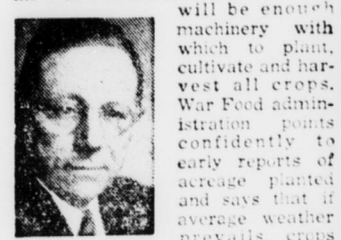


Let's Face Facts

Farm Machinery Output At Double 1943 Level; But Remains a Problem
By **BARROW LYONS**
WNU Staff Correspondent

Several senators from farming sections are predicting that the War Food administration is going to have a rude surprise within a few weeks when it discovers that farmers are not planting the acreages expected of them this year — partly because they cannot get farm machinery they need to make up for the shortage of manpower.

Equally positive are officials of the War Production board that there will be enough



Barrow Lyons will be enough machinery with which to plant, cultivate and harvest all crops. War Food administration points confidently to early reports of acreage planted and says that if average weather prevails, crops will be adequate for domestic needs — but with less to spare for feeding foreign populations than UNRRA will request.

Here is the argument that WPB gives: Last year only about 40 per cent of the machinery manufactured in the base years — 1940 and 1941 — was produced; but this year about 80 per cent of the base year production is planned. Production is running close to schedule on some items and lagging on others. Harvesting and hay gathering machinery seems to be furthest behind. Harvesting machinery is in much greater demand than the supply. In this field authorized schedules are, on the whole, almost 125 per cent of base period production, but it is not now expected that schedules will be met. How far output will lag depends largely upon labor supply and the demand of the military for critical components.

Scheduled Increases

Combines with width of cut over 16 feet are scheduled for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, at 118 per cent of base output, between 6 and 10 feet at 110 per cent and smaller ones at 75 per cent. Schedules for binders are not as great in proportion to base output. But the programs for potato diggers and pickers, beet and vegetable harvesters are much higher.

Furthermore, repair parts may be manufactured in whatever quantities needed. Altogether, the farm machinery industry is programmed to turn out nearly twice the volume of equipment it did last year — but, frankly, the program is not going to be completed.

However, an indication that the situation is not as serious as last year is that the volume of complaints is far less. One WPB official, who last year at this time was receiving from 50 to 55 telephone calls a day from congressmen requesting him to look after constituents, is at present receiving very few urgent requests for farm machinery.

There is one certainty — farmers must give more attention to repair of equipment than ever before. In this country they have hardly begun to take repairs as seriously as farmers in England or in enemy nations. Those who have been to England say the British are far ahead of us in that respect, and reports coming from Germany indicate that a fine job is being done there on the repair problem.

Dealers throughout America, however, have been advised to order repair parts by telegram, and manufacturers to ship by airmail. No red tape or forms are required. All a farmer needs to do is to tell his dealer that he needs the repair parts.

Many Repairs Needed

Recently the results of a survey of repair needs made by the WPB Office of Civilian Requirements was published. It showed that in 1943 owners of 42 per cent of the mowing machines of the country required repairs for their equipment, and that 13 per cent of those needing repairs did not get them; 42 per cent of the owners of combines required repairs, and 8 per cent of those requiring them were not served. These were among the worst repair records.

But it is the belief in WPB today that repair troubles should be virtually a thing of the past, and that normal servicing will be obtained.

In Indiana, cooperative repair shops have been established which have been a great aid in obtaining speedy repairs. In a few other states repair shops have been established as part of the agricultural college extension services, and farmers come from all parts of the counties to avail themselves of these facilities.

On the whole, machinery manufacturers are handicapped by labor shortages, lack of motors, chains, malleable iron and castings.

