This Week in WASHINGTON

Following its spring recess, the House of Representatives hopes now to get the highly controversial question of taxes settled within the next few days. Bitter fights on the floor are expected before a bill is enacted, since the Democrats and Republicans are still at loggerheads over the "forgiveness" of taxes on 1942 income, but they are closer together than they were and all members realize that the tax question has been delayed too long already and must be passed on to the Senate as quickly as possible.

Whatever plan the House agrees on will probably be changed by the Senate unless it turns out to be a plan which the public favors. The Democrats, who were opposed to any forgiveness of 1942 taxes and were cool to a pay-as-you-go plan for this year, have now partially agreed to both plans but they have been influenced primarily by the possibilities of this plan for increasing government income rather than by the basic merits of putting taxation on a cash basis.

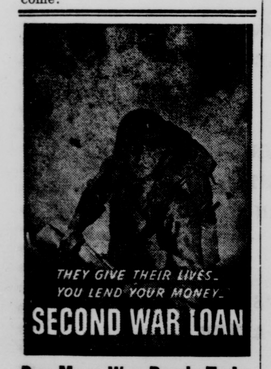
The plan approved by the ways and means committee calls for a 20 per cent withholding tax (deduction from salaries and wages) beginning July 1, plus the cancellation of approximately half of 1942 tax indebtedness. Under its plan the government would collect from three to five billion more during 1943 than it would under the present tax program.

The Republicans will probably continue to fight for the Ruml plan which would forgive all of 1942 tax payments and would call for payment of whatever taxes are essential out of 1943 income. The President has said that tax income this year must be $16,000,000,000 greater than last. The committee plan would not make this possible, but might be supplemented by a sales tax or some other form of taxation to make up the difference.

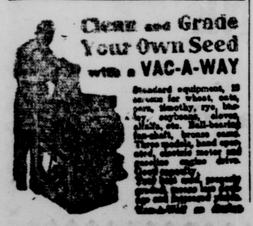
Congress' chief interest at this time outside of the tax problem, is the growing restlessness of labor, the increasing number of strikes and the recent defiance of government authority by John L. Lewis and other union leaders. Although the President can, and has, ordered the army to intervene whenever labor conditions get out of hand, it is apparent that this offers no permanent solution. It is also apparent that if any labor group which has had its wages adjusted according to the "Little Steel formula," is given another increase, unions in all fields will demand similar increases and farmers will demand higher prices.

There is, however, some public support of Mr. Lewis' contention that miners should be paid from the time they enter a mine to the time they leave, rather than just for the hours spent in actual mining. But the operators contend that the miners are now on a 35-hour week instead of 40 in order to take care of the time involved in getting to their work. They are paid time and a half after 35 hours and most of them are now working over 40 hours.

Since miners are now ranked fifth in average hourly earnings in the 22 leading industries of the United States, it is clear that if they are given an increase, workers in other leading industries would feel that they too were entitled to more money. What happens on the mine question, therefore, will determine the government's labor stand for some time to come.



Buy More War Bonds Today



DORCHESTER POULTRYMEN URGED TO NEW EGG GOAL

Dorchester County poultrymen are asked by the government to produce approximately 1,002,000 dozen eggs this year, 3.7 per cent more than in 1942, as their share in the Food for Victory program, the Northeastern Poultry Producers Council estimated this week.

Leon Todd, managing director of NEPPCO, declared that farmers can reach this county goal, which is based on the percentage increase suggested for Maryland by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, if adequate supplies of labor and feed are available.

"Poultry farmers are now working harder than ever in an all-out war production," Mr. Todd said, "continuing the magnificient job they did last year by producing 966,000 dozen eggs in this county to help supply civilian, military, and lease-lend needs. Also, two developments during the past year have resulted in larger laying flocks on most farms today:

"First, egg prices as shown by records of one of the larger purchasers of Maryland eggs, the A & P Tea Company, which last year paid $351,541 in this State for 1,090,050 dozen, were so favorable that farmers saved an unusually large proportion of potential layers.

"Second, conditions in 1942 were good for raising pullets; fall weather was generally mild and the average hatching date was early.

"Those factors point to increased production," Mr. Todd explained, "if an improvement can be made in the farm skilled labor situation and if farmers can get enough protein feeds. There are critical shortages of protein ingredients because imports have been cut so drastically. Even soy bean oil meal is not being processed fast enough to meet demands. These are major problems facing the industry."

OPA PRICE PANELS ARE ESTABLISHED IN STATE

Community participation in the Federal price control and rationing program in Maryland was expanded with the recent issuance of an order by Sylvan L. Joseph, regional OPA administrator.

The order directed the establishment of "price panels" in local war price and rationing boards similar to the various rationing panels now operating.

The order, addressed to chairmen of the 646 rationing boards in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland and the District of Columbia, calls for the immediate appointment of panels to supervise OPA price regulations in the same way that other panels now supervise rationing.

"This new procedure," Mr. Joseph explained, "gives to consumers themselves, through their local boards, the means of keeping an eye on the price situation in their community, and the opportunity to do something about 'holding the line.'

"It is not primarily an enforcement step. Contrary to certain assumptions, price panel members will not be store snoopers.

