

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Parity Vote Heralds Farm Price Rise; Allies' North Africa Strength Grows As Yanks Wipe Out Rommel's Advance; **RAF** Raids Strafe German U-Boat Nests

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)



On their way to continue the offensive against the Japs at Salamau in New Guinea, Australian troops pass through a group of Americans who had been in action earlier. This photo was made after the successful close of the Papuan peninsula campaign against the Japs.

TUNISIA:

Rommel Pays Dearly

The 50-odd miles that Marshal Rommel had originally advanced against American forces in Tunisia had cost the "Desert Fox" dearly, For not only had most of that gain been lost in retreat, but the Axis offensive had been converted into a first-class Axis setback, with heavy casualties.

Pell mell through the Kasserine pass Rommel's Afrika Korps tank forces had retreated to the southwest under powerful Allied gun and aircraft attack. Seasoned observers termed Rommel's maneuver, a typ-ical Axis hit-and-run action. The Axis had found the American forces overextended and trying to man un-tenable positions. The Axis had struck hard. When the American high command met this offensive with a more powerful counteroffen-

sive, the Axis ran for cover. Thus Rommel's first major bid to cut Allied communications lines had been thwarted.

As the Allied fortunes in Central Tunisia thus turned brightly upward, reports disclosed that General Sir Bernard Montgomery's British eighth army had been on the move in North Africa and had struck with augmented power in southeastern Tunisia. Smashing with tanks into the Mareth line, General Montgom-ery had seriously threatened Rom-mel's rear.

HITLER BOASTS: Nazis Not Yet Beaten

Adolf Hitler's absences at key

FARM PRICES: Wickard vs. Senate

When Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard requested congress for a "clear mandate" to proceed with his 1943 farm production program, he asked for sanction to attempt the difficult feat of increasing farm prices without raising prices to consumers. The "clear mandate" was appropriation by con-gress of \$100,000,000 for incentive

payments. But the senate farm bloc had ideas of its own about solving the farm income riddle. Legislation provid-ing higher ceilings on prices of some farm commodities passed the senate by a 78-2 vote. Under the terms of the new act, the government no longer would deduct benefit payments from ceilings.

How much this measure if finally approved by all branches of the government would add to the food bills of consumers was a question neither the department of agriculture nor the OPA was prepared to answer immediately, because of technical factors involved.

OPA officials, however, expressed the view that increases in living costs would be considerable.

AIR OFFENSIVE:

Allies Harass Europe Although Allied land operation offensives against Hitler-held Europe were still in the blueprint stage, the offensive by air continued to gather momentum

Wilhelmshaven, the major Nazi

that was inexorably moving west-ward across the map toward the

Military observers were asking whether the German defenses on the Dnieper line were as strong as the anchors the Axis had lost further east in the Don and Donets river basins. If sufficient time had not been available to strengthen this secondary line, then the Nazis faced a crisis more serious than anything that yet confronted them.

In the upper Ukraine the Red armies had moved steadily forward on a wide front toward the Moscow-Kiev railway, their offensive based on a triangle formed by recaptured Sumy, Lebedin and Akhtyrka. To the south the Germans had

fought violently in an effort to halt the Russ maneuver for enveloping the remainder of the Donets basin from which hundreds of thousands of Axis forces were seeking to retire in some semblance of order.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC: To Have and to Hold

Three activities had continued to occupy the attention of American and other Allied forces in the Pacific war theater. These were 1-To hold the territorial gains they had al-ready exacted from the Japs; 2-To destroy enemy aircraft installations, dock facilities and ships in nearby occupied territory; 3—To gather strength and momentum for further full-scale land and sea blows at the Japs.

