

As Brazil Tunes Up Her Defenses



Spurred by the torpedoing of the Argentine motorship "Victoria" in the Atlantic, Brazil speeds up her defenses. Her army will soon be increased to 1,200,000 trained men. A light tank of the Brazilian army's armored force is shown (top) supporting advance troops in the field during maneuvers. Below: A young infantryman using a mortar in an assault maneuver.

In Laval's Cabinet



Above are shown two leading figures in the Axis-dominated cabinet of Pierre Laval, new chief of the Vichy government. Top: Pierre Cathala, minister of finance, and (below) deputy Albert Chickerly, French minister of communications.

Tin Cans Do Their Bit in War Program



Carloads of tin cans are pictured at the right, en route to a de-tinning plant, where they will be reclaimed for their content of that vital metal. San Francisco housewives, co-operating in the nation's drive for tin, saved their tin cans so that 150 tons were gathered on the opening day. In photo at left, Martha Quentner and Helen Anderson (right) check ingots of tin reclaimed. The ingots weigh 100 pounds each.



Three North American Game-Birds

THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN:
The prairie chicken—often called partridge—is now common only to Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Manitoba although the time was when this beautiful game bird was much more widely distributed. The hunting fraternity themselves who—one would suppose—would be first to protect the game birds—have been very largely responsible for the extensive destruction of the prairie chicken.

It should be noted, however, that this beautiful wild bird is more than just a game bird; it is of such definite value to the farmer that, as a recent government publication states, "any farmer would profit by having these birds reared on his place."

The same bulletin declares, further, that almost 15 per cent of the food of the prairie chicken consists of weed seeds, including those of such pests as foxtail grass, smartweed and ragweed (which suffers from hay fever should also note). Another 15 per cent of the bird's food consists of insects, largely grasshoppers. The prairie chicken showed itself particularly useful at the time of the terrible invasions of the Rocky Mountain locust. Sixteen birds examined at that time were found to have eaten 866 locusts. Among other pests destroyed by this bird are the Colorado potato beetle, the 12-spotted cucumber beetle, the sugar-beet leaf-beetle, May beetles, cotton worms, army worms, cutworms, the yellow bear caterpillar, and the chinch bug.

If for no other reason, the prairie chicken should be beloved as the harbinger of the lovely northern spring.

THE CALIFORNIA QUAIL:

Of all the charming birds in the world, none, probably, is more appealing to the bird lover than the little, scuttling quail, with its plaintive, peeping cry. Like the well-known Bob White of the eastern states, the quail is fond of cover, delighting to dwell on unimproved land where trees and scrub alternate with small natural parks of open land. The author of the bulletin referred to above states that he has "seen a female quail sitting upon her eggs in a garden within 30 feet of a house, between which and the nest foot passengers passed many times each day. In winter a covey frequently feeds with the farmer's chickens, and if not disturbed will continue to do so until pairing time."

It must be admitted that quail are sometimes destructive, especially in vineyards; they love grapes. However, under normal conditions the farmer and orchardist have nothing to fear from its ravages. It must always be remembered, in favor of the quail, that vegetable food constitutes 97 per cent of his diet, and that such food consists mainly of seeds of plants which are of noxious or troublesome species. Quail, when young, eat large numbers of insects including beetles, bugs, caterpillars, grasshoppers, flies, spiders and snails. They will also feed joyously, if given the chance, upon various kinds of scale insects. Adult quail, as well as the young ones, are particularly fond of ants.

THE HORNED GREBE:

The grebes belong to one of the most interesting groups of water birds. It may be said, in passing, that the most remarkable fact about the feeding habits of the grebe is that these birds eat great quantities of feathers. Grebes have been accused of living exclusively upon fishes and of doing, therefore, great mischief in fish hatcheries, but carefully collected evidence does not support this charge against them. Examination of many grebe stomachs shows they eat large numbers of insects including aquatic bugs such as caddis-flies, dragon-fly nymphs, etc. They also eat a great many crawfish and other crustacea, together with snails and spiders. In spite of his fondness for fish, which constitutes probably one-fourth of his diet, the grebe is a useful bird, since he eats quantities of crawfish which often severely damage crops, and consumes those aquatic insects which are known to devour both small fish and the food of such fishes.

