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WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

National Income Reaches Record Level; Reds Press Closer to Baltic States; See-Saw Fight Marks Anzio Beachhead; U. S. Reinforced in Admiralty Islands

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.



Marshall Islands—Caught off Jaluit atoll in Marshalls by U. S. naval planes, this Jap freighter was strafed and bombed and set afire.

NATIONAL INCOME: Record Level

Boomed by the war effort, the national income of the nation's 50 million workers soared to 142 billion dollars in 1943, with about two-thirds of it spent for goods and services, the department of commerce announced.

Reflecting the country's full swing into high speed production during 1943, income increased 26 billion dollars over 1942, but reflecting the continued shortage of civilian goods, expenditures only went up 8½ billion dollars.

From July to March, government spending reached 60 billion dollars, with 56 billion dollars paid out for the war effort. During this period, government receipts totaled 25 billion dollars, leaving a deficit of almost 35 billion dollars. Because of the recent fourth war loan drive, the government had a cash balance of 19 billion dollars.

Beverage Purchases

Of the 90 billion dollars that consumers spent for goods and services in 1943, six billion dollars were expended for alcoholic beverages, the department of commerce revealed. This brought expenditures for liquors up to \$46 per person, compared with \$39 in 1942 and \$26 in 1939.

Despite the record expenditures for alcoholic beverages, however, less liquor was actually drunk, price increases accounting for the rise. Less than 74 million gallons of hard liquor were consumed in 1943, compared with 88 million gallons in 1942. Wine consumption dropped below the 1942 level of 112 million gallons.

Total beer consumed increased during 1943, however, chiefly because of a rise in demand from 10 million to 44 million barrels of the bottled type.

SOLDIER VOTE: Compromise Bill

In an effort to give servicemen overseas every chance to vote and yet protect states' rights in supervising elections, congressional conferees drew up a compromise bill.

Under the bill, servicemen overseas from states with no absentee voting laws could use the blank federal ballot with only the names of the political parties designated if their governors approve, or, servicemen from states with absentee voting laws could only use the federal ballot if they fail to receive their state ballot by October 1.

So far, 20 states are reported to have adequate absentee voting laws, while nine others are considering such laws or about to convene their legislatures to take up action on the issue.

RUSSIA: Fighting; Diplomacy

Nibbling deeper into Nazi defense lines, Red troops pressed ever closer to the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, while German forces clung bitterly to their positions behind Russian forces at the southern end of the 800 mile front.

In Finland, there was agitation for better peace terms from the Russians as a basis for withdrawing from the war, with opposition to Moscow's proposals for restoration of the 1940 borders and discussion about disposition of northern Finnish territory.

Crossing the Narva river, Red troops advanced 15 miles into Estonia, while other Russ forces converged on the Latvian gateway of Pskov. Far to the south, the Reds met bitter German resistance as they tried to whittle down Nazi lines to the rear of General Vatutin's troops in Poland.

IRELAND: Affected by War

Although war has not come to Ireland, its effects are being felt in the emerald island where the river Shannon flows, with lack of materials contributing toward the closing of many industries.

Recruitment of 130,000 Irish for work in Britain, and enlistment of another 100,000 Irish in the British army have helped relieve unemployment in the country, however. Even so, at least 50,000 are idle. In an effort to hold skilled help for post-war production to balance the nation's economy, many closed industries are keeping people on their pay-rolls.

Certain Irish industries are booming, especially those canning meats and milk for Great Britain. With woolen goods imports cut, Irish textile mills also are humming to produce material for the home market. In all, industries generally are operating at 66 per cent of capacity.

ARGENTINA: Quell Revolt

Turbulent South American politics took another dramatic twist with an Argentine army officer's attempted revolt against the new government of ultra-neutral Gen. Edelmiro Farrell, which ousted ex-President Pedro Ramirez because his regime was inclined toward a declaration of war against the Axis.

Because the powerful "Colonels' Club" of army chiefs was behind the move to replace Ramirez, however, the rebellious officer found himself standing alone, with no indication that his 1,000 troops were panning for action. After marching from the capital of Buenos Aires, the rebels surrendered unconditionally.

