

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Germans Strive to Check Great Russian Break-Through in East; Congress Ponders Labor Draft

Released by Western Newspaper Union.
(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.)



Evidencing cooperation given Yank forces in Philippines, native volunteers information of enemy activity on Mindoro Island.

LEND-LEASE: Food Shipments

Showing a 4 billion pound drop under 1943, lend-lease food and agricultural products shipments during 1944 totaled over 7 billion pounds, with meats, dairy items and grain cereals composing the bulk of deliveries.

Of meat lend-leased, 708,627,733 pounds were cured, smoked and frozen pork products; 65,238,418 pounds of frozen pork loins; 60,762,243 pounds of lamb and mutton; 23,285,892 pounds of frozen veal, and 16,101,290 pounds of frozen beef. Of dairy products, 280,845,699 pounds of cheese were delivered, 23,896,449 pounds of butter, and 17,960,503 pounds of butter oil.

Other food and agricultural products lend-leased included 543,930,297 pounds of granulated sugar; 44,041,306 pounds of canned peas; 41,424,897 pounds of canned peaches; 28,069,988 pounds of canned green beans; 24,650,997 pounds of canned tomatoes; 21,868,310 pounds of soap, and 20,195,112 pounds of canned pineapple.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER: 1944 Production

Built up almost overnight as a result of the severance of the nation's imports of crude rubber from the far east following the Japs' early conquests, the U. S.'s 700 million dollar synthetic rubber industry produced 763,000 long tons (of 2,240 pounds) last year.

Declaring that synthetic production can be boosted to 1,000,000 tons if necessary, Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones said that the 1944 output was equal to the nation's annual peacetime rubber needs.

Because 60 per cent of the rubber was made from alcohol instead of petroleum, Jones said, production costs of the synthetic averaged 33 cents a pound, compared with about 19 cents for the crude.

Celebrities Stricken

On the same day, in mid-month, death came to three of the nation's celebrated figures:

In Meriden, Conn., 50-year-old Francis T. Maloney (Dem.) succumbed to a heart attack. Left to support four brothers and sisters at the age of 12, Maloney worked up to the senate from newspaper reporter, mayor of Meriden and congressman.

In Washington, D. C., to attend the President's inauguration, 57-year-old George D. Crowley, vice chairman of the division of finance of the Democratic National committee, and one of the founders of the 1,000 club during the recent campaign, died of heart trouble. A prominent Chicago insurance man and financier, Crowley was the son of an assistant secretary of the treasury under President Cleveland.

Creator of the famed "Frank Merriwell" fiction character, whose amazing exploits thrilled millions of readers, 78-year-old Gilbert Patten, who wrote under the name of Burt L. Standish, passed away in San Diego, Calif. Patten, who ran away from home at 16 because he didn't like school, wrote a 20,000-word adventure novel every week for 18 years, and was estimated to have written 40,000,000 words in his lifetime.

BASEBALL: Gets FDR's Nod

With the game having been given presidential approval provided it did not interfere with the conduct of the war, major league baseball magnates began laying plans for the 1945 season, with their chief concern being to scrape together teams from the dwindling manpower pool.

Although the clubs were expected to rely again on discharged or rejected army personnel, their plans were complicated by recent government regulations calling for re-examination of 4-Fs and work or fight orders to men under 38. Some of these men, however, intend to enter essential industry and arrange for playing ball on the outside.

Because of the need for personnel, "... kids about 17 ... will have a wonderful opportunity to play in the big leagues," said Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators.

U. S. NAVY: Greater Firepower

Its firepower increased five times since July, 1940, combatant ships, auxiliaries and coast guard vessels of the U. S. navy can now hurl 2,000 tons of steel in a 15 second firing run, the equivalent of 50 freight carloads of steel.

Packing a wallop 92 per cent greater than the pre-Pearl Harbor battleship, Texas, the modern Iowa is armed with nine six-inch guns mounted in three, twenty-five-inch double purpose guns in twos, and many smaller anti-aircraft guns.