In unremitting "softening up" tactics, heavy American bombers in at-tacks on the Jap base of Rabaul in New Britain scored hits on two Jap-anese warships, drove a third onto a reef and damaged a 10,000-ton cargo vessel. U. S. planes scored hits on a Jap barge at Rekata bay in the northern Solomons and

strafed enemy positions at Munda. Indications appeared that the British drive against the Japs in Burma was gathering steam preparatory to a major movement to retake Burma and open the supply road to China. The strength of the British was indicated by the fact a Jap effort to raid Assam airfield resulted in the loss of 30 planes

TURKEY:

Watches and Waits

A watchful waiting policy based on a determination to stay out of the war if possible but to enter the fight if necessary was enunciated by President Ismet Inonu of Turkey. Inonu pointed out that the final decision might not be in Turkish hands. Calling all Turks to intensify their

preparedness against any eventual-



Russians Roll On All along the eastern front the Russians had continued a series of blasting offensives. Each offensive ward so battle unit in itself, but added to all the others it formed a pattern that was inexorably moving west. Superstructure of the series of ward source of the series of the Sufficient Vegetables Can Be Raised for Entire Family on Small, Fertile Sites

Beginners Told to Plan Plots Before Starting Seeding

However Hitler, Hirohito and Mussolini may be kept guessing about Allied offensives on the fighting fronts of the world, they can just as well be told right now that there is no secret about one of America's great drives on the home front. It's the Victory Garden campaign, already under way and expected to set a national record for home food production.

When a national poll late last month reported that 54 per cent of the citizens interviewed were intending to grow gardens this year, newspaper readers of the country became aware of the proportions of this home-front offensive. By January, however, it was no news to the government's garden promoters that a 1943 bumper crop of home gardeners was in sight. They were already swamped with popular demands for how-to-go-about-it information and were meeting them-with news releases, radio programs, photographs and a special 1943 edition of a publication called "Victory Gardens." The garden authorities had seen

what happened in 1942 when an estimated 15,000,000 Victory Gardeners shouldered spades and hoes. Since then they had seen the national food situation change until by the beginning of 1943 the department of agriculture was saying: "The nation needs the help of everyone who can grow a good garden."

Will Educate Gardeners

The department of agriculture, it may be reported, was precise in making its appeal to everyone who can grow a good garden. Getting good gardens from inexperienced gardeners thus became one of the department's war concerns. Fortu-nately, its bureau of plant industry, in the agricultural research admin istration, has been dealing with this same problem in normal dimensions for many years, and was all set to meet the demands for information as they might arise.

It is impossible, of course, to avoid thinnings of some vegetables. Small seeds like those of carrots, collards, onion, parsnips, spinach, and tur-nips must be sown three or four times as thick as the plants will eventually grow, because many seeds fail to grow well. Surplus seedlings then have to be thinned out before the plants crowd each other.

When the inexperienced gardener begins to worry about not planting his seed too deep or too shallow, too early or too late, and realizes the many other details that have to be kept in mind, he will appreciate truly the helpfulness of such publications as the department of agriculture's "Victory Gardens" and the other free bulletins that can be obtained from the government and from state agricultural colleges and extension services. Most valuable of all to him will probably be the one published nearest to his home, for from it he can obtain most specific information on the times of planting and on the varieties of vegetables



rows of pole snap beans, two rows of pole lima beans, two rows of toma-toes, half a row of lettuce, half a row of chard, and one row each of beets, carrots, turnips, cabbage, on-ions, radishes, and spinach. When these are harvested, the "succes-sion" crops include two rows of col-lards as well as later plantings of the other vegetables. the other vegetables.

at a time when metal is scarce, nothing elaborate is needed. There are many garden implements, but four of them will serve all purposes very well-a spade or spading fork, a steel rake, a common hoe, and a trong cord.

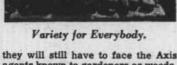
Spading can start as soon as the land is sufficiently dry in spring and the garden has been cleared of de-bris. Eight to ten inches is a good depth for spading if the top soil is deep. On thin layers of top soil exdeep. On this layers of top soil ex-perienced gardeners are careful not to turn up too much of the infertile subsoil. To increase the soil's fer-tility, the spader should mix in some well-rotted leafmold, manure, or oth-er decayed organic matter if these fertilizers are available. Every 25 square feet of the garden can well take as much as a bushel. Commer-cial fertilizer will also be needed on most gardens, but its application can best be delayed until after the spaded clods have been broken up and the whole garden worked up with the rake and smoothed out for planting. Then the fertilizer is ap-plied in bands along the planted rows.

This year Victory Gardeners will have a special fertilizer with 3 per cent nitrogen (about 85 per cent of it organic), together with 8 per cent of phosphoric acid and 7 per cent potash. Described as the best formula that can be made available to victory gardeners during the wartime emergency, when war calls for so much chemical nitrogen, this 3-8 7 mixture comes in packages of 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 pounds net weight, labeled "Victory Gardener Fertiliz-er-for Food Production Only."

This fertilizer is best applied along the garden rows in a band about three or four inches wide, about two inches from the line where the seeds will be sown or the plants set. A wide furrow about two inches deep is scooped out with the hoe. The fertilizer is spread uniformly along this furrow, at the rate of 1 pound per 24 or 25 feet or row, mixed with the soil, and covered about two inches deep. It should not touch the seed. Broadcasting fertilizer is easier than applying it in bands, but unless the rows are very close the broadcasting brings less efficient re-

Forty-four now, he joined the at-torney general's staff in 1939. Ear-lier he had practiced law in Seattle after studying at Wabash college, Oxford, Harvard and Washington





agents known to gardeners as weeds, insects, and diseases. But they will know at least that their own home-front offensive is under way and that the seeds of Victory are in the ground.

The gist of garden fundamentals has by now been reduced to terms so simple that they make gardening seem easier than it really is—so easy in fact that a great emphasis has been put on perseverance. No one reading how-to-do-it garden in-structions, it is pointed out repeat-edly, should set his foot to the spade unless he is determined to stay by his job without wasting seed, fertilizer, or effort.

The first requirement that the new gardener will find in the specifications written by the experts is for a garden spot that is both sunny and fertile. And for his help in judging fertility he is given the rule-of-thumb: "If the weeds grow rank, the soil is fertile." Good soil, moisture and sunshine are three essentials. If they provide an are three essentials. If they are missing, no gardener can expect to grow enough crops to justify his use of seed, fertilizer and effort.

The home gardener this year advised to grow just as nearly all the fresh vegetables for his family as he possibly can. A garden 50 feet by 100 feet tended and kept growing all season is, for example, expected to produce enough vegetables to give each member of a family of five at least three servings a day, which comes about as close to providing the needed four to seven daily servings of fruits and vegetaas many gardeners can come. bles Smallest garden size for which a garden plan is suggested by the department of agriculture is 30 by 50 feet, but even smaller areas will grow a worthwhile crop of tomatoes and a few other crops, if greater space cannot be obtained. **Choose Vegetables You Like**

With the area located, the Victory Gardener's next step is putting the rden on paper, only interesting but also especially helpful for the inexperienced. Arranging the garden properly in-cludes attention to a few general principles. Rows, for example, should not run up and down hill if the garden slopes very much, but if the area is level the rows should run the long way for convenience. First plantings are generally best placed along the south or east side of the garden, with later crops being sown progressively across the area and whenever possible the tall grow-ing plants should be on the west or north side of the garden so they will not shade other plants. The main item in planning a garden is, of course, choosing what to plant. One thing is certain. There is little to be gained in growing vegetables that the family does not like, but within the family taste there are many garden products from which to choose. Green leafy vegetables-leaf lettuce, cabbage, spinach, chard, collards, kale, and turnip greens-should be well rep-resented in every garden. Toma-toes and beans are also likely to be grown generally. All these are rich in vitamins. Potatoes and corn are among the best energy foods, but they require considerable space and are thus not recommended for very small gardens, which should specialize on the valuable vitamin, or protective, vegetables. No garden plan, of course, is suitable for all tastes or all localities, but an example of one balanced garden is provided by Dr. Victor H. Boswell in his "Victory Gardens." For the 30 by 50 "very small garden," Dr. Boswell suggests 13 vegetables planted in 14 rows. Those planted in spring include two 50-foot

main's

Need Only Four Tools Inevitably, gardening on paper leads to the real thing, and that means tools. Fortunately, however,



N EW YORK.-Maj. Ruth Cheney, Streeter, new Marine Corps Women's Reserve director, has been an airplane pilot since 1940. Dates More Reason for Adding 'in the Air' Mrs. Street-To Marines' Hymn 'er's diary say she was born in 1895. That would make her

45 when she began to fly. Not many women do that at that age. There isn't another, probably, be-tween the Halls of Montezuma and the shores of Tripoli; a fact doubt-less pleasing to the marines as the major scouts the country seeking 19,000 recruits for her command.

A year or so after her first les son the major had a commercial license, too, and a little time back the 126th squadron, army air forces, made her honorary pilot. She is also the only woman on New Jer-sey's defense council's committee op

wintion. Major Streeter's home is at Morristown, N. J. Before the war there were few town schemes and stratagems in which she didn't have a hand. She belongs to six clubs, to the Junior League and to the New Hampshire Society of Colonial Dames. When the war began he expanded her orbit to in-clude most of the doings at Camp Dix nearby. Now to Dix she adds the marine corps. Her children, happily, are all old enough to go their own gait ... daughter Lillian and sons Frank and Henry, who are ensigns, and Henry, who are ensigns, and Thomas W. Jr., who is in the army reserve.

The senior Thomas W. is a lawyer and retired public utilities ex-pert now collecting funds for the Red Cross.

ONE college, three universities, ten years in the law and three with the United States attorney gen-eral have helped make Norman Keeps Uncle Sam M. Littell From Being Rooked man. A In Big Land Deals sadder one too, con-

sidering the fummy-diddles he has lately uncovered.

ately uncovered. Mr. Littell is assistant attor-ney general in charge of the government's wartime real es-tate business. Land is needed for shipyards, housing and all the army's great growing pains. When the boys come marching home the government will own 20,000,000 acres, five times as many as there are in the state of Maine. In a venture so vast, Uncle Sam could be rooked to a fare-ye-well. If he isn't, Mr. Lit-tell will have earned a D.S.C. Forty-four now, he joined the at

Nazi party gatherings had caused speculation as to his health and reaas for remaining under cover. But wherever he was, his remote-control message to the German people via a Munich proclamation was as harsh and fanatical as if der fuehrer had delivered it personally. Ominous to the people of occupied

Europe was Hitler's declaration that "we shall not scruple about foreign lives when such hard sacrifices are exacted from our own lives."

Germany's future and the future of Europe, he said, will be decided on the Eastern front. He boasted that enemies who believed they almost had Germany down would be "ter-ribly disappointed."

"No matter how great the coalition of our enemies may be," his proclamation added, "it is smaller in power than the strength of the alliance of our peoples."

4,403 NEW SHIPS: To Help Beat Axis

Funds for the construction of 4,403 ships for the Maritime commission were approved when the house apappropriation bill providing \$6,298,-530,435.

The current shipbuilding program to thwart the Axis submarine peril and provide transoceanic facilities for men and supplies has been mapped through 1943, according to Admiral Emory Land, director of the Maritime commission. The schedule called for construction of 2,242 ships of which 554 were deliv-ered before January 1, 1943. In addition, he said, it was proposed to extend the program to provide for 2,161 additional ships to be contracted for during 1943.

SX P

se, and Lorient, Axis submarine base on the French coast, were repeated targets. The RAF celebrated its 16th raid on Wilhelmshaven by bombing key objectives without the loss of a single plane. In one of the raids on Lorient Allied fliers dropped more than 1,000 tons of explosives.

In a summary of operations, an RAF spokesman revealed that 100, 000 tons of bombs had been dropped on German objectives to date in the

war and that 2,000 daylight sorties had been made by the bomber command in 1942 alone.

CAFE RATIONING: Streamlines Bill-of-Fare

Diners-out in restaurants and ho tels faced slimmer helpings on their plates and a streamlined bill-of-fare reducing the variety of foods of fered, as enforcement of the food administration's rationing orders for commercial eating establishments was undertaken.

Aimed primarily at food waste the orders governing restaurants, hotels and other institutions did, however, provide a larger propor-tionate allotment of canned and processed foods than individual house-holders were permitted to have. Because allotments were based on the number of persons served in Decem ber rather than on the amount of rationed foods actually served, small cafes and stands would get a proportionately larger share of canned and processed foods than places that serve for the most part complete meals.

Restaurant and hotel allowances were set at a minimum rate of 13 per cent larger than those for house-

PRESIDENT INONU ... 'decision not Turkey's

ities, President Inonu declared: "We are grieved by and suffer from the global disaster. We shall do our ut-most not to be entangled in it nor contaminated by it, but we know that it is not entirely within our power to stay out of the war."

Turkey has spent more for defense in the last four years than at any time in her history, he declared.

4 TO 1 RECORD: For U.S. Airmen

Americans learned with pride that their fighting airmen had destroyed four enemy planes for every one of their own knocked out of the skies in 1942.

An official tabulation covering complete operations for the last year showed that army, navy and marine fliers shot down at least 2,587 of their foes. This total did not include hundreds of planes listed as probably destroyed. Aircraft losses by all American

armed services last year totaled 609. Some of the fliers were shot down by anti-aircraft fire, others simply did not return from combat missions for reasons unknown. A majority of the 609 losses, however, resulted from actual combat with enemy air-

best adapted to his locality. With such aids, 18,000,000 Amer-icans and their helpers are this year expected to plant Victory Gar-dens-6,000,000 of them on farms, the rest in their backyards, on vacant lots, or in community Victory Gar-With the seed sown and the tomato and cabbage plants set out,



Run Rows Long Way.

sults. If the Victory Garden fertilizer is broadcast, it should be used at the rate of three or four pounds per 100 square feet and then mixed thoroughly with the soil. Don't Sow Too Thick

Common to all gardeners at planting time is the danger of sowing seed too thickly-a mistake that is wasteful not only of precious seed but also of time. For seed that is sown wastefully produces seedlings that must later be thinned at the expense of time and sometimes backaches.

Bean and pea seeds should be spaced as the plants are expected to stand, for these vegetables should never be thinned in the rows. Beet and chard "seeds" are really fruits containing several seeds and should thus be sown no thicker than the plants are to stand, although some thinning will be needed. Cabbage and tomato and onion plants and onion sets are also placed where they will remain.



Plants Should Be Spaced.

Oxford, Harvard and Washington university. At Oxford he was a Rhodes scholar. He was born at Indianapolis, Ind., and has been married 12 years. Two children. Already his canny double-check on real estate deals has saved the price of a few Flying Fortresses, maybe of a battleship. He cut one \$158,000 fee in half, cut a couple of com-missions from 6½ per cent to 3½ per cent, persuaded one land agent to take a fat \$50 fee on each of 600 deals although original claims 600 deals although original claims had run as high as \$820.

BUDGET DIRECTOR Harold Dew-

D ey Smith will compile the record of the administrative history of the war; and he was handpicked by a

To Compile Record Democrat -Of Administrative dent on the History of the War Say-so of a Democrat-

ic Supreme court justice. Neverthe-less Republicans borrow trouble if less Republicans borrow trouble if they wonder whether the record will be on the level. Fifty years from now undoubtedly anybody will be able to travel the budget director's miles of memos and learn the truth about everybody's sins. Mr. Smith loves documents and data too well to finagle them even for his party.

When Associate Justice Frank When Associate Justice Frank Murphy sold President Roose-velt on Mr. Smith he was budget director of Michigan. That was three years back. He had got to Michigan's state capitol after righting the problems of cities in both Michigan and Kansas. He was born in Kansas, 45 years ago. He got a degree in engi-neering from the University of Kansas.