

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### U.S. Assured Ample Food Supply; Labor to Seek Guaranteed Wage; Big Four End Parley at Odds

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(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.)



To back up hemisphere defense treaty on agenda of Rio de Janeiro conference in September, President Truman has asked congress to authorize U. S. training and equipment of South American nations. Map shows pre-war strength of Pan-American countries, with "A" signifying size of army and "N" number of naval vessels.

## FOOD: Eat Well

Despite relatively short supplies of some cereal products, potatoes, sweet potatoes, meats, fats, sugar, canned fruits and fish through the spring and summer months, per capita food consumption in the U. S. for 1946 promises to be 14 per cent greater than in the 1935-39 period, the bureau of agricultural economics declared.

For the year as a whole, production of food crops and livestock is expected to be one-third above the 1935-39 average, the bureau predicted. During the period of the aforementioned shortages, vegetables, fish, poultry, eggs, fluid milk and cream, ice cream and skimmed milk products will be available in near record quantities.

With the nutritive value of the food supply expected to be close to the 1945 figure, per capita consumption should average about 3,300 calories. This compares with the 1935-39 total of 3,250 calories.

## CONGRESS: Champion Labor

Pro-labor senators held the floor during debate on restrictive labor legislation in an effort to muffle hasty action even as President Truman struggled to avert a rail tieup and resumption of the critical coal strike.

Declaring that full discussion was needed on labor legislation, Senator Murray (Dem., Mont.) led the opposition to a limitation of debate. Stating that pending Case bill was not an emergency measure, he charged that conservative elements were taking advantage of public resentment against the miners' walk-out to push through reactionary measures.

Heated discussion swirled around the proposal of Senator Byrd (Dem., Va.) to restrict health and welfare funds to joint contributions and management by employers and employees, with Senator Pepper (Dem., Fla.) holding the floor at length against the amendment.

Meanwhile, the coal operators and John L. Lewis remained at odds over the health and welfare fund, with the companies flatly rejecting the United Mine Workers' chief-tain's demands for employers' contributions of 7 per cent of payrolls and union administration of the proceeds. In seeking to break the deadlock between the disputants, Mr. Truman was said to favor a health and welfare fund jointly financed and administered by operators and miners.

## STEEL: Annual Wage

Having attained higher wages and improved working conditions, American labor next will hit for the guaranteed annual wage, under which employees would be assured of a steady year-round income regardless of time put in.

Boasting of approximately 700,000 members, the CIO - United Steelworkers plans to spearhead the drive, its recent convention calling for the advancement of the issue in negotiations for a new contract in 1947. Addressing the steel workers at the convention, USW Pres. Philip Murray declared the industry could well afford to pioneer the plan.

At the present time a presidential board is studying the advisability of establishing guaranteed

annual wages, Murray said, and unions could accelerate adoption of the practice by championing its merits. By paying a guaranteed annual wage, purchasing power would be maintained and full employment encouraged, he asserted.

## FOREIGN MINISTERS: To Try Again

Agreeing only upon revising Italian armistice terms, the conference of foreign ministers of the U. S., Britain, Russia and France adjourned to June 15 with differences remaining over all the major points at issue.

Having failed in efforts to get the conference to set a date for a European peace conference of all nations and discuss arrangements for Austria, U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes was said to be very discouraged by the results of the meeting. At the same time, Senator Vandenberg (Rep., Mich.), representing the Republican party at the conference, revealed he would not return June 15.

Previous agreements consummated among the U. S., Britain and Russia blocked Byrnes' efforts in seeking a general peace conference and discussing Austria. Objecting to both proposals, Russia claimed that decisions taken at the Moscow foreign ministers meeting last December called for unanimity among the Big Four on all issues before other nations were invited to a peace conference, and the question of Austria could not be studied now under terms of the Potsdam agreement.

As the foreign ministers packed their bags, outstanding issues re-



Foreign Commissar Molotov (left) and Secretary of State Byrnes in lively talkfest at foreign ministers' conference.

maining unsettled concerned final disposition of the Italian port of Trieste claimed by Yugoslavia; Italian reparations; trusteeships for former Italian colonies in North Africa along Britain's lifeline to the far east; opening of the Danube to international traffic; agreement on Balkan peace treaties and restoration of free trade in eastern Europe.

Before the confab broke up, Byrnes urged that U. S., British, Russian and French representatives remaining behind to attempt to work out some of the difficulties confronting the peacemakers first report on the economic unification of Germany to spare the occupying countries the cost of supporting the broken Reich.

