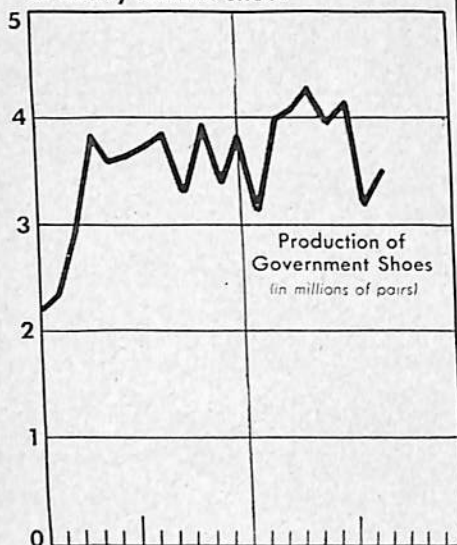
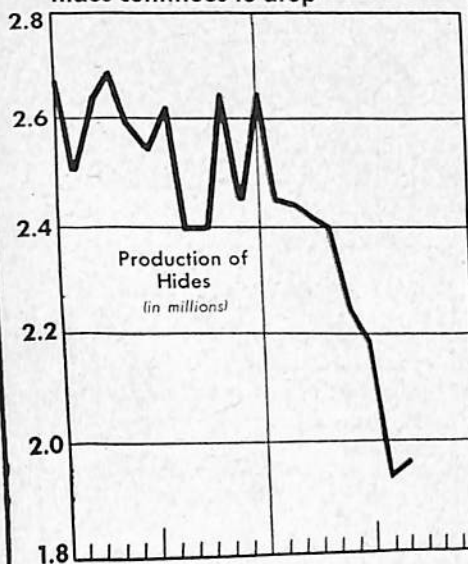


THE SHOE STORY

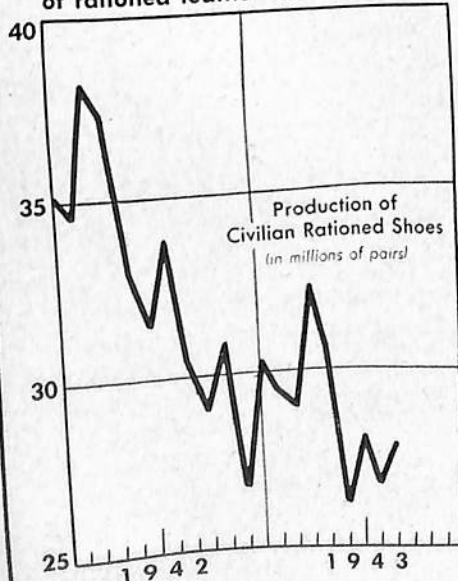
(1) U. S. stabilizes buying of heavy leather shoes



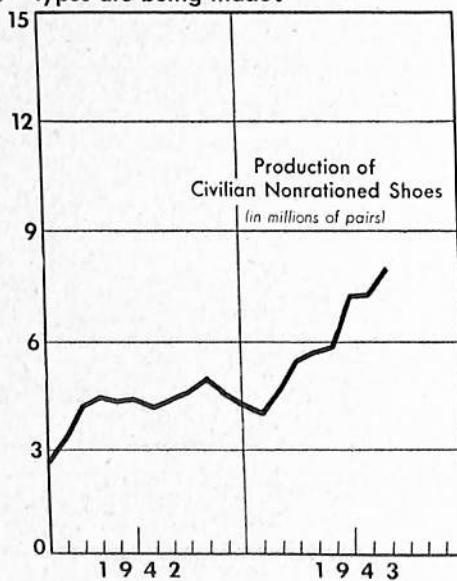
(2) But the production of hides continues to drop



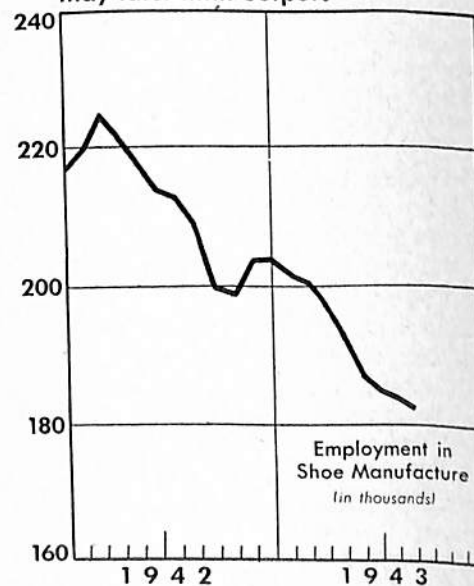
(3) Again reducing output of rationed leather shoes



(4) So more nonrationed types are being made.