"Their main function will be an informative and educational one. Pirmarily they will be charged with the responsibility of disseminating information on price control to both storekeepers and their customers and of serving as an information center on matters relating to Federal price regulations."

The proposed panels will examine complaints of violations of the OPA price regulations and make local adjustments on the spot," Leo H. McCormick, State OPA director explained.

"Price panel members will operate on enforcement matters only after complaint is made from the consuming public. Their compliance function is solely one of securing voluntary adjustments."

Housewives who have been overcharged for foods will be enabled to take complaints to panel members, who in turn will visit offending stores with them to secure refunds for the overcharges without requiring legal action.

"A friendly visit to the store by a member of the panel will frequently settle the issue to the satisfaction of all concerned," Mr. McCormick said. "In cases where there seems to be substance to the complaint that a violation has occurred, the matter will be reported to the full price panel."

The panel then wil itry to adjust the case through a process of "mediation or friendly persuasion." Cases which the panel cannot adjust, or in which flagrant or repeated violations have occurred, will be referred by the panel to the district OPA office.

On the educational side, Mr. Joseph said in his directive to the State OPA office, it will be the responsibility of the price panel to disseminate material on price control in the retail field; to answer inquiries from storekeepers and consumers; to arrange meetings, panel discussions and other activities of an educational nature, "and in general to serve as the center of information on retail price control in the community."

In most Maryland counties, Mr. McCormick reported, panels already have been established and are prepared to swing into action.

SCHOOLS ASSIST PLAN TO RELIEVE LABOR SHORTAGE

When farmers start their workers on daily chores this summer, more than likely a number of them will be of high school and college age.

If this is a new experience for the farmer, farming will also be a new experience for most of the boys and girls who answer the call for Victory Farm Volunteers. Not that they will all be "greenhorns," however.

The U. . Department of Agriculture has already set in motion a nation-wide plan to mobilize 3,500,000 persons in the U. S. Crop Corps for essential farm work. Of this number about 500,000 will be high school students, who will be provided with basic training before they actually get into the thick of the Food for Freedom battle. Widespread and successful activity on the land by non-farm youth during the 1942 summer and harvest season is pointed to by the department as a clear demonstration that they can and should make an even more worth-while contribution to the farm labor supply in 1943.

America's giant agricultural war industry is turning to these young recruits, as well as to older men and women, to help meet the labor shortage that developed when millions of farm workers were taken by the armed forces or went into the better paying jobs available in war plants. Without some such assistance, farmers are reported to face the possibility of losing important crops through lack of sufficient workers to harvest them.

Many of them need help this spring in getting planting done so that there can be a harvest. Some of them have enlisted the aid of boys and girls through the schools to aid in this work.

There was a time when farmers were skeptical of "town folk" as hired hands, but their last year's experience was so satisfactory in most cases that 1943 finds more and more farmers asking if they're going to be able to hire some of those "smart young fellows" (and girls, too) when they need them.

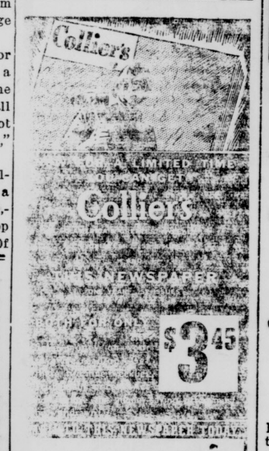
Such concrete cases of satisfactory farm employment, and many others like them, encouraged the development by the department of agriculture of the Victory Farm Volunteers of the U. S. Crop Corps as a co-ordinated program to utilize non-farm youth in agriculture.

NEW WOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPED BY SCIENTISTS

The war has brought to public attention a new wood product developed by scientists and chemists which finds important uses now, and which promises to establish itself permanently after the peace.

This is "compregnated" wood, which consists of layers of resin-impregnated woods that have been compressed together. It is hard, dense, and dark, with a beautiful grain which shows through a permanent gloss like that of polished marble. Swell-proof, shrink-proof, and decay-proof, it is used extensively for airplane propellers, in order that their density can be varied from heavy at the hub to light at the tip, to make for dynamic balance, a thing impossible in the case of a metal part.

Peace-time uses of compregnated wood ought to be numerous. It does not lose its stability even under water, and more important yet, can be molded. Extremely durable, and with an unscratchable natural polish impervious to cigarettes and alcohol, it would make, among other things, a hard, yet resilient tile flooring.



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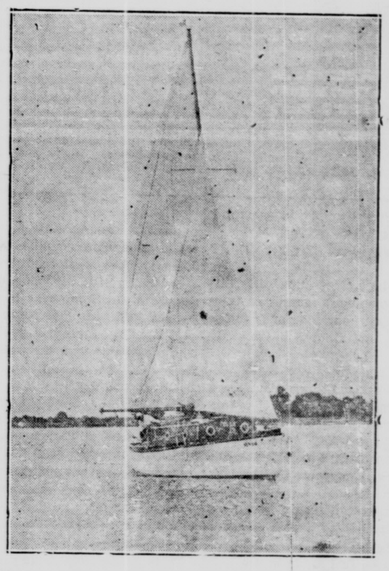
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