

It Looks Good On Paper

FIGURES on average per capita incomes can be deceptive. The figure of \$1150 recently announced as the 1945 average in the United States, for instance, does not mean the \$1150 was the total income of the average wage-earner or businessman.

This means, of course, that the United States prospered mightily on paper at least during 1945. The national per capita average had increased from \$515 in 1938, the last pre-war year, or about 123 per cent. The Richmond Times-Dispatch, examining these figures in detail finds in them good news for the South, which still lags behind the nation but has closed the gap perceptibly. It will be seen from the following table that every Southern state except Florida and Louisiana showed a greater percentage gain than the nation as a whole.

Table with 3 columns: State, 1945, 1938 Increase. Rows include Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, E. Carolina, Alabama, S. Carolina, Mississippi.

This, as the Times-Dispatch concludes

"reflects gratifying economic progress in the South. We still have a long way to go in this respect but we seem to be on the way." But these figures also lead us into more gloomy speculation.

First of all there is the standing of North Carolina, supposed "pace-setter of the South," now in eighth place among the thirteen Southern states from the standpoint of income and tenth from the standpoint of percentage gain. The four states that trail us in dollar income lead us in percentage of income increase, two of them by more than one-fourth.

Second, we wonder whether the figures, state and national, really provide an occasion for tossing hats in the air. Certainly the fact that the average income has more than doubled in a short period appears to be good news at first glance, but we can't forget that this phenomenal gain came out of the seven years of World War II. Does the increase not, perhaps, reflect the illness of our economy rather than its health? How many of those 1,150 dollars came out of the national treasury in payment for now vanished war goods? Can a war be a prosperity?

Third, there is the terribly practical question of how much this additional income is worth in terms of goods and services. Did the \$2,928 (before taxes) the average Tar Heel heard of a family of four last year, offering mutual assistance plans like the \$1,128 (before taxes) he earned in 1938? Was he able to save any perceptible portion of it, and if it did it lasted through the inflationary season of 1946?

We have an idea it is a grave mistake to speak of any of the apparent gains of the war years as though they are, or might be permanent. The evidence is by no means all in yet.

The Career Of Maxim Litvinov

THE career of Maxim Litvinov charts the rise and fall of the internationalist spirit in Russia—the spirit of world revolution, but rather internationalism based on the belief that the USSR can successfully co-operate with the capitalist world while conducting her Marxist experiments.

But when the inevitable attack came, internationalism was again the price of Russian survival. Litvinov was discarded and sent to the United States as Russian Ambassador. He arranged the stream of lend-lease supplies that sustained the beleaguered Red Army, but he could not prevent the Second Front Moscow demand, and in 1943 he was dismissed from office and replaced by a comparatively unimportant official on the Foreign Ministry.

The inference is pointed: There is no room in today's isolationist Russia for a statesman who believes in international co-operation.

Punishment To Fit The Crime

IT was possible to defend the Army's strange trials of the Litchfield cases involving abuse of American prisoners so long as it appeared that the courts martial were attempting to follow the chain of command in fixing final responsibility.

But the courts are through with the small fry now, and there are already signs of a reversal of the traditional procedure. Certainly a man who maltreats a prisoner under direct orders of his superior is less guilty than one who originated a program of studied cruelty.

There Could Be Two Parties

GOVERNOR ELLIS ARNALL of Georgia, leading so-called southern liberal, declares: "There never will be a two-party system in the South as long as one of the parties is named 'Republican'."

Arnall may be remembered by some of you as the chap credited with conferring suffrage on the 18-year-olds of his state and with wresting away from New England a man who treated a prisoner under direct orders of his superior is less guilty than one who originated a program of studied cruelty.

There is no such thing as \$200 worth of steel in a case as serious as this. It is too late now for the Army to free itself entirely of the suspicion that it trims its punishment to fit the rank of the defendant rather than the nature of his crime. But there is still a chance of tempering the suspension, and there were indications in the Litchfield trial that the court is seeking to fix ultimate responsibility for the dark deeds at Litchfield. Major Lobunov was cleared of charges that he "aided and authorized" the administration of "cruel and unusual punishment."

But somebody authorized it, and the only prospect left is Colonel James Killian, regular Army commander of the camp who is also on trial. If Colonel Killian is held responsible for the acts of his subordinates and given a severe sentence the military court will retain some degree of public respect. But if he too escapes with a small fine the public quite properly will conclude that it is the Army's system of administering justice that deserves the blame for the Litchfield atrocities.

NOTE—While Drew Pearson is on a brief vacation, his column will be written by several distinguished guest columnists—today by Deb Myers, former associate editor of Yank, the Army weekly, one of the most promising young writers to come out of World War II.



Baptist Visitor

Report From Russia

NOTE: The report on Russia delivered in Atlanta Sunday by Dr. Louis D. Newton, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has already aroused a storm of controversy and seems likely to be the most misunderstood speech of the season. We reprint pertinent extracts from the address below.—The News.

LET me say by way of explanation that I was in Russia for only 25 days. One cannot see so much of a country so vast as Russia in so short a visit as he would wish to in order to make a satisfactory report. What I say in this address is based on what I did actually see and hear during that short period of 25 days. I may add that I traveled by air, that in the 25 days and nights spent in Russia, I traveled by plane approximately 11,000 miles and by automobile approximately 2,000 miles, and estimate that I walked more miles in those 25 days and nights than I have in the past 25 years.