Said to have told the foreign ministers that the U. S. did not desire to support the American occupation zone indefinitely, Byrnes declared that thus far the U. S. has furnished 200 million dollars worth of assistance. An equal amount will be sent during the ensuing fiscal year, he revealed.

## WORLD TRADE: Rival Blocs

Although passage of the 3 1/2 billion dollar loan to Britain will split the world into two trade blocs headed by the U. S., Britain and Russia, it will advance the interests of capitalism, free enterprise and the democratic way of life within the Anglo-American area, Treasury Secretary Vinson told the house banking committee.

Testifying on behalf of the loan legislation, Vinson declared that 75 per cent of world trade is carried on within the U. S. - British bloc, and agreement within this area might lead to an understanding with Russia. In accepting the loan, Britain has agreed to abolish discrimination against U. S. traders, he said.

While Russia has had an opportunity for months to avail herself of credit in the export-import bank, set up by congress to stimulate foreign trade, she has not done so, Vinson said. At present, the U. S. has set aside one and one-quarter billion dollars of funds in the bank for possible foreign loans.

## BASEBALL: Form Union

At once a sport and a profession, big league baseball was well on the road to unionization with the newly organized American Baseball guild claiming a majority of the Pittsburgh Pirates and five other teams.

In singling out Pittsburgh as the first club with which to open collective bargaining, the guild, headed by Robert Murphy, asked Pres. William Benswanger to enter into early negotiations regarding wages and other conditions of employment. The guild would be willing to incorporate a no-strike clause in any contract, Murphy said.

Because of the seasonal and sportive character of the game, the unionization of baseball promises to raise many problems dealing with the question of strikes cutting down already restricted playing time; judgment of management in the use of personnel; dependence of wages on winning teams and the size of gates, and performers' demands for shares in trading prices or their objection to being sold to weaker clubs.

## More Home Owners

Because high wartime earnings spurred investment in housing, 23,000,000 Americans now own their own homes, compared with 15,000,000 in 1940, the bureau of census reported. At the same time, the number of tenants declined to 17,600,000 against the prewar figure of 19,700,000.

## HITLER HATES: New Ones Listed

Known for his dislike of Jews and Communists, Adolf Hitler also nourished a hatred for horses, hunting and diplomats, Gustav Adolf von Halem, 6 foot, 3 inch elite guard, revealed during his internment in Hohen-Asperg castle.

Explaining the late fuhrer's apathy toward horses, Von Halem said that they were not sufficiently disciplined to please him. They always disturbed military parades and especially when there was music.

Humanitarian instincts motivated Hitler's hatred of hunting, Von Halem said. Jibing Herr Goering for bringing down defenseless animals, Hitler would ask his merry marshal: "If the game had guns, as you have, would you go shooting?"

The fuhrer's coolness toward diplomats was occasioned by his fear that long service abroad might weaken their Germanic spirit, Von Halem revealed.

## BRITAIN: Exports Food

Herself possessing food stocks at double the prewar rate, Great Britain undertook to increase food shipments to the British zone in Germany to prevent mass starvation there before supplies can arrive from the U. S.

With the grain reserves in the British zone virtually exhausted, the ration will have to be slashed from 1,000 to 500 calories unless American help is forthcoming. In the meantime, Britain is seeking to ease the situation by shipping 70,000 tons of barley within the next two months and 20,000 tons of potatoes. An additional 60,000 tons of potatoes may be sent later.

Though admitting that Britain's present food stocks of 3,800,000 tons doubled the prewar total, Food Minister Sir Ben Smith declared that there was no excess for processing or in the normal channels of distribution. Since D-Day, Britain had sent 1,400,000 tons of food to liberated Europe and had reduced its imports to help other countries, he said.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

### LOAN TO BRITAIN WOULD PROMOTE SOCIALISM

WASHINGTON.—The senate debate on the proposed loan to Britain has conspicuously ducked the fact that the British government is lavishly buying its way into socialism. Some of the senate newsmen, who are the senator's severest critics, attribute the void to the broad lack of knowledge among politicians of financial matters. They should charge it, instead, to the masking operations of the Attlee government. Not even the most learned financial authorities of the empire can ascertain how the Attlee treasury has taken over the Bank of England and the mines, or how it is proceeding now to take the cable and wireless companies, railroads, steel and whatnot. The operations have been covered with secrecy and confusion worthy of an Eisenhower invasion of Europe, in which false moves and rumors were used to conceal the real intent from the enemy.

