

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1944

No. 51

Vol. LXIX

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Congress Debates Labor Draft Issue; Red Army Forges Deeper Into Poland; FDR Asks 100 Billion Wartime Budget; House Group Studies Prohibition Bill

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.



Italy—Torrential rains have turned Italian battlefield into goo, slowing Allied drive. (See: Europe.)

WAR BUDGET: 100 Billion Asked

Assuming that fighting will continue throughout the fiscal year ending in June, 1945, President Roosevelt asked congress for an appropriation of \$100,000,000,000 to cover the period.

At the same time, the President asked congress to prepare for demobilization by (1) planning public works; (2) providing mustering-out pay to servicemen; (3) expansion of the social security program to tide over the labor force during the reconversion period, and (4) study ways of boosting foreign trade.

Declaring that war spending since 1940 will have swelled to \$397,000,000 by 1945, the President forecast a national debt of \$258,000,000,000 by next year. Such a debt, the President said, would require annual interest charges of \$5,000,000,000, which could best be paid with a national income of \$125,000,000,000 annually, far over the pre-war level.

To help whittle the debt, the President urged a minimum of \$10,000,000,000 in new taxes this year, coupled with present collections of \$40,000,000,000.

Ask Labor Draft

No sooner had President Roosevelt's message to congress calling for a labor draft been read, than Sen. Warren Austin (Vt.) and Rep. James Wadsworth (N. Y.) introduced legislation making all men between 18 and 65 and all women between 18 to 50 subject to compulsory service.

As congress moved toward consideration of the controversial labor draft issue, the senate went toward approval of most of its new \$2,000,000,000 tax bill, far below the administration's demand for \$10,000,000,000 of new revenue. The senate also voted to keep the present social security tax rate at 1 per cent each for employer and employee, instead of doubling the rates as automatically provided by the original law.

In introducing his labor draft bill which would enable the government to place people in employment, Senator Austin said approximately 6,000,000 4-F's, all men over 38, and an estimated 21,000,000 women would form a huge workers pool which could be channeled where needed into industry.

EUROPE: Biggest Loss

Fighting through swarms of Nazi fighter planes which pressed home their attacks in close ranks, and running into new rocket anti-aircraft fire that threw up shells "as big as a house," 700 U. S. Liberators and Flying Fortresses protected by almost 500 light combat escorts smashed hard at German airplane factories in southwestern Germany.

As the big U. S. aerial fleet fired the machine shops and assembly plants with a record loss of 64 planes, other Allied bombers struck at the big Greek port of Piraeus outside of Athens, supply center for German strongpoints in the Aegean sea, guarding the near eastern water route to the Balkans.

Although heavy weather turned the ground into goo, U. S. doughboys beat down Nazi mountain posts in southern Italy in their advance on Cassino, key to the 70-mile road to Rome. In bearing down on Cassino, doughboys were overrunning hill positions to the north, west and south, giving them a commanding view of the town which lies in a plain astride the prized highway.

CIVILIAN GOODS: Hold Back Steel

Hold Back Steel

Although curtailment of orders has resulted in a reduction of steel operations, the War Production board refused to lift its ban on use of the metal in 646 civilian items, except in special instances to improve substitutes.

WPB's decision, it was said, was based on:

1. The army and navy's position that limitations on the use of materials should not be removed until war needs are clear;
2. WPB's conclusion that expanded civilian production would result in shortages of coal, petroleum, lumber for crating, packaging paper and transportation, all of which are not sufficient to even meet war requirements.

Because of a typographical error by the OPA, Monett, Mo.—population 4,099—became the corn capital of the U. S. A. While the corn top was set at \$1.16 for Chicago, it stood at \$1.19 1/2 in Monett, so the latter town had no difficulty getting 25 carloads of the grain, or 2,000,000 bushels.

HIGHWAYS: Urges U. S. Network

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Construction and improvement of 34,000 miles of roads which would provide employment for 2,000,000 workers, was recommended to congress by President Roosevelt after more than two years of study by a national interregional highway committee.

