



By Ruth Taylor

ONE-GUIDE GREEN FINGERS

Happy indeed are those fortunate people who live close to the land where they can watch and tend growing things.

This year we are again urged to go back to the land, to plant and tend and harvest from our own soil.

THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE

One of the incomprehensible traits of our country is its political practice of seeking to hamper or obstruct even destroy, through governmental action, private industries on which its prosperity and economic well-being depend.

For example, the United States would be as helpless as a bug on its back if its railroad system was crippled.

Commenting on this practice of sinking millions in the rivers for political purposes, Senator Reed of Kansas, says: "There is little of this river transportation that is justified."

Washington Digest

Plans Reorganization Of Labor Department

New Secretary Undertakes Task to Knit Activities of Over 20 Agencies; Seeks To Avert Vet-Union Row.

By BAUKHAGE News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

It took Hercules just one day to clean the stables where one wealthy but not too sanitary man had kept 10,000 oxen.

I refer to Secretary Schwellessbach, whose assignment is to put the department of labor in order.

Most of the labor of Hercules were decidedly thankless ones and were given him for spite because his stepmother, Juno, didn't like her husband's extra-curricular children.



Secretary Schwellessbach

him for spite. It was given to him by his old friend, Harry Truman, because the President believed that Hercules, Schwellessbach could deliver.

The first thing he found out when he reached the palatial "stables" on Constitution avenue was that taking care of administrative matters would keep any labor secretary as busy as Augustus should have been with his 3,000 oxen.

So the first thing that Schwellessbach did was to get together a small group who knew the department, who knew organization and who knew Washington.

This was the first step in preparing the old home to absorb its prodigal children. When the new secretary arrived in his paneled office, he called the staff of the department together and said he knew that everyone agreed that there had to be a reorganization.

As this is written it is hoped that the report of the crew of investigators and a similar study of the extra-mural activities will be completed soon so that a comprehensive report will be laid on President Truman's desk by the first of September.

Reorganization Touchy Problem The next step would logically be an executive order from the President embodying the Schwellessbach report to make the suggested changes.

Like every other president since Grover Cleveland, he has requested powers to reorganize the government and never has congress offered a carte-blanche go-ahead.

Such a bill is pending in congress now. However, if the suggestions made by Secretary Schwellessbach were considered reasonable, they might be put into a bill and passed.

In any case they will probably be presented before the other measure authorizing wider presidential authority is considered.

In the meantime, labor itself is tending to cloud the atmosphere insofar as acceptance of any efforts to restore full, free, collective bargaining, which the no-strike pledge and various wartime restrictions have virtually suspended.

Much of the antagonism is due to the feeling of the men who resented strikes while they were in the service. Schwellessbach managed to smooth out one of the toughest veterans versus unions troubles the country ever witnessed back in his home state of Washington after the last war.

One habit which Schwellessbach wants to break up, and it is assumed the President wants him to break up, is having labor disputes leap-frog right into the lap of the White House.

Of course, the War Labor board, which has had all the tasks complicated by the war to perform, will die with V-J Day.

Other separate agencies dealing with labor will continue. The United States Employment service and the apprenticeship and training program are now part of the War Manpower commission.

The National Labor Relations board, which administers its quasi-judicial functions under the Wagner act, now independent, would have its "housekeeping" done by the department—that is, its financing, personnel and such matters would be under the secretary of labor.

Since Schwellessbach has been in office he has talked to a whole string of labor men and a whole string of management men, too.

"I am not a labor official," he says, "I am a public official."

That pretty well sets up his position, and as I said, it makes his job, so far as the lobbies of labor and management go, about as thankless as the labor of Hercules.

Canada expects to get more of India's trade than the United States because it will keep its price controls on longer than we do.

I had the pleasure of making two philological predictions in the war which came true: the addition to readers' and listeners' vocabularies of the words "infiltrate" in the military sense and "redemption."

Heating Unit Costs In selecting heating equipment for the home, it should be remembered that there are two costs—original and operating—to be considered.

Wood is used in more than 1,200 items of military equipment and supplies.

Two-thirds of the people of the world are engaged in agriculture, yet two-thirds are underfed.

Those Blinking Eyes The eyelids blink from three to six times a minute. This blinking helps to rest the eyes.

The Home Town Reporter in WASHINGTON By Walter Sheed WNU Correspondent

Skyrocketing Land Values

DEPARTMENT of agriculture officials and leaders in the farm mortgage credit field are more than a little concerned at the present trend of rapidly increasing farm land values which are skyrocketing in much the same fatal pattern set during and immediately following World War I.

Not only is government alarmed over these soaring values, but private industry is equally concerned to such an extent that the American Bankers Association is urging its country bank members to follow conservative lending policies and to beware of speculators who would boost prices "beyond what bona fide farmers can pay."

As of July 1, the level of farm real estate values had risen to an index of 130, or a rise of 53 per cent since March, 1941, as compared to an index of 170 in 1920 or a rise of 65 per cent from 1915 to 1920.

Many thousands of American farmers will remember that crash, when some 450,000 farms, over-capitalized at high per acre prices, went to the foreclosure and forced sale route.

Will American farmers forget the lesson learned during those years and now, with pockets bulging with money, bid up the prices of farm land to another crash year?

There are some contrasts or saving factors now, which were not present in the last war: (1) in most areas the level of values started from a point about 15 per cent below the base of World War I; (2) there are more sales for cash now, about 55 per cent as compared to less than 50 per cent in World War I.

Another favorable factor today is the fact that farm prices are guaranteed by the government at 90 per cent of parity for at least two years following end of the war, a factor not present after World War I.

But in spite of these favorable circumstances, it is pointed out that the large number of resales (one-eighth of all sales) indicates speculation is influencing the farm market.

In South Carolina and Kentucky values are up more than double their 1935 - 1939 average, largely because of tobacco prices. Values are up more than 90 per cent in Colorado, 81 per cent in Indiana, Arkansas and Wyoming, 70 per cent in nine other states.

To combat these soaring increases the USDA has named a National Agricultural Credit committee of governmental leaders and representatives of major lenders in the farm mortgage credit field to meet in Chicago periodically to plan curbs on the inflationary rise in farm values.

Financial assets such as currency, deposits and war bonds increased from an estimated \$5,000,000,000 on January 1, 1940, to \$19,000,000,000 January 1, 1944, and to nearly \$17,000,000,000 on January 1, 1945.

Many Uses for Wood Wood is used in more than 1,200 items of military equipment and supplies.

Underfed Population Two-thirds of the people of the world are engaged in agriculture, yet two-thirds are underfed.

Those Blinking Eyes The eyelids blink from three to six times a minute. This blinking helps to rest the eyes.

The Omaha Guide A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Published Every Saturday at 2120 Grant Street OMAHA, NEBRASKA—PHONE HA. 0800

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS Fleets Rake Japan as Big Three Parley Points up Peace Talk; Senate Moves for Global Unity

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



Frightened by invasion of U. S. marines of island off of Okinawa, Jap women are put at ease by Lt. H. P. Barrard of Stamford, Conn.

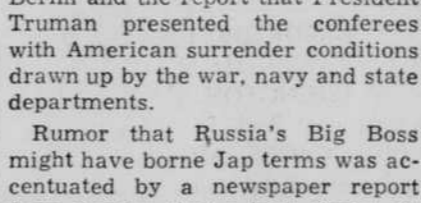
PACIFIC: Keep Going

While the nation's capital buzzed with peace talk and Australian newspapers hinted of sensational developments, U. S. and British carrier planes continued to rake the Japanese homeland and the Allied fleets kept up the bombardment of Nippon's sprawling coastline.

Scorched by Allied fire, the Japs still refused to come out and fight. Propagandists were seeking to calm the populace with the assertion that the U. S. and British attacks were designed to feel them out and they would strike at the proper time.

Having joined with the fleet in raking shipping and transport facilities linking the coal-producing island of Hokkaido with Honshu itself, carrier planes swept over Tokyo bay to shoot up combat vessels at anchor.

Peace talk was pointed up by persistent rumors that Marshal Stalin might have brought Japanese peace terms to the Big Three meeting at



President Truman (left) greets Prime Minister Churchill at Berlin.

Berlin and the report that President Truman presented the conferees with American surrender conditions drawn up by the war, navy and state departments.

Rumor that Russia's Big Boss might have borne Jap terms was accentuated by a newspaper report from London that a high Soviet official revealed that the Reds would transmit a definite surrender offer to the U. S. if it was forthcoming, and that Moscow would have to give the deepest consideration to entry into the Pacific war in view of the heavy losses suffered against Germany.