Yet sufficient general evidence is available in the government bills proposed in parliament to piece together a general outline of the scheme. Each industry is being seized in a slightly different way. The government has steadfastly refused to announce a general policy. But the actions taken so far warrant the following conclusions:

The government is buying its nation with debt. It is purchasing industries by offering government stock or securities to private owners for their private stock and securities. The price paid is rarely divulged, but seems generally to be the current market value, or better.

### GOOD PRICES OFFERED

The London Times analyzed the processes so far in an effort to offer some worthwhile advice to holders of railroad securities who may be next, and reached this conclusion: "Whatever method of nationalization is adopted, railroad stocks should be retained." In short, the Times concludes the government will offer at least the current market value or better for the railroads.

Only in the taking of the Bank of England did the government tell what it was really offering. Then it gave a 3 per cent government bond for stock, but guaranteed dividends until 1966 equal to what the Bank had paid in the past 20 years. In the seizure of the coal industry alone did the treasury permit free sale of its substitute stock (there is a big debt in coal and operations have not been profitable). So the general conclusion is inescapable that the socialism of Britain represents the government issuing stock to the same people who held the private stock, at market prices, often promising them the same dividends, and in effect guaranteeing them against losses, while depriving them of influence in operations or the right to sell their stock.

This is an expensive operation. In effect, it transfers the debts of industry from private ownership to the people as a whole, making the treasury liable for success of the enterprises, atop all the war debts.

How will it work out? Not a man alive can guess. Offhand you might reasonably conclude that if the industrial operations continue profitable, the government may pay off in 20 to 25 years as contemplated. If business becomes unprofitable, the people in their taxes, will have to foot the bill—as well as the American taxpayers who are furnishing this proposed loan. Furthermore, it may be difficult for a labor government to promote profitable operations because such a government must be amenable politically to wage increases and increased operating costs for public service.

### MANIPULATION POSSIBLE

But these simplest truths may not stand the test of time, because government can do anything. As it has let money rot, it can allow its special securities for each of these industries in years ahead to find levels less burdensome upon the treasury. Only imaginations unlimited can possibly conjure the limitless possibilities. Mr. Attlee's arrangements are keeping things that way. In the cables and wireless bill, there is no clear indication of prices to be paid for the involved holding company stocks. Apparently price is to be established by private bargaining between the treasury and holders of the stock.



By EDWARD EMERINE  
WNU Features.

THE Oregon country, including the most northwesterly portion of all, the present state of Washington, was the unwanted and all-but-forgotten land of a little more than a century ago.

Back East they felt that the Rocky mountains were the natural western boundary of the United States and refused to vote one cent for the development of a region so far away. There had been two wars with the British; why chance a third? Let the British have it. The United States had all the land it needed.

But those thousands of pioneers who had urged their oxen along the Oregon trail and crawled over the mountains thought differently. They had found a good land, rich in beauty and vitality, where the mountains and forests came down to meet the Pacific ocean. The British wanted the country merely for trade with the Indians. The pioneers wanted it for their homes, their farms, their ranches, their dream cities. And they wanted it to be a part of the United States.

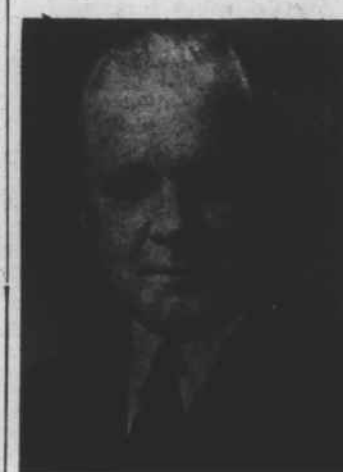
They had traveled hundreds of weary miles, fighting Indians along the way, burying loved ones in unmarked graves. And now they had cleared their land, built houses, planted crops, and knew they had found an area with resources so vast and varied that even they were bewildered by the prospects. Somehow the East and Washington, D. C., must be told about it, made to believe.

Washington finally heard, and the cry of "Fifty-four Forty or Fight" went up. The settlers cleaned their rifles and waited. If the British wanted war, they were ready. But war was averted by the treaty of 1846, in which joint American and British occupancy was ended. A compromise boundary of the 49th parallel was established, and the Oregon country became a part of the United States.

