

Washington Digest

U. S. Farm Aid to Britain Likely to Pay Dividends

Better Home-Consumption Market for American Farmer Is Cited as Post-War Period Goal; British Expected to Co-operate.

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After sitting down for an hour with the undersecretary of agriculture, Paul H. Appleby, on a quiet Saturday afternoon when only defense workers and newsmen have to labor, I walked back through the park with a feeling that perhaps some of the lease-lend bread which America is casting across the water might come back buttered, and even with jam on it.

Undersecretary Appleby was fresh off the Clipper from Europe where he and AAA Administrator Rudolph M. Evans had been talking food with the British.

Three things came out of my queries of the undersecretary as to his experiences.

First: Thanks to the United States, the British have passed what looked like a crisis in their food supply.

Second: The American farmer is going to get a little extra gravy for the extra sweating he is going to do to produce more "food for freedom."

Third: (and this is what I meant by the butter and jam on the lease-lend bread) Appleby believes, and he told the British so, that the United States has a post-war goal in its extra-production efforts. That goal is to build up a better home-consumption market for the American farmer—and all farmers—and the British are expected to co-operate.

As to the first point, Mr. Appleby was chary about giving out facts and figures. He did assure me, however, that quantitatively the United States is now delivering at British ports an amount of food sufficient to take care of the basic needs of the population, civil and military.

That means there are enough ships to handle and deliver, taking sinkings into consideration, this minimum tonnage. So if the present amount of tonnage is limited and the type of food required for a balanced diet is raised in the United States, the islands will not starve. Although the British will be getting on with a lot less than they are used to, they will have enough of the right kind of food to do the job they are expected to do.

Complaining "Wasn't Done" According to Appleby, even when the pinch was at its worst early last spring, popular opinion in England was such that morale was not affected seriously. Complaining simply "wasn't done," as the English say. In other words, if somebody sounded off about what he was not getting to eat in a public place, he would be reproved in short order by his listeners.

The British food ministry and the department of agriculture officials now understand each other, according to Appleby, and each is satisfied as to the other's efforts, and those efforts have been co-ordinated.

Specifically, Undersecretary Appleby and Administrator Evans received suggestions as to improved packaging—for instance, minor changes in the content of a canned product, the kind of cartons that best protected a certain commodity. You see many of these products, in fact most of them, the United States had never exported at all before and American officials did not have experience in the best packaging methods. For instance, there were lessons in packaging and labeling to be learned about cheese.

The Americans suggested to the British that it would be easier to arouse the sympathy and co-operation of people in this country if they knew just what this food was being used for—say, one thing for school children, another for babies, something else for workers.

The British showed a break-down in the statistics was impossible because of exceedingly abnormal conditions of transportation. There is, for instance, uncertainty as to where a given ship is going to land, what railroad will be available for shipments. Then, too, there are many difficulties of administration which make it impossible to channel special shipments to special points or assign them to special groups.

Distribution Control Another thing the Americans examined thoroughly was the control by the government of distribution of the products. All food belongs

to the British government which turns meat over directly to the retailer and the other material to the wholesaler. The Americans say they were convinced that no profiteering exists in this procedure.

Although we have been able to bring