Common names for the grebe are hell diver, sprite and water witch because he dives like a fish, or, when he wishes, simply submerges, leaving not so much as a ripple to mark the spot where he was.

Further information concerning game, aquatic, and rapacious birds may be secured by sending five cents to Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., and asking for Farmers' Bulletin No. 497.

THE DEODAR

A particularly symmetrical conifer is the deodar (*Cedrus deodara*) which is a native of Asia but has been very successfully grown on the Pacific coast and in the warmer parts of the Middle West and some of the Eastern states.

ROSE CULTURE

Roses are heavy feeders and must have rich soils if good results are to be obtained. The soil must be carefully prepared and heavily fertilized, the best fertilizer to use being cow manure.

American Supplies Flow Into Africa



The long arm of American production reaches out to East Africa, to what once was a part of Italy's East African empire, and dumps cargo after cargo of vital supplies for the United Nations at the great supply base established there. Above is scene at the unloading depot. Soon these trucks will be working against the Axis in Libya or elsewhere in the Middle East.

'Over the Hump'



Donald Nelson as he told the Truman defense committee that the U. S., England and Russia are now producing more weapons than their enemies. The hard-hitting WPB chief likes to smoke his pipe in tense moments, as this picture indicates.

Merrily They Sail to Continent 'Down Under'



There's many a happy smile and cheer from these U. S. soldiers (left) as they look on Australian soil from their transport ship. They are now fighting under command of General MacArthur. Right: In the lore of the sea a "pollywog" (one who hasn't crossed the equator) should be hazed by a shell-back as the ship passes the imaginary line. No exception was made on this Australian convoy. Here Neptunus Rex and his court are in costumes, officiating.

Churchill Spends Day With His Troops



Winston Churchill recently spent a day inspecting several thousand British fighting men and watched them go through various phases of their training. One of the things that interested the prime minister was the exercises by troops on the Commando lines, and he is shown here examining a knife used by one of the men with blackened faces who took part in the exercises.

Taken on Bataan



Two of the top ranking officers reported by Japs as captured on Bataan are pictured here. At top is Maj. Gen. Edward P. King Jr., commander of the U. S. forces on Bataan. Below: Maj. Gen. Albert M. Jones, commander of the First army corps.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Meet the 'Beep'



The Jeep and the Peep have become famous in Uncle Sam's army, but there is something new—the "beep." Pretty Elaine Gunderson, a secretary at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, delivers a package to technical sergeant James Ladd, from the carrying box of a "beep." With a speed of 25 m.p.h., this auto-glide scooter is the army's answer to the rubber shortage.

Dog Sentry



Scenes like this, with a soldier and his sentry dog, may soon be a reality at munitions plants. The army has asked for 200 trained dogs for sentry work. Dogs are especially useful as sentries because they can detect the presence of intruders.

Attend Pacific War Council Meeting



Shown left to right are Dr. Evatt of Australia, Dr. T. V. Soong of China, and Dr. Alexander Louden of the Netherlands. The trio has just left an important meeting at the White House, dealing with the war strategy in the Pacific area.

Speaks on Labor



Navy Secretary Frank Knox tells members of the house naval affairs committee he opposes any changes in present labor laws, asking, instead, "a change in the spirit of workers."

Chilean Midshipmen Visit Texas



Midshipmen of the Chilean navy, on a practice cruise aboard their country's naval vessel, Rancagua, watch the recording "crab" of a link trainer at Ellington Field, Texas, during their visit to the world's largest multi-motor flying school. The future South American officers had visited Cuba and the U. S. and were homeward bound.

Ready for Japs



Dressed to kill is Johnny Boyer, 2 1/2-year-old son of Capt. R. D. Boyer, stationed in Honolulu. Johnny put on this war paint in readiness for the Japs in case of another sneak raid.