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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Nazi Forces Offer Stiff Resistance As Allies Continue Advances in Italy; Russ March Across Northern Ukraine; WFA Announces Control of Milk Sales

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



News of Italy's unconditional surrender was greeted with open jubilation in the garment manufacturing district of New York, with celebrants ankle deep in improvised confetti, etc., as shown above.

#### ITALY:

##### Battlefield, After All

Italy's unconditional surrender to the Allies did not spare that country from becoming a bloody battlefield in the war.

Trapped all along the Italian boot when the Badoglio government gave up the fight, German forces put up stiff resistance as Allied armies swarmed ashore to occupy the mainland. Bitter fighting occurred near Naples and in Rome, where Germans were reported to have seized control to establish their own puppet regime, in the name of Benito Mussolini.

Meanwhile, Italian service men, told to resist German attempts to prevent them from giving up, appeared divided in their loyalty to the Badoglio government. While Italian soldiers were reported aiding the Allies in the south, the Germans claimed many others were standing by the Axis in the north, where the Nazis planned a last ditch fight along the mountain range of the Po valley.

Escorted by the British navy, three Italian battleships and an assortment of cruisers and destroyers reportedly were steaming for Allied ports in North Africa, there to join in the fight against Germany.

##### Economic Problem

Though Italy's capitulation was of unquestioned military value to the Allies, its occupation posed difficult economic problems. To Calvin Baldwin of the office of foreign economic co-ordination will go the task of straightening the situation.

First, Italy is deficient in coal, iron and petroleum, though it has quantities of mercury, bauxite and sulphur. Secondly, the country's food production is unbalanced, insufficiencies in grains, meats, fish, oils and eggs offsetting surpluses in fresh, citrus and dried fruits, nuts, vegetables, cheese and rice.

Thus, if use is to be made of industrial facilities, raw materials would have to be brought in; if advantage is to be taken of her peculiar agricultural production, some provision of imports of other foods will have to be made.

#### RUSSIA:

##### Regain Resources

Proceeding to shorten their lines in Russia, made more necessary by the collapse of Italy, the Nazis fell back on the Dnieper river, surrendering the vital Donetz industrial basin as they retreated.

Farther to the north, the Germans' withdrawal put Russia in possession of much of the fertile farmland of the Ukraine, famed for its wheat and cotton.

Although the Reds regained access to coal and iron and foodstuffs, the Germans' destruction of the Donetz's factories and their requisition of the Ukrainians' harvests deprived the Russians of immediate use of these resources.

In Moscow, a 224-gun salute marked the Russian successes.

#### CHINA:

##### U. S. Air Force Grows

The Japanese have sent a new Zero into Chinese skies, one with a higher ceiling and better diving characteristics, but gradual reinforcement of the 14th U. S. Air Force is making it more and more of a threat to the enemy's defensive and economic outpost on the Chinese mainland.

Shipment of Lightning P-38s to the 14th AAF gives Maj. Gen. Claire Chennault a speedy fighter to use in combination with bombers at his command.

Although the 14th AAF has been used in support of Chinese land armies and for pounding Jap communications, storehouses and industrial installations set up in occupied sections of the country, it looms of greater strategic importance as a threat to the Japanese homeland if northern bases are gotten.



Gen. Claire Chennault

#### AGRICULTURE:

##### Less Cotton

Continued hot, dry weather causing considerable deterioration in the western portion of the cotton belt, was a contributing factor in the department of agriculture's forecast of September 1 of a 1943 cotton crop of 11,670,000 bales, 7 per cent below the August 1 estimate.

Lint yield per harvested acre was indicated at 25.7 pounds above the 10-year average, but below the record 1942 figure.

Regions hit hardest according to the department of agriculture, include Texas, where production estimates as of September 1 were 375,000 bales below a month ago; Arkansas, down 200,000 bales; Oklahoma, down 125,000 bales; Mississippi, down 120,000, and Tennessee, down 45,000 bales.

##### Wheat in Loan

Because farmers are able to obtain more for their wheat on the market than the \$1.28 a bushel advanced on loans by the Commodity Credit corporation, pledges on the 1943 crop approximate half of the total prevailing at this time last year. Then, 94,418,000 bushels were being held by the U. S.

On the 44,355,725 bushels in loan, \$56,964,137 was paid out, the CCC stated. Warehouses held 39,370,000 bushels, and 4,985,459 bushels were stored on farms. Officials estimated that the entire 1943 loan stock would not exceed 200,000,000 bushels.