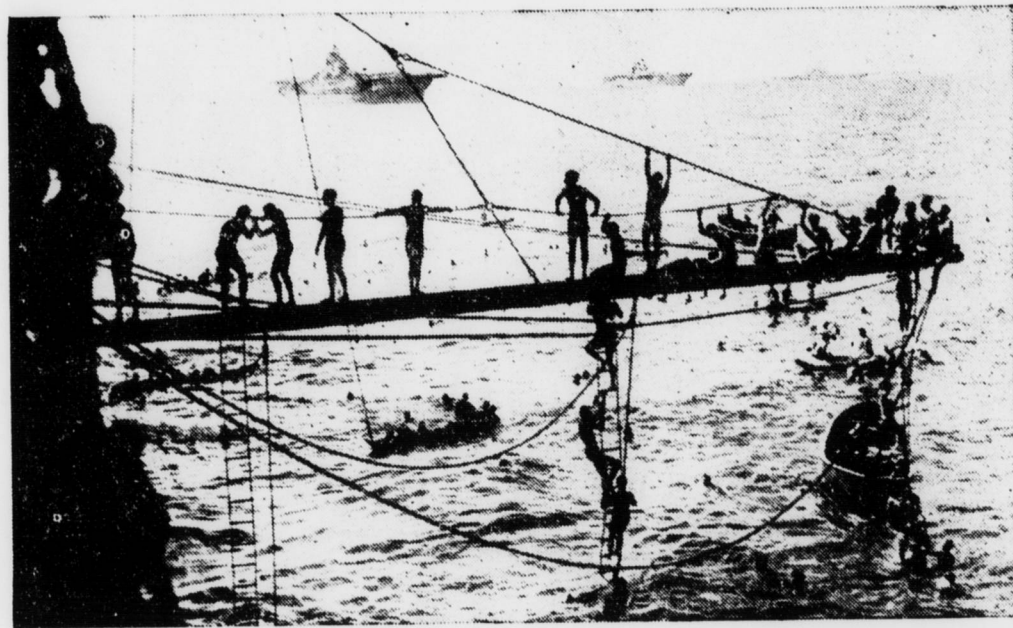
To obtain the best distribution of farm machinery, manufacturers this year were authorized to dispose of 80 per cent of their output where they thought it would do the most good. Twenty per cent was under allocation of the War Food administration to supply in areas where supply appears to be short. The opinion of those responsible for this program is that it has been working fairly well.

Backstage Scenes With 'Prisoners of War'



(1) German prisoners of war have their own band at Fort Dix, N. J. Here they play overture to play staged by other "P of Ws." (2) A scene from the play "Froh und Heiter" (Bright and Gay). Scenery and costumes are the work of the prisoners made from waste material during their spare time. (3) A scene in the kitchen of the prisoners' mess hall showing them preparing the evening meal for their fellow Nazis. These men appear anything but unhappy.

Navy Crewmen Find Antidote for Battle Strain



Once the business of conquering Roi Island was completed, these crewmen of a United States navy aircraft carrier take the antidote for post-battle nervous strain by an invigorating swim in the warm waters of a lagoon in the Marshalls. After the heat of battle a dip is a soothing tonic for the nerves, the men declare.

French and English Generals in Italy



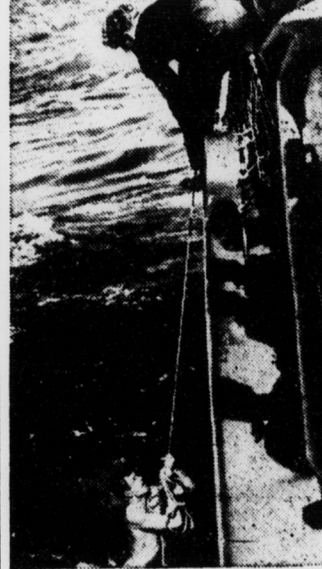
General Juin, commander of the French Expeditionary corps in Italy; General Leese, commander of the Eighth army; and Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, commander in chief of the Allied forces in Italy, are shown engaged in conversation when General Alexander paid a visit to the Eighth's headquarters.

Principal in Sedition Trial



A principal in the biggest sedition trial of this war, Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago, appears quite unconcerned before the camera. She is shown here with her daughter, Elizabeth Joan, and her ex-husband, Albert Dilling, who acted as her counsel at District court trial in Washington. Mrs. Dilling, along with 29 others, is accused of conspiracy.

He Missed the Boat



Coastguardsmen heave a line from their destroyer and haul in a mid-Atlantic swimmer who missed his boat—badly! Repatriated seaman Earl N. Phillips tumbled from one ship in a west-bound convoy and was picked up half an hour later by the coast guard.

Betty Gets Medal



Swimmer Betty Shields of New York is presented a medal by Gov. John W. Bricker of Ohio. The award was made at Oakland, Calif., where Betty placed second in the 100-yard backstroke event.