To cost about \$750,000,000 annually over a period of years, the plan embraces creation of a system of country and urban roads that would connect every part of the nation.

In general, the new system would follow routes of existing federal aid highways, with costs shared equally by local, state and U. S. government agencies. Quick congressional action was asked to help acquire land, draft detailed plans and accomplish other preliminary work.

FATS AND OILS: Output Larger

Output Larger

Keeping up with increased demands, fats and oils output in the U. S. for 1943-'44 will approximate 11,200,000 pounds to top last year's production of 10,600,000 pounds.

Despite an easing of the supply situation for the current year, it was pointed out that stocks might be severely drained to fill needs abroad in case of an Allied victory in Europe in 1944.

Soybean production for the 1943 season was set at 187,000,000 bushels, for peanuts 2,500,000 pounds, and for cottonseed 5,500,000 tons.

Because of decreases in lard and grease output, overall fat and oils production for the 1944-'45 season should drop below this year's figures.

STRANGE LETTER: Hopkins Involved

Hopkins Involved

While Harry Hopkins was recuperating in the Bethesda naval hospital, C. Nelson Sparks appeared before a Washington, D. C., grand jury and turned over a letter which he alleged proved that the President's No. 1 advisor was in close contact with Wendell Willkie, G. O. P. leader.

Former mayor of Akron, Ohio, when Willkie was a utility lawyer there, and manager of Frank Gannett's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination in 1940, Sparks first published the letter in a book, in which he assailed Willkie's methods in the G. O. P. national convention.

In the alleged letter, Hopkins was to have written to a prospective Democratic senatorial candidate in Texas, promising that he could get Willkie to swing Republican support over to him in the primary election. Claiming the letter was a forgery, Hopkins asked the FBI to investigate the matter.

NAZI PRISONERS: Suicides Reported

Suicides Reported

In the Nazi war prison compound at Concordia, Kan., four stern-faced German officers escorted one Capt. Felix Tropschuh to a room with a bed, a chair, a table and a rope. While two of them stood outside for 30 minutes, Tropschuh hanged himself. Investigation revealed that the prisoners had set up their own court to try Tropschuh for anti-Hitler talk and exposing a plot for escape, and, having found him guilty of disgraceful conduct for a German officer, left him with the traditional Prussian alternative of killing himself.

Another Nazi suicide at the camp was 39-year-old Franz Kettner, who was his own life when he feared violence because of the discovery of his belief in a free Austria.



George MacDonald, who just sold the Roney-Plaza Hotel, says he read it here, but we don't recall it. The difference between Palm Beach and Miami Beach—is the difference between the social register and the cash register.

At the Newspaper Guild Canteen a hostess was dancing with a Coast Guardsman. When the music stopped, he pulled out routine 77B and said: "Now let's sit down and talk about you." They sat and he put an arm around her.

"I get it," she said, "I see you talk with your hands." "Honey," he grinned, "I'm only whispering now."

Mrs. Albert Einstein visited the astronomical observatory atop Mt. Wilson and asked about the giant telescope. "We use it," she was told, "to discover the shape of the universe."

"My husband," said the famed scientist's wife, "does the same thing on the back of an envelope."

A Major told this one to the cadets at Yale the other day. He said General Giraud and Lt. Gen. Clark were discussing the best possible places for setting up staff headquarters in combat zones. . . . The youthful Clark recommended a certain distance from the firing lines, but the older Giraud shook his head and said: "Too far back. I like to be right up there on the line."

"But, sir," said Clark, "you were captured twice."

Shortly after the Sullivan parents of Waterloo (Iowa) learned of the loss of their five sons aboard the cruiser "Juneau," they visited Washington, where they volunteered to do anything to complete the job their boys had started. A tour of defense plants was arranged.

"Mom" Sullivan (after a lifetime in Waterloo) suddenly found herself a lady of leisure. There was plenty to keep her busy (with ten and twelve defense plants scheduled), yet she missed the little tasks of cleaning the house, getting breakfast, etc.