Reportedly in the possession of Mr. Truman, the American surrender conditions supposedly include the relinquishment of all military equipment; the disbandment of Jap forces; destruction of war industry; supervision over enemy shipbuilding, manufacture and port facilities, and punishment of war criminals.

Rife in the U. S., peace talk was equally lively in Australia, where the Sydney Sun editorialized: "The end of the war may come with dramatic suddenness. Hirohito is still the god-emperor. By one stroke of a pen he could relieve Japan's terrors and make peace. There is every reason to believe that United States policy is preserving him for that part in the drama."

Meanwhile, U. S. military chiefs, sticking to the American maxim that the game is never over until the last batter is out, discounted the peace talk and hewed to the big job ahead.

SENATE: Global Pact

With public opinion strongly cast for co-operative effort to prevent future warfare, international security and monetary agreements headed

WAR PRODUCTION: Tapering Off

Having already dropped to an annual rate of 49.9 billion dollars in July from 60.7 billion in March, war production will be further slashed during the rest of the year, reflecting decreased demands for a one-front conflict.

By December, production of aircraft will be down to 800 million dollars from the July figure of 1 billion; ships 500 million from 700 million; guns and fire control 100 million from 200 million; combat and motor vehicles 200 million from 300 million; communications and electronic equipment 200 million from 300 million, and other items and supplies 900 million from 1 billion.

Of major munitions, only production of ammunition will hold steady at 600 million dollars, with doubled output of rockets helping to offset reductions in other explosives.

HARD WORKERS: More Meat

In line with its policy of providing extra meat and other foods for persons engaged in hard physical labor, OPA announced that miners would be granted additional meat rations starting in August.

OPA action followed the walkout of 10,000 miners from Illinois pits, climaxing a series of strikes throughout the country. Leaving their jobs after their leaders declared they "can't dig coal on lettuce sandwiches," the Illinois miners demanded an extra meat ration of 50 red points per month.

Though 1,500 laundry workers in neighboring localities joined the striking Illinois miners, OPA action did not include workers in other strenuous occupations in the liberalization of meat rations.

RECONVERSION: Old Prices

Working to head off runaway prices in the reconversion period before demand can more evenly balance with supply, OPA has drawn up an elaborate formula aimed at holding the cost of consumer goods to the 1942 level.

Under the formula, manufacturers doing an annual business of \$200,000 a year or more may add increased labor and material costs to their prices, but may apply only half the industry-wide profit margin of 1936 to 1939 so as to keep the overall selling figure down.

To help speed reconversion, individual manufacturers will be permitted to work out their own prices and submit them to OPA for approval before the government can formulate general industry-wide costs.

Wife Defends Il Duce

Long in the background, Donna Rachele Mussolini emerged briefly to hotly challenge declarations that the late Il Duce was an irresponsible philanthropist strongly influenced by a bevy of mistresses.

Stating her husband was closest to her when he was down, and most distant when he was up, Donna Rachele asserted that "Mussolini never had anything to do with any woman. All that propaganda they put out just to ruin him. I was the only one who thought anything of and I was the only woman who thought something of him."

JOBLESS GRANTS: Seek Increase

Seeking to cushion the nation for the full shock of reconversion, Senator Kilgore (Dem., W. Va.) introduced a comprehensive bill extending coverage of unemployment compensation, boosting payments and financing job relocations.

Under Kilgore's measure, federal, maritime and agricultural processing workers would be included in coverage of unemployment compensation, and the benefits also would be extended to employees in firms of less than eight people.

SPORTS OUT OF ADAM'S HAT JIMMY WILSON... GETTING BOWLED OVER BY BABE RUTH... BEGAN HIS BIG LEAGUE CAREER WITH THE PHILLIES IN 1923... MANAGED THE PHILLIES FROM 1934 TO 1935... IN THE '40 SERIES, AS A CREAKING 40-YR.-OLD, JIMMY HAD HIS BEST SERIES BATTING MARK .353...

BARBS... by Baukhage

A recent photograph mislabeled "fraternizing" and showing a G.I. talking to a cute brunette was really made in England.

When Prime Minister Attlee was in San Francisco an old friend he knew in England years ago invited him to dinner. There was no maid and Attlee helped the wife wash the dishes.