NEWS ITEMS OF VISITORS IN MILLINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Anthony, Mrs. Arthur Anthony and son, Wayne visited friends in Baltimore last Tuesday.

Mrs. Louis Hollett, Mrs. Paul Wallace and Mrs. Charles Anthony were overnight gnests on Wednesday of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Townsend of Odessa.

Mrs. James Pippin spent Wednesday in Wilmington.

Messrs. C. M. Melvin, J. B. Anderson, Alenda Smith, Sidney Dixon Edward Vansant, Lee Townsend, Goldey Schelts and Lee Bramble attended the meeting of the Kent & Queen Anne's Firemans Association which was held at Sudlersville on Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Melvin and family, Mrs. Fletcher Pratt, and Miss Betty Vansant spent Wednesday in Wilmington.

The WSCS of Trinity Church will hold a Chicken & Waffle Supper on Wednesday evening, April 12 at the home of Mrs. Jonathan Jones.

The Easter Cantata "The Conquering Sign" will be presented April 9th at 7:30 p. m. in Asbury Church by the Philathea and Baraca Choir.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Schofield and son Howard Jr. of Washington, D. C. were weekend guests of Mrs Ruth Bowman

Mr and Mrs. N. A. Wallen, Mrs. C. S. Church, Mrs Leo Gale and Mrs. Joseph Tubbs spent Wednesday in Wilmington.

Miss Martha Pennington of Leonardo, N. J. is the guest of her mother Mrs. Liston Pennington.

Miss Ellen Logan of Baltimore spent last week with her parents Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Logan.

Mr Morgan King of Middletown spent Friday here with his sister Mrs. J. D. Moore.

Mrs. Paul Bowman is spending sometime inWashington D. C. as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Schofield.

Rev. and Mrs. Pritchard, Mrs. R. J. Taylor, Mrs Ella Gale, Mrs. C. S. Church, Mrs. Harry Higman, Mrs. Jonathan Jones, Mrs. Leo Gale and Mrs. N. A. Wallen attended the WCTU Executive Meeting which was held on last Tuesday at the home of Mrs. J. L. Price of Betterton.

Miss Helen Burris of Wilmington spent the weekend with her parents Mr. and Mrs Wesley Burris.

Paul Bowman, USMM of Sheeps Head Bay, N. Y. spent the weekend at his home here.

The meeting of the Official Board of Asbury Church was held on Wednesday evening at the Parsonage.

Miss Mildred Edwards of Wilmington spent the weekend with her mother Mrs. Raymond Edwards.

The regular monthly meeting of the Philathea Class was held Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Roland Porter. Mrs. Lillian Melvin, Mrs. Anna Porter and Mrs. Roland Porter were the hostesses.

Mrs. Frances Price spent the week end in Philadelphia.

Mrs. James Powell received word that her husband Cpl. James Powelll has arrived safely somewhere in England.

Mr and Mrs. John Wallace and family of Chestertown, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wallace and family of Galena, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wallace and family were Sunday visitors of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wallace of near town.

Mrs. Leonard Voshell and children Charlotte and Samuel and Mrs. Paul Antone visited the formers' parents Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wallace on Tuesday.

—V—

Contour Yields More

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Washington Digest

'Price Premium' Battle Grows in Importance

War Food Administration Faces Increasingly Difficult Problem of Getting 'Bashful' Beef Cattle to Market.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

The fight over subsidies—pardon me, I shouldn't use that word subsidies, the New Deal doesn't like it—the fight over "price premiums" on farm products is once more the chief concern of the administration and the members of congress who do not see eye to eye on this painful question.

The smoke of the battle over the veto of the subsidy ban included in the Commodity Credit corporation bill has settled, and since then there was another veto (the tax bill) that didn't fare so well. But the Farm Bloc members are not so overoptimistic as to believe that the President and congress are still far enough apart on the subsidy question that another veto could not be sustained. In the senate, the cooler heads of the opposition know this and are not willing to go through the same futile process again.

In the house, it is a different matter although this is not likely to change the final picture. House Leader Joe Martin, while conceding no jot or tittle to the administration that he can withhold, has made it plain that price control is necessary, and he isn't going to allow too much delay on the part of those who want an anti-subsidy rider attached to the OPA bill. He has other plans of his own.

War Food administration officials are quoted as admitting that the case of the bashful beeves is one of their greatest problems. Concretely, they have the job of enticing two or three million head of beef cattle off the ranges and into the butcher shops during early spring and summer. And the only thing that they know of to make the cattle move is the good "old reliable" that makes the mare go—cash money. Since the administration is sitting on the ceilings and refusing to allow prices to the consumer to go up, Uncle Sam will probably have to make up the difference again, if congress will let him, in the form of a "price premium" to the stockmen.

The Banker's Stake

And the government is wondering about something else besides a few meatless Mondays or Tuesdays or Wednesdays. It is worried about the banker who has a stake in steaks, as well as the cattleman and beefeater.

Cattle on the ranges have increased beyond the feed on the ranges.

