

Wheat Needs 'Billion Bushel' Rains

U. S. Proposes Long-Range Curb On Reich; Rain Needed to Spur Growth of Early Spring Seeding

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

FOREIGN MINISTERS: Reich Curb

When Secretary of State Byrnes presented the U. S. plan for a 25-year control of Germany to the Paris conference of foreign ministers, he reiterated this government's determination to prevent a postwar military revival of the reich similar to that which occurred after World War I.

Definitely committing this country to active control over Germany to assure international security, the proposal would link the U. S., Britain, Russia and France in a treaty calling for complete demobilization and demilitarization of the reich; elimination of its munitions industries and arms imports, and periodic inspections to check on observance of regulations.

In proposing the 25-year treaty, which could be renewed for an additional 25 years at the date of its expiration, the U. S. took the initiative in seeking to relieve Premier Stalin's fear of a revived Germany. Because of Russia's apprehensions over future German aggression, Moscow insisted upon the formation of a friendly Polish government to act as a military buffer in the west and has worked for the economic and military integration of the Balkan states.

Byrnes' historic proposal shadowed other important developments at the foreign ministers' meeting called for speeding up conclusion of peace treaties with former axis satellites and considering the economic reconstruction of Germany and Austria.

The Big Four were quick to reach a decision on the reduction of the postwar Italian fleet and the division of the present navy among themselves and Greece and Yugoslavia. Built up into an imposing force under Mussolini, the Italian fleet will be cut to a maximum of four light cruisers, a dozen destroyers and complementary gunboats, coastal patrol craft and auxiliary vessels.

KING COTTON:

The smallest cotton crop since 1921 is indicated for the U. S. by the crop reporting board, the 9,015,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight comparing with 12,230,000 bales in 1944 and 12,293,000 bales for the 10-year (1934-43) average. The record crop was 19,946,000 bales in 1937.

Harvested production of cottonseed, a leading oil crop, in 1945 is indicated at 3,634,000 tons, 26 per cent less than produced in 1944 and 30 per cent less than the 10-year average.

Cheats Death Twice

A diphtheria patient in a Rome, Italy, hospital, three-year-old Alfredo Marsili twice was brought back to life by skillful medical after his heart had stopped beating. The first time he suffocated he was revived by an injection of adrenalin and glass tubes were inserted in his throat to facilitate his breathing. When a nurse dislodged the tubes while washing him, he suffocated again, but once more he was brought back to life with artificial respiration.

WEATHER: Crop Factor

With another record-breaking harvest needed to help the U. S. meet both domestic and foreign demands, the American farmer looked skyward in many sections for the sign of rain that would bring nourishment to the fields. With warm weather permitting early planting in parts of the east, south and west, precipitation was needed to get crops off to an early start.

In the east, spring weather has been erratic, with temperatures ranging from the middle 70s to near freezing. Though rainfall is approximately six inches below normal, recent showers have broken some of the dryness.

A deficiency of rainfall in western Minnesota and North and South Dakota seriously menaced wheat and small grains in those areas and appreciable precipitation before July 1 will be required for good yields. While dryness has resulted in sparse stands in northwestern Kansas, wheat is in good condition in the rest of the state.

Heavy rainfalls throughout the Rocky mountain region have relieved immediate fears of drought while growers in northern Colorado have been warned against insect and cutworm infestation due to early hatching of pests.



MUSIC SOOTHES . . . Herman C. Menge, a retired Racine, Wis., druggist, visited the zoo and found a director trying to tame a raging lion. Menge pulled out his ocarina and started playing. The lion quieted down.

WASHINGTON DIGEST

Complete Trial Needed To Legally Outlaw War

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

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As the Nuernberg trials draw to a close, I continue to hear two questions repeated ad infinitum in the market places and bazaars, in the coffee houses and the couloirs (not to mention the lecture halls).

One is: Why on earth are they dragging out these trials; aren't they ever going to end?

The other is: Do you think any of these fellows (the prisoners) are going to get off?

Associate Justice Jackson knows as well as anyone else that news from Nuernberg has long since departed inconspicuously from the front page. He knows, from reading the American newspapers which reach him not too belatedly, thanks to the ALS (the army's special courier service), that his role in the Nuernberg case will never bring him a succes de scandale. He knows his presence is needed in Washington on the Supreme court bench.

Why, then, does he harry?

Full Documentation Is Required

By answering that question, one can answer the other two I mentioned at the beginning of these lines.

