

# The Cherokee Scout

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## WE CAN LOSE

On January 31 the great automobile factories turned out their last cars. The next day marked the beginning of a new era. The arts of peace yielded to the arts of destruction.

The American production machine is unequalled. Its eventual arms capacity will be greater than that of all the other powers combined. But our enemies have a long head-start on us. And we can lose!

The series of disasters which have taken place in the Pacific are grim testimonials to more than 20 years of blindness, inefficiency and wishful thinking. Even as the Japs readied themselves for Pearl Harbor, too many of us were listening to Lindbergh, Wheeler and their ilk, as they assured us that President Roosevelt was a "War monger", and that nobody was going to attack us. The result—we can lose!

So far as the fighting quality of the troops of the United Nations is concerned, we have no cause for worry. In every instance where these troops have met the enemy with anything like an even break, they have performed wonders.

The tiny Dutch navy and air force has inflicted blow after blow upon a Japan that is infinitely stronger in every military branch. Troops in Malaya took a heavy toll of an enemy that outnumbered them four to one, and had virtually complete mastery of both sky and air.

A handful of American and Filipino soldiers under the great General MacArthur have held off a Japanese army estimated at more than 200,000 men—and have done it with almost no hope of relief or aid.

The tragedy is that MacArthur had so little to work with. We refused to read the writing on the wall. We practiced business as usual—politics as usual—and strikes as usual. Defeats were inevitable, and there probably will be more. And we can lose!

There will be no unemployment soon, save for a scattering of unemployables. Many women will be performing jobs that used to be done entirely by men. They will be driving trucks and taxis and ambulances, and planes, and some of them will be operating big machines. Six months from now it will not be a question of finding a job, but of finding a worker.

Peace-time business may move to go by the boards. We must win this war, or perish as a nation. And the sooner we realize that we can lose, the sooner we will start on the road to eventual victory.

Yet, with most of us willing, and glad to sacrifice, we still have unions striking for more pay. Not many

days ago a big group in a vital defense plant struck for a raise to meet—of all things—their dues!

Union dues are really taxes, which go to the union bosses who make no accountings to anybody. Some of the money goes into union war chests, which support more strikes which bring in still more dues. And so on, in a vicious circle. Strangely, too, these privately levied taxes are themselves immune from tax by the Government.

The U. S. Constitution says that the power to levy taxes shall be vested only in the proper legislative bodies. But what does the U. S. Constitution—or even a war—mean to a labor union, as compared to a dollar?

Defense workers are supposed to be "industrial soldiers," but compared to a real soldier they have it mighty soft. They work a stipulated number of hours, and then get over time. They face no danger, endure no unusual discomforts.

The real soldier may sleep in the mud; he must give all his time; often he must give his life.

An expert mechanic in the Navy may possibly get as high as \$125 a month. He is on call 24 hours a day, with no over time, and if he walked off the job he would be sent to prison.

A mechanic in a civilian defense plant may make \$125, or more a week. And he not only can, but does, strike for still more.

The economic balance is all wrong. If there must be a difference in pay, the larger wage should go to the fighter.

Actually, there should not be any difference; both are working for the same end, and the life and liberty of each is dependent on the other.

The man who makes a gun is not entitled to a penny more than the man who carries it to protect that maker and his family. And the industrial worker who strikes should be sent to prison just as surely as the soldier or sailor who refuses to obey orders.

Unless these strikes are stopped, we not only CAN lose, but probably WILL.

## THE BIG JOB

Few men have any precise knowledge of the extent of American arms production. Facts and figures are not released lest they be of service to the enemy.

But it is known that the main emphasis is on airplanes; and ships are now being planned of almost incredible range, fire-power and load capacity.

Today the largest airplane engine in actual production has an output of 2200 horsepower. However, Major de Seversky, aviation genius, predicts engines, soon, of 8,000 horsepower. He adds:

"The super-bombers of tomorrow will carry from 50 to 100 tons of explosives. A thousand such craft will accomplish as much destruction in a single action as Germany has been able to score in six months of continuous bombings. At least 20 Coventries could be destroyed."

The terrible disasters we and our allies have suffered in the Pacific can be laid to just one thing—lack of supplies and equipment, including a frightful inferiority in airpower. Mere handfuls of Allied planes have gone into action against veritable swarms of enemy craft. The allied pilots have given a magnificent account of themselves, but in the long run, the very weight of numbers wins.

So, today, we are working to gain a vital weight in numbers—planes, and also in ships and guns. Everyone who has actually seen action in this war reports that the Jap planes are slower, more frail, more poorly armed than ours. The British report that, plane for plane, they have no doubt of the R. A. F.'s ability to outdo the Nazi, Luftwaffe.