The average livestock population of America in the years 1922 to 1942 was 69 million head. Roughly let's say half of this was dairy cattle. Now the estimate is 82 million head and the ratio of eating cows to milking cows has increased alarmingly in the last few years.

And the beeves are now home on the range because there isn't a price incentive to lure them to slaughter. The government feared this; feared first the famine and then the flood. It now looks as if the famine was coming and the flood is not far behind. And this is where the banker comes knocking at the door. He remembers other gluts when the drouth, for instance, sent all the cattle to market at once, ruining the industry, making the banker's notes just so much wallpaper.

But how, the simple citizen asks, can there be a price drop when the government has placed a floor under prices as well as a ceiling over them? Well, see what happened to our friend, the hog. The farmer brought his pigs to market. The government fixed the price which the packers were bound to pay. But so many pigs arrived that the packer couldn't pack them and the law didn't say he had to buy what he couldn't use. So the farmer, rather than pick up his pigs and carry them home again, sold them off at disgracefully low prices to the smart boys. Finally the smart boys got the floor price, the butcher got his ceiling price which the consumers with full pocketbooks and empty stomachs were glad to pay. All the farmer got was mad.

This happened why? The government says simply because some farmers, seeing as how there was going to be such a good market for hogs, exceeded their quotas—got too hoggish (one district in Iowa, I was told, increased its pig crop by 53 per cent, when the figure the government had set was 15 per cent). More about that later.

And so the War Food administration is afraid the same thing might happen to the cattle market. And the banker is afraid. It would be bad enough if we ran into a glut like the hog-jam but, as one WFA livestock expert put it, "we shudder to think what might happen if an early drouth developed. There would be a great stampede to move cattle to market. Transportation and processing facilities might not be able to handle the movement. The result might be the loss of thousands and thousands of head of cattle."

R. M. Evans, member of the Federal Reserve board for agriculture, who is a former agricultural adjustment administrator, is urging the bankers in the cattle industry to do their share in coaxing Ferdinand off the range.

About 'Elastic' Prices

Of course, the cattlemen have been among the most violent critics of the price control administration and their representatives have maintained a steady battle here in Washington in an effort to remove the ceiling prices from beef (or, as they say, make the prices elastic) so that prices would rise and fall in accordance with the seasonal demand.

The cattlemen's viewpoint as presented by Joe G. Montague of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers association, boils down his plaint to a simple statement.

"Cattle just provide the frames to hang beef on. The Lord knows we've produced the frames but somebody fell down on the job of hanging the beef on 'em."

Mr. Montague told me the other day that the weights have gone down faster than even he expected although he predicted the glut and the promised famine ever since the fixed price was made last October. They have gone off 27 to 28 pounds a head and he expects this will continue until July when grass feeding begins again.

"I'm trying to get the cattle off the ranches but I can't do it. The feed lots are not taking them because there isn't any feed. I could sell thousands of pounds of feed today if I could get my hands on it. The government reports show that there's a lot of feed somewhere but we can't find it."

Hoarded Corn

There is plenty of feed in the shape of corn in the country but the farmers with their government-assured prices on hogs are hoarding it—they are transforming it into pork. The government "asked for this" when it put a premium on hog-raising, as we have explained. But many farmers, poultry and dairy farmers and others outside the corn belt need feed.

Not only farmers but industrialists who need corn for their chemicals, are complaining. The army and navy who need their products have echoed their pleas.

So the government is smack up against the problem of prying this feed (corn) loose from the farmers who are keeping it to feed to their hogs. The only way they can shake the kernels loose is to increase the price of corn. The only way they can do that without breaking through price ceilings is to subsidize corn—in other words, buy it at a price which will make it more profitable to the farmer to sell it than to feed it to his hogs.

Montague's argument is that because the cattle business is seasonal you have to have flexibility in price. If the price is nailed down, the cattleman will sell his grass-fed cattle in September, instead of holding out for higher prices in the spring, and save going through the anguish of zero weather. Of course, under price control, the theory is that the flexibility is provided by the subsidy—excuse me again—by the government offering a price premium which gives the cattleman enough for a fair profit but doesn't increase the price to the consumer and start inflation. But the cattlemen don't want sub-price premiums. They want prices to rise and fall in the good old-fashioned way.

And that is where the issues in the fight over the proposed amendment to the OPA bill are neatly joined.

BRIEFS . . . *by Baukhage*

Six hundred former seamen and officers of the American merchant marine who had been inducted into the U. S. army from shoreside employment in the last eight months have been released to return to sea.

• • •

The American Red Cross purchased more than 2,760,000 pocket-sized books last year for free distribution to servicemen.

United States mints last year turned out nearly one-tenth as many coins as have been produced in the past 152 years.

• • •

Nazi Minister of the Interior Heinrich Himmler, in ordering the registration of a new class of 17-year-old German girls for labor service, ruled that all applications for deferment will be useless.

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Named for Spaniard

The Mogollon mountains of southwestern New Mexico were named for Don Juan Flores Mogollon, Spanish governor from 1712 to 1715.

—V—

Squill Kills Rats

An onionlike plant that grows wild along the Mediterranean coast produces the safest rat poison known—red squill—says a statement from the department of agriculture.

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