One: Why is this thing being dragged out forever. . . ?

And for those who fear that justice will be cheated, let me say that most of those men, if it could be established that they took official part in the planning and execution of an aggressive war, are probably wanted on other charges in local courts. If they go free from Nuernberg, the local courts will try them, as the "Beast of Belsen" and others were tried and convicted for their separate and private crimes.

It is possible, for instance, that the sadistic, degenerate Streicher, Jew-baiting wielder of a jeweled whip that was a symbol of his psychosis as well as an instrument of his perverse desire, will not be convicted by the IMT. He is so low that his fellow prisoners won't speak to him; so crooked that even when he was a Gauleiter, he couldn't be trusted to sign a single order of national or international significance. He finally stole so much from the Nazi party itself that he was incarcerated.

The Nuernberg trials will continue until the record is completed. Justice will not be cheated. And it is to be hoped that aggressive war, on the basis of the proceedings of this court, will become illegal. How can the United Nations hope to outlaw war unless they establish with sword, scales and woosack that war is illegal?

GRAND OLD MAN . . . Charles Evans Hughes, only living former chief justice, leaving the White House after conferring with President Truman.

Answer: Because this trial is not merely a trial of a handful of international criminals. These evil villains are only a small part of the drama, even if it is they, and not what is behind their castigation, which sometimes still produces headlines. The trial is a great process of legal documentation.

It is the recording of history, for the first time in history, of history written in blood, and ink hardly yet dry. It must be a complete record; the record of a crime which, until it is so recorded, may never be admitted as a crime in the eyes of international statesmen and lawyers.

The Allied military tribunal (operation justice, as it was known in the army) was planned, and is being conducted to its long and apparently infinite end for the purpose of blueprinting a legal precedent for holding as punishable criminals, the heads of states who plot and carry out aggressive warfare.

That is the answer to question one.

Question two: Are they ever going to convict these fellows? I answered that in part when I said that the proceedings were far more than the trials of the defendants who sit daily in the prisoners' dock of the court house at Nuernberg, or in their lonely cells near by.

Apparently the Ashby man lost, for he required five stitches in his scalp. But he left the hospital after a few hours under his own power.

And that's what hard-headed citizens do when they meet in a tavern.

FITCHBURG, MASS.—It seems, said the Fitchburg police, that a gentleman from Ashby and a boilermaker—not otherwise identified—engaged in a dispute over the relative thickness of their respective skulls.

To settle the dispute, police added, they withdrew to opposite ends of a 30-foot room, then ran toward each other, crashing head-on. It was sensational.

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TUCSON, ARIZ.—Many of Arizona's hunters had a big season hunting wild pigs during the winter months just past, for the season was extended to 59 days by the state game and fish commission, the reason being that the javelina or peccary have been increasing rapidly in the last few years.

The Arizona species of the animal is one of two varieties of pig-like animals ranging from Arizona and Texas to Paraguay. Some are slightly grizzled and have an indistinct white collar and are often called the collared peccary. The Arizona wildhog is often called the "couchajavalin." They are nocturnal and gregarious, says the dictionary.

But it's a great sport in these parts, where the javelina is well scattered. They are found in rock country on the edge of the desert around Tucson, and in mountain canyons which abound here. The animals usually run in small packs, are considered big game in this state, and as such may not be hunted with dogs.

May Use Bow and Arrow.

The law specifies that the limit is one animal of either sex per hunter for the season, and must be taken by a rifle fired from the shoulder and propelling a center-fire cartridge, or by bow and arrow provided the bow used has a pull of 50 pounds or more and the arrow is broadhead of one inch or more in width.

All of which regulations hunters are glad to adhere to so they can be sure of carrying their animals home to the range—cooking range—for the wild pig is "mighty fine eatin', mighty fine!" say Arizonans, including the Indian and Mexican hunters.



TAMED . . . Here is a couchajavalin from the wilds of Mexico. This wild boar was tamed by L. C. James of Tucson and adopted as a pet, Henrietta Lampra is shown holding it at the Bismarck hotel in Tucson.

Thickest Head Wins Contest

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FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF LANDS, JANUARY 1, 1944



PLACERVILLE, CALIF.—In his younger days, C. W. Donaldson of Bear Creek might have covered that last four feet in time—to be killed!

