

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

### Menace Early Jap Conquests; Ask Overhauling of Vet Bureau; Smoothen Big Three Relations

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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.



For the first time since Nazis came to power, the Roman Catholic feast day of Corpus Christi was observed in Munich, with procession winding way through bomb-battered city. Outspoken foe of Hitler's regime, Michael Cardinal Faulhaber officiated at ceremony.

## PACIFIC:

### New Campaign

Under heavy attack in the northern portion of their empire, the Japs face equally heavy pressure in the south, with Allied forces under command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur moving into northern Borneo in a drive to conquer the island that easily could be the prelude to a campaign against the Indies and Malaya.

Rich in oil and rubber and possessing good ports and airfields for a thrust to the west, Borneo was overrun by the Japs early in 1942 while the Allied cause in the Pacific still remained paralyzed after Pearl Harbor. With Jap shipping coming under increasing U. S. air and sea pressure, Borneo's value to the enemy has been sharply reduced, and Allied invasion forces met only meager opposition as they moved inland in the mountainous country.

Though only lightly defending the comparatively uncommunicable coastal regions, the Japs did fire the extensive oil installations located there in an effort to prevent their use by the Allies for future operations. Flames from the storage tanks and wells could be seen for 40 miles.

## VETS CARE:

### Legion, V.F.W. Critical

Stung by the American Legion and V.F.W.'s ringing denunciation of the veterans administration bureau, congress moved to look into the whole question and give ear to the comprehensive program outlined by both service organizations for efficient functioning of the department.

With a spokesman declaring that the bureau may eventually have to handle the cases of 18,000,000 G.I.s, the American Legion suggested the creation of a deputy administrator under Gen. Omar Bradley and a realignment of authority under six assistants to handle medical care, insurance, finance, loan guarantees, readjustment allowances, vocational training, rehabilitation and education, adjustment of compensation, pension and retirement claims, construction, supplies and contracts.

Though criticizing the overall operations of the bureau, the American Legion and V.F.W. particularly snapped vet hospital care, charging that 47 per cent of the institutions now give inadequate treatment and citing instances of abuse in some centers. To relieve conditions, the organizations proposed increasing bed capacity; boosting wages; allowing authorities more leeway in securing help and supplies; more intelligent segregation of patients to speed recovery, and replacing army with civilian personnel.

## BIG THREE:

### Smoothen Relations

Troubled relations over Poland having been seemingly smoothened, the Big Three looked forward to their forthcoming meeting for planning the peace conference to reestablish the broken continent of Europe.

News of the approaching Big Three confab followed announcement that officials of the U. S., Britain and Russia would meet in Moscow with the Red-sponsored Warsaw government and democratic leaders from within and outside of Poland to discuss the composition of a more representative regime for the country.

Three relations were Harry Hopkins and Joseph E. Davies, President Truman's special emissaries to Moscow and London. Following receipt of reports from them upon their return to the U. S., the chief executive expressed confidence in a settlement of the Polish question, declaring the Russians were as anxious to get along with us as we are with them.

The late President Roosevelt's No. 1 confidante, Hopkins appeared to have played an especially key part in the discussions abroad, with Mr. Truman revealing that he not only conferred on the irksome Polish situation but also persuaded the Russians to surrender their demands for vetoing the right of aggrieved nations to air their complaints before the postwar peace organization.

While the step toward bringing together the dissident Polish elements was considered an encouraging move for the development of a



With his Chief of Staff Adm. William S. Leahy standing by, President Truman receives report of overseas missions of Joseph Davies (left) and Harry Hopkins (right).

representative rule, the Polish government in exile in London denied the authority of the Big Three to supervise formation of a regime for the liberated country. Not directly included in the Moscow parley and long at loggerheads with the Reds because of alleged political interference in Poland, the exiles branded the plan as a concession to the Russians.

## BIG HARVEST:

### Mounting Problems

Even as the department of agriculture predicted a bumper wheat yield of 1,084,652,000 bushels for 1945, along with another banner general crop year, Kansas undertook the harvest of 215,000,000 bushels of its winter wheat with a heavy shortage of both men, machinery, storage and transport.

Premier winter wheat producing state of the U. S., Kansas needs an additional 20,000 hands; 2,000 combines; 2,000 trucks; and many ration points for feeding extra workers. Because of the local elevator glut resulting from the freight car shortage, farmers expect to dump sizable quantities of wheat on the ground after filling up vacant houses, store buildings, filling stations, etc.

