of America who are without priorities and must take what is left over after arms needs are met. Those consumers have one very important ally. That ally is the retail merchant.

Merchandising was among the first industries to realize the gravity of the problems that now confront the people and to take steps to meet them. Led by the chains, tens of thausands of stores, selling goods of every kind, immediately put into effect an aggressive anti-inflation program. By cutting overhead costs, by fighting scare buying, and by purchasing carefully and wisely at the most favorable times, they managed to hold retail price increases under wholesale price increases.

Now these merchants are dealing with the scarcity problem, as well as the price problem. They are showing consumers how to buy and use suitable substitutes for goods which are no longer easily obtainable. In the food field, they are passing on invaluable information concerning nutrition. The informative labtling program continues to make strides. The retailers are cooperating with the government defense agencies in every possible way. They deserve credit for a big and difficult job well done.

WHEN GOVERNMENT GOES INTO BUSINESS

When government goes into business, production generally suffers. That is an historical axiom—and it has been lent new weight by some figures from Mexico.

Some years age the Mexican government expropriated American and British owned petroleum properties. The government increased the working forces in the oil fields, and stripped developed properties to make a showing. Even so, production of crude in the wells taken over has dropped from 128,000 to 113,000 barrels a day.

In some of the older oil fields, which produced 28,000,000 barrels in the last year of private operation, the Mexican government has obtained only 18,000,000 barrels per year. It is reported that the producing cost per barrel has been doubled, and that the value of equipment has declined through neglect.

In the last year of private company operation, an average yield of 19 per cent refined gasoline was obtained from each barrel of crude. In 1941, from the same plants, the Mexican government obtained only 13 per cent. Rich as Mexico is in oil resources, with relatively low consumption it had to import 260,000 barrels of refined gasoline from Texas during one three-month period last year.

The American people should not put this down to greater inefficiency in Mexico than in other nations. The history of government ownership throughout the entire world has been largely one of waste, politics, bureaucracy, mismanagement, timidity logrolling and patronage. The political manager holds his job by grace of pleasing his political superiors. He is part of a political machine whose principal job is to deliver votes. The easiest way to do that is to offend no one, and obey the politicians in power.

We have had a taste of gavernment in business in this country, notably in the electric power field where billions of the tax-

Continued on page four

Dr. Robert Weygand

Dr. Arthur Parker

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