Donaldson had brought home 30 sticks of powder to use in his mining operations and had left them in the back seat of his sedan. The next morning he performed his usual ablutions and face barbering when he noted smoke curling from the back of his car.

Half-Billion Acres Of U. S. Land Held By the Government

By WALTER A. SHEAD

WNU Washington Correspondent.

WASHINGTON.—The United States chamber of commerce is polling its member chambers throughout the nation on the report of its natural resources department committee seeking amendments to the laws governing control of almost a half billion acres of public lands.

The federal government now owns approximately a quarter of the land area of continental United States.

This huge acreage of public lands is controlled by the general land office of the department of interior. It is in two classes, 80 per cent being so-called public land; or public domain, and the balance is "acquired" land, purchased by, or deeded to the federal government from citizens, states or municipalities.

There are 157,618,000 acres in national forests; 140,798,000 acres in grazing districts; 55,249,000 acres in Indian reservations; 13,585,000 acres in national parks; 7,481,000 acres in soil conservation; 1,326,000 acres are owned by the navy department, 19,355,000 by the fish and wildlife service.

According to the chamber, there have been repeated complaints concerning excessive withdrawals of these lands, unnecessary acquisitions, over-regulation, particularly on grazing and mineral rights.

Some of the amendments to public land laws which the U. S. chamber recommends is public hearings and adequate notice before further land is withdrawn and a time limit on temporary withdrawals;

That private ownership should be the ultimate objective of grazing lands subject to sound principles of conservation and protection of public interests, including reservation of rights to minerals and metals, timber, water resources development and other potentialities not involving grazing, these grazing rights should be protected and preserved;

That the mineral leasing act of 1920 be further amended to remove all acreage limitations, or at least to grant expansion and to remove the limit to acreage held on a geological structure;

That royalty on all government leases be fixed at 12 1/2 per cent for leases heretofore and hereafter issued that are not on proven oil or gas structure; that to encourage exploration and development of deeper pools, a 12 1/2 per cent royalty for all deeper discoveries in presently proven fields, the same to apply to all leases in new zones;

That the government either take the royalty in kind for sale or accept the market price of the royalty oil, gas or gasoline;

That the law grant the free right of assignment and relinquishment of government oil and gas leases with proper safeguards;

That all lands of the United States be registered with the interior department;

That surplus property act be amended to require disposal of all acquired lands not necessary and useful for a clearly defined governmental purpose.

In addition the committee recommends that the congress give the states statutory recognition to ownership and disposition of the shores and all lands beneath the tidewaters and other navigable waters within the boundaries of each state.

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WNU-U 20-46

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TO SAVE FORESTS

Helicopters for Forest Fires?

MARCH FIELD, CALIF.— With March Field pilots flying the latest model army "egg-beaters," tests have been conducted in Angeles national forest with helicopters to determine their effectiveness in forest fire control. If tests are successful, the forest service may have its own fleet of rotary-wing aircraft.

The helicopters were used for experimental dropping of fire-suppressing materials from the air—a project in which skill approximating that of the wartime bombardier was turned to a peacetime purpose which might mean the saving of millions of dollars worth of national wealth.

The plan, if successful, will ultimately benefit woodsmen in Maine and Tennessee as well as in the Far West. The basic advantage of the helicopter, according to the ex-

perts here, is that it would enable the trained fire-fighter and his kit to get closer than ever to the key spot in one hop.

For several years the closest approach to this has been the "smoke-jumper," or parachuting fireman of the forest service. Trained at the regional base at Missoula, Mont., this sylvan paratrooper has served heroically and efficiently, but a chute does not steer like a helicopter.

David P. Godwin, assistant chief of the division of fire control of the United States forest service, flew out from Washington for the tests. He was met by regional officials of the service and by Lt. Col. Rollo Lawrence, in charge of the army air force search and rescue work centered at San Francisco.

Details on the "bombing" with

fire-suppressants would not become available until summer, members of the party said. Like the helicopter experiment, it was approved in principle by the army last October.

March Field's own search and rescue unit, to which the helicopter pilots are attached, is headed by Maj. Fred W. Millam of Meron, Ind. Besides the rotary planes, the unit equipment includes two B-17s, five twin-engined advanced trainers and four Cub-type spotters. Their movements are guided by the rescue control center at North Hollywood.

America's annual loss through forest fires is staggering. Each year thousands of acres of natural forests are lost through fire, largely because fire-fighters cannot reach the blaze to put it out before it spreads over a large area.