

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXIX

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1943

No. 11

## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### FDR Tightens Living Cost Controls; Allies Push All-Tunisia Offensives As Rommel Speeds Retreat Northward; Draftees Status Altered in New Plan

(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.)  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

#### ANTI-INFLATION: 'Hold the Line'

President Roosevelt's "hold the line" anti-inflation order served blunt notice on all special economic groups that competition for higher prices and wages must end, because the resulting conflict would not only result in inflation but "breed disunity when unity is essential."

Banning further wage increases except to correct substandard living conditions virtually freezing employees to their present jobs and extending price controls to all cost-of-living commodities, the President's order centered a four-pronged attack on inflation. The order provided:

1—No further wage increases beyond the Little Steel formula of 15 per cent over rates on January 1, 1942; 2—Immediate ceilings on all commodities affecting the cost of living; 3—No hiring of new employees by employers, except in accordance with War Manpower commission regulations, to prevent employment of workers at higher pay than they received in previous jobs; 4—Stabilization of rates of common carriers and public utilities.

#### DRAFT: Classes Reshuffled

As local draft boards speeded the reclassification of registrants, in accordance with new selective service regulations, the fathers of children born before September 14, 1942, found themselves the sole occupants of class 3-A. All other men of draft age were being placed in one of the following classes:

1-A—Subject to immediate induction; 2-A—Deferred because of occupation in activities directly supporting the war effort, or vital to the maintenance of civilian health and welfare; 2-B—Deferred because of occupation in war plants; 2-C or 2-D—Deferred because of essential agricultural work; 3-D—Deferred because their induction would cause extreme hardship to dependants; 4-F—Mentally, morally, or physically unfit for service.

#### PACIFIC FRONT: Air War Continues

Aerial warfare on the north and east extremities of the Pacific battle front provided for weeks the only activity in this theater.

In the north American army bombers escorted by fighters continued their daily assaults on Japanese positions in the Aleutians, bombing Kiska and blasting Attu.

Largest scale action of all occurred near Guadalcanal, where American airmen destroyed 37 out of 98 Japanese planes and bombers which attacked U. S. shipping. Americans lost seven of their own planes in the encounter.

#### U. S. NAVY: Billions for Building

Further evidence of the navy's determination to build itself into an unmatched global power was seen in President Roosevelt's request of congress for a \$24,551,070,000 appropriation for the fiscal year 1944—the largest amount ever sought for the nation's sea-fighting forces.

The President asked for \$6,230,000,000 for new warships; \$1,830,000,000 for maintenance and repair of



ADM. ERNEST J. KING  
... more battle-wagons for him.

ships and \$3,476,000,000 for guns, ammunition and armament. While only \$1,640,000,000 was requested for airplanes, a backlog of about \$4,000,000,000 in orders will provide adequate numbers of fighting craft.

#### RUSSIA: Quiet on Donets

As reports had persisted that the Germans were moving many fresh divisions to the Russian front for a new offensive, the Red forces took the initiative in the Kharkov area and seized several favorable positions south of Izyum, thus widening the Soviet bridgehead on the south bank of the Donets river.

Following their failure at Izyum, the Germans were reported massing strength in the Balakleya sector.

A Moscow communique reported that quiet had again descended on the Smolensk front after a lightning Russian thrust that resulted in the capture of several strongly held villages northeast of the Axis stronghold.

Engagements were but a prelude to bigger movements, for both sides were massing their forces for new major actions once the spring-thawed ground became firm again.

#### TUNISIA: Fox in the Open

Rommel's retreating Afrika Korps had been faced by Allied armies on three sides after "The Fox" was uprooted from his El Akarit positions and chased into the open plains of Tunisia well north of Gabes.

The seriousness of the crisis for the Axis was reflected in Italian communiques which admitted that Italo-German forces were being



GEN. BERNARD MONTGOMERY  
... outfoxes Rommel.

steadily overpowered along the entire Tunisian front.

The long-hoped for junction of American and British forces had intensified Rommel's plight, for now General Montgomery's British Eighth army was not only pressing him from the south, but its advance units now joined directly with General Patton's Second American army corps were menacing his flanks from the east. To the north, General Anderson's British First army had moved to close off Rommel's movements for a possible union with the Axis forces of Gen. Von Arnim.

In routing Rommel at El Akarit, General Montgomery took the Nazis by surprise with a night attack that blazed its way forward under the screen of 500 cannon and scores of tanks and reinforced by hundreds of planes overhead. In the first break-through the Eighth army had gathered in 6,000 Axis prisoners.

As the battle picture became clearer, the contributions of General Patton's American forces emerged importantly. Prior to the historic junction with the British Eighth army after piercing the Axis armies' flanks, the Americans had held up most of Rommel's armored forces in the El Guettar region, weakening his defenses and making easier the task of the British at El Akarit.

