

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### House Votes \$300 Discharge Bonus; U. S. Bombers Rip Nazi Supply Lines; Red Army Continues Push on Baltic; Peace Rumors Spiked by British Press

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.

### DISCHARGE PAY:

#### House Votes \$300

Arguing that higher payments would represent a soldier's bonus which should be left for later discussion, the house passed a bill providing for mustering-out pay of \$300 to discharged vets with 60 days' service and \$100 to those released before 60 days.

With 15,000,000 vets including those already discharged standing to benefit from the measure, total cost of payments was estimated at 3 1/2 billion dollars.

After passage by the house, the bill was sent for approval to the senate, which previously enacted legislation providing for maximum payments ranging from \$500 to vets overseas for 18 months or more, to \$200 to those with less than 12 months' service in the U. S. Unless the senate okayed the house bill, parliamentary procedure required the two chambers to get together to work out new legislation.

### EUROPE:

#### Pound Supply Lines

U. S. bombers ripped rail lines supplying German troops in southern Italy as American and British forces pressed against the Nazis' winter-line centered on Cassino, key to the road to Rome.

With two of three main rail lines temporarily put out of use, the enemy was forced to route supplies over bomb-pocked highways, some of which were snarled by the wreckage of bridges.

As U. S. artillery laid down a curtain of thunderous fire over German defense emplacements before Cassino preparatory to the infantry's charge forward, British units to the west engaged Nazi troops along the Garigliano river.

Along the Adriatic coast to the east, Canadian forces were held to short gains in hard, close-in fighting.

### U. S. HEMP:

#### Cut Production

Because of the improvement in imports from the Caribbean and Mediterranean areas, the government's hemp-growing program in the Middle West will be cut to one-third of 1943 production, and only 14 of 42 processing plants will be kept in operation.

Raised on contract to the government, farmers found hemp profitable last year, their net yield per acre being larger than from any other crop in the nation, in some cases reaching \$200, it was said.

In seeking to relieve a threatened hemp shortage after the outbreak of war, the government undertook construction of processing plants in 42 communities, and arranged for farmers to grow 4,000 acres of the fiber in each of the districts. The plants were erected at an estimated cost of \$100,000 each.

### LABOR DRAFT:

#### Pro and Con

While Secretary of War Henry Stimson told a senate committee that a labor draft would equalize soldier and civilian sacrifices, the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, headed by William Green, said that the organization would never surrender the basic freedom of the country's workers.

Likening a labor draft as a shot in the arm for the nation's patriotism, Stimson said the first flush of enterprise excited by the Pearl Harbor attack has worn off, and now "the stern voice of law" is needed to "keep up the patriotic emotion." Declaring that in freedom there is strength, the AFL council asserted that the "amazing speed with which free American workers have won the battle of war production against the enemy within two years upholds the truth of that principle." Chance for passage of the labor draft dwindled with the house's pigeon-holing of the measure.



New Britain—Marines wade through swampland on New Britain front. (See: Pacific Front.)

### PACIFIC FRONT: MacArthur to Stay

U. S. medium and heavy bombers ranged widely over the Pacific, blasting Jap bases supplying hard pressed enemy troops, and hitting installations and airfields in the strategic Marshall islands.

As U. S. armies were pinning the foe back in the South Pacific area, Secretary of War Henry Stimson announced in Washington, D. C., that General MacArthur would not be retired when he reached the age of 64 on January 29. Retired at his own request in 1937, MacArthur was recalled to active duty following the outbreak of World War II.

In New Guinea, U. S. bombers smashed at the Jap base of Wewak, above American positions at Saidor; and in New Britain, explosives were dropped on the big feeder center of Rabaul, and on barges carrying supplies along the coasts.

### RUSSIA:

#### Baltic Push

Preceded by a thunderous barrage of heavy artillery, Russ infantry pushed into German lines below Leningrad, and cut the enemy's rail communications farther to the south, 70 miles from the Latvian border.