The Columbia river, however, remained a natural dividing line running through Oregon territory. The settlers "north of the river" wanted a territory of their own. As early

## Washington

The EVER GREEN STATE



MON C. WALLGREN  
Governor of Washington  
Born in Des Moines, Iowa.  
Home town, Everett, Wash. Former state representative and United States senator.

the White House, Pres. Benjamin Harrison, issued a proclamation on November 11 that Washington was admitted as a state.

When the Indian wars ended, the eastern part of the territory was

Washington is rich in minerals — coal, gold, silver, lead, mercury and zinc. It has clays, granite, sandstone, marble, limestone and cement. Also found in the state are antimony, arsenic, tungsten and platinum.

Standing timber in Washington includes Douglas fir, yellow and white pine, spruce, larch, cedar and others. Normally, Washington leads all states in lumber output, shipping its products all over the world. It has wood pulp and paper mills as well as other industries built on wood products.

On Washington's coast are innumerable harbors on which Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Olympia, Vancouver and other important cities are located. This great commercial area is the nearest American gateway to the ports of Asia and handles most of the shipping to and from Alaska as well as world trade through the Panama canal. During World War II the shipbuilding and airplane manufacturing industry reached gigantic proportions and is expected to continue.

Coupled with its almost-unlimited natural resources is Washington's mighty output of hydro - electric power for industry. The Grand Coulee dam is part of a reclamation project that will ultimately irrigate 1,200,000 acres of land and produce electrical power far in excess of present needs. The Bonneville dam and others also contribute to the generation of power.

Washington, however, remains chiefly agricultural. It leads all states by far in the production of apples and is high in output of other fruits such as peaches, cherries, grapes, apricots, prunes and berries. Other crops are wheat, barley, oats, corn, alfalfa and clover hay, sugar beets, peas and hops. Huge herds of cattle and sheep graze throughout the state, and horses, hogs, chickens and turkeys are grown profitably on most farms and ranches.

In the eastern part of the state, Washington is semi-arid, with irrigation used extensively. Its grain and cattle industries thrive there. West of the Cascades the rainfall is extremely heavy, ranging as high as 80 inches annually, with a resultant profusion of vegetation.

The people of Washington have a rich heritage of thrift and courage and they retain the pioneer spirit that led them through the perils of settlement. They have the vision, too, for greater strides tomorrow.

GRAND COULEE . . . Largest concrete structure that man ever made. Power from this dam accounted for the major portion of aluminum for construction of our airplanes for the Army Air Forces during World War II.

as 1845 they had carved the area into two enormous counties, Lewis and Clark. More settlers were crossing over and sentiment for a division was evident. A group met at Cowlitz Prairie to memorialize congress. They were not heard. They met again in 1852 at Monticello and sent another petition to Washington.

Joseph Lane, Oregon territorial delegate, offered his aid and introduced a bill to organize the territory of Columbia, for that was to be its name. The bill was passed, but not before it was amended to change the name to Washington territory. On March 2, 1853, just two days before he left the White House, Pres. Millard Fillmore signed it.

Washington territory extended from the continental divide to the Pacific ocean, including what is now the northern part, or panhandle, of Idaho. But the settlers were not yet satisfied. Agitation for statehood began and continued for nearly 15 years. In 1889 they were successful and Pres. Grover Cleveland signed the bill—a month before he left the White House. At a convention in Olympia on July 4, that year, a constitution was drawn up, and at an election on October 1 it was adopted by the citizens. A new man in

opened to settlement and brought immediate prosperity throughout the Northwest. The arrival of the "Mercer Girls," widows and orphans of the Civil war, provided wives for the territory's excess male population. Railroads raced to reach the great empire, with new towns and settlements following the ribbons of steel. There was a severe set-back, however, when the new state was hard hit by depression and panic in 1893.

Washington's recovery was rapid, for its people were virile and determined. The Alaska gold rush of 1897 made Seattle the metropolis of the Northwest, and a few years later, in 1903, there was a mining boom at Spokane which tripled that city's population. Ports and shipping grew rapidly on the coast. Fishing became an important industry. Agriculture flourished and livestock increased all over the state. Lumber business and mining brought prosperity to thousands.

The Evergreen state (or Chinook state) holds more than the majestic mountains, canyons, gorges, forests, lakes and highways shown in a tourist folder. It is more than scenery. It is a land of vast natural resources, many of them as yet undeveloped or not fully utilized.

CASCADES . . . Of the Deschutes river, Olympic national park.