Argentina's swerving back toward a strict policy of neutrality after the Ramirez' government's wavering away from it, revealed that country's insistence on maintaining its complete political independence, linking it up with its sister republic of Bolivia to the northwest.

COLLEGE EDUCATION: Would Change Titles

Claiming that professors' titles do not always reflect the real achievements of their holders, President Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago proposed abolishing all teaching distinctions like professor, associate professor, assistant professor and instructors, and calling them all merely "members" of the faculty.

Hutchins' proposal has his latest in a long list of changes he has recommended for streamlining higher American education, the most noted one adopted so far allowing students to complete an ordinary four year course in two years.

Under Hutchins' latest plan, neither present salaries nor jobs would be affected by classifying all teachers merely as members, but some complained that in hard times when compensations would be stabilized, they would not be able to offset economic loss by obtaining more prestige through higher titles.

Burma Front



Fighting raged along Burma's mountainous western border country, with Allied troops freeing two divisions of British-Indians trapped by Japanese moving against their rear (lower arrow). In two other sectors, the Allies drove against the enemy in the China hills (middle arrow), and fought to clear a supply road to China in the north (top arrow).

WOOL: Stocks Plentiful

Although the nation now has adequate supplies of wool for clothing, the two-pants suit with a vest is still forbidden by the War Production board. The reason is the shortage of manpower, since it takes more work to make those extra garments. It's the same with pleats in women's dresses, but insufficient rayon goods for linings is another reason given.

Imports of wool from Australia were not halted by the Japanese navy, as was feared. Between 500 and 600 million pounds were brought in last year and in 1942. This, plus a domestic crop stimulated by a subsidy of 18 cents a pound has resulted in a stockpile of large proportions.



Robert Ripley's exploiter reports that Ripley is the researcher on it . . . That Herr Goering's first name, Herman, came from a Jewish doctor, Herman Epstein, of Tyrol, Austria . . . Goering's father was Governor of German East Africa. A widower, who couldn't take along his infant son—so he boarded him with Dr. Epstein . . . The physician raised the boy—sent him through school in Bavaria and paid the tuition until he graduated as a lieutenant . . . Dr. Epstein passed on in 1935 . . . No. 2 Nazi Goering attended the funeral . . . When he entered the synagogue, he paused at the door and asked if he should wear or remove his hat . . . Ripley adds: "In case you didn't know, the name Winchell in German means divining rod, the instrument that detects the truth."

In the foyer of the Barbary Room the other night Raymond Paige took this snapshot . . . A corporal noticing a colonel losing one of his eagles—meekly offered to pin it back . . . "Thanks," grumped the colonel, "the dumb things catch on everything." "Gee, sir," was the reply, "I wish I had your troubles!"

Bigtown Murals: At about 8:30 the other Monday night (during a heavy rainstorm) a packed Amsterdam Avenue trolley stopped at 128th Street. The conductor got out—went to a bar and grill—ordered two sandwiches and a beer—while the passengers waited 20 minutes . . . The newsreel theater in the Grand Central Station. It features a clock to the right of the screen . . . The clock is set two minutes fast—so spectators won't miss trains . . . The clock at the near-by Commodore Hotel bar is set three minutes ahead. Indicating that you can get away from a newsreel sixty seconds sooner than you can part from a drink.

The defacing of St. Patrick's Cathedral and other churches by some crackpot reminds us of what happened in Paris at the Place de la Concorde when the Nazis marched in . . . Ten German army bands held a concert and 8,000 Frenchmen were forced to assemble . . . Through the microphone the assemblage was asked: "Who doesn't speak German?" The whole crowd raised their hands, and a picture was taken . . . Which showed up in South America via the Goebbel's propaganda machine—with this caption: "French crowds acclaiming German army in Paris with Nazi salute" . . . Dismiss this incident as those worshipping shrines as the job of those desperately trying to cause disunity and trouble.