The task, therefore, is to produce enough equipment, and transport it to the fighting fronts, to overcome the great numerical superiority now possessed by the great numerical superiority now possessed by the enemy.

This will not be done in a hurry. But it will be done.

## SURE LOSERS

One country has certainly lost the war, even as its fat, dog-faced leader prates of victory. That country is Italy. Latest reports indicate that she amounts to little more than a German province.

As this is written, Italians are permitted but three and one half ounces



of meat a week; one fifth of a pint of milk a day, and two and one half ounces of butter a month.

Even oil, basis of Italian cooking, is limited to half a pint per person, per month.

As to sugar—there isn't any—except maybe in the kitchens of Mussolini and a few of his prime favorites.

The Duce's German "friends" are literally bleeding the country white of foodstuffs and other supplies. While Italians starve, huge cargoes are shipped to "the Fatherland."

Small wonder the Italian soldiers don't seem to put much heart in their fighting!

Hitler holds the dice—and they're crooked.

## On The Home Front

Field men of the Bureau of Industrial Conservation, working in cooperation with the WPA, have begun a survey of automobile graveyards in Virginia and the Carolinas in an effort to expedite the flow of scrap materials into war production. In cases where operators fail to cooperate, however, they will be given a reasonable time to strip old automobiles of usable appliances and the government will resort to requisitioning.

The Japanese thrust into Malaya and the Dutch East Indies may cut off a great part of our rubber imports, but plants are being established for the manufacture of synthetic rubber, and the United States is working with Brazil for the development of the Amazon Valley as a vast rubber producing area. It is estimated that from 60,000 to 70,000 tons a year can be gotten from the wild forest regions.

During December and January, 55,505 persons gave blood donations for the Army-Navy plasma supply—a 100 per cent increase over the period preceding the Pearl Harbor attack. Hundreds of thousands of donations are still needed, however, the Red Cross reports.

Consumers who have built up hoards of sugar will have stamps torn from their ration books, thus depriving them of their right to buy more sugar until their hoards are used. When consumers apply for War Ration Book No. 1, they will be required to make a certified statement as to the amount of sugar per person in their family. All sugar in excess of two pounds per person will be considered hoarded.

New construction will reach a total of \$12,750,000,000 in 1942, topping the dollar volume of construction in

any year since 1928, according to Labor Secretary Perkins. "More than six billion dollars, or 60 per cent of the 1942 construction," she said, "will be Federally-financed work under the expanded war program. Private construction and non-defense public works will decline sharply in 1942."

Stocks of new mechanical refrigerators have been ordered frozen by the War Production Board, and refrigerator production will shut down completely after April 30. Retailers may sell 1-12 the number of new refrigerators they sold in 1941 or 100 new refrigerators, whichever is the greater, after which no further sales may be made.

An Indiana firm was indicted re-

cently on a charge of filing a false inventory of tires and tubes in stock. The company is alleged to have attempted to evade rationing regulations by destroying inventory records and storing tires in homes, making secret deliveries and making false invoices describing sales of new tires as sales of used tires.

The radio industry will be completely converted to war production within about three months, according to present plans. The typewriter industry is to concentrate on war production also, limiting the manufacture of typewriters and converting a major part of its facilities to the production of ordnance.

Civilians are being urged to use dark shades of dyes sparingly. Most of the raw materials from which dyes are made are needed in large quantities for military programs, the WPB points out. Certain dyes will not be available for civilian use at all, and the quantities of those available will be reduced to about 50 per cent of last year's supply.

## Horse and Mule Clinic Attracts 65 Owners; 32 Animals Treated

Sixty-five owners of horses and mules, from all sections of the county, attended the series of clinics held last Thursday under the sponsorships of County Agent Quay Ketner, Dr. M. M. Leonard, veterinarian from Asheville who was scheduled to hold the clinics, was unable to come; and Dr. J. C. Cornwell, also of Asheville came in his stead.

Forty-three men brought horses and mules to the clinics, there being about the same number of each. Thirty-two of the animals were treated either for worms, or for teeth.

**QUESTION:** When should soybeans be planted, and what types of soils do they grow best in?

**ANSWER:** Soybeans may be planted from May 1 to June 15, says E. C. Blair, Extension agronomist of State College, but May is the best month in which to plant them. Soybeans planted late, after small grains, do not make full yields. Medium to heavy soils are best. Light soils in a good state of fertility are also suitable. Do not plant soybeans in poor soils.

## THIS IS OUR WAR

### People of Cherokee County

"We are in this war. We are all in it—all the way. Every man, woman and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

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