As of September 8, the government held about 127,000,000 bushels of wheat, and was disposing of 1 1/2 million bushels daily for feed in deficit areas.

#### RUBBER:

##### Synthetic Hopes High

If all of the necessary materials going into the manufacture of synthetic rubber can be supplied in 1944, production should approximate 850,000 tons, Bradley Dewey, newly named rubber director, declared.

Even as Dewey spoke, the War Production board ordered 12 major textile mills to devote their facilities exclusively to the fabrication of cotton and rayon tire cords. Previously, the mills had been making cotton duck for the army.

Production of synthetic rubber in September will exceed 30,000 tons, Dewey said, and tires made from the material are equal to all but the top-grade from natural rubber. Next year, a minimum of 30 million tires will have to be made and distributed for essential civilian driving, Dewey added.

#### CONGRESS BACK:

##### Studies Draft, Taxes

The question of deferring fathers and of raising an additional 12 billion dollars in taxes confronted congress when it resumed sessions.

Consideration of a proposal by Sen. Burton Wheeler to postpone induction of dads until January 1 loomed in the senate, while Rep. Andrew J. May declared he would offer a bill to not only prohibit drafting of fathers—but also setting a limit on the size of the army.

President Roosevelt's request for 12 billion dollars of new taxes to raise total receipts to 50 billions a year is expected to arouse bitter debate in congress over methods for obtaining the money. A sales tax, preferably on manufacturers, a spending tax over certain exemptions, and increased income and corporation taxes have been suggested as revenue sources.



Rep. Andrew May

## To Get Bigger, Better Crops, Farmers Should Toss Their Plows on Junkpile, Says Expert

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THOMAS GRAY, the famous English poet, has made immortal the plowman who "homeward plods his weary way" and for two centuries the plowman and his plow have been the theme of song and story, building up the idea that they are the benefactors of mankind. In fact, "Venerate the plow" was the motto engraved upon the medals offered by the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia early in the Nineteenth century to stimulate agricultural experimentation, and more than a dozen of our states have the plow as one of the symbols in their great seals.

In the face of this tradition it may come as a shock to most Americans to be told that instead of venerating the plow, we should look upon it as an enemy of agriculture and the tool that is responsible for "all of the erosion, the sour soils, the mounting floods, the lowering water table, the vanishing wild life, the compact and impervious soil surface" which have bedeviled the American farmer in recent years. Yet that is exactly what an agricultural expert tells us in a new book.

He is Edward H. Faulkner and his revolutionary idea is developed in the book "Plowman's Folly" published recently by the University of Oklahoma Press. And lest it be thought that he is only a theorist, a "visionary" and a "book farmer," let it be added immediately that he is the son of a successful farmer, that he was trained in agriculture at Williamsburg Baptist institute (now Cumberland college) and at the University of Kentucky, that he has been a county agent in Kentucky and Ohio, a Smith-Hughes teacher of agriculture and a soil and crop investigator in private employment. Moreover, he has carried on his experiments in garden plot and on a farm scale on land which he owns in Ohio and by his crop yields has translated theory into solid fact.

At the beginning of "Plowman's Folly," Mr. Faulkner says that his book "sets out to show that the moldboard plow which is in use on farms throughout the civilized world, is the least satisfactory implement for the preparation of land for the production of crops. This sounds like a paradox, perhaps, in view of the fact that for nearly a century there has been a science of agriculture, and that agricultural scientists almost to a man have used and approved the use of the moldboard plow. Nevertheless, the statement made above is true and capable of proof. Much of the proof, as a matter of fact, has come in left-handed manner from scientists themselves. The truth is that no one has ever advanced a scientific reason for plowing."

He then proceeds to examine all the reasons that are given for plowing and points out their inconsistencies and even absurdities. "Assuming plowed land to be better for plant growth, we should find grass growing more freely on plowed land than on similar unplowed land near by," he points out. "Weeds, too, should show preference for plowed land. Volunteer growth should take over and develop more rankly after land has been plowed than before. Is this so? Observation is that, until plowed land has subsided again to its former state of firmness, plants develop in it quite tardily, if at all. When dry weather follows the plowing, it may be weeks or even months before either natural vegetation or a planted crop will make normal growth. The fact is that 'bare' land, which notably erodes worse than soil in any other condition, consists almost wholly of land that has been disturbed recently by plow or cultivating implement. The only other bare land is that which has been denuded of top soil by erosion or other forces. There is significance in the fact that erosion and runoff are worse on bare land, and that bare land is defined above."