Typical of the problem confronting other southwestern states, Kansas' transport situation devolves from the inability of the railroads to divert sufficient cars for the grain trade in the face of heavy war production traffic and the redeployment of U. S. forces to the Pacific through the country.

In the face of impending harvest and transport difficulties, the USDA looked forward to not only a bumper wheat harvest but heavy oats, hay and rye production, and another banner truck and fruit crop. Despite wet weather, two-thirds of the corn crop has been planted, USDA said.

## OPA:

### Farm Prices

Passed by the senate as part of a bill extending OPA for one year, a provision requiring that farm producers be granted cost plus profit headed for rough treatment in the house, with Pres. Harry S. Truman joining to oppose the amendment.

Drawn by Senators Wherry (Neb.) and Shipstead (Neb.) and adopted by a 37 to 30 vote, the cost-plus provision stipulates that "it shall be unlawful to establish or maintain against the producers of any livestock, grain or other agricultural commodity a maximum price . . . which does not equal all costs and expenses (including all overhead expenses, a return on capital and an allowance for the labor of the producer and family) . . . plus a reasonable profit thereon."

While President Truman described the provision as bad and hoped the house would knock it out, other critics declared that it would create confusion by replacing the present parity formula, scaling farm prices according to general costs. Countering this argument, Senator Wherry said the provision would apply if parity prices failed to meet expenses.

## SUGAR:

### Set Quotas

Though distribution of sugar through the first five months of 1945 exceeded that for the same period in last year, the War Food administration fixed rigid quotas for government and civilian users for July-August-September, with the home front obtaining 10,000 less tons than at present.

From January through May, distribution of sugar totalled 2,965,906 short tons compared with 2,747,543 last year, it was revealed.

Reflecting criticism that the impending sugar pinch has resulted from loose allocations of the commodity in the face of over-optimism over supplies, figures showed that as of June 2 raw sugar stocks amounted to 275,746 short tons compared with 442,234 last year, the beet inventories totalled 374,052 short tons as against 465,222.

## Bombs Take Heavy Toll

A commander in the famed U. S. 21st bomber force in the Marianas, Col. Alfred F. Klaber, estimated that 500,000 Japanese had been killed in B-29 raids on Tokyo, with the possibility the figure might even be 1,500,000. "Look at Yokohama," he said. "One minute it is there and the next it has disappeared. I believe we killed 250,000 there."

Because burns caused by B-29 fire bombs require the care of two or three people and the Japanese lack the personnel to attend to the injuries, one 21st force medic opined the death rate must be enormous, Klaber said.

## SAN FRANCISCO:

### Peace Force

With French delegate Joseph Paul-Boncour declaring that the conference was erecting "the keystone of the peace structure," the United Nations meeting in San Francisco moved to approve plans for the first international army, navy and air force in history.

Directed by a military staff committee, with regional sub-committees throughout the world, the world peace force may draw on one-third of the U. S.'s present army and navy, American authorities recently estimated. All members of the United Nations will have to grant the international force free right of passage through their territory in the event of hostilities.

Use of the peace force will be subjected to the unanimous approval of the Big Five — the U. S., Britain, Russia, China and France — and a majority of the security council of 11.

## SHIPYARDS:

### Workers Needed

The rush of workers to peacetime jobs is seriously impeding the construction as well as repair of war vessels, the navy revealed, with the situation equally serious in both west and east coast shipyards.

With damaged vessels receiving first call on facilities for repair, the building of new ships necessarily must await their fixing. With the Brooklyn navy yard in need of 5,000 additional workers at once, the new 27,000-ton aircraft carrier *Esprimal* is five months behind schedule and the *Oriskany* is about half completed. Approximately 3,000,000 man days of work will be required on the super 45,000-ton flattop Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Both east and west coast shipyards have been losing about 600 employees a month in the shift to peacetime jobs, with the tight manpower situation in the west reflected by the necessity to tow the famed flattop Franklin to Brooklyn for repair.



## WHAT 'BIG BUSINESS' MEANS TO AMERICA

MOST OF US are prone to take a kick at big business, just because it is big, and without knowing much about the details of its operation; who owns it, what it provides in the way of jobs, what it does and what becomes of the money it takes in. United States Steel is big business, the third largest industrial organization in the nation, its \$2,106,082,468 of assets is exceeded only slightly by Standard Oil of New Jersey and General Motors. Its assets are more than twice that of the Ford Motor company, and Ford is no "small potatoes" in the industrial field.

United States Steel does many things in the way of producing goods and services for the people of the nation. It operates mines, owns and operates three or more railroads, owns and operates both lake and ocean steamships, builds ships and bridges, and does a number of other things in addition to producing steel of various kinds.

In 1944 the sales of United States Steel amounted to \$2,082,200,000. Of that sum it paid as wages \$987,200,000 to its monthly average of 314,888 employees, a weekly average of \$54.37 per worker. It paid \$818,400,000 for materials and services, such as transportation. Uncle Sam and state and local taxing units took \$105,800,000 as taxes. To its 225,414 stockholders, holding its 12,306,063 shares of stock, an average of 55 shares per stockholder, preferred and common, it paid as dividends \$60,000,000 for supplying the money that provided the plants and tools that meant the 314,888 jobs. These stockholders received as compensation for the use of their money \$45,800,000 less than was paid in taxes. There were other smaller items of expense, including \$33,074,988 paid out as pensions to retired workers. When all the bills were paid there was left \$758,596 with which to keep the fires burning, and men working, through such times as orders might stop coming.

That represents a lot of big figures on a big business, but a bit of consideration of them may give us an idea of the place big business really occupies in the economic life of a big nation. I found them instructive and interesting.

Two Party System and Business Operation. A TWO PARTY SYSTEM of government, such as ours now is, and government operation of industry will not function together. One or the other must fail. For example: Should the railroads be nationalized every employee would be on a government payroll. So long as wages, hours, working conditions were satisfactory those government railroad employees would vote to retain in power whatever party was responsible for that condition. Should any demand made by those government employees be refused those employees would vote to oust that party. Under such conditions the demand would be met regardless of its merit or its effect on the general public. The same conditions would apply to all other lines of industry. Government control would be in the hands of government employees. It would be a one, rather than our present two party system. A one party system inevitably leads to dictatorship.

REGULATION DOESN'T FIT AMERICAN CITIZENS. IN ENGLAND, some 300 or more years ago, the king's decree was the only law of the land. He told each one what he could do and not do; where he could go and not go; the shoemaker's son must be a shoemaker, the farmer's son must also be a farmer. No one could move from place to place without the king's permission. The world does move but it may be in circles. We, the progeny of those Englishmen of olden days, are also being told what we can do, and where we can go. We are being regulated much as were those ancestors. Insofar as that is in actual support of the war effort we do not object. That part of it, and there would seem to be a part, that serves only the purpose of satisfying the ego of a bureaucrat in demonstrating he can tell us where to head in, we object to with good reason. It savors too much of those old days of absolute monarchy.

IN GERMANY the Allied armies completed the job of destruction that was started by Hitler.

HE WHO MEETS the calls of today worries but little of the tomorrow.

## Homesteading Opportunities In Alaska Interest Veterans

### Vast Frontier Land Has Much to Offer to Hardy Young People

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Veterans of World War II dream as avidly of establishing homes on the land as did the soldiers of the Continental army. Grant's blue-clad veterans, or Pershing's doughboys in 1918, it is pointed out by the United States department of the interior. Requests for information on available public lands, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes points out, have literally inundated the department's offices. The average number of requests for information on homesteads alone in the general land office runs higher than 3,000 monthly and the number is increasing.

Exservicemen who desire to settle on public land, either in the continental United States or Alaska, will avoid many heartbreaking disappointments if they first fully inform themselves concerning all of the possible pitfalls.

One of the prime requisites, for instance, in obtaining title to public land is three years' actual residence beginning within six months after permission to enter has been granted. There are numerous other requirements concerning such subjects as the building of a habitable dwelling, the cultivation of the land and other details, about which prospective settlers would do well to inform themselves before filing an application.

The principal advantage that veterans have over other citizens is that service in the armed forces, up to a maximum of two years, is credited toward the three-year residence requirement. This applies generally to all citizens over 21 years of age who have served at least 90 days in the armed forces and who have been honorably discharged therefrom. Veterans also enjoy a 90-day priority in filing applications for settlement on public land classified for that purpose.