The Reds were reported to have thrown 250,000 men into the battle on a 250 mile front, and units of Russia's Baltic fleet stationed near Leningrad were said to have participated in the bombardment of German positions prior to the big push.

Stiffening German resistance slowed the Reds' progress on other fronts, with the Nazis reporting continuance of Russ efforts to break through in the prewar Polish area of White Russia.

### Peace Rumors

With the Allied world still wondering over Russia's semi-official publication of a rumor that two former British statesmen had discussed a separate peace with German Foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop, Stalin permitted reproduction of a London newspaper's story that Britain had received specific peace terms from Hitler under which the Nazis would withdraw to their 1939 prewar boundaries.

Although Britain remained indignant over the Reds' implication that she was double-dealing, and the U. S. continued puzzled over why Stalin should have allowed publication of the rumor, Russia's man in the street was led to suspect British intentions.

### AIRPLANE PROGRAM:

#### Bigger Types

No. 1 industry of the U. S. today, aircraft plants will set their sights on production of more than 100,000 planes of heavier weight in 1944. More than 50 per cent of production will be of combat-type planes, with a decrease in output of trainer and obsolete craft. Facilities now being used to turn out the latter two types will be converted to manufacturing parts for other models. The swing toward heavier planes marks a trend toward production of craft carrying bigger guns and bomb loads. Total weight of planes is expected to approximate 1 billion pounds, compared with 750 million pounds in 1943.

### AGRICULTURE:

#### Hog Permits

With thousands of hogs remaining unsold after marketings, a permit system for shipments was imposed at the Chicago stockyards. Under the procedure, commission firms were allotted weekly quotas based on a percentage of the total volume they handled during the first 11 months of 1943, and farmers were to be advised when to sell.

Through the permit system already in operation in other centers, it is hoped to limit shipments to packers' capacities, cut feed bills, and reduce shrinkage, bruises and death losses.

#### Drouth

Producer of winter wheat, the great plains area of the Midwest has been suffering from an unheard of seasonal drouth.

Centered in Nebraska, the drouth has extended to the Rocky Mountain and western states, where the storage of snowfall for spring and summer irrigation is much less promising than at this time last year.

Good rains in the late winter and early spring could largely offset the effects of the drouth.

### STRONG U. S. A.:

#### After War

"... Proposing... a realistic point of view, that the tendency to war is inevitable, just as the human tendency to disease is inevitable," War Production Board Vice Chairman Charles E. Wilson called on government and industry to cooperate in promoting a strong armament program after the present conflict.

Said Wilson: "I am convinced that we must begin now to set the machinery in motion, while it is still possible for us to measure the cost of any other course."

Wilson suggested (1) the program should be the government's responsibility; (2) congress must support it; (3) industry's role should be to cooperate; (4) some government-owned plants should be held in reserve, with equipment kept to date.

### Outwits Hoodlums



When four 17-year-old hoodlums attempted to rob Seaman Fred Stark of Saginaw, Mich., of his money, he talked them into handing over their gun and letting him join the gang in holding up a tavern. But after they had entered the tavern, Seaman Stark held the hoodlums at bay with the pistol and ordered the bartender to call police to arrest the gang.

### MILK SALES:

#### Bottles or Containers

Chicago's big battle to determine whether milk shall be sold in paper containers as well as glass bottles still has not gotten out of the courts, even though the state Supreme court ruled that paper containers could not be used under the wording of the city's disputed ordinance governing distribution of the product.

At present, Chicago dairies will continue to package the milk in paper containers pending filing of a motion for a state Supreme court rehearing of the case. Since the courts have declared no interest in the sanitary aspects of the question of bottling, but have merely confined themselves to the wording of the city ordinance, a rewriting of the law would permit legal use of paper containers.

### BURMA:

#### Allies Attack

With U. S. bombers blasting a path, American trained Chinese troops under Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell gained ground in mountainous western Burma, while farther to the south units of the British Fourteenth army fought Jap counter-attacks to stall their own offensive.

The Chinese were fighting to clear the way for engineers constructing a new supply route to China, since Jap conquest had closed off the Burma road. To hamper enemy operations, U. S. bombers dropped 20 tons of explosives on a Jap troop encampment in the rear of the battle-front.



They tell you that long before he was elevated to the position he now occupies, Jim Byrnes was always successful in getting FDR to read his memos to the White House. Because his notes were never longer than four lines. Byrnes learned his lesson the first time—when he submitted a windy report to the President.

"Did you read it?" he inquired. "Read it?" said FDR, "I couldn't even lift it!"

Lieut. Comd'r Jack Dempsey was reminiscing. He told about Mike Trent, a long-time admiral who was in his group when he was training for his fight with Comd'r Gene Tunney. Mike was sent over to scout the Tunney training camp to bring Dempsey information of value—on Tunney's style and hitting power. Mike returned breathless. "It's a set-up," he reported. "I see him readin' a book!"

The Stork Club's host, S. Billingsley, is also renowned for sending gifts to customers and others. The gifts usually are rainbow-hued cravats. One recipient replied: "Many, many thanks for your thoughtfulness. It's the first time, and what a relief, that the Stork ever brought me ties!—Eddie Cantor."

In Scribner's rare book dept., says the Sat. Review of Literature, a well-groomed customer asked Nick Wredin: "How is this volume bound?"

"Genuine calf," he said. "How was that again?" "Calf—genuine calf!" "What did you say?" Nick threw back his head, closed his eyes and roared: "Moo!"

The Sunday N. Y. Times radio section reports the reaction of listeners to WJZ's new transmitter of 50,000 watts... One New Hampshire listener is quoted: "It's been our pet gripe (in our neck of the woods) that WJZ had such excellent programs, yet was the only major station that simply could not be heard with any degree of ease. Why, Sunday evening we could even hear Wipchell's tonsils quiver."

New York Novelle: This is one of those stories that sweep the town now and then, and everybody always knows the woman it is supposed to have happened to. But when you ask them to name names they say they mustn't. Because they cannot... Anyhow, a woman was talking to a friend on the phone, explaining she couldn't meet her because of a cold, etc... A strange third voice broke in and said: "Madam, I am a doctor. I suggest you try this prescription for your throat." Whereupon he offered it... She asked his name... He replied: "You will never know that!" And got off the line... So a few nights later at a party she was amazed to hear a man at the table relate the incident... He was the doctor!... The woman said nothing... She got his phone number from the hostess... Next day she called him saying she was the lady with the cold. She thanked him for the prescription... "Who are you?" he asked... "You'll never know," she cooed, hanging up.

Will Mahoney, star American vaudeville headliner (in Australia and England many years), has become a British subject... J. Durante's pals call him "Sweet-nose"... A leading male hairdresser threw a Christmas paddy for his swishy friends. They had a Pink tree!... Alan Gale's thumbnail description of Vice-Pres. Wallace: "He takes his job seriously instead of himself"... Reader's Digest credits the "One of our cities is missing" gag (made famous by the wire services) to a contributor. It credits "Thumbnose Sketch"—"Watch your hat, coat and girl friend" and "Feud administrator" to everybody except this column, where they were born.

Quotation Marksmanship: A. A. Milne: There was a full length novel in her sight... M. Buchanan: The ash-can of her past... H. Smith: No one should be conceited. Talented people do not need it, the untalented do not deserve it... H. P. Estabrook: Some people's voices are hard to distinguish over the phone... Joan Eden: If success doesn't give you a big head, it gives you big headaches... H. Balson: Nice people always have trouble finding people to be nice to them... H. Horner: She didn't catch a husband, she trapped one... Rose Macaulay: A book to kill time for those who like it better dead... Ambrose Bierce: Positive is being mistaken at the top of one's voice.

## After Peace Comes, What? Committee for Economic Development Seeks Ways to Maintain Employment

### Survey of Community's Postwar Business Prospects Is Urged

By ELLIOTT PINE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Within a year, and perhaps much sooner, the war in Europe will end, according to most experts, both political and military. Immediately the problems of reconverting wartime America to peacetime production will begin. Factories that have been running day and night will slow down and perhaps close. Many thousands of men will be released from the armed forces. Labor shortages will disappear, and before long, the specter of unemployment will be back.

