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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1942

With confidence in our armed forces — with the unbounding determination of our people — we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.
—Roosevelt's War Message

Our Chief Aim

To aid in every way the prosecution of the war to complete victory.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The architect of the Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland made sixty plans, one after another, all of which were rejected. He was about to give up. "Make sixty-one, John, if necessary," said his wife. The sixty-first was accepted.
Lucy R. Keller.

The Key To Tunisia

The Tunisian battle is said by Allied leaders to be approaching the final stage, which can mean only that preparations are in the making for gaining supremacy in the air, a vital factor of victory there as in any other major battle.

Thus far the Axis has been able to counter-attack in the Tebourba-Mateur salient because General Eisenhower's forces have not solved the communications problem and consequently lack command in the skies. Allied planes must travel from England to reach the African front, whereas German and Italian aircraft need be moved no more than 400 miles. A quick clean-up in Tunisia was prevented also by lack of advanced air bases.

A remedy must have been found at the night conference of Allied commanders, held by candlelight in a farm house. Otherwise it would hardly be justifiable for them to issue so positive a statement that the end is now in sight.

But it is not in Tunisia itself that victory is to be achieved in the battle for Tunis and Bizerte. The battlefield actually extends across the Mediterranean, into Germany and Italy and particularly to Sicily from whence have come the bulk of the reinforcements, planes and equipment the Axis has poured into Tunisia. It reaches into Axis industries and to Nazi rail communications. And it includes port facilities at Bizerte.

In any estimate of the probabilities for victory, therefore, the recent heavy air raids upon these sources of Axis supply must be given full consideration. Hitler cannot hope to win in Africa unless he can furnish his commanders a steady stream of troops and equipment. Once his lines are cut and his war output materially curtailed, he must find his task too great, just as he is finding it in Russia and as Rommel found it in Egypt.

There is a terrific battle in progress in Tebourba-Mateur area, with the outcome still in question. But this fighting does not provide the key to the situation. That is to be found in the ability of the Allies to seize control of the air, to wipe out Hitler's convenient springboards to Africa and destroy his war plants and railways.

Meat Dealers Speak Up

The National Association of Retail Meat Dealers has addressed a letter to President Roosevelt warning him that "chaos, chiseling and black markets" will result if the government's program for controlling meat prices and distribution is put into effect.

The dealers say that because of difficulties and complexities involved in rationing the many grades and cuts of meat bootlegging will spring up and defeat the object of rationing.

Their letter calls for a committee, chosen from all branches of the industry, to advise with and guide the government in its effort to divide the available meat supply among the armed forces, the civilian population and the Allied nations. Such a committee, say the dealers "would reestablish confidence on the part of the industry and the consuming

public "which now is questionable under the trial and error system."

Logical as this is, it is the dealers' demand for careful surveys to determine the population of a given area that enlists attention here. They contend that adequate consideration should be given for shifts resulting from new workers attracted to war plants, and that the allocation of meat supplies should be made accordingly.

If consideration for increasing population in war and defense centers can once be made a primary factor in the rationing and allocation of commodities, Wilmington, along with communities similarly situated, will have less reason to complain of the rationeers' blundering.

The need for a revision of the viewpoint of those who make up schedules for commodity apportionment is clearly indicated by the fact that while Wilmington's population has more than doubled since the 1940 census was compiled the city's allocations are persistently based upon the census figures. Persons capable of estimating the situation claim that if nothing is done to correct this short-sighted policy Wilmington will soon be confronted by an actual and wholly unnecessary food shortage.

The Economic Outlook

The year now drawing to a close has brought many changes in the economic life of the nation. The burdens of war have multiplied. Luxuries have come under a ban. Even necessities are scarce. A universal tightening of belts has resulted. Rationing has imposed inconveniences. The people generally are doing without many of the things formerly considered essential.

But these changes, we have reason to believe, are minor as compared with those anticipated in 1943. This is not said to breed discouragement but only to emphasize the fact that war, and especially so great a war as the one we are now fighting, is a costly adventure and that victory can be achieved only through sacrifices by the people. It is worth while to consider that however great these may be, the greatest of them would be trivial in comparison with defeat.