(5) Finally, labor pinch may later limit output.



Data: Bureau of the Census; Tanners' Council; Bureau of Labor Statistics

© BUSINESS WEEK

the transcription industry for "peanuts," has made it clear that upon expiration of his contracts with the national networks next Jan. 31, the A.F.M. will demand inclusion of that principle for its cash value in future contracts.

A number of observers in the radio industry have put down Jan. 31 in their little black books as the beginning of another nation-wide musicians' strike if the networks balk at making payments to the union fund.

Shoes Stretched

OPA's revision of civilian allotments attributed to spurt in sales under rationing which has depleted dealers' stocks 25%.

When the Office of Price Administration announced last month that the new shoe coupon, valid Nov. 1, "probably" would have to last six months, it had little to offer as sugar coating for civilians just resigned to a quota of three pairs a year.

But a carefully worded 2,400-word statement accompanied OPA's announcement. It explained that between reduced leather supplies and manpower shortages only 25,000,000 pairs of rationed-type shoes a month would be available to civilians. The old rationing rate provided nearly 35,000,000 pairs monthly. This figure exceeded the production rate, but dealers' inventories could stand reduction then.

• **Inventories Down 25%**—Now, with retail inventories reduced about 25% since the beginning of rationing last Feb. 7, further depletion would reduce stocks below a safe operating level. And consumers were reminded that consump-

tion had not yet fallen below prewar average consumption rates, although high income families have had to curtail purchases.

More recently, consolation has been offered to style-conscious purchasers of women's shoes: (1) Shoe stamps remain transferrable among members of a family, (2) extra coupons will be available for industrial workers and children, and (3) allowances for "hardship" cases will be more liberal.

• **The Bottleneck**—Since normally three pairs of women's and three pairs of children's shoes are sold for every two pairs of men's shoes, family pooling is almost as welcome to consumers as to the War Production Board. To WPB a higher proportion of women's and children's shoes sold means lower leather consumption, particularly sole leather—and that is the bottleneck.

Glum prospects for civilian shoe output can be attributed primarily to the cause of the beef shortage—reduced slaughter. To make things worse, hides of black market beef sometimes never reach the tannery.

• **Imports Are Off**—The other major cause of tightened hide supplies is a reduction in imports from South America. A considerable portion of Argentine hides has been diverted to Great Britain. (Whereas U. S. tanners used to get 60% of the Argentine exportable hide surplus and British tanners 40%, our allocations have been cut to 30% and the British share raised to 70% in the last six months.)

But leather and hide interests do not find the long-range view as depressing as the immediate situation. There is hope of increased supplies from both slaughter and importation. As a by-product of beef, the raw leather supply should benefit from the 19% increase in 1944 slaughter now being urged upon

A PREDICTION ABOUT

SPEEDI-DRI

OIL AND GREASE ABSORBENT

by

H. B. Barrett, President

BARRETT EQUIPMENT CO.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

We quote from a recent, unsolicited letter written by Mr. H. B. Barrett, President of Barrett Equipment Company:

"I thought I knew something about cleaning oily floors, but I'll admit that you showed me something that discredited my twenty-five years' experience with this problem.

"The remarkable action of SPEEDI-DRI is such that I predict it will eliminate other types of floor cleaners for oily floors as soon as it becomes sufficiently well-known."

Mr. Barrett's prediction is rapidly coming true. In thousands of war-busy plants and many safety-conscious industries, SPEEDI-DRI is doing better work more economically than any other product of its kind.

It is not only absorbing oil and grease, but is providing a non-skid surface, brightening up the plant, improving morale (especially among women workers) saving shoes from oil rot, protecting workmen's feet, saving manpower and scouring compounds.

Where else can you get so much for so little? Try SPEEDI-DRI in your plant. Prompt service from warehouse stocks in leading cities. Unlimited, priority-free supply.



Ask for demonstration . . . or free sample. If water or water-soluble oils are present, specify SOL-SPEEDI-DRI.

SPEEDI-DRI
OIL AND GREASE ABSORBENT

SUPPLIERS

East—REFINERS LUBRICATING CO.
New York 1, N. Y.

Midwest and South
WAVERLY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS CO.
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

West Coast
WAVERLY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS CO.
Russ Building, San Francisco 4, Calif.

cattlemen by the War Food Administration.

