



Washington, D. C.

ARMY'S SIZE AND LABOR PROBLEMS

Manpower Boss Paul McNutt has been sessioning with the Truman committee regarding certain problems which touch the lives of everyone. They include size of the army, where we will get labor for farms, and whether the army shall be used in mines and industry.

Senators on the committee were impressed both with the gravity of the problems McNutt placed before them, and his general views regarding them.

McNutt revealed that Undersecretary of War Patterson had been talking to him about a total armed force of 11,000,000 to 15,000,000 men. This included not merely the army, but the navy, the coast guard and the marine corps—everything except the merchant marine.

However, McNutt pointed out that shipping facilities and submarine warfare seriously limited the number of troops which could be sent abroad and supplied. The figure he mentioned must remain a military secret, but he indicated that with Hitler's U-boats working overtime around North Africa, it was going to be difficult to maintain a very large army in North Africa.

In addition to North Africa, he pointed to the problem of supplying other war fronts in the Pacific, together with Russia and England.

As a result, McNutt doubted the feasibility of a world's record army now. He was all for giving the military and navy what they wanted so long as it could be transported to the combat zones, but he opposed a huge army which would eat its head off at home, especially in view of the fact that morale deteriorates when an army is kept idle.

At one time, McNutt said, a large army at home was considered necessary to protect the United States. But now military experts felt this danger greatly lessened, though a certain number of reserves must be trained.

Army and Industry.

McNutt was asked a great many questions about farm labor, especially by Senator Truman of Missouri. He replied that the army had been unwilling to let men go home on furlough to help with the crops because this hurt morale. However, he said the army was working on a plan to send army units into farm areas, in battalions or companies, and have them help with farm work on an organized basis under army command.

Though the matter was not discussed in detail, it seemed to be the unspoken feeling of the committee that too big an army going into industry and agriculture on an organized military basis might come close to developing a militarized system in the U. S. A. similar to that against which we were fighting in Europe.

Only one member of the committee, Senator Hatch of New Mexico, felt that the armed forces should be given free rein to go ahead and build up tremendous strength not subject to civilian check and supervision.

Other committee members expressed the view that it was only natural for any military leader to want the army to be the biggest in the world; so a civilian check-rein by the White House or congress was necessary to balance farm labor and industry against armed strength.

Finally it was decided that the most important problems to lick before increasing the army to world-beating proportions was the submarine and shipping.

OFFICIALS SAVE GAS

Some few Washington bigwigs are careless about gasoline rationing, but they are exceptions. Most Washington officialdom is scrupulously careful.

The chief justice of the United States, for instance, is riding a truck. Chief Justice Stone has discarded his private car as a means of getting to and from the Supreme court, and instead hitch-hikes in the delivery truck which runs errands for the court. In addition, Stone is one of the walking members of the court.

The White House uses 11 cars now, against 15 a year ago, and these include trucks for the White House mail, as well as cars for the President and staff. White House Secretary Marvin McIntyre now rides to work in a Ford instead of a Packard.

Vice President Henry Wallace last fall abandoned his 16-cylinder limousine in favor of a humble five passenger sedan. Every morning he walks the five miles from the Wardman Park hotel to the Capitol, and rides home in the evening.

Speaker Sam Rayburn uses his official car sparingly. He often walks from his apartment on DuPont Circle to Seventh street, where he takes a street car to the Capitol.

Senator Thomas of Oklahoma gets to work on foot or by bus. The other day a Capitol clerk gave him a lift from a bus stop on 16th street.

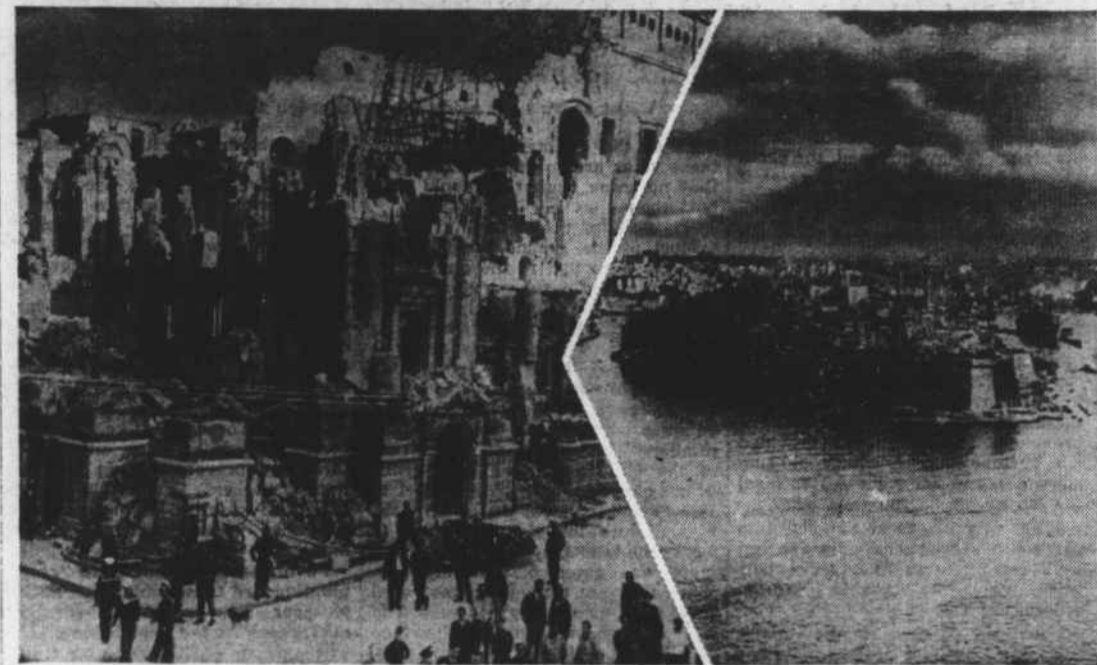
Milo Perkins, chief of the Board of Economic Warfare, shuns the use of his official car in driving from home to office. Instead, he has joined a car pool with six other BEW members who live in the same section.

Don't Be Shocked—It's Horsemeat—and So Tender!



In picture at left a butcher examines horse carcasses hanging on hooks at Linden, N. J., which is about one hour from New York, the only town in the New York area that supplies horse meat. At present most of the meat goes to five zoos, but human consumption is in the offing. A horse steak is shown at upper right. It is claimed that this meat tastes like beef filet once a person gets over his scruples. Lower right: The official government approved stamp is applied to cuts of horsemeat at the Linden plant.

Battered Malta Still Stands—Stronger Than Ever



Battered Malta, the stout little British stronghold in the Mediterranean, took everything the Axis had to offer, and can still go about its daily business. The enemy paid dearly for its almost daily attacks, however. At left is shown the shattered opera house in Malta. The people in the streets are British and American navy and merchantmen, soldiers and residents of the isle. Shown at right is a recent picture of Malta, the most bombed place in the world.

Making Every Minute Count in Libya



First aid is given to British soldiers of General Montgomery's eighth army as other members of the infantry thrust forward to dislodge a group of Nazis on the road to Tripoli, for which General Rommel's dismembered Afrika Korps was heading. This photo was radioed direct from Cairo to New York.

Cliff Dwellers on Guadalcanal Island



These members of a U. S. marine corps mortar crew are making themselves at home in a sheltered gulch on Guadalcanal, between sessions of making it hot for the Nips. They're called "cliff dwellers" because they built quarters in caves scooped out of the side of the gulch.

'Mr. Five by Five'



After a national search, Clay Womack, 50-year-old defense worker, has turned up as Mr. Five by Five. He is five feet tall, and just five feet around the waist. He is pictured with singer-actress Grace McDonald.

Puss Listens In



A little alley cat entered the hearing room where the senate interstate commerce committee was holding hearings on the American Federation of Music's ban on music. Senator Ernest McFarland of Arizona is shown petting it.



With Montgomery, On Rommel's Heels
By Chester Morrison

(WNU Feature—Through special arrangement with Collier's Weekly)

Last August Wendell Willkie, visiting in Egypt, made an astonishing statement about General Montgomery's recent skirmishes with Rommel's army west of Cairo.

Willkie, in terms that seemed at the time to be extravagant, announced that the Axis armies in North Africa had been thoroughly beaten, that the threat to Egypt had been removed for all time! Mr. Willkie called it a victory "comparable to Nelson's at Abukir bay."

To the correspondents who had covered the war in North Africa since its beginning, it was less like a victory won than like a battle that had never been fought. They were disappointed, and among the people of Egypt there was only the accustomed feeling of tenuous momentary security.

Willkie, however, got his information from a cocky little Irishman, who had taken over the British Eighth army two weeks before.

A month later—at the end of October—Montgomery swung again, this time with power so tremendous that the German and Italian armies reeled and broke, reorganized clumsily and fled in what seemed like panic. They fled out of Egypt into Cyrenaica, fled back through their own mine fields, fled westward on the one main highway along the Mediterranean coast, fled along desert tracks hub-deep in sand.

And Montgomery stayed on their heels. Montgomery, in his tent or in his dugout, riding in his tank or his jeep in the field, talking of "my plan," with other generals putting his plan into effect. Now, without question, the enemy was beaten.

An Interview With Montgomery.

I interviewed him one day at his headquarters in a cave. He was wearing a gray home-knit sweater with a silk scarf knotted about his throat, khaki pants, unscuffed brown calf desert boots and the jaunty black beret of the tank corps. The beret seemed somehow too large for his small gray head. There were no ribbons on his chest. None of these articles of clothing was strictly uniform, but uniform regulations were seldom closely observed in the field.

Always cocky, he was cockier than ever that morning. His small, sharp blue eyes flicked over the correspondents and his close-clipped gray mustache twitched. Suddenly—such was the magnetism of the little man himself—one noticed another figure standing beside and a little behind him. It was Coningham—chief of the RAF in the western desert—ordinarily a commanding figure; tall, heavy and solid, with a hawk nose of the kind which belongs to a man commanding the RAF in the field. Coningham wore the proper uniform with ribbons.

'Complete, Absolute Victory.'

"It was a fine battle," Montgomery began. Here was that past tense again—the same way Willkie had spoken two months earlier — as though the battle was already over. "It was a fine battle," he repeated, and now he no longer could suppress the smile that had been making his mustache twitch. "Complete, absolute victory," he snapped. "Boches finished. Finished! Completely smashed!"

And it turned out that the enemy was smashed. Not completely, but Montgomery has the knack of reading the future. "He's like the conductor of a great orchestra," one of his most respectful minor subordinates told me once. "He's always at least one bar of the score ahead of the players."

While Montgomery fought on the ground, Coningham fought in the air. The RAF and its adjunct, the USAAF fought by day and by night, with fighters and bombers, and they achieved a triumph such as has never been achieved by any Allied air force in any other theater of war. It wiped out—in Coningham's own words, it annihilated—the Luftwaffe on the ground and in the air.

Banked today along the sides of airfields which were German in October are piles of junk—junked German and Italian planes, wrecked before they could leave the ground.

It was simply done, a simple thing to do, given the weapons with which to do it. For the first time since the battle of North Africa began in 1940, Montgomery had them.

In the battle of August and September—the battle so disappointing for the spectators—Montgomery had won a passive defensive victory. He massed his tanks, his anti-tank guns and his field guns in fixed positions.

The enemy came, his panzer divisions nosing eastward. The oncoming panzers met the massed fire of Montgomery's positions, met it and fell back, and the battle was over.



Released by Western Newspaper Union.

WHILE dyed-in-the-wool American league followers probably agree that there never has been a good war, they are more likely to catch a glimpse of the silver lining than are fans of the National league.

Because of the war the junior circuit may witness a close championship race instead of the customary parade headed by the New York Yankees. In the unlikely event you have forgotten, the Yankees won the series in 1936, '37, '38, '39 and '41. They won the American league crown in '42, but failed to meet the Cardinals' challenge.

Even though the Yankees weren't good enough to win the series last year, they were good enough to lead the league with a nine-game margin. That is, they were nine games ahead of the Red Sox, who finished in second place. The rest of the clubs were so far behind they had to send up smoke signals to congratulate the champs.

Improved Outlook

Last fall the 1943 situation looked just as bleak—for the remaining seven clubs of the league. The armed services had claimed a good percentage of players from other clubs. The Yankees were figured to continue as usual, their roster listing a high average of family men.

But the war clouds continued to grow blacker and even the Yankee squad proved vulnerable.

Tommy Henrich was called from the 1942 team. Phil Rizzuto followed. Then Charley Ruffing—no longer in the prime of his youth, but a very valuable individual—took his departure. First Baseman Buddy Hassett followed him. Red Rolfe left for a coaching job at Yale, where he reports himself completely satisfied.

Probably the biggest blow to Joe McCarthy came when he heard he was losing Joe DiMaggio to the armed services. McCarthy was quoted as saying "Whatever he does is his affair. I have nothing to say." A New York sports writer made the excellent point that McCarthy's wartime commentary will scarcely outlive Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Closer Race

These factors point to a tighter race in the American league, which should do much to increase box office income.

It is expected that the loss of big names will cause some decline in revenue. But that loss won't be as great as it would have been if the major leagues hadn't provided their full share of America's fighting men.

The loss of some of the game's biggest stars probably won't be felt as much as some observers expect. The only real money names in baseball since Dizzy Dean are Bob Feller and DiMaggio. And none of the three compares to Babe Ruth as an attraction.

For all his greatness DiMaggio wasn't altogether popular around New York. His repeated holdouts probably had something to do with that state of affairs. He listened to too many persons who weren't connected with baseball, and the advice wasn't always the best.

DiMaggio's greatest salary was \$42,500—quite a bit less than the fabulous \$80,000 Ruthian salary. Of course he didn't draw cash customers to the turnstiles the way Ruth did—but neither has anyone else. His best year from the standpoint of gate receipts came in 1941 when he hit safely in 56 consecutive games. There was as much interest in that hitting streak as there was in one of Ruth's home run binges.

Feller has been in the navy for some time—but the fans still turn out to see his team play ball.

That sports fans pay more attention to a close contest than they do to big names seems to be proved by the success hockey is enjoying this season. Some of the most famous names of the ice game have been lost to the armies and navies of Canada and the United States. But the fans have been breaking attendance records merely because they like a good fight.

Despite the loss of men like DiMaggio and Feller, baseball likely will be able to shuffle its way along during the coming season.

SPORT SHORTS

¶ Mary K. Browne, former national golf and tennis champion, is in Australia as a Red Cross canteen director.

¶ Man Mountain Dean, wrestler, is spending time on his Georgia farm since he was released by the army. He weighs 277 pounds—57 less than when he went into the army.

¶ According to a yearbook of the United States Trotting association, 760 race meetings were held in America and Canada during 1942. Purses totaled \$2,100,000.

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Gems of Thought

YOU may chisel a boy into shape as you would a rock, or hammer him into it if he be a better kind, as you would a piece of bronze. But you cannot hammer a girl into anything. She grows as a flower does.—John Ruskin.

Fight on, my men, Sir Andrew says, A little I'm hurt, but yet not slain; I'll be lie down and bleed awhile, And then I'll rise and fight again.

Do not expect others to sympathize with you unless you sympathize with them. Sympathy means "feeling with."

Not, for tomorrow and its needs I pray, but keep me, guide me, hold me for today.

When armored knights met, it was customary for each knight to raise the visor of his helmet as a means of identification. This gesture has come down through all armies in the form of the salute. Traditional, too, is the Army man's preference for Camel Cigarettes. In the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, actual sales records in their Service Stores show Camel is the favorite. Favorite gift with service men is also Camels by the carton. Local tobacco dealers are featuring Camel cartons to send to men in the armed forces anywhere.—Adv.

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MENTHOLATUM

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