Tales of the Big Town:

Williston Rich of the Time magazine tried for years to convince his colleagues there that Bob Hope would make an interesting profile . . . But he was always n-h-n-h'd . . . So he went on a short holiday, and the bosses suddenly decided that Hope should be given a salute . . . The piece was prepared by the guy pinch-hitting for Mr. Rich . . . So what? . . . So Reader's Digest picked it up and sent the pinch-hitter a check for \$1,000!

Some of the men from a redistribution center were entertaining at the Latin Quarter the other night . . . When they finished they tipped the waiters lavishly and called over a bus-boy to hand him a few dollars . . . "Thank you, Lieutenant," he said, "but I couldn't accept any gratuity. Just waiting on you has been a pleasure. You see, I was wounded in your sector, discharged, and I'm now back helping the war effort by serving you and all other men in the war" . . . Then he opened his white coat and displayed his campaign ribbons . . . The officers stood and saluted the bus-boy. It was all very lumpy-in-the-throat and thrilling.

A group of midtowners were gabbing about charges of "innuendo" over the radio, and a veteran recalled this Jimmy Walker story . . . During his first campaign for Mayor of New York, LaGuardia charged the popular Walker with all sorts of corruption, and Walker never answered.

"Why should I make his campaign for him?" he said to a pal. "I won't build him up. It would be fun, though, to ask him one question. What was he doing in Waterbury on July 16, 1928?" "Was LaGuardia there then?" asked the friend. "I dunno," replied Walker, "but if I asked that question he could deny it until he was blue in the gills. A lot of suckers would still believe there was something fishy about him and Waterbury!"

Sid Sheldon reports that a company of boys from the Army Signal Corps were sent to the induction station for overseas physicals. One of them (in the army three years) wandered into the wrong line and wound up being examined with selectees. The final doctor told him he was 4-F. "But," protested the soldier, "I'm already in the Army!" "Nonsense," snapped the medic, "get dressed and go home!"

The poor soldier got back into uniform, returned to camp and said nothing. How do you explain to a Top Sarge that you're 4-F?

Congress refused to put another heavy tax on horse racing. It imposed 30 per cent tax on night clubs where servicemen get real recreation. Racing has a powerful lobby in Washington, and the night club owners (with a 600 million dollar industry) had a very weak lobby.

Some Chicago cafe people, however, sent the members of the Ways and Means Committee (and the Senate Finance Comm.) large posters, which burned the legislators to a crisp because they know they are true. The posters show thousands of people throwing away their money at race tracks. The caption: "No tax here! They had a powerful lobby!"

The opposite side shows men in uniform in night clubs enjoying themselves dancing, etc. The caption: "These boys are giving their blood and had no lobby. They pay 36 per cent extra for their fun!" That tax is the highest on anything in our history.

The Intelligentsia: Tommy Harmon, the hero, will do a book on his war adventures for Crowell . . . Poet Joseph Auslander's "The Unconquerables" (poetry in epic form) is his best . . . Senator James A. Mead's book, "Tell the Folks Back Home," will arrive May 8th via Appleton-Century . . . Kyle Crichton of Collier's once wrote "the novel is a dying literary form. Stories are best told via straight reporting or biog" . . . Kyle's first novel, "The Proud People," is in its 3rd printing . . . Eighty-seven year old S. S. McClure (founder of the old McClure's mag) will receive the Order of Merit plus \$1,000 cash prize from the Nat'l Institute of Arts and Letters . . . Stanley Richards' new play script (a cartoon in three acts) is titled: "Marriage Is for Single People" . . . When Billy Rose hears about some heel or no-good he marks the name down on his very long "Drop Dead List."

After a recent raid in Italy (according to Irv Hoffman) an Army surgeon told the chaplain that one poor fellow was beyond hope. The chaplain leaned over the wounded man and said: "My dear fellow, you are badly hurt. Have you anything to say or any word for your family?" "My inside coat pocket," moaned the soldier, painfully.

The chaplain felt the pocket and removed a wallet. "Is this what you want?" he asked . . . "Yes," whispered the soldier, "I'll bet you THAT that I won't die!" He didn't.

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Sweet Potato Plants now ready. Nancy Hall 500—\$1.40, 1000—2.50, 5000 and over \$2.40 per thousand. For more information, contact Adams Plant Co., 111-A E. Gaston St., Greensboro, N. C. Sweet arrival guaranteed. ADAMS PLANT CO., SHARON, TENN.

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