Reversal of South American hide distribution hangs on the decision of a group of government officials and American shoe and leather men now studying the British leather situation under the auspices of the Combined Production & Resources Board.

• **Manpower Troubles**—Come the hoped-for return of adequate leather supplies, shoe manufacturers will begin to feel the loss of the labor supply which has been leaving for war industry as shoe production has fallen off. Because of wage differentials, it will be hard to lure workers back into shoe-making, so that improvement in hide supplies will permit only a limited expansion in production.

Beyond over-all supply, government takings in military footwear are the controlling factor in civilian shoe production. A small reduction in leather-consuming army boots means several times that many shoes for civilians, so the assumed stabilization of government takings at just over 3,000,000 pairs a month provides perhaps the most comfort for the still far-from-barefoot civilian.

NO STAMPS NEEDED

Squeezed by New York's acute gasoline shortage, Rheingold Brewery is trying out a gas-generating wood burner as a last-ditch method of keeping its delivery fleet on the streets. Similar to South America's gasogenios (BW—Jan. 9 '43, p54), Rheingold's has special tanks to clean, cool, and filter the vapors before they reach the carburetor. More elaborate is a trailer-type charcoal burner (below), fueling the Chicago Tribune's test car which rolls on synthetic rubber tires made from alcohol derived from wood pulp waste liquors (BW—Jun. 26 '43, p94).

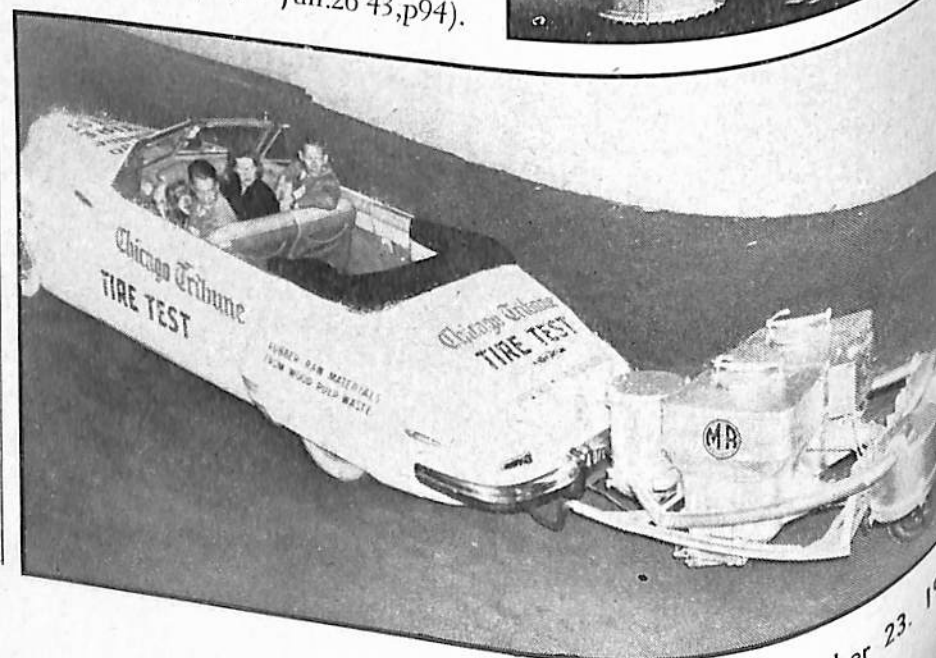
Without Redress

Emergency Court rejects Safeway petition to set aside price regulations on grounds of OPA's procrastination.

Business men who have complained about OPA's procrastination in processing formal protests against specific price orders were infuriated last week. A decision by the Emergency Court of Appeals—set up by Congress to handle complaints against OPA (BW—Oct. '43, p14)—made it appear that they had no legal recourse.

• **Court Held Powerless**—The decision, first of its kind, involved the request of Safeway Stores, Inc., that the court grant the company relief from an assortment of price regulations because of OPA's delay in giving an answer to the protest constituted a "denial." The court ruled that it is not empowered to act on protest until OPA has actually denied it.

Since the court holds that the Emergency Price Control Act merely



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quires OPA to take some action (not necessarily final) within 30 days after protest is filed, Safeway contends that, in hedging and stalling, the agency can keep a case kicking around unsettled indefinitely.