It was to try to devise ways for the orderly return to peacetime production, and to try to avoid the mass unemployment that usually follows war, that the Committee for Economic Development was organized, a little more than a year ago. This committee is a group of the nation's foremost business executives, bankers, economists, and other technical experts. Chairman is Paul G. Hoffman, president of the Studebaker corporation. The vice chairman is the vice president of the University of Chicago. Presidents of several nationally known corporations serve on the committee.

The committee is not connected with the federal government in any way, although its office is in Washington, D. C. Its activities are split into two major branches: Research division, and Field Development division. The research division has the task of investigating all policies of business, labor and government that retard expanding employment and production. After finding out what and where the trouble is, the research division presents recommendations for suitable changes.

The field development division "has the responsibility of stimulating and helping individual enterprises to plan now for high levels of productive employment and profitable distribution in the postwar period."

There are 12 regional chairmen, 1 for each Federal Reserve district, who supervise the field development division's work in their sections. Under the regional chairmen are state chairmen, who in turn appoint chairmen of county committees. Finally, the county committees supervise the survey work of the community committees.

#### How Albert Lea, Minn., Does It

A typical survey by a community committee is one conducted in Albert Lea, a city of 12,200 in Freeborn county, Minnesota. Freeborn county is on the southern edge of the state, adjoining Iowa, so the trading radius of Albert Lea includes part of three northern Iowa counties. Nearly 50,000 people in the agricultural region about the municipality trade at Albert Lea's stores.

There are 11 major industries in Albert Lea, and 442 businesses classed as secondary employers. There is a stove factory, a gas machine factory, a creamery, a meat packing plant, a food products maker, and several specialty products manufacturers in the city. The electric power company is located there. Being a county seat, there is considerable legal and clerical activity.

Keeping all these matters in mind, the local economic development committee began its survey of postwar business and employment possibilities. Its first step was to set up two questions, the answers to which were to be the solution of its problem. Beginning with the premise that "Somehow there would be a job paying a living wage for every worker who wanted one after the war."

First thing, said the committee, is to find out how many workers would want jobs, and how many jobs business thought it could provide after the war. It took the number employed in 1940 as a base, this being the last full year before the country entered the war. Then it added the number unemployed and seeking work in that year. These figures were:

Employed in 1940.....4,266  
Unemployed in 1940..... 721  
Total prewar labor force.....4,987

Then the committee obtained the employment figures for 1943, recognizing that they were abnormally high, with many women and high-school students working who ordinarily would not be in industry. Some people had moved into town too, who were not expected to stay



HAPPY STEEL WORKERS, lined up before the pay windows of a huge Pittsburgh plant now operating at capacity, are representative of the millions of factory people now earning good wages. But how many will be working when the war orders end?

after the war boom. The figures settled upon were:

Employed in 1943.....5,655  
Unemployed in 1943..... 200  
Wartime labor force.....5,855

The next step was more difficult. It was to try to estimate how many persons would want work after the war, when the servicemen had hoped to buy were:

New automobiles:	1,128 cars at \$1,883 average cost—\$2,121,264
City residents	1,160 cars at \$70 " " — 81,200
Farmers	1,160 cars at \$70 " " — 81,200
New housing:	
City houses	642 at 4,968 " " — 3,191,616
Farm houses	150 at 2,150 " " — 322,500
Repairs to housing:	
City houses	714 at \$14 " " — 10,000
Farm houses	540 at \$90 " " — 48,600
Farm barns	360 at 1,473 " " — 530,280
Farm silos	360 at \$39 " " — 14,040
Other farm purchases:	
Tractors	780 at \$28 " " — 21,840
Pre-fabricated small buildings	810 at \$64 " " — 51,840
Electrical installations	810 at \$25 " " — 20,250
Other city purchases:	
Refrigerators	646 at \$63 " " — 40,698
Furniture	378 at \$39 " " — 14,742
Vacation travel	986 at \$176 " " — 173,236

turned, and other changes had come about. A survey among employers gave these figures:

Returning from armed forces.....1,813  
Returning from farms..... 125  
Returning from other regions..... 250  
Growth and maturity of population (1943-46)..... 428  
Total.....2,616

This total was then added to the wartime labor force:

Wartime labor force (1943).....5,655  
Number returning after war.....2,616  
Total.....8,271

Subtracted from this, however, was a sizable group who would not be in the labor market after the war. These were:

Returning to farms.....125  
Returning to other regions..... 50  
Not seeking postwar jobs..... 734  
Total.....909

Taking this number from the 8,270 previous total left 6,561, which the committee called the net postwar labor force. In other words, between six and seven thousand people would be expected to find steady work in Albert Lea after the war. Obviously, the next move was to find out how many jobs the city's employers could provide. When returns came in from every employer, from smallest shop to largest factory, the results were:

Postwar labor force (as before).....6,561  
Number that can be employed after war, as estimated.....5,968

Albert Lea's unemployed in, say, 1946, on this basis..... 593

So, about 600 people would be out of work, or nearly 10 per cent.

Local Business Prospects.

The committee then turned to finding out whether business activity could not be stimulated a bit. Every business man answered a confidential questionnaire. Tabulated responses gave this salient information:

The 11 big industries gave this reply, as summarized:  
Volume of business done in 1933 (gross sales).....\$ 9,040,000  
Volume of business done in 1940.....22,785,000  
Volume of business done in 1943.....\$1,643,000  
Volume of business you expect to do in the first postwar year..... 65,000,000

Then the 442 secondary businesses were told that these 11 major industries expected to employ about 60 per cent more workers in the postwar period than in 1940, and 1 per cent more than in 1943, the peak year to date. With this in mind, the secondary business men guessed that their volume of sales would run about 15 per cent higher, in the years immediately following the war, than in 1943.

was being conducted among a selected cross-section of the city's population to find out their buying intentions, after normal conditions returned. A similar survey was made by mail among the farmers of Freeborn county, asking them what goods they expected to buy for their farms as well as for their homes and families. Some of the things that people hoped to buy were:

Another question put was, "How do you intend to pay for these purchases?" City people with incomes between \$1,770 and \$3,000 replied that they would pay in this manner:

From current income.....38.2%  
Borrowings..... 61.2%  
War bonds..... 2.9%  
No report..... 11.7%

Farm families with incomes ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year expected to pay for things thus:

Current income.....64%  
Borrowings..... 4%  
War bonds..... 32%

In general, people with large incomes proposed to buy with cash rather than to borrow, as people of smaller means planned to do.

#### How Much Farm Income?

The Albert Lea committee realized fully how dependent the city was on the prosperity of the surrounding farmers. A sub-committee was working on farm income prospects while the other investigations were going on. Total income for Freeborn county was set down as follows:

Farm income, 1939.....\$ 7,318,900  
Farm income, 1943..... 25,164,000  
Farm income, first postwar year..... 19,658,000

The postwar figure was established after analyzing the possibilities of changes in crops and livestock. Aside from maintaining hemp raising, and an increase in soybeans and some vegetable crops, the committee did not anticipate any important changes. The members did recommend establishing a soybean processing plant and a cannery.

To find out how much the city and county construction projects could be depended upon to provide employment, a survey of public works programs was made. When this sub-committee reported, it was shown that some \$15,000 worth of work had to be deferred because of war, representing about 14,000 man-hours. New projects might amount to \$300,000 of expenditures. The committee did not consider the possibility of state and federal projects. It was the committee's conclusion that little reliance could be placed on public works as a means of relieving unemployment.

After weighing all the information gleaned by the sub-committees, the general committee of Albert Lea had a sound starting point for its postwar employment plans.

Albert Lea is only one city, but it is representative of thousands of communities in the United States. Its problems are the nation's problems. It is the Committee for Economic Development's intention to help solve these problems by accurate information.