Possessing 123 per cent more firepower than the 1930 heavy Pensacola, the modern Baltimore carries nine eight-inch guns in three, twelve five-inch anti-aircraft guns in pairs, and numerous smaller anti-aircraft weapons.

BRITISH CASUALTIES

With the United Kingdom of England, Scotland and North Ireland suffering 635,107 casualties alone, British Empire losses totaled 1,043,554 up to last November, Prime Minister Churchill told the house of commons.

Of the other constituents, India's losses reached 152,597; Australia, 84,861; Canada, 78,985; New Zealand, 34,115; South Africa, 28,943, and other colonies, 28,946.

Including recent western front casualties, U. S. losses totaled 721,325.

Washington Digest

Mounting Battle Tempo Calls for More Material



Big Problem Is to Route Manpower Into Critical Work; Labor Needs Vary Throughout Different Areas.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator

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What is wrong with the American war effort on the home front?

Why all this excitement over a new draft of manpower?

Didn't War Mobilizer Byrnes say that our war production almost equaled the production of the entire world?

These questions are being asked in many minds. I have asked them of the men whose job it is to get things done in Washington, and I want to try to put their answers before you.

Let me quote one sentence spoken by War Mobilizer Byrnes himself:

"Critical production no longer feeds pipe-lines or goes into strategic reserves—it is going right into battle."

If we compare "critical production" with fighting units, perhaps the recent German counter-offensive will help us see the picture.

When Von Rundstedt's drive started, men and tanks and guns and trucks, "critical production" in other words, all had to be poured into that battle. The result was that there were just not enough of them in the right place at the right time and our line crumbled. There were no immediate reserves to throw in and bolster the defense.

Later on, when the veterans from the Third army and the First army and the British troops arrived, the tide was turned. They represented the reserves of "critical production" which should have been there all the time.

For many months on that particular front only the men in the front lines were needed. There were enough men there to take care of the normal enemy opposing them. It was a minimum force without enough reserve to take care of maximum need and they were thrown back.

That is the situation in war production today. Certain critical supplies (airplanes, tanks, other vehicles and their accessories, certain types of ordnance, certain types of ammunition) are being used so fast in battle that if an extra strain developed at a certain point there would not be any reserve to call upon.

Changing Conditions Alter Planning

Why are these things lacking? Why didn't we pile them up, as we do other things, until we had enough to take care of an emergency? Chiefly, because their greatest need developed after we started our war programs. Reserves for the future can only be based on present information or estimates based on previous knowledge, or lucky guessing.

When the war began nobody, not even the Japs who used amphibious warfare in the early stages to the best advantage, had any idea of the type and number of landing-craft, to say nothing of the technique of operating them, which are used in the latest Allied operations.

The contrast between the Japanese landing in Lingayen bay and the American landing three years later in the same place is astounding.

Byrnes used as examples of other "unpredictables," inventions and improvements over old models, jet planes, new types of radar and the like.

Today, 55 per cent of our war production does not need to rise. Some of it is properly declining.

But there are other parts of the program which are lagging that should mount, because they are "critical production." Of course, some plants making such goods are temporarily closed while re-tooling for new models. Others are under construction. But many plants lack nothing except manpower, those, for example, making certain types of planes and tanks and ships. Tires are being ground to pieces by shell splinters in the mud of Luxembourg and Belgium. Tanks are rolling from New Guinea to the Philippines to the Rhine, and bigger and better ones are demanded. There is a constant need for all kinds of ammunition, but there is critical need for certain types of ammunition, both heavy and light.

And so we come to the main problem which is really the only problem today—manpower. We have the

raw material and will have the manufacturing facilities in time.

Undersecretary of War Patterson told the house military affairs committee that in the first six months of 1945, 700,000 men would be needed for war production and industry necessary to the war effort.