Two Steps Contemplated—Safeway is ready to take two steps: (1) an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court; (2) agitation for passage by Congress of S. 238 which has been pigeonholed in the Senate Judiciary Committee. S. 238 would require OPA to take final action on any protest within 60 days after it is filed.

OPA argues that complainants may petition the Emergency Court for a writ of mandamus directing the price administrator to take immediate action. If the action is unfavorable, the case may then be appealed to the court for its decision.

Hecht Case Review—More important than the Safeway ruling to OPA was the Supreme Court's decision to review the famous case against the Hecht Co., of Washington (D. C.) department store (BW—Dec. 26 '42, p16). Issue at stake in the Hecht case is whether a court should grant OPA a statutory injunction against a price violator who acted in good faith and has since amended his ways. OPA maintains that since violation is so much against the public interest that an injunction should be granted whether or not violations are deliberate.

If the Supreme Court decides for OPA, the agency thinks its hand will be greatly strengthened in enforcement proceedings.

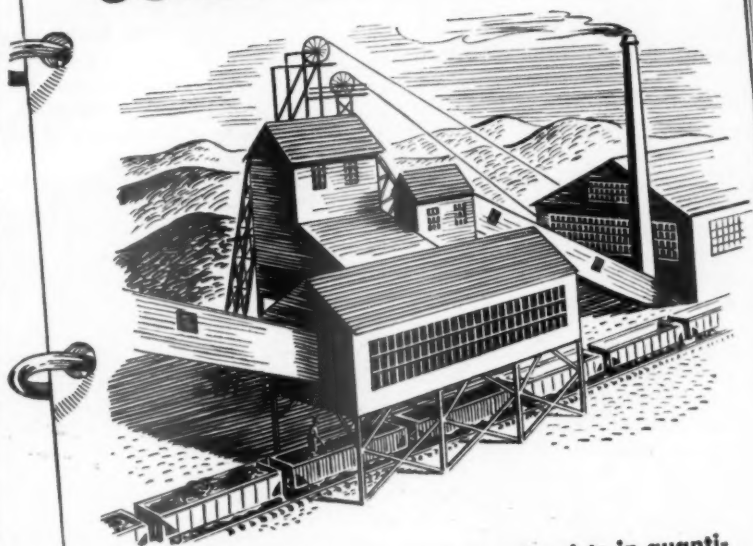
"PRESS SUBSIDY" RECAST

When Sen. Raymond E. Willis, publisher of the Steuben County (Ind.) Republican, proposed that the government appropriate between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 for advertising war bond sales in the hard-pressed small cities and weeklies of the nation, there was a flood of highminded protest in the metropolitan press (BW—Apr. 17 '43, p5). This week hearings began on a revised version of the bill presented by Sen. John H. Bankhead (Ala.). The principal revision provides for distribution of the Treasury's fund among large papers as well as among the small ones.

But the revision hasn't served to silence opposition. Most critics term the measure the beginning of government subsidy of the press. They argue that such a policy, once employed in the Treasury, could spread to other government agencies.

Under the revised bill, not less than half the fund would go to purchase space daily, weekly, semiweekly, and tri-weekly newspapers which serve communities that have a population of 10,000 or less.

COAL...IN NORTH CAROLINA



"The coal is of good quality and exists in quantities sufficient to supply a large portion of the State's fuel requirements."
H. A. BRASSETT & CO.

(Internationally famous engineering firm, whose consulting engineer in coal is C. C. Morfit, regarded as one of the world's outstanding coal geologists and engineers.)

FOR the past quarter of a century a wide variety of industries seeking a profitable locality in which to operate—a stable labor supply, low-cost hydro-electric power, mild climate permitting year 'round operation and nearness to consuming markets, have located in North Carolina. The industrial growth of the state has been rapid and consistent.

Today a hitherto unrecognized advantage is unfolding—North Carolina coal, a high quality fuel that does not have to bear the heavy burden of interstate freight rates, is available.

This coal is comparable with the well known Freeport coal, and a ton, if used as a coking coal, will yield 16 gallons of tar, and ammonium sulphate, benzol and

toluol in substantial quantities.

North Carolina's coal deposits, never heretofore adequately surveyed, have come to the forefront as a result of a recent survey made by H. A. Brassert & Co., of New York, consulting engineers for the State of North Carolina.

"It will require no further cleaning preparation other than hand picking on the belt to ship a good coal from this field... the coal will be a desirable fuel for domestic, gas metallurgical and other industrial uses," reports the Brassert organization.

Address correspondence to Commerce and Industry Division, 3162 Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA