

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Yanks Step Up Pressure on Jap Bases; Truman Committee Asks More Leeway For Manufacture of Civilian Products; Daytime Bombings Rock Nazi Industry

(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.) Released by Western Newspaper Union.



England—War and peace provide striking contrast in this English pasture, where sheep stray amid U. S. air corps supply depot set in open field.

PACIFIC: Pincer Closes

Giving the harassed Japs no rest, U. S. forces shifted the impetus of their Southwest Pacific attack back to New Britain, increasing the menace of the once important air and naval base of Rabaul, feeder point for enemy units throughout the region.

With new Yankee landings on the northern coast of New Britain and eastward advances by other doughboys operating from Arawe on the southern shores, General MacArthur was slowly closing his pincer on Rabaul, although rugged jungle still rose before U. S. forces meeting stubborn opposition from the entrenched enemy.

While General MacArthur increased his pressure on the Japs in New Britain, other U. S. forces tightened their grip on the Admiralty Islands along the supply route to Rabaul. In mid-Pacific, Admiral Chester Nimitz' naval airmen continued to pound Jap defense installations in the Caroline Islands, site of the enemy's Pearl Harbor of Truk.

CONGRESS: Cut Appropriations

In an economical mood, the house appropriations committee sliced 91 million dollars off federal agencies' requests for additional funds to carry on operations for the year ending June '50, but it did approve a total of 500 million dollars.

Biggest reduction of 22 1/2 million dollars was made in the Federal Works agency's plea for 150 million dollars for community facilities, and of the sum finally voted, only 4 per cent was allowed for administration expenses. More than 17 million dollars was lopped off National Housing administration's request for 25 million dollars for war housing. The Commodity Credit corporation's bid for 39 1/2 million dollars for restoring its capital was turned down, committee pointing to its 25 million dollar balance as of December 31 and authority to borrow.

Only the Veterans administration fared well, 30 million dollars being appropriated for construction of hospital facilities, following Brig. Gen. Frank Hines' statement that by 1975 a peak load of 300,000 beds would be filled, 207,000 by vets of this war and 91,400 from other wars.

RUSSIA: Finns Dicker

While Russian General Meretskov's armies drove against the Germans' Estonian and Latvian defenses, Finland bargained with Moscow for more agreeable peace terms, including retention of all the territory won during the present war and right of the Nazis to withdraw their troops from the country.



Gen. Meretskov

Crossing the Narva river, the Russ penetrated into Estonia, while farther south, Red armies were converging on the important railroad and highway center of Pskov, gateway to Latvia.

Almost 600 miles to the south, the Russians drove into the flank of the Germans' long front to the rear of Red forces in old Poland, again seeking to whittle down the Nazis' position to prevent them from using it as a springboard for possible attack.

MISCELLANY:

ACCIDENT: A freak railroad accident took the lives of 500 Italians, who were illegally riding on a freight train, trying to get home from north to south Italy. The refugees died of carbon monoxide poisoning from the locomotive's smoke, when the train stalled on a tunnel grade.

HOSPITALS: There are 14 per cent more patients in American hospitals now than in 1940.

GREAT BRITAIN: Coal Strikes

Far, far across the sea, Great Britain came in for its share of coal strikes, too, when 12,000 Monmouthshire miners walked out and another 2,500 in Durham slowed production over dissatisfaction with piece-work rates.

Ruffled by the Durham slowdown which has cut coal output from 15,000 to 5,000 tons weekly, the government threatened to replace the miners and put them to work in other pits.

Piece-workers balked when no adjustment was made in their rates after other miners were granted new minimum wages of \$20, \$3.25 over the old level. Piece-workers claimed they could only raise their minimum by 50 or 75 cents under existing rates, not making it worthwhile for them to try harder.

CANADA: Price Control

Tussling against wartime inflation trends, Canada spent over 115 million dollars from December, 1941, to December, 1943, for subsidies to keep down import and domestic prices.

Higher labor costs, expanded farm income, expensive substitutes and transportation charges are among the factors tending to rub against price ceilings.

Although the supply situation promises to brighten, there are growing shortages of children's clothing and footwear. The lumber and pulpwood industry continue to suffer from pressing manpower scarcities.

\$40,000 Bull



Mrs. William E. Barton of Chicago holds reins on Prince Eric of Sunbeam, grand champion bull of the National Aberdeen-Angus show, bought at \$40,000 for breeding at an auction at Chicago's stockyards by Ralph L. Smith, Kansas City, Mo.

Runners-up to Prince Eric were Erian B. VII, which sold for \$30,000, and Prince Quality also of Sunbeam, which was bought for \$10,800.

HOGS: Prices Up

Because snowstorms impeded shipments and prospering farmers were in better position to hold hogs, 20 major pig markets recently received lower receipts in six months, while prices rose to the highest peak in four months.

At the Chicago yards, nearly all classes of hogs shared in the price upswing, the average rising to \$13.85, with 200 to 250 pound stock netting \$14.10, and good 270 to 350 pound butchers bringing \$13.95. Even some of the lightest hogs went up .50.

In the cattle market, demand increased for butcher stock, such as beef cows, canners and cutters, with prices strong to .25 higher. The scant supplies of sheep and lambs went quickly, with the best cashing at \$16.35, and old ewes bringing up to \$9.

WAR ECONOMY: Truman Committee Reports

Letting the chips fall where they may, Senator Harry Truman's investigating committee praised America's war production effort, asked that greater leeway be given to manufacturing civilian goods and criticized loose disposition of surplus war material.

Since 1941, the committee reported, the U. S. produced arms and equipment for 10,000,000 men; 153,061 airplanes; 746 warships; 20,450,000 tons of Liberty ships; 1,567,940 military trucks, and 23,887 landing craft.

To speed civilian production, the committee urged: 1. Permit use of metals not needed for the war; 2. Allow manufacture outside of man-power shortage areas, and 3. Let factories without war work operate.

Citing the army's sale of \$1,721,136 worth of new machine tools for junk for \$36,924 in Detroit recently, the committee called for creation of a special U. S. agency to handle disposal of surplus material.

PIPE LINE

The proposed pipeline across Arabia, to be constructed with federal funds to provide the American and Allied armies with petroleum in the Mediterranean area, would create many international complications, spokesmen for the American oil industry charge. According to a report by the Petroleum Industry war council, the plan to run the 1,000-mile pipeline "through three foreign nations" was "an invitation to international incidents rife with the germs of another war."

WAR DEATHS

During 1943 American life insurance companies paid out nearly 42 million dollars in death benefits under 31,600 civilian policies owned by members of the army, navy and merchant marines. About 14,000 men had been killed in action. Payments on claims of service-men accounted for about 4 per cent of all death claims for the year. The 1943 settlements bring the aggregate sum since the start of the war to close to 60 million dollars paid out on 43,500 policies.

Washington Digest

Agricultural Readjustment Seen as Postwar 'Must'



Farmer-Educator Stresses Need for More Efficient Farming, More Attractive Life In Order to Maintain Production.

By BAUKHAGE
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Ever since the beginning of the year, Washington has realized that one of the most important problems before it is demobilization.

It isn't a future problem. It's here.

Nearly a million and a quarter men have already been discharged from the army and navy since Pearl Harbor. More than 50,000 were physically "disabled," but excepting the severely wounded, most of these can be absorbed into civilian activities.

Reconversion of our economic and social structure is beginning.

Two weeks ago, I discussed at some length in this column, the George report on reconversion. Since then has come the Baruch report on the same subject, which was rapidly followed by executive action. It looked as if congress and the White House were in a race to see who would be first to start the colossal job.

While attention is being centered on readjustment of industry, less attention has been paid publicly to the necessary readjustments in agriculture which must come. Because many starving peoples will have to be fed for some two years after the war is over, the demand on the farmers for production of food and textiles should continue on somewhat the same basis as at present. But adjustments will have to be made whether or not this high rate of production is maintained because any changes in our economic life are bound to affect the farmers.

One of the most important recent contributions to this planning for the adjustment of agriculture has been made by Dr. Murray R. Benedict, a Wisconsin farm boy who is now a professor of agriculture in the University of California. He points out in a very thorough study of "Farm People and the Land After the War," released by the National Planning association, that if we want our people to be adequately and suitably fed, and if we want our farmers and farm workers to be satisfied, farming will have to be made more efficient and farm life more attractive both as a business and as a way of life.

Political Reaction

Unfortunately, there is a great danger that such efforts will be frustrated owing to the very natural political reaction of a democratic country, long under federal regulation which is necessary in wartime. Once peace returns, a free people is anxious to throw out its chest and start off lustily, paddling its own canoe again.

It must be remembered that up until 1870, the condition of agriculture shaped the entire anatomy of the American body—economic—political—social. After 1870, industry developed to the point where it became the tail that wagged the agricultural dog.

Since 1870, the percentage of the population engaged in nonagricultural activities has remained either about stable or has shown a slight increase. The farm population showed a decrease until now when it has become fairly stabilized at about 30 million.

It would be possible, provided certain definite steps were taken, either to increase the number of paying farm jobs or to achieve greater production with a fewer number of workers, so that we could have more or less farmers, according to production needs and still make it remunerative to all.

According to Dr. Benedict, the normal birth rate keeps the farm population just about stable unless sharp shifts to and from the farm are made. The shifts do come and they throw the whole farm picture out of kilter. This is where the tail wagging the dog comes in, for in time of depression, of course, industrial workers seek livelihood on the farm and, therefore, have a tendency to glut the market—in time of boom, the farm boy deserts the fields for the cities and the better-paying jobs.

Four Major Factors

There are four factors which can take up or let out the slack: (1) A larger demand for farm products at home or abroad.

(2) Decreasing the output per man in agriculture operations—cutting down its hours or doing away with some of the mechanization.

(3) Development of greater self-sufficiency on the part of the farmers themselves.

(4) (Something we would hardly want to see) Immigration to less developed countries, except, of course, in the case of places like Alaska, where there is a need of settlers.

Another danger which besets the farmer and which regional planning would avert is the sense of insecurity on the part of the farm people, due to the tendency toward tenant operation of farms under short-time tenures, which naturally leads to inefficient farming, bad living conditions, lack of continuity.

Then, of course, there is the ancient bugbear of one-crop farming, partly inherited from slavery days and particularly noticeable in cotton agriculture. Another factor is the wage labor situation in particular localities (also a heritage of another day) which results in poor living conditions and unproductive and unsatisfactory work. Other disturbing factors are the use of submarginal lands or unsuitably located farms and then, of course, the problem of the exhaustion of resources with the counter-measure of conservation.

It is pointed out that the situation which met the pioneer in America resulted in certain definite tendencies and traditions affecting the American attitude toward agriculture. These pioneer conditions, of course, ceased when there were no more good, new lands which could be opened up. But their effect lives on and has affected land policies ever since.

Dr. Benedict lays great stress on the fact that land policies which were well suited to the pioneer do not fit in at all with our modern economy and he emphasizes heavily the need of altering the tenant-farmer situation. In the old days a man, if conditions were unsatisfactory, could pack his family and belongings in a covered wagon, cross the range and stake out a fresh claim for himself. Now, if he has no place of his own, he has to work on someone else's terms and like it.

"The past two decades have brought clearly into view," says Dr. Benedict, "... the insecurity and destructiveness of the American system of tenancy, the rapid deterioration of soils, and the increasing difficulty with which able young farmers can become established on the land."

Three Improvements

He believes that wise legislation could be put into action and three important improvements could be brought about:

(1) Powerful incentive for the tenant to conserve the soil since he would reap the benefits.

(2) Much more careful selection of tenants, since removal of poor tenants would be more difficult.

(3) Improved community status of those tenants who become established under arrangements of this kind.

Such is a brief summary of the goals studied in typical research now being done for the benefit of the farmer.

Unfortunately, however, as I said earlier, politics is bound to play a powerful role in the effort to secure any "wise legislation" and, with selfish interests, will make up the chief obstacle.

Circumstances will force action in regard to the reconversion and adjustment of industry in the present session of congress but it would be an optimist indeed who would predict that constructive farm legislation could be carried out in an election year. The farm lobby is one of the most powerful in congress but unfortunately pressure exerted by it frequently fails to have for its objective the general good of the country. Proponents of certain measures may be really honest in expressing the wish of their particular constituents but the farm problem in America is so closely interwoven with every phase of our life, social as well as economic, that to envision it properly one must consider the welfare of the entire nation, not the special interests of any one particular locality.



Keep Buildings Tight, WFA Urges Farmers

Grain Spoils, Stock Sicken in Leaky Barn

Farmers have done a better job of maintaining farm machinery than farm buildings. In fact, in only four years since 1921 have investments in farm buildings equalled depreciation. Eventually, farmers find that buildings are essential tools—just as essential as thrashers, reapers or plows. But too often, farmers realize this only after a building has developed the "shakes," or after a weather-beaten roof allows moisture to get through it where it can attack the building and the cattle, hogs, feed or machines stored there.

Of what use is it to raise an extra hundred bushels of grain, the War Food administration points out, if that grain is to be lost in a granary with a leaking roof? Of what use is it to expand poultry flocks if as much as 30 per cent may be lost because of uninsulated, damp structures? Why attempt to raise more livestock unless steps are first taken to save the 30 to 40 per cent which never reach maturity because of poor or inadequate shelter?



Like home owners, farmers are apt to forget that roofs can never "relax" in the battle with wind, rain, ice and snow. While some roofing materials cannot be obtained, non-critical, fire-resistant asphalt roofing, which is easy to apply, is available.

Many New Uses Found For Chicken Feathers

The government is taking all elder duck down and geese feathers, leaving chicken and turkey feathers for civilian use.

About 80 per cent of feathers for pillows, quilts and cushions came from Europe and China in peacetime—forcing manufacturers during the war to improve domestic supply sources, which now also must be tapped for increased war needs.

Public prejudice against chicken feathers for pillows and cushion stuffing has waned somewhat because of improved methods of preparing them, manufacturers said, adding that now they are more sanitary, while a curling process has made them softer.

More than 100,000,000 pounds of feathers now are produced annually from American poultry flocks, compared with only about 20,000,000 pounds before the war. About 95 per cent of the total is made up of chicken feathers.

Even in surgery, feathers have taken on a new value. Chemists have developed a method for dissolving them and producing a protein plastic. Threads of this plastic can be used as sutures for sewing wounds because they are strong and are absorbed by the body.

Trade sources say that down makes ideal sleeping bags for soldiers and for fliers' jackets. Kapok, formerly used extensively in America as pillow-stuffing, now is unobtainable from the Dutch East Indies and available supplies on hand are used by the government.

Poultry flock owners get about five cents a pound for chicken and turkey feathers and approximately \$1 a pound for down from waterfowl.

TELEFACT
EQUIPMENT OF AMERICAN HOMES
WITH WITHOUT
RADIO [four icons] [one icon]
ELECTRIC LIGHTS [four icons] [one icon]
PRIVATE TOILET [four icons] [one icon]
GAS OR ELECTRIC STOVE [four icons] [one icon]
Each symbol represents 20% in each group

Don't Use Too Much Seed

In buying seed, it is wise to plan the amount needed for the space to be planted. A half-ounce of carrot seed, for example, might all be put into a single 100-foot row. The half-ounce of seed would contain about 12,000 seeds, and if 90 per cent of them were to grow, according to the germination test, that would mean nearly 11,000 plants in the row, or about 100 to 110 little carrot plants to each foot of row. Actually 25 seeds to the foot is about right.

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NIGHT COUGHS
YOUR CHILD'S coughing at night—caused by throat "tickles" or irritation, mouth breathing, due to a cold—can often be prevented by rubbing throat and chest with VAPORUB at bedtime.
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VAPORUB

One Beginner
The great works of the world always begin with one person.—Edward W. Bok.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER
In 1912 tropical Americas produced their greatest output of rubber—62,000 tons. It is expected that we will have imported 41,000 tons from these countries in 1943, an important supplement to our synthetic supplies.
Some experts estimate that there are around 300 million Hevea (rubber) trees in Latin America. Most of them are in jungles, difficult to get at.
"Alcohol and driving don't mix" may still be a worthy admonition, but nevertheless, millions of gallons of alcohol are needed as a raw material to make synthetic rubber for the production of tires now so essential to driving.
Jesse Shaw

B.F. Goodrich
FIRST IN RUBBER

WNU-U 11-44

Watch Your Kidneys!
Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste
Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.
Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength.
Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.
There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use **Doan's Pills**. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nationwide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Ask your neighbor!
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