The Wireless: "The Song of Bernadette," so beautiful to read and see, suffers from the slows on the kilocycles. It comes to the ears as ham-heavy, which it never is between covers and on the screen . . . The west coast comics "located" you dizzy with their jibes at California's unusual weather. What you might call house-organ comedy, strictly for the family . . . One coast announcer got a mouthful of esses, and it came out: "Upton Close on the Noose" . . . The guffaw of the month was uttered by a Berlin radio expert named Von Hammer, who whimpered that "the Red Army is using unmannerly military tactics" . . . Fulton Lewis' blast at certain congressional under-the-belters was ear-arresting . . . John B. Kennedy was also aroused into slugging back at them.

Quotation Marksmanship: Ethel Smith: She was the light of his life, but it turned into an awful glare . . . Ambrose Bierce: Woman would be more charming if one could fall into her arms without falling into her hands . . . Eleanor Roosevelt: No one can make you feel inferior without your consent . . . Mme. Deluzy: A coquette is a woman without a heart, who makes a fool of a man who has no head . . . D. R. Henderson: The V for Victory is only half the W for Work . . . Christopher Morley: There is so much for me to say, but your eyes keep interrupting me . . . B. Lytton: A stiff man, starched with self-esteem . . . Garry Moore: He sweeps women off their feet—a Beau Brummel.

664 Question: The President, they say, was asked (by a reporter) to name the member of the United Nations he considered the most important ally. "Is it Great Britain, China or Russia?" "I'll ask you one," FDR said. "Which is the most important leg on a three-legged stool?"

Immense Task of Soil Rebuilding Faces Managers of Nation's Six Million Farms

Land Being Mined by Excessive Cropping Will Need Fertilizer

American farmers face the most gigantic soil rebuilding job in all history when World War II is fought to a successful conclusion.

That is the considered opinion of farm economists, soil conservation experts and leading agronomists of state agricultural colleges throughout the country.

What this job will cost, no one knows yet, but it will be considerably above the 250 to 300 million dollar expenditure farmers have been making for fertilizer in recent years. Virtually all of the nation's 6,000,000 farms will need serious attention.

Two major reasons are cited by soil experts for this situation:

1—Wartime crop goals necessary to produce foodstuffs, meat, dairy products, oil and fiber crops for victory, are eating up the soil's resources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash much faster than they can be replaced today. Steps to correct this must be taken immediately the war crisis is over.

2—The long-range job of soil conservation must be stepped up. Big-scale operations can be postponed no longer. The "fifth column" attacks of erosion are becoming more menacingly serious. Wasteful farming practices over a century and a half have squandered precious topsoil to a dangerous degree.

Farmers recognize that the present wartime drain on their soils' fertility level is a necessary contribution to victory. But they should bear in mind the imperative fact that wealth borrowed from the soil to help win this war, must be repaid later on.

Dr. George D. Scarseth, head of the agronomy department of Purdue university, summed things up when he said:

"Farmers in the Middle West and elsewhere throughout the nation are making a sacrifice in the war production program to an extent not fully realized by the world. Soils that have had to produce war crops by fertility exhaustion practices will not have dividends to pay after the war, but will require their own kind of taxation in the form of fertilizers."

In reality, farmers are in the manufacturing business, the same as munitions makers, or steel producers. They are turning out essential products for our armed forces. Feeds, fibers and oils out of the raw materials of the soil—the nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and lime.

"Fortunately all our soils are not exhausted of their inherited riches. But exhaustion is on the way even with our best soils, and we face a future where these raw materials must be added to the soils as fertilizers in greater amounts than in the past. Unless we do this, the productivity of the soil will sink to a dangerous level."

Concerning the future outlook, he said: "Our war debt won't be only a matter of taxes and maturing bonds. Our farmers are asked to mine their soils because fertilizer materials are scarce. But crops must be made on the 'fat' of the soils. This means that a farmer of the future will have the handicap of a more exhausted soil and smaller crop yields to pay the taxes that will follow this war."

Tremendous Drain. Just how big a drain on the soil's fertility resources does this extra crop production impose?