The effect which plowing has upon this top soil is the principal reason why the author of "Plowman's Folly" considers this instrument an enemy, rather than a benefactor of agriculture. In fact, the principal thesis of the book is that it is wrong to plow natural fertilizers deep into the soil and that this natural fertilizer—crop residue and green manure crops—should be incorporated into the top soil (which, as everybody

This pretty girl seems to be heeding the ancient injunction, "Venerate the plow," as she examines what has been preserved of one of the first three plows made by John Deere, the Yankee blacksmith who invented the first successful steel plow in 1837.



recognizes, is the really good soil) just as Mother Nature does it in a forest or a meadow.

##### Disk Harrow Better.

"We have developed some useless theories in that field," declares Mr. Faulkner. "Men have come to feel, for example, that centuries are necessary for the development of a productive soil. The satisfying truth is that man with a team or a tractor and a good disk harrow can mix into the soil, in a matter of hours, sufficient organic material to accomplish results equal to what is accomplished by nature in decades." In fact, it is the disk harrow, rather than the plow, which should be the farmer's principal instrument in producing more and better crops. Here is why:

The organic matter disked into the top of the soil not only decomposes and adds to the fertility of the soil, but acts as a sponge to hold moisture where it is needed. Faulkner believes there is a capillary movement of water upward from the subsoil. When the surface of the soil contains organic matter, this top layer not only holds water, but is able to receive it from below. Conversely, when the soil has been plowed, the loose layer at the surface loses its capillarity while the layer of green manure plowed under actually insulates the upper surface of soil from the subsoil.

This "blotter" is often the reason why a crop shows lack of moisture when there is moisture in the subsoil. The crop has used all the moisture in the loose layer of top soil but can get no more from below until the organic matter plowed under has become completely decomposed and packed.

Although the author of "Plowman's Folly" believes that the disk harrow is the farm tool which should more and more replace the plow, he admits that it does have its limitations. It is difficult to handle on side hills and it won't work so well on stony soil. Nor is it the complete answer to the question of how to get rid of weeds. He concedes that there is no such thing as completely weedless farming but he does believe that the system of farming which he advocates tends to get rid of weeds while the plow tends to encourage them. For every time land is plowed, seeds are buried for future sprouting. Then when it is plowed again some of the seeds are brought to the surface for growth, while more seeds are turned under to await their turn to sprout, and so on, ad infinitum.

Under Faulkner's plan of using the disk harrow rather than the plow, the weeds are mixed up into the top soil and their seeds are never very far below the surface. When such seed grows into a plant and the plant is cut, then there is no reservoir of seed far under the surface to take its place. Gradually a field may get rid of weeds entirely, if they are cut before they mature, although, of course, there will always be some weeds grown from seed that is blown or carried into the fields.

##### Not a New Idea.

But the problem of weed control is, after all, of lesser importance than the problem of preparing the soil so that it will be more productive. In advocating his plan, Faulkner does not claim that it is new. "No new technical discoveries are to be aired here," he says in his first chapter. "The discussion is concerned wholly with reducing to practical terms, employable in any body's backyard or on any farm,

the scientific information possessed for decades but hitherto not put to any extensive use."

Moreover, he does not just advocate a theory but he cites his own experience to prove that his theory is practicable. For example, there was the way he demonstrated its validity with the tomatoes which he transplanted, even though he shocked some of his neighbors with what they considered his "careless methods."

First he harrowed down a crop of rye that had grown three feet tall, mixing rye and soil until hardly a trace of vegetation remained. Then he marked the land off in rows, using an instrument he designed himself to pack the worked soil of the rows firmly. This was done to patch the soil back together so nature's capillary action—carried on by the plant root system—could keep on elevating moisture to the surface for his tomatoes. He cleaned all the dirt from the roots of his tomato plants and laid them along the rows on the surface. He covered the roots with rich soil and packed it down by foot.

By late afternoon every plant set in the forenoon was pointing toward the sky and "by the following morning every plant without exception was standing upright." No water was used in transplanting, and that was sufficient evidence that nature's own watering system was at work.

##### Prize Tomatoes.

Not only did the tomatoes live, but his neighbors who had been dubious of his "careless" methods had to admit that his was "the finest field of tomatoes in the neighborhood." There was further proof of the fact when he sold his tomatoes, for he received as much as 25 cents a peck above the top price in the Cleveland market. "One reason for this was the exceptional weight of my packed pecks," Mr. Faulkner explains. "Fifteen pounds is the standard weight of a peck of tomatoes. It was not unusual for a peck of my tomatoes to weigh 16 pounds and many weighed 17. Most local tomatoes that year weighed from 10 to 14 pounds to the peck."