I have talked with the War Manpower commission experts and they break down those figures something like this:

One hundred and fifty thousand men needed immediately for critical war production.

One hundred and fifty thousand more for other war production to take care of the normal turn-over, expected replacements, etc. The remaining 400,000 must be retained in civilian production and services which have to be continued in order to maintain the total war effort.

The situation is summed up in general terms this way: The manpower mobilization problem is not as large as it was in 1942 and 1943 but it is more acute in certain lines. Two things contribute to making it more acute. One is the fact that we haven't the pool of either civilian production or the unemployed from which to draw as we had at the start. Second, because the needs are "critical" (battle needs) they must be satisfied immediately or the actual front-line activities may be immediately affected.

One thing which must be considered is the geographical shift of the American labor force, a point which affects the general situation for it involves moving a worker from place to place. And in the present need, although the West coast (where labor is concentrated) is still the most critical area, the building of new factories to meet new needs and the change in the type of needs from one established factory in one place to one in another place involves the question of suasion or force on the worker.

For instance, there is a great need in Utah and Wyoming for workers in coal mines. The scattered foundry sections from Michigan and Ohio, through Pennsylvania and New York to New England are critical areas. Even plane production, concentrated in the West, has its problems, for, although some airplane factories on the Pacific coast have closed down, many of the new factories for the flying fortresses and other new models are in areas other than the West coast.

We have the man and womanpower in the nation to take care of the need. It is a question of getting the right man in the right place.

Overoptimism Causes Letdown

There are several reasons why the right man (and woman) is not in the right place now. One is due to an error in judgment which may, or may not, be blameworthy. Germany's "come-back" power, for which I attempted to set forth certain reasons in two preceding columns, was underestimated.

This caused a shortage in certain types of weapons. Superabundance in others. The latter put men out of work and caused them to seek non-war jobs. We had counted on a more mobile type of warfare. We did not think we needed the heavy artillery to blast Germany out of powerful defenses. We counted too heavily on enemy vulnerability to the bombing of German cities. That was both a psychological and strategic error.

Underestimating the length of the European war also had a bad psychological effect. It caused many workers to quit war work for what they thought would be more permanent employment. It caused great pressure on Washington to begin reconversion, as War Mobilizer Byrnes admits was wrong. He said: "... we could not do two things at once ... could not pursue an all-out war production effort while simultaneously releasing materials, facilities and manpower for civilian production."

The man and his job were separated, too, by the improvement of models and creation of new equipment. No one can be blamed for this. But frequently, as I have shown, it tended to place the job and the man miles apart.

BARBS ... by Baukhage

There is a report that Hitler can't even hear himself properly any more. Lucky Adolph.

They say a girl gave the answer, "The telephone rings," when asked by the professor as to what happens when a body is immersed in water. But I doubt if she felt that it would put a wet blanket on her conversation.

An American soldier made such a hit conducting a Berlioz symphony in Rome that the Italians requested a repeat. He couldn't because his three-day pass had expired.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that "Good is a good doctor but Bad is sometimes a better." But what difference does it make? They're probably both in the army now.



Concrete Feeding Floors for Hogs

Improves Pig's Health And Saves on Food

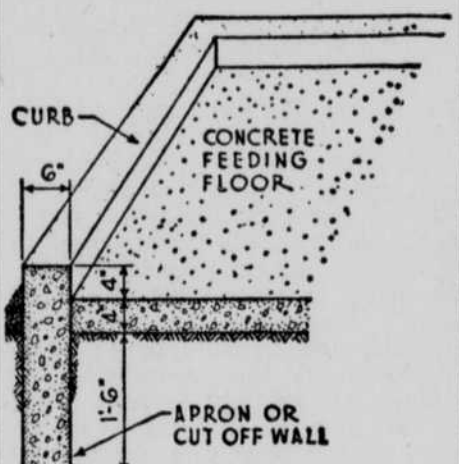
BETTER pork can be produced and a saving in food result, where concrete feeding floors are used in hog lots.