The invitation to visit Russia came through the Russian War Relief Society, and read as follows: "To inspect the uses to which gifts of relief from America were put, to inspect medical, educational, cultural and religious institutions, and to confer with Soviet officials." As a matter of fact, the scope of our visit went well beyond these terms. Our extensive tour of the country was under the direction of VOKS, the public relations department of the USSR, and the Russian Red Cross and Crescent Society.

Communism! There, there is the word you've been waiting for! Am I correct, Am I time saving, and I would like to trace with you the steps that have led to the enthroning of the Bolsheviks and the overthrow of the Czar. But I must first know the purposes of this address. Only remember this: One must resist. Russia, Germany, and other nations of the past several hundred years to understand properly how Socialism through their revolutionary underground and the chaos of today. Aye, one must follow Lenin and Stalin through their revolutionary underground and the chaos of today. Aye, one must follow Lenin and Stalin through their revolutionary underground and the chaos of today. Aye, one must follow Lenin and Stalin through their revolutionary underground and the chaos of today.

The Democratic Faith

WHAT do I think of Communism? I came home from Russia more deeply committed to the doctrine of Democracy than ever before, and I went to Russia believing in Democracy with all my heart. I here and now call upon every person listening to me to examine carefully your understanding of Democracy and the Communist. I do not believe Communism is the answer to the world's great needs. I tell you that I believe Democracy is the answer to the world's great needs. I do not believe Communism is the answer to the world's great needs. I tell you that I believe Democracy is the answer to the world's great needs.

I turn now to a detailed report of what I saw in Russia. And, first, I take the subject of religion. What did I see in the field of religion in Russia? There are three major religious groups in Russia today—the Orthodox Greek Catholics, the Jews and the Baptists. There are lesser groups—the Roman Catholic Christians, the Lutherans, the Episcopalians, the Seventh Day Adventists, the Pentecostals, and there are Mohammedans and other forms of religion in the Asiatic and European religions; but the Greek Orthodox, Jews, and Baptists are the three major religious groups.

Drew Pearson's Vets Hope Statesmen Won't Blunder Again

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THE civilian went before the Army court-martial in a bottle, became a soldier. He learned how to sleep in the mud, the kill, a man. He learned the ache of loneliness, the ache of exhaustion, the kinship of misery. From the beginning there was a home in his mind, a home that meant the same weary noises in the morning, feel the same loneliness at night; that every man is alike and that each man is different.

Maybe he was huddled at night in a hole dug in jagged rock, but not bad, so I can get out of this. Maybe he didn't fight at all. Maybe he built ladders in Mississippi and cranked a mimeograph machine in Manila making charts, knowing that you can't kill the enemy with a shovel or book or more than ten paces; still wanting to go home. He was often bored; he wasn't always brave; most times he was scared.

Reconversion Problem

WARFARE being what it is today, the beating of swords into plowshares is an enormously complicated business. Take, as a prime example, the two pipelines being converted to civilian use during the war, at a cost of \$146,000,000, to move oil and aviation gasoline to the East Coast.

Those lines—the Big Inch and the Little Big Inch—were vital to the war effort. The Big Inch Day after day, they poured a continuous flow of oil and gasoline into the terminals at Philadelphia and Linden, N. J.

At the same time a barrage of propaganda was turned on, all of it to the effect that Big Inch and Little Big Inch were vital to the war effort, and that no one would conceivably want to buy. In business circles, however, there were men saying that the best the Government could hope to do would be to keep the pipelines open for the Big Inch and the 1,475 miles of Little Big Inch in stand-by condition to be used in event of another emergency.

The oil companies didn't want the pipelines sold and operated for the simple reason that there would be more profit, or so it seemed at the time, if they were to buy and ship from Texas by company-owned tankers. The War Shipping Administration, however, was of a very fancy tanker deals which would have made it possible to turn on the pipelines to the Government in exchange for a new one and get an allowance on the old one considerably more than it had cost.

Moreover, the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice had stepped into the pipeline situation. The D. of J. had compelled the company to sell the pipelines to the Government in exchange for a new one and get an allowance on the old one considerably more than it had cost.

Peter Edson

The War On Bugs

YOU can walk right up to the insect, and you can see it as clearly as you can see a man. The insect will be destroyed by atomic bombs or by insects.

Then there was the date palm scale that hit California. By dint of spraying the trees with kerosene and setting fire to them, the scale was destroyed.

These entomologists say the boll weevil could be similarly destroyed if everybody would agree not to grow cotton for one year. All the weevils would starve to death, and it would save them a lot of trouble.

But you can just imagine how much of a howl would come out of the South if anyone proposed passing a law to prohibit the growing of cotton for even one year. That's where the insects have the advantage over man in this race to destroy civilization.

The insect-experts aren't a bit discouraged. They say that insects have been here since long before the days of the Old Testament and will be here as long as there is life on this planet.

No perfect insecticide could be found in that time of course. But the entomologists are constantly discovering new ones and making improvements on the old.

Agricultural experiment stations keep on trying and hoping they'll get a better one. The weevil is a pest; it takes 15 or 50 or 500 years. After all, the storm was finally split. The last weevil was killed because the former soldier was guilty of being born black.

Maybe after fighting for democracy he thought it should be practiced by his own back. It is why he took things in his own hands in Athens, Tenn. Maybe he cannot understand why a country which can make unbelievable things like atomic bombs and level whole islands to make airfields cannot level slums, or build houses for people who do not have a place to live.

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Another Voice

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