One morning when the Navy Lieutenant (who accompanied them) called at her hotel room in Chicago he found Mom making the beds. She confessed she had been tipping chambermaids (throughout the country) for permitting her to make the beds herself. "I just wanted to keep my hand in," she said.

My favorite gag dealt with funny man Tait (Tait's motoring act) who dreaded coming to the U. S. from London where he was always a riot. Martin Beck persuaded Tait to come here—assuring him he'd click. To get Tait used to American audiences they booked him first at Yonkers, N. Y., where he laid a frightful omelet at his first appearance.

Next afternoon (sauntering along the main street there) Tait paused at a fish store window. As he studied a huge dead mackerel, with eyes staring blankly and mouth wide open, Tait exclaimed: "Eeven's above! That reminds me! Hi 'ave a matinee!"

Will Rogers in 1927: The best way to describe Russia is, Russian men wear their shirts hanging outside their pants. Well, any nation that don't know enough to stick their shirt-tail in will never get anywhere. I am the only person that ever wrote on Russia that admits he don't know a thing about it. On the other hand, I know as much about Russia as anybody that ever wrote about it.

Raymond Paige relays it via a pal in London. It's about the Air Corps officer assigned to a desk job. He objected to fliers getting extra pay for flying time. "Why should you get more?" he barked at a Texas pilot. "We're all in this war together!"

"I know," drawled the Texan, "but who ever heard of two desks crashing head-on?"

Variety, discussing the chilly reception given actors in Pittsburgh, recalls when Katharine Cornell appeared there in "Three Sisters." Some in the audience complained that they couldn't hear much of the dialog. Told this (between acts) by the stage manager, Miss Cornell retorted: "Tell the audience we can't hear them either!"

Much the same thing happened recently when "Blithe Spirit" played there. Night before it opened, some of the troupe put on a show for wounded soldiers at an army hospital. After the premiere, Clifton Webb wired his agent: "Last night we played to the wounded; tonight we played to the dead!"

Powerful Allies Aid Farmer in Battle Against Bugs, Infection and Erosion

Experiment Stations, County Agents Fight Crop Destroyers.

How the farmer fares in his never-ending battle against insect pests, weather, disease, erosion and the thousand and one other hazards farm life is heir to, will largely determine how well he succeeds in meeting Uncle Sam's ever-increasing call for more production of foods, dairy products, fibers and fats.

Luckily, the farmer has his own army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, and air force to battle and vanquish his enemies. Who comprise these armed forces? The agricultural experiment stations and the extension services of his state land grant colleges.

The way these services help the farmer to combat any production troubles old or new that come his way, is described by M. N. Beeler, in the current issue of Capper's Farmer.

"The trouble which meets a man at any dawn or in the dead of night may be as old as Bang's disease (brought to America by Cortez in 1521) or Hessian fly (introduced into the colonies by German hirelings during the Revolution)," writes Mr. Beeler. "It may be as new as late potato blight in the Red river valley, or the attack of European corn borer in Illinois. Trouble may be as persistent as bindweed, smut, codling moth or boll weevil, as complicated as malnutrition originating in

and nutritional troubles of crops, plants and foods are legion.

How the army of scientists from the land grant colleges has fought and won battles for the farmer against these and other adversaries forms a fascinating tale.

Make Seed Germinate.

When Iowa farmers reported sweet clover seed didn't germinate properly, the state agricultural experiment station discovered the cause was hard seed and made a scarifier that corrected the trouble. That was 30 years ago and was the forerunner of many more modern devices and methods, the most recent of which is a process by the Fort Hays, Kan., station for "waking" buffalo grass seed.

Then there was that matter of "Laryngot rachetis" down in New Jersey. Sounds professorish, doesn't it? But it has an earthy connotation to any poultryman who has lost 20 to 60 per cent of his flock. The New Jersey station found an inoculation that protects the birds from this disease.

A shortage of spraying machinery threatened the crop of certain Pennsylvania potato growers in 1942. The state college extension service met that threat by organizing 50 spray rings to serve 1,500 farms and protect 10,000 acres. An average of 30 farmers used each machine. Increased production was estimated at 1,376,000 bushels.