Any veteran of World War II under 21 is entitled to the same rights under the homestead laws as those over 21 who may be veterans of this or other conflicts. Residence requirements of such minors will be suspended until six months after their discharge from the service.

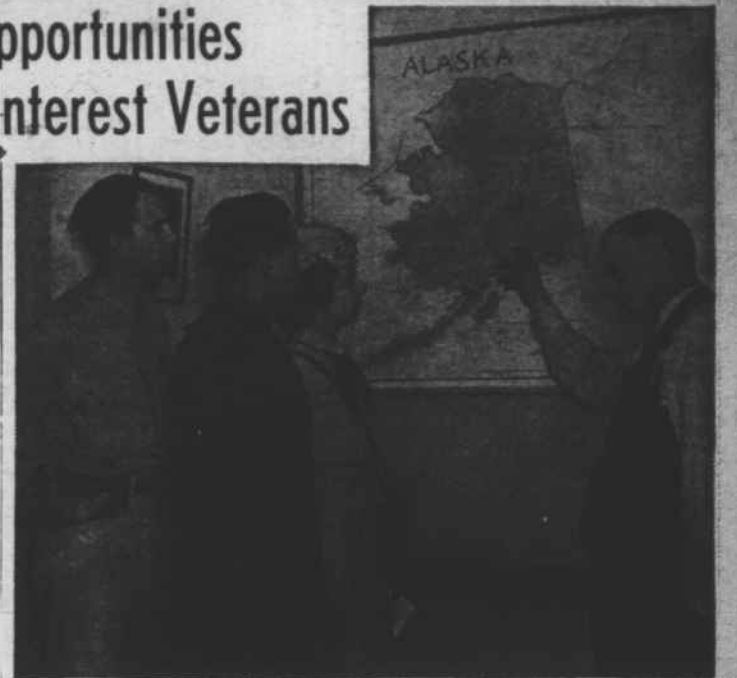
Moreover, homestead claims of veterans of World War II, initiated prior to their entrance into the service, are protected against forfeiture during the period of their service and for six months thereafter. Such veterans who are honorably discharged and because of physical incapacity due to their service are unable to return to the land, may make proof without further residence, improvements and cultivation.

Go North, Young Man. By far the greatest opportunities for obtaining title to and establishing homesteads on public lands lie in Alaska. This territory covers an area of 586,400 square miles, roughly equal to one-fifth of that of the United States. More than 90 per cent of the territory is under the jurisdiction of the department of the interior. The major portion is still open to settlement under the homestead laws.

But, while the chances in Alaska are undoubtedly vast, there are many difficulties to be overcome. Considerable progress has been made in developing the territory on a stable basis, but it is still no place for the fainthearted. Those with sufficient financial backing and with courage and tenacity may reasonably count upon success in the long run, but without these essentials veterans and others would be wise to look twice before they leap. Much also depends upon the wise selection of land, as to quality and accessibility.

Many misconceptions about Alaska have been dissipated as a result of the war. Many who have seen service there have been fascinated by its picturesqueness, and impressed by its obvious possibilities. The territory has largely lived down its old and undeserved reputation as "Seward's icebox" — a reputation that was planned on it by the critics of Secretary of State Seward who negotiated the territory's purchase from Russia in 1867.

To speak of the climate of Alaska is as misleading as to speak of the climate of Europe, or of Asia. The climate varies widely from that of southeastern Alaska, where it is virtually as mild as, but much wetter than, that of Virginia, to that of



Servicemen and women get pointers on Alaska land settlement from Commissioner Fred W. Johnson, general land office. Left to right: Pfc. Richard Bean, U. S. army, (Newport, N. H.), Chief Warrant Officer Joseph D. Joiner, U. S. navy (Atlanta, Ga.), and Yeoman 1/c Mildred H. Dietrich of the WAVES (St. Nazianz, Wisc.), learn of chances for future on public lands administered by the interior department.

the frozen wastes of the Arctic circle and the fogs and williwaws of the Aleutian islands.

Veterans have the same preference accorded to them by the homestead laws of the United States. In addition, where lands are newly opened or restored to homestead entry veterans will be granted a preference right of application for a period of 90 days before the lands become subject to application by the general public.