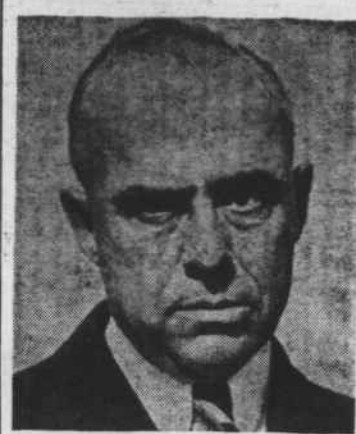
#### BLACK-BUSTERS: Work Well Done

The penetrating eyes of British reconnaissance cameras confirmed reports of RAF bomber pilots that "black-busters" have done their work well in laying waste industrial areas of Berlin.

Photographs taken after one recent raid disclosed that 30 important war factories had been destroyed or damaged. The devastation was concentrated mostly in areas south and southwest of the center of Hitler's capital, a report by the air ministry disclosed.

Railway repair shops, freight yards and the Tempelhof airfield were among objectives damaged.

#### 35 BILLION: U. S. Must Recapture



CHESTER C. DAVIS  
... 'spending power a peril.'

The government will have to recapture \$35,000,000,000 in surplus spending power if present price and wage controls are to combat inflation effectively, Chester C. Davis, food administrator declared.

A banker as well as an agricultural leader, Mr. Davis recommended higher federal taxes and sharply increased investments in war bonds to relieve the strain of "too much purchasing power" on a declining supply of consumer goods, including food and other living items.

"This is no 10 per cent war," he declared, referring apparently to the treasury's campaign to get 10 per cent of salaries invested in war bonds.

#### KEYNES' PLAN: To Sidetrack Gold

Following closely on the heels of the United States treasury's proposal for a \$5,000,000,000 postwar international stabilization plan came Lord Keynes' proposal for a world credit institution "designed to expand world trade and serve as a genuine organ of truly international government."

Unlike the American plan, the British fiscal expert's program would subordinate gold as the post-war international medium of exchange. The announcement of Keynes' proposal made in a British white paper said "the purpose of the clearing union is to supplant gold as a governing factor, but not disperse with it."

Financial observers viewed the Keynes' plan as a trial balloon. Their idea was that a compromise between the American and British viewpoints would be ultimately arrived at.

Under the Keynes' plan the clearing union would have executive offices in New York and London. It would operate as a bank of nations, with creditor nations allowing their balances to accumulate as deposits, while the union would lend these deposits for short periods to debtor nations, just as a commercial bank operates.

#### FRANCE: U. S.-Britain Agree

When British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden announced he had invited Secretary of State Cordell Hull to visit London and said he was satisfied there is "complete agreement" between Britain and the United States on the "future policy toward France," he took a long step toward settling the troublesome North African political situation.

Seemingly on the point of settlement, the problem had been intensified once more when the Fighting French took umbrage at Allied Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's request that Gen. Charles De Gaulle delay his projected visit to Algiers for conferences with Gen. Henri Giraud.

Military men had viewed the Eisenhower request as a perfectly logical action. With the battle for Tunisia at its height, the time was not right for political discussion, since the entire time of the French, British and American leaders in North Africa was occupied in winning the campaign.

#### BLACK MARKETS: Meat Supply Scarcer

Black markets were blamed by the department of agriculture for the reduced marketing of livestock for slaughter in recent weeks.

In recent weeks, a department report noted, government buying agencies and civilian consumers dependent on federally inspected plants have experienced difficulty in obtaining meat. While the report did not disclose how great a reduction in inspected meat supplies stemmed from the black market operations, it described it as "fairly large."

Meanwhile seven meat packing firms operating in the East and Middle West were indicted by a federal grand jury in Newark, N. J., on charges of conspiracy to violate meat price regulations and meat quota restrictions.

## Once Poor Wastelands Now Yield Profitable Products; Use Farm Crops in Plastics

### Chemurgy Opens Industry to Agriculture; Urge Production of Many New Plants.

"The proportion of usable wealth to be derived from an acre's production is becoming larger. Chemurgy has meant maximum utilization of maximum production. It has insisted that ways be found to use the high as well as the low values of the harvest—the stalk as well as the grain, the shell as well as the kernel, the weed as well as the crop."

With those words, Wheeler McMillen, president of the National Farm Chemurgic Council, describes the revolutionary effect chemurgy promises to have on agriculture. With a national purchasing power to support the new products of this industry, farmers will not only be obtaining additional income from standard crops, but they will derive revenue from the use of the vast sub-marginal lands now lying waste.