So the story goes. One of the troubles that plagues farmers on the plains is "poisoning" of cattle by wheat pasture. The Oklahoma station investigated and recommended a remedy which included feeding a little dry roughage. The Kansas college not only discovered a success-



GRASSHOPPERS and locusts are among the worst scourges in many farming regions.

1888 the investigation in cooperation with Texas which made control of Texas fever tick possible. A mysterious livestock disease, observed by Marco Polo in China more than 600 years ago, which afflicted army horses at Fort Randall, Neb., was explained only in 1931. The trouble is caused by feed grown on soil containing selenium. The South Dakota station has announced control and remedies.

The list of achievements is almost endless. Substitutes for pyrethrum have been produced by the Delaware station. Beginning in 1900 the West Virginia station worked out the fly-free date for controlling Hessian fly. Tennessee discovered and introduced cryolite to replace scarce arsenicals as an insecticide. Montana instituted the feeding of iodized salt during pregnancy to prevent goiter losses of new-born pigs, lambs, calves and colts. Nebraska checked the potency of commercial serums offered in control of swine erysipelas, with resultant standardization of effective protection.

By breeding a wilt-resistant cotton strain, the Alabama station saved the cotton-growing industry of the southern part of the state. Purdue experiment station in Indiana has produced a new Hessian-fly resistant wheat. New York has announced a new organic spray which kills late fruit blooms, materially reduces the hand labor of thinning, and induces annual bearing in varieties which normally produce fruit every other year.

Develop Borer-Resistant Corn. The Ohio station has demonstrated that milk fever can be greatly reduced by feeding four ounces of irradiated yeast daily to cows for four weeks before and one week after freshening. Another Ohio station project was the development of borer-resistant corn hybrids.

Experiments at Pennsylvania and elsewhere disclose that fowl paralysis, which caused a \$43,000,000 loss in 10 poultry states one year, can be controlled by selective breeding and culling.

But lest any farmer get the notion that the scientific research job has been completed and that he can get along without it, Mr. Beeler suggests that he remember just one menace—wheat rust.

"Ceres was a stem rust resistant variety distributed by North Dakota in 1926," he points out. "By 1933 it occupied 5,000,000 acres. But certain physiologic races of rust increased and laid it low. Then the Minnesota station brought out Thatcher in 1934. It spread to 14,500,000 acres in the United States and Canada by 1940. Now Thatcher is on the way out, because of susceptibility to leaf rust. But the Minnesota station announces New-hatch, outyielding Thatcher by 38 per cent for three years, to be released in 1944."

EROSION, though slow and unspectacular, lowers land productivity tremendously. This Kansas field, too steep to terrace, was planted with corn in 1942. There was no protective covering sown on it. Wind and rain scraped another layer off the already thin topsoil in the spring of 1943. Land like this should be in pasture.

poor soil, as evident as a grasshopper scourge, as mysterious as baby pig disease, as commonplace as labor shortage, as rare as foot and mouth disease, as little as ants in the kitchen, as big as a complete management and production program.

Assistance Is at Hand. But whatever the difficulty, help in most cases is no farther away than the county extension agent, or the land grant college, Mr. Beeler points out. Potentialities for trouble can be appreciated when such an every-day animal as the hog is subject to more than 60 afflictions. Poultry may succumb to any one or a combination of 89. The Indiana experiment station lists 18 common enemies of corn within that state in the category of diseases. And an Ohio report credits these same diseases with a 19,000,000-bushel yield reduction in a single year. This damage is in addition to losses from borers, chinch bugs, ear worms, grasshoppers, aphids, root lice and a host of other insects.

Control Fever Tick.

Colorado potato growers were faced with an infestation of bacterial ring in 1938. The station found a remedy. Cattle fever tick had prevented development of cattle raising in Louisiana up to 1936. Extension workers and animal husbandry researchers led the fight to stamp it out. Missouri had inaugurated in



CHINCH BUGS ruin millions of bushels of corn every year, as do cutworms, army worms, and other pests, many of which are difficult to control.