

TOTAL WAR MAKES HUGE DEMAND FOR MORE MANPOWER

Army, Industry and Farms Claim More Recruits For Growing Ranks: Declare Longer Work Week to Cut Labor Shortages: Seek Form Labor in Towns.

Four million more men for the army!

Two and a half million more men and women for war industry alone! At least a million more hands for farm labor!

There you have a brief, overall picture of the great problems of manpower which is confronting the United States today.

The situation will become acute by this summer. Then, the draining of men for the armed forces; the beginning of operations, or swing into full production, of new war plants and most important, the cultivation and harvesting of crops will create such a demand for help that some form of positive action may be necessary.

There have been suggestions from all sides to cope with the manpower problem, even down to the suggestion of prohibitionists who ask that the 300,000 people employed in grape production for the wine industry be shifted to essential agriculture.

A block of influential senators, led by Burton Wheeler (Mont.), John H. Bankhead (Ala.), Edwin C. Johnson (Colo.) and Elmer Thomas of Okla., are in favor of pegging the size of the armed forces at about 4 million men by the end of this year instead of the 11 million planned by the military chiefs.

They have received indirect support from Donald Nelson, the War Production Board chairman. Although Nelson has refused to take a positive stand on the question, he told a Senate committee recently: "I am deeply interested that no condition should be created which would withdraw any large number of men from the stream of production in 1943 that can be effectively utilized in the combat forces."

Most Able-Bodied Men From 18 to 38 May be Drafted.

Just how deeply the military draft would cut into manpower reserve has been shown by Major General Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director. Because of the requirements of the armed services, he said, only 2,500,000 able-bodied men of the nation's 22,000,000 male population between the ages of 18 and 38 will be deferred for essential jobs in industry and agriculture. However, Hershey pointed out, about 35 per cent of the huge number will have been found unfit for service.

In a move designed to induce labor to fill in the gaps in essential industry caused by the departure of men to the armed services, the War Manpower commission issued its strutting "work or fight" edict.

The commission directed that draft deferment would not be based upon dependency but rather on essential employment. Therefore, a father of children employed in what has been classified an unnecessary industry would be subject to military service before the single man engaged in war production.

The commission's dictate has aroused a considerable storm in congress, and Representative Kilday of Texas and Senator Wheeler have introduced bills for continuation of the policy of deferment for dependents supported before Pearl Harbor.

48 Hour Week. Meanwhile the government has issued an order calling for a 48-hour week for industry in those sections throughout the country where there is a labor shortage. Time-and-a-half however, is to be paid for the extra eight hours over the 40-hour week.

This move to increase production by a lengthening of the work week is equivalent to adding to the manpower of the nation. It follows a line being advocated by Capt. Eddie Rickenbacher, who has been crusading up and down the country since his return from the Pacific war zone, for more and more production on the home front for the supply of our fighting men throughout the world.

Speaking before a joint meeting of the New York legislature recently Rickenbacher said: "Wiping out the provisions of the wage and hour law would give us an increase of 5,500,000 extra workers among the 16,500,000 now employed in manu-

Toughening Up



Steve O'Neil, farmer manager of the Cleveland Indians and new pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, is pictured in a Cleveland gymnasium preparing himself for a hectic baseball season.

facturing. This increase in productive manpower hours would not only take care of the estimated 2,100,000 employees that will be needed to take care of increased war production, but would leave free 3,400,000 men now on the payrolls, for farms or other essential services."

It has been pointed out that extension of the 48-hour week with the time and a half for overtime under the present 40-hour week, works a hardship on war contractors, who can pass the extra cost of time and a half on to the government. But other forms of industry not engaged in war production object to it because they cannot pass the extra cost on to consumers because of government price ceilings.

Soldiers To Help Harvest. The government has moved in two directions to get badly needed labor to the farmers who are being called upon to produce the record crops to keep this country and its allies going.

In the most positive and what

appears to be the most effective of the moves, permission has been given for the use of soldiers in planting and harvesting in areas suffering from labor shortage. The soldiers are to be selected from stations closest to the affected areas, are to work under army discipline, and be paid by the government. Whatever the farmer will pay for their use will be remitted to a special fund in Washington.

The other step to be taken was announced by Secretary Wickard, of the Department of Agriculture. It calls for the recruitment of 3 1/2 million older men, women and boys and girls of high school age from the towns, villages, and small cities of rural counties. They will assist the farmers in their regions pressed for help.

Representative Hampton Fulmer, from South Carolina, is working for provisions to halt the induction of farmers and furlough farmers on army duty in this country for field tasks.