What our economic situation will be next year may only be guessed. Present trends and established programs, however, seem to give some idea of general conditions ahead. On the strength of these, economic organizations are already basing forecasts.

One forecast comes to attention which paints the picture in bold colors, but without overtones. It is made by the United Business Service of Boston. It shows:

Further gains in war production will lift the volume of business about 5 per cent, but civilian business will be 10 to 15 per cent smaller. Labor shortages will be a greater problem than material scarcities. Additional "controls" may be expected.

Industrial production should average about 15 per cent higher. About two-thirds will be for war, one-third for civilians.

Average wholesale prices may rise from 5 to 7 per cent. Military needs will increase. There will also be hidden price increases due to quality deterioration and more black markets.

Merchandise shortages and curbed auto use will cut retail sales, despite further gains in buying power. The total retail dollar volume will be about 10 per cent less, despite expectations of a further 6 to 8 per cent rise in average retail prices.

Steel ingot output should be close to 90,000,000 tons, against 86,000,000 this year, but only about 2 per cent of this will be available for civilian uses. The scrap situation will remain tight.

Building construction will be off about one-third, due to sharp curbs on private and non-essential government projects. Residential contracts will drop 5 per cent. Rent stabilization is expected to be effective, and real estate values will increase.

War spending will mount close to \$95,000,000,000 compared with about \$52,000,000,000 this year. Plane and ship output will be nearly doubled. Munitions, guns and tanks will be up to revised schedules, based on actual combat needs.

The farm income will reach a record \$18,000,000,000—a full billion over 1942. Farm prices will average 8 to 10 per cent higher as many items are still well below ceiling limits. Military needs will take 20 per cent of the food output. This year it is 13 per cent.

Living costs are expected to rise about 5 per cent. So are average wage rates. Total employment will gain, despite labor shortages, as more women are employed. A general labor draft is unlikely, but there will be increased pressure for "work or fight."

Stock prices are expected to show a gradual rise, with peace stocks making a relatively better showing than war stocks. Aggregate stock earnings will be from 5 to 10 per cent less. High grade bonds are likely to remain at inflated levels, although some softening may be expected in the second half of the year.

Japanese Ship Losses

Glenn Babb, substituting for DeWitt MacKenzie, Associated Press war analyst, who is touring the Middle East war zone, recently had something to say of the unsung but tremendously effective campaign against Japanese shipping by American submarines and air forces, which he rightly declares are playing an important part in the Pacific war. It is his comparison of Japanese and American shipbuilding and the inevitable consequence to Japan of being unable to main-

tain equal production with this country that holds closest attention.

He cites the fact that only in one pre-war year was Japan able to produce more than 500,000 tons of shipping—in 1919 when the output was 612,000 tons, which included a large number of ships built for the United States, largely of American materials and financed by American dollars. He finds it possible to believe that this rate of production may have been equaled or surpassed under war stress, "but it is unlikely that it has been doubled, as it would have to be to offset the year's losses."

Compare that, he says, with the American program, and to point his case adds:

The Maritime Commission said the other day that American shipyards "will turn out the required tonnage" to meet President Roosevelt's goal of 8,000,000 tons in 1942 although that will mean a December output of 1,110,000, probably greater than Japan's best for a whole year. And the President's schedule calls for 16,000,000 tons in 1943.

Japan's inability to keep pace in the twin battles of the shipyards and the seaboards sooner or later will compel her to shorten her lines, perhaps even abandon some of her more distant conquests before she is thrown out of them. The Japanese may give up Burma, if they can seize Yunnan by way of compensation, and so lop 2,000 miles off that supply route. They may have to get out of the Solomons, New Guinea, Timor and other islands simply because of lack of ships to feed those outposts, even though each island yielded brings the next under attack of Allied ships and planes.

It would be unwise for any one to confuse this possibility with the ultimate victory, lest deep disappointment follow. Encouraging as the prospect of having Japan contract the frontiers of her conquests is, it must always be remembered that Japan must be defeated in Japan before peace can be restored. The heavier her losses at sea, however, and the more resources she has to give up in the lands of her early conquests, the easier will it become to bring Japan to her knees.

FAIR ENOUGH

(Editor's Note.—The Star and the News accept no responsibility for the personal views of Mr. Pegler, and often disagree with them as much as many of his readers. His articles serve the good purpose of making people think.)

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—The Nazis always said that the free countries could not fight them effectively without waiving or abandoning their freedom and, whether we like it or not, events are bearing them out. We have learned that to fight an enemy who has total control of all his people and all the property and money in his country our government requires much firmer control of us and ours than we ever expected to consent to. We hope that when the war is won all this control will be relinquished, but we can't be sure that the postwar situation will permit a sudden return to the old American way. In fact, that way is constantly disparaged as a nostalgic dream of a few rich men, and we are tending more and more frankly toward a way of life which combines elements of Nazi-Fascism and Communism and which our rulers call Democracy.

Hitler took over the industries in Germany but, in general, let the bosses keep their jobs and, nominally, their holdings, not because he had any special feeling for them but because he needed their specialized intelligence and abilities for the task of preparing for war and fighting the war on the industrial front. Little business which did not bear on his war effort was put out of business and the profits of all business which was allowed to survive for his war purposes above a low maximum were piped into his treasury.

Russia does not tolerate private business and the state runs things directly as state projects, so there is no nonsense about private profit.

We are striving toward a total war effort and, as thoroughly as could be managed in a short time, American industry has gone to work for the government, subject to government regulation and enormous taxation or limitation of profit. Non-essential business is waning and, in many cases, has been told, frankly, to sell itself out of business for duration.

And, suddenly, and without a murmur from the big unions, American labor lost by decree the right to use collective force to compel an employer, nominally independent but practically under government control, to pay higher wages, except by consent of a government agency. Wages are now limited by decree emanating from a general law, and so are rents and prices, the purpose being to prevent inflation, and high salaries are reduced by limitation as well as by taxation.

Agencies of the national government now possess a power to legislate and sit as courts, subject to no review by the real courts, and, so many and complex are the regulations controlling the lives of Americans today that innocent men may expose themselves to serious punishments without the faintest notion that they have done any wrong.

In one instance, the President felt that urgent necessity and the danger of calamity compelled him to warn Congress to give him a law or he would make his own, and, in another, where Congress repeatedly and emphatically refused him a law which he had proposed, he passed it himself.

In industry, the national government is, in practical effect, now the employer of labor, as Hitler is in Germany and Stalin is in Russia, and is labor's bargaining agent. And if the draft of civilian labor should be adopted the first reason for the existence of the American union movement, already a wraith, will simply expire.

Like Hitler and Stalin, we have concentration camps and the inmates of these camps, although most of them are native Americans, were swept up because we were afraid they would signal the enemy and otherwise betray us. Race was the basis of selection.

All this could be accepted on faith, with an understanding that when the war is won the old American system will return, but for the fact that so many of the most powerful political personalities in the government regard controls as social gains, Vice President Wallace has spoken slightly of the Bill of Rights and said that, as we move to the left, Stalin inches toward the right. But as we move toward Communism we also move toward Hitlerism, for they differ only

"HENDERSON FIELD"



LEON HENDERSON OF THE OPA

Raymond Clapper Says: Evidence Clearly Shows War Production Success

By RAYMOND CLAPPER

DETROIT, Dec. 7.—Two days in this important war production center convince me that, around here at least, war production is a success.

You see some of the evidence with your own eyes—the tanks being finished off at the Detroit tank arsenal operated by Chrysler, the Rolls-Royce engines going into crates at Packard, the guns at Pontiac, the belly turrets for Flying Fortresses at Fisher's plant, and the heavy bombers being made at Willow Run.

You see further evidence in the volumes of statistics. This area is employing 930,000 men and women in war work, which is one-third more than were employed when war here last January. In the ten months since automobile production ended, the industry has built up war production to an annual rate of more than six and a half billion dollars—which is two-thirds above the peak production value of automobiles and trucks.

Perhaps the best evidence that all is going well is the changed mood of the automobile executives, who a year ago were worried. They had given up automobile production reluctantly, under pressure. They felt misunderstood, and were on the defensive against public criticism. They faced a war production problem that they weren't sure they could lick, although they were ready to try it.

Now I find the same executives confident, feeling that their main worries are over, that they have licked the chief production problems, and that from here on it is largely a matter of obtaining sufficient manpower, sufficient materials and necessary machines. They are more mellow about labor, and speak of labor problems now as growing pains. They say frankly that labor conditions in Detroit have improved gradually during the last year. They see no advantage in stirring up labor questions, and for that reason would rather see the 40-hour-week law stand.

They complain about the amount of red tape in dealing with Washington. They struggle to find the authority, and when they do find him he is gone by the time they get back to Washington a second time. But they are philosophical. Along with several other Washington correspondents, we questioned them for several hours—executives such as C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors; Charles Sorenson, of Ford; George Christopher, of Packard; Harold Vance, of Studebaker; Herman Weckler, of Chrysler, and E. A. Clark, president of Budd Wheel.

Chrysler is facing a union-shop controversy, but when that was mentioned the others settled back, because they have gone through it and have readjusted. They feel toward Chrysler the way a fellow

in their labels, as our intelligence well knew untily we found ourselves on Stalin's side. Since then it has been unpopular to remember out loud the identity of Communism and Hitlerism which used to be called brown Bolshe-

Civilian Defense Timetable

BASIC TRAINING COURSES
High School Room 109 at 8 P. M.
Fire Defense A—every Monday.
General Course—every Tuesday.
Gas Defense B—every Wednesday.

FIRST AID 10 HOURS
Room 106, New Hanover High School

First lesson — every Monday.
Second lesson — every Tuesday.
Third lesson — every Wednesday.

Fourth lesson — every Thursday.
Final lesson — every Friday.

FIRST AID 10 HOURS
Beginning Monday, December 7,
at Hemenway School, 7:30 P. M.

SPECIAL COURSES
Police course — every Thursday,
high school room 109, at 8 P. M.

HEALTH FOR VICTORY CLUB MEETINGS
Nutrition Program

2nd. December 10th, 2 P. M. at
St. Paul's Parish House, 6th and
Princess streets. Mrs. Cordelia Foster,
instructor.

3rd. (Negro) December 8th at 3
P. M. at Salem Hall, 8th and Red
Cross streets. Mrs. Cordelia Foster,
instructor.

If you hear or observe anything
suspicious in character report it
promptly to:

Wilmington Police, 5244.
Wrightsville Beach Police, 7504.
Carolina Beach Police, 2001.
Captain of the Port, 2-2278.
County Defense Council 3123.
Sheriff, 4252.

You're Telling Me

Coffee rationing will have at least one salutary effect—it should cure a lot of folks of the habit of dunking.

Mussolini has the jitters, we read. And no wonder, with the RAF turning almost every night into a Halloween preview for him.

WHO'S LOSING NOW?

We may be losing the war as Representative Maas and his fellow critics insist, but there is a modicum of consolation in the fact that the other side hasn't won it yet.—Greenville (S. C.) News.

The Literary Guidpost

By JOHN SELBY

"Barriers Down: The Story of the News Agency Epoch," by Kent Cooper (Farrar & Rinehart; \$3). For the first time in a good many years the directing head of a great American enterprise himself tells the whole story of his greatest achievement. The man is Kent Cooper, general manager of the Associated Press, and the story is to be found in "Barriers Down."

This is what happened. Twenty-eight years ago, Mr. Cooper found a cablegram lying in a basket in the New York offices of The Associated Press. It was from La Nacion, one of Buenos Aires' great newspapers, and it asked that Associated Press facilities be made available for its use. This was not especially remarkable, but the fact that the message was unanswered impressed Mr. Cooper. He asked his predecessor as general manager, Melville Stone, why he had been no reply.

The reason was that Mr. Stone felt the lack of an answer was enough; because of an agreement with what then was a world news monopoly it was impossible for The Associated Press to serve a South American paper. It started Mr.

Interpreting The War

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Although both jaws of the Allied pincer attack in north Africa are presently stalled, primarily by the difficulties of bringing up adequate forces, the odds are heavily against the Axis on that front.

That Hitler even hopes to hold the narrow coastal strips within which his African armies are now pent up longer than necessary to bolster Italy's defenses against a trans-Mediterranean invasion is doubtful. Yet to do that and to offer what is left of Rommel's once conquering army in Italian Africa any chance whatever of escape from extermination, it is obvious the Axis must make a delaying stand in northern and eastern Tunisia.

That probably accounts for the furious Nazi defense of the Bizerte-Tunis triangle. Had northern and eastern Tunisia fallen to the first rush of the British-American armies from Algeria, the plight of Rommel's remnant in Tripolitania now would have been all but hopeless.

The Tunisian foreland, tipped to the northeast by Cape Bon only 90 miles from the southwestern promontory of Sicily, is the tactical and strategic key to the whole Allied African-Mediterranean campaign. The fate of Rommel's command is vitally linked with the battle of the Tunisian triangle.

It is possible that General Alexander's British veterans, as yet only feeling out Nazi defense positions in the Agheila narrows 400 miles east of Tripoli are waiting more for British-American comrades to spring closed the western jaw of the trap, than upon their own supply and communication troubles, great as they are. From the outset of his westward drive in Egypt, Alexander has stressed to his troops that annihilation of the enemy, not merely his defeat and retreat, was their assignment.

Once the Tunisian foreland and its air bases were in Allied hands, sea escape for any substantial part of Rommel's still considerable army would be a desperate business. Ships to carry them would have more than a 300-mile run to make with Allied bombers on both flanks, to any Sicilian port of refuge. That is too far for a one-night cover-of-darkness run including loading and unloading. It is too long a jump for Italian small coastal craft to be able to repeat the amazing British success in evacuating an army from Dunkirk's beaches.

The role of Malta in the Mediterranean has been completely reversed. It was Britain's sole remaining foothold in the central Mediterranean and has endured an agony of Axis bombing attacks, but heretofore its value was purely defensive.

Now it is a powerful and ideally placed offensive weapon in Allied hands. Its hour of vengeance is near. The island stands atwart any route of German retreat from Italian Africa. Its planes and submarines are an ominous threat no matter what sea route is to Tripoli or any Axis-held ports in Italian Africa. The enemy seems to use for reinforcements or retreat.

So long as Nazi forces cling to a narrow strip of the Tunisian coast and the foreland dominated by the Bizerte-Tunis battle triangle, however, some sort of an escape corridor along the Tunisian shore line might remain open to Rommel. That might be the real reason for the stubborn Nazi stand against Eisenhower's British-American troops.

If it is, however, not many more days can pass before it would be too late to make the attempt. There is no reason to doubt that Alexander is rushing up men, tanks and supplies and advancing his air bases from the east in preparation for renewing his westward drive. And in contrast to the Nazi opposition Eisenhower's men are meeting in Tunisia, Alexander is being left all but unbothered to make his preparations for assault.

As Others Say It

Good Enough
For all practical purposes the Russians have created a second front by reversing a first one.—Greenville (S. C.) News.

Coffee and Gait's
Coffee was once so plentiful in olden days that Arabian sheep and goats, chewing the coffee bean, used to go on coffee jags on moonlight nights in the desert—a grievous thought to many an old American coffee addict just now.—Asheville Times.

Man Proposes
Man proposes—but oftentimes only when he has been maneuvered into a position from which there is no graceful exit.—Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

Worin' It!
A dime to a panhandler is not too much for information about coffee.—Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

ALL GAUL—
Were it possible for Caesar to bring his Commentaries up to date he would, doubtless, record all Gaul as now divided into two parts—inhabited, respectively, by the virtuous and the vicious.—Norfolk (Va.) Ledger-Dispatch.