The concrete feeding floors are generally made about 4 inches thick, in sections of about 10 square feet. For poorly drained land, it may be necessary to fill in with about 6 inches of gravel or cinders.

It will take 7 1/2 sacks of portland cement; 1/2 cubic yard of sand and 1 cubic yard gravel or crushed rock to build a feeding lot 100 square feet, 4 inches thick.

In addition to better health control, concrete feeding floors should result in about 25 per cent increase in number raised from the same number of sows. They will grow more evenly and reach market weights weeks earlier. It is advisable to provide shade when hogs are kept on concrete.

Pieces of 2 x 4's are commonly used for side forms. They may be salvaged as soon as the concrete has set. A straight 2 x 4 may be used as a strikeboard to level off the concrete. The new concrete should be properly cured by covering with earth or straw as soon as it has hardened enough not to be marred. It should be kept moist for



Method of building curb and apron for concrete feeding floors.

at least five days by frequent sprinkling.

It is often desirable to place a low curb and an apron or cutoff wall extending into the ground about 1 1/2 or 2 feet deep around the edge of the feeding floor as in the drawing. This prevents the undermining of the floor.

Agriculture In the News By W. J. DRYDEN

Eggs for Vaccine

Nearly 4 million fertile eggs will be used in six months for the making of vaccine for the protection of the health of the civilian and fighting forces of America.

Veterinary laboratories are also beginning to utilize eggs for the vaccine utilized in sleeping sickness among livestock. Work now being conducted indicates that many other types of disease prevention vaccine and remedies will be incubated in hen eggs.

One laboratory has been "planting typhus virus" in eggs and "harvesting" the deadly crop so that American soldiers may be immunized against the killer that has slain more soldiers than bullets in all the wars of history.

The producing of fertile eggs for this work promises to become a specialized business. As more is known, there is little question that types of feeds, breeds and method of management may be changed for the production of these eggs.

Genetic Selection

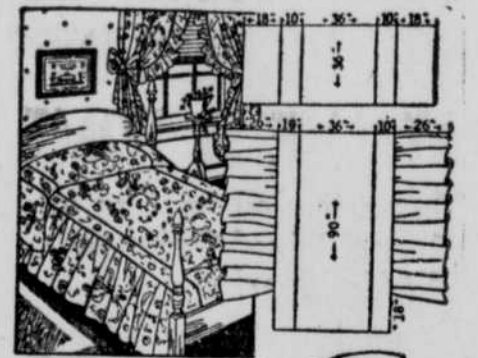
Genetic selection, or the selection of breeding stock primarily on the basis of qualities that are hidden from view as opposed to physical selection which mainly takes into consideration size, color and conformation, is one of the newer steps in livestock and poultry handling, says the U. S. department of agriculture.

Genetic selection goes into pedigree records and performance of progeny and close relatives of the breeding animals. In poultry, for example, it includes egg production, fertility, and hatchability.

Bed Spread Made Of 36-Inch Goods

THIS spread for a double bed may be made out of chintz or any 36-inch-wide material that you have on hand. Eleven and one-half yards will be required for a bed 54 inches wide and, if you follow the cutting diagram given here, not a scrap of goods will be wasted.

Cut the center parts first; then the 18-inch side sections for the pillow cover; then the 10-inch



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BASE RICH IN MUTTON SUET

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Every gas mask issued by the U. S. Army contains 1 1/2 pounds of rubber.

Even now, with the rubber situation improved, it is important that car owners have their tires recapped in time. In time means when the tread is worn smooth, but before the fabric shows.

It is expected by industry authorities that the early post-war period will bring a demand for from 16,000 to 40,000 long tons of latex for the production of rubber foam sponge used in cushions of various types and in furniture and mattresses.

In war or peace

B.F. Goodrich

FIRST IN RUBBER

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