HERE'S HOW TO BEAT THE MEAT SHORTAGE?

Housewives who are worried over the shortage of meat can learn to make the best of a bad situation with new recipes in which meat plays a small role. The whole family will enjoy the "down on the farm" recipes to be found in the March 21 issue of the AMERICAN WEEKLY, the big magazine distributed with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN. Leave an order with your newsdealer.

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Silverstone Items.

Mr. George Danner was in Boone Monday.

Mrs. Blanche Culler has returned home after spending two weeks with Miss Verlee Miller in Hickory, N. C.

Mr. Lewis Williams is in Richmond, Va., where he has employment.

Mrs. Blanche Culler and Miss Mattie Lane Isaacs were in Boone Monday shopping.

Mr. Arnie Isaacs will leave for the army soon.

Mr. Conrad Dacey is spending a few days with home folks. He has employment in Cleveland, Ohio.

BEANS

A number of farmers reported a much higher per-acre income from beans than from tobacco last year, says R. H. Crouse, county agent of Ashe county.

BOARD OF EQUILIZATION to MEET

The Board of Equilization will be in session at our office on Monday, March 15, 1943

Board Of County Commissioners

W. C. GREENE, Chairman.

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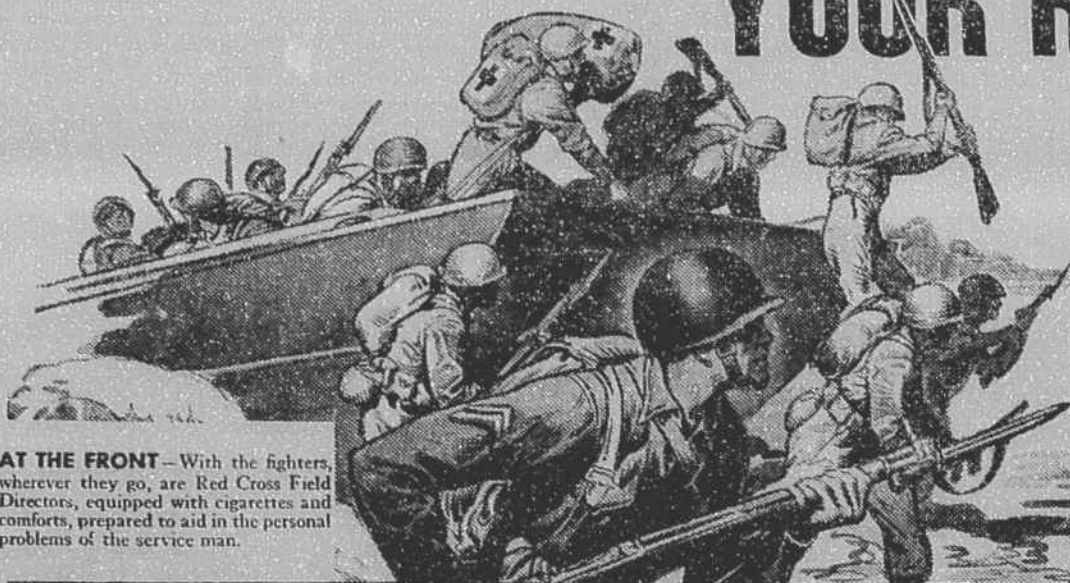
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AT THE FRONT—With the fighters, wherever they go, are Red Cross Field Directors, equipped with cigarettes and comforts, prepared to aid in the personal problems of the service man.



EMERGENCY—In Honolulu, in Manila, wherever civil populations have met sudden disaster, Red Cross organization and equipment have been on the spot saving lives and administering quick relief.



RECOVERY—In the convalescent hospitals, dreary hours are made brighter by the cheerful, understanding helpfulness of the Red Cross Gray Ladies.



WAR PRISONERS—They know they have not been forgotten, when they get that box from home. Warm clothing, food, American smokes. A message of hope made possible by the Red Cross organization.



RESCUED—Refugees from sea disaster brought to port on every coast are the special care of Red Cross workers. Hot food, dry clothing and shelter for the victims.



SAVING LIVES—More and more miracle working Plasma is needed as our casualties increase. As the agency for the collection of blood donations, the Red Cross has been awarded the Army-Navy "E" for more than meeting the quotas.

A PEOPLES' PARTNERSHIP

Bringing relief in allied countries, working with our armed forces wherever they are, the Red Cross gives everyone an opportunity to serve.

In this second year of War, the needs increase. March is the War Fund month. You can help with time and money.

Enlist with your Chapter for the work that lies ahead.

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