Dandelions, milkweeds and cat-tails—all of these, and many more, were once considered the useless and even pestiferous embroidery of the lonely plains. But today they have been proven to have real commercial value.

Although American experiments with the dandelion have not been as extensive as those in Russia, efforts are being made here to convert the latex of this colorful little plant into rubber. In this field, we were concerned with the guayule shrub, and although the project later was abandoned because of the steady flow of natural rubber from the Indies, it has now been revived in the sandy Southwest.

But if we have lagged in our development of the dandelion, not so with the milkweed or the cattails.

#### Milkweed Yields Fiber

According to Dr. Boris Berkman, milkweed produces two fibers. A pioneer in milkweed development, Dr. Berkman says one fiber is tubular with an air chamber. It is 58 per cent alpha cellulose, 20 per cent lignin and is covered with a vegetable wax of a high melting point. This fiber is found in the pod.

Known as milkweed floss, the fiber is buoyant, has a high insulation value and promises to be valuable for soundproofing material. Dr. Berkman predicts its use in life preservers; life jackets; aviator suits combining insulation value for high atmosphere with buoyancy in case of a landing in water; sleeping bags; mattresses; pillows; and surgical dressings.

The other fiber of the milkweed is found in the outer layer of the stalk. In different species of the plant, it represents between 10 and 20 per cent in weight of the entire stalk. Known as Bast, this fiber has a great tensile strength, and the high alpha cellulose content of 92 per cent.

Dr. Berkman says that studies show that Bast fiber ranks second to manila hemp in breaking and tensile strength. Running about three-fourths of an inch in length, the fiber is soft, pliable and much finer in texture. It has good possibilities for use as textile.

Seventy-two per cent of the milkweed found growing wild in Michigan was on No. 4 submarginal land. Approximately 85 per cent of milkweed seed germinates. In experiments last year, milkweed pickers earned from four to seven dollars a day, and they included women and children.

The tall, somber cattail that stands silently in the marshes today may soon be the base for a flourishing industry. In experiments conducted under the direction of C. F. Burgess, noted chemist, this lowly plant was found to have high heat insulating, sound absorption and water resistant properties.

According to Mr. Burgess, the floss of the cattail can be produced at a cost competitive with cotton. About 140 man-hours of labor are needed



From corn cobs—chemicals.

facture of butadiene for synthetic rubber. Petroleum refineries employ it as a solvent.

Walnut shells act as fillers in many types of plastics. They are used for the making of large cast molds in forming or stamping large aluminum airplane sections. Appreciable quantities of walnut shell flour are fillers in various rubber products. This flour contains "cutin," a wax-like substance of waterproof character.

#### Revive Castor Planting

Loss of territory and reductions of shipping have cut off importation of many products formerly received from other countries. The importance of these products to our economy, and the possibility that we may be deprived of them for substantial periods, has led to a movement for the cultivation of these products here at home.

As a result of these movements, it has been learned that many of these products were raised in this country many years ago, but gradually were abandoned as domestic growers found it hard to compete



The castor plant's beans (inset) contain valuable oil—for medicine and industry. Yield per acre varies according to soil.

to collect and process 50,000 spikes a day. These spikes yield 1,500 pounds of cattail floss. Location of plants close to the marshes where the plants abound would trim operating costs.

#### Belladonna Is Medicinal

The Belladonna, whose reddish bell-shaped flowers and shining black berries ornament the fields, contains medicinal properties which make cultivation of the plant both useful and profitable.

Dr. Alex Laurie of Ohio State university points out that Belladonna is one of a number of plants whose tops and roots yield alkaloids that prevent gripping of irritant cathartics, relax muscles and decrease secretions. One of the alkaloids—scopolamine—is among the most satisfactory materials used in childbirth.

According to Dr. Laurie, belladonna thrives in acid soils. All shade must be eliminated if the quality of the plant is to be retained. A 30-inch spacing between rows and 12 inches in the row required 17,500 plants and produced as high as 1,000 pounds of dry material per acre in cultivations at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment station. It was found that high nitrogen and phosphorus are necessary to secure higher yields, but the alkaloid content was not increased proportionately.

Harvesting and drying demand knowledge of plant growth and adequate equipment, Dr. Laurie says. Since usually three crops may be secured per season, the plants must not be cut down to the ground. It is in the field of plastics that chemurgy has made such great strides in utilizing the product of the farm in industry.

From cotton linters chemurgy has produced cellulose acetate, a molding and extrusion material in the form of sheets, rods and tubes, and also ethyl cellulose, an excellent elastic plastic when used with other agents.

From skim milk, casein is derived. Buttons, synthetic wool, felt hats and bonded plywood are all products of casein.

Oat hulls, nut shells and corn cobs have a ready use in plastics. When the war created an acute shortage of formaldehyde, chemurgists obtained furfuraldehyde from oat hulls and corn cobs. Furfural is used in

phenolic resin and also in the manufacture of the cheap labor of other countries.