The answer is plenty! Take one single crop—corn—for example. Agronomists estimate that the 1941 corn crop in ten midwestern states removed 2,645,404,730 pounds of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash from the soil. Increasing wartime yields boosted this tax to 3,093,123,334 pounds in 1942 and 3,227,393,770 pounds in 1943.

Large as this removal was, it represents but a portion of the fertility loss from a single region. Add to it the fertility drain caused by producing huge yields of wheat, soybeans, potatoes, alfalfa, clover, oats and other crops and you have some idea of the depreciation of fertility resources. But that doesn't tell the whole story, either, for the job of producing livestock and dairy products requires heavy amounts of plant food, too.

The plain fact is that every time a crop is harvested and hauled to market, or livestock are shipped to a packer's yards, some of the farm's fertility goes with them. Those es-

sential elements, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, in various compounds, have been drawn out of the soil by the plants that grew on it. The bigger and better the crop, the more vital minerals extracted. Ordinarily, much of these elements is replaced by rotation, fallowing, or application of fertilizers, but during these war years when every field must be made to yield to the limit, there is an annual loss. Also, the scarcity of fertilizers, and shortage of help and machinery have conspired to impoverish the farmer's land.

There is still another important factor in this present soil-exhaust-

Harvested crops rank next in depleting the soil and are in normal years responsible for taking out an additional 4,600,000 tons of nitrogen, 700,000 tons of phosphorus and 3,200,000 tons of potash.

Nearly a third of the fertile topsoil of American farms has been lost due to erosion, floods and the damaging effects of overcropping, according to a statement issued by the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee.

Six Inches of Topsoil. "A century and a half ago," says the statement, "there was an average of nine inches of topsoil spread over the entire United States. To-



An aerial view of a large Georgian farm on which several soil conservation methods are used. In the upper part of the picture appears a large meadow strip, which serves as a safe water disposal area for surface runoff from adjoining fields. The curved bands are contour strip cropping, and terracing. The owner, Dr. A. C. Brown of Royston, also follows improved rotation practices.

ing problem. That is the matter of increased acreage. In order to produce the extra crop quotas, not only do existing acres have to do a bigger crop yielding job but more and more acres have to be tilled. Much of this land represents a lower strata of fertility level and hence it is not able to bear the burden of heavy cropping effectively. A glance at acreage figures tells the story. In 1941 the total harvested acreage of principal crops in the United States was 334,130,600. In 1942 it rose to 338,081,000 and in 1943 to 347,498,000 acres. New production goals for 1944 propose the use of some 380 million acres.

One-Twelfth of Land Ruined. When we turn to the long-range job of soil conservation that has been accumulating since the pioneer settlers' plows first broke America's virgin farm land, we find an even more serious situation.

Hugh H. Bennett, chief of the U. S. soil conservation service, is authority for the statement that 50 million acres of the nation's 600 million tillable acres have been completely ruined for agricultural purposes.

An additional 50 million acres, he estimates, are seriously damaged and a very large further acreage has suffered a marked decrease in soil fertility. As a result of the soil conservation service's work and the efforts of agronomists at state agricultural colleges and experiment stations, significant steps have been taken in recent years in combating this menacing trend. But the major task lies ahead.

Six principal factors are responsible for the foregoing losses, according to Mr. Bennett. They are erosion, leaching, the removal of fertilizer elements by harvested crops, livestock and livestock marketing, oxidation of soil organic matter, and fire.

Erosion is the worst offender, removing annually 2,500,000 tons of nitrogen, 900,000 tons of phosphorus and 15,000,000 tons of potash—the three major plant foods which make the productions of crops possible.

It is not too early to begin planning for this agricultural reconstruction job, any more than it is premature at present to lay plans for future political and economic peace," a statement by the Middle West Soil Improvement Committee concludes.

"For it is becoming increasingly clear that the whole structure of future security will rest on the productivity of the soil. While every encouragement will be given to soil rebuilding projects by the federal government and by state agricultural agencies, the major responsibility for getting the job done will rest on the shoulders of individual farmers. By earmarking part of present war bond purchases now for peacetime soil rebuilding expenditures, farmers can be ready when the materials and manpower become readily available in the postwar era."