What the author of "Plowman's Folly" did with tomatoes, he also did with sweet potatoes, cucumbers and beans. And lest it be thought that his methods apply only to "garden truck," let it be recorded that they apply also to field grain. Several years ago he began "nudging" the United States department of agriculture to experiment with his theory of "surface-incorporation." Finally one of the leading agronomists of the department set up a demonstration.

"Perhaps the intent was to disprove my theories," writes Mr. Faulkner. "On the contrary, the outcome of the tests completely confirmed them. . . . The results of this official experiment proved that, by working organic matter into the surface instead of plowing it in, the resulting grain yield could be as much as 50 per cent greater. The very first year of this trial showed such a result."

And these are only a few of the illuminating facts to be found in the 161 pages of "Plowman's Folly." But they all lend emphasis to its author's contention that "the sooner we make ancient history of many of our present farm practices, the earlier we will realize that the Garden of Eden, almost literally, lies under our feet almost anywhere on the earth we care to step. We have not begun to tap the actual potentialities of the soil for producing crops."



Washington, D. C.

#### ALLIED CO-OPERATION BETTER

Officials who have attended all the big strategy powwows—Washington, Casablanca, Washington again, and Quebec—declare that there is progressively better Allied co-operation, and a gradual disappearance of the friction which beset earlier conferences.

In the dark days just after Pearl Harbor, the British were plugging for an all-out war against Hitler, while the U. S. officers, outraged over Pearl Harbor, were out to scalp the Japs.

The decision to swing our weight with the British was made only after President Roosevelt had exercised his authority as commander-in-chief and overruled ambitious U. S. plans for the Pacific.

After that decision, there came disagreement about where to strike in the European theater. U. S. army staff officers argued in favor of a cross-channel operation, but Churchill and the British staff shrank from spilling blood against the steel-and-concrete shoreline of France and the Low Countries.

Instead, Churchill wanted the U. S. army sent to North Africa, to aid in the reconquest of the Mediterranean. Again, Roosevelt supported Churchill against his own military chiefs, but not until after strong debate in the inner councils.

Another issue was the question of aid to Russia and Britain, which U. S. army and navy officers wanted to cut down from the Roosevelt-Hopkins-Churchill estimates. The Russian cause was upheld against all comers by Harry Hopkins, and Maj. Gen. James H. Burns, executive of the munitions assignment board. Burns' favorite remark is, "Those Russians are killing more Germans than anybody else, and they ought to have the equipment to keep up the good work."

The major decisions that have come from all the controversies have now borne favorable fruit. The Mediterranean is cleared, U. S. forces have been tested under fire, landing operations have had full dress rehearsals for the bigger job of crossing the channel, and the Russians are "keeping up the good work."

So when the British and Americans get together now, there is much more warmth than at one time. There still are some friendly differences as there must be when strong men sit down together, and it is reported that U. S. military leaders still chafe at lack of action across the channel. But on the whole, success is making the road easier.

#### MILK SHORTAGE

Most serious food problem facing the civilian population at the moment is the threatened shortage of milk.

White House farm advisers warn that we will have a very real and acute milk famine on our hands unless the War Food administration and the Office of Price Administration act quickly to adjust the price of feed grain for dairy cattle.

Due to higher feed costs, dairy farmers, especially in the East, are unable to sell their milk under OPA price ceilings and stay in business. Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania and other Eastern states, hard hit by the drought, have been losing as much as \$35 per cow because of lack of pasture. As winter draws on, the pasture problem, plus higher feed costs, will vitally affect milk production all over the country.

So far the War Food administration, under its new chief, Marvin Jones, has done nothing to meet this pressing problem. But unless he does the President will be urged to take matters in his own hands and arrange for feed price subsidies through legislative action. Failing that, he can, by an executive order, provide feed funds from the Commodity Credit corporation.

#### CAPITAL CHAFF

Adm. Ernest J. King, commander-in-chief of the U. S. fleet, has two residences in Washington—a spacious home at Observatory Circle, and the yacht Dauntless anchored at the Navy yard. The admiral lives on the yacht, and his family lives at the Circle.

After the Ramirez revolt, the Nazis closed down their short-wave efforts to Argentina. But now that Ramirez has proved to be so friendly, the broadcasts have been resumed in full force.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek was very sick on her homeward airplane trip, by way of Africa and India. The pilot said, "The weather was rough as the devil and she was in a pretty bad way. She didn't say a word the entire trip."