The case of castor beans is an example. Oil from these beans serves a variety of important purposes, as a medicine as we all know, but also as a hydraulic liquid, lubricant, demulsifier, tanner and preserver and insecticide.

In 1880, castor beans were grown commercially in the Midwest. There was a pressing plant for the beans in Kansas. But when we began importing castor beans from India and Brazil, our own industry died out. The location of India in the war zone and the shortage of shipping to Brazil has led to a bean shortage that has prompted the movement for resuming castor bean cultivation here.

Under the impetus of the department of agriculture, a castor bean seed production program has been designed to build up a stockpile of approximately three million pounds of pure variety castor beans for plantings. Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana are the eight states that will share in the program.

In recent experiments, Dr. W. L. Burlison of the agriculture department of the University of Illinois discovered that certain types of castor beans would produce profitable crops when grown in the right soil and climate. A bean that yielded 475 pounds per acre in one section of the state, yielded 1,748 pounds in another section. It has been pointed out that in this country beans would have to be planted each year and harvested before frost. In Brazil, the plant is a perennial, with blossoms and mature beans growing on the stalk at the same time.

Cascara and digitalis are found in the forests and mountains of the Northwest Pacific area. Over six million pounds of cascara bark yearly are obtained in Washington and Oregon. With a value of \$1,250,000, this crop is gathered from wild growth and cultivated groves. Digitalis leaves are also picked from native and planted patches in the same states.

Sage, coriander and anise thrive in the Northwest, but the large amount of hand labor needed for the care of these crops has proven a discouraging factor. The work of thinning and weeding these crops conflicts with the same type of labor in the sugar beet fields.

## Who's News This Week

Delos Wheeler Lovelace

Consolidated Features—WNU Release.

NEW YORK.—For many a long year if you'd asked any member of the Boy Scouts of America, who was the Chief Scout, he'd have told you, Dr. James M. West.

Million Scouts Hail Him as 'Chief' and Now It's for Keeps

made official, and Dr. West has been promoted to a rank held previously by only one man, Ernest Thompson Seton, another lover of the outdoors with a powerful interest in boys.

Dr. West joined the Boy Scout movement January 2, 1911. It was in its infancy in the United States then. He took the job of Executive Chief on a six months' trial basis. He stayed 32 years, finally relinquishing the post February 1 last. On Dr. West's 65th birthday in May, 1941, President Roosevelt told him: "To you belongs much of the credit for the effectiveness of Scouting in this country."

Dr. West's great interest in youngsters was spurred by the difficulties of his own boyhood. His father died when he was very young, and his mother, when he was six. There were no near relatives, and the boy grew up in an orphan's home in Washington, his native city. To add to his problems, he was crippled and on crutches. He saw it that he had a good education, though, and he worked his way through the law school of National university. He was practicing in the capital when Scouting called him.

That wasn't his first task in behalf of youngsters, however. His efforts gave Washington its first juvenile court, and in 1908 he persuaded President Theodore Roosevelt to call a White House conference on the care of dependent children.

He has had four children of his own, two boys and two girls. Both boys became Eagle Scouts. While in command, he saw his beloved Scouts grow into an organization more than a million strong.

FANT finding is the task assigned to Jonathan W. Daniels as he joins the staff of White House administrative assistants, and that will be an old story for him.

Turn About Fair Play—FDR Now Bosses a Daniels

News and Observer and secretary of the navy under Wilson.

Young Jonathan started out to be a lawyer. He even spent a year at the Columbia law school after graduating from the University of North Carolina. He never practiced, though. He had been rubbing elbows too long with printer's ink. After trying his wings in Louisville, he returned home to work for his dad.

Later he wrote a novel, "Clash of Angels" it was called, and it helped him win a Guggenheim Fellowship and a couple of years' study in Europe. When the elder Daniels shifted his activities to the United States embassy in Mexico City, his son moved into the editor's chair.

In World War I a Daniels gave the orders to a young assistant secretary of the navy named Franklin D. Roosevelt. Now it will be the other way around.

D. R. C. E. M. JOAD used to be chairman of the National Peace Council (British) and a member of the Brains Trust, that London radio camara-illa whose I. Q. s. all came out of the top drawer, but here he is urging over the Atlantic cable that every man be allowed five wives. What peace is likely to come out of that idea, and who would expect a Brains Trustee to trot it out!

Dr. Joad, who is also a philosopher and peddler long-haired notions from a chair in the University of London, argues the war will leave so many women without mates that they must be provided with substitutes, even piecemeal ones. Oldsters will remember that the same argument followed the last war but no substitute replaced the time-dying practice of palming off.