In addition to homesteading in Alaska, on sites limited to 160 acres, any adult citizen of the United States, whose employer is engaged in trade, manufacturing, or other productive industry in Alaska, or who is himself engaged in such business, may purchase one claim, not exceeding 5 acres, of nonmineral land at \$2.50 an acre, but for not less than a minimum of \$10. An applicant for such a tract is required to pay the cost of the survey.

Any citizen of the United States after occupying land in Alaska as a homestead or headquarters in a habitable house not less than five months each year for three years may purchase such tract, not exceeding five acres, if nonmineral in character, at \$2.50 an acre, but for not less than a minimum of \$10. Such an applicant is not required to pay the cost of the survey.

Fur Farming and Mining. Fur farming has been carried on in the territory for a sufficiently long period to demonstrate that the raising of such fur animals as minks and blue foxes is profitable. This is especially true in southeastern Alaska and along the general coast line where fish, a basic fur animal food, may be procured cheaply.

Certain areas of Alaska are admirably adapted to the production of fur of good quality, and there is plenty of room for expanding this industry. There are hundreds of licensed fur farmers in Alaska, the majority of whom are raising minks and blue foxes, although some silver foxes are raised in captivity.

Mineral resources are known to be large and varied, and there are undoubtedly large and rich mineral areas still unexplored. Notable evidence of this has been disclosed by extensive searches for war-needed metals and minerals by the geological survey and the bureau of mines.

A large part of the territory's natural mineral wealth consists of gold, silver, mercury, antimony, tin, coal, copper, iron, lead and platinum. There also may be considerable oil reserves in some parts of the country, but to what extent remains largely to be seen. Transportation is, of course, a problem.

Since Alaska, a natural scenic wonderland and sport fisherman's paradise, is expected to grow in importance as a vacation land and as a goal for tourists, there will undoubtedly be great opportunities for veterans and others who desire to go into businesses catering to the tourist trade. Tourist facilities are comparatively meager, especially in many picturesque localities off of the beaten path.

However, here again, those contemplating the establishment of such businesses should do so with their eyes open. It must be remembered that in many places in Alaska the tourist season is short, and that the permanent population of the territory is normally less than 100,000 persons, or about one-eighth of the number of persons living in Washington, D. C.

As a general rule, it may be said that settlement on public land in Alaska is encouraged but not urged.

Those who choose Alaska as their future homes should do so with caution. There is little doubt that ultimately Alaska is destined to become an important crossroads at the top of the world. It is a natural way station on air lines to Asia and eastern Europe.

But Alaska itself, as well as those who settle there, will be better off if it has an orderly and stable development. It is hoped, for the benefit of all concerned, that sudden rushes of hordes of people with get-rich-quick ideas but with no sustained interest in healthy growth, may be avoided.

## Dam Projects Could Create A Million Jobs

### Material Makers as Well As Actual Construction Workers Would Benefit

Jobs for thousands of skilled and unskilled workmen will be created in every part of the country when congress approves plans and provides funds for building more than 400 irrigation and power projects proposed by the bureau of reclamation in its \$5,000,000,000 postwar inventory.

Although these proposed irrigation and power projects will be located in the 17 western states, where the bureau of reclamation since 1902 has been responsible for the conservation and wise use of water resources, their construction will create job opportunities from Maine to California.

Behind every man on the construction job there will be one or more helpers who may be thousands of miles away. An employment analysis of the bureau's postwar inventory reveals that the 4,250,000,000 man-hours of labor required to construct all the projects will be required at construction sites.

Materials from 31 States. The materials needed for reclamation work, of which such basic products as iron and steel, cement, electrical equipment and supplies, foundry and machine-shop products, and lumber are of primary importance, must be obtained from widely separated sources. Much of this material and equipment will come from the 31 states outside the arid and semiarid regions of the west.

If funds are made available for construction of all the projects, bureau officials estimate that more than 450,000 men could be put to work the first year, less than half of these at construction sites. At peak employment in the second or third year almost 1,000,000 men could receive pay envelopes in different parts of the country as a result of this mighty effort.

Agricultural and industrial enterprises in the West will help to support and give homes to servicemen and others who have expressed their desire to settle on irrigated farms. Of the 2,000,000 westerners in the armed forces, it is estimated that 265,000 will want to return to the land.

Veteran legislation, authorized and pending, gives servicemen priority of settlement on bureau of reclamation projects. On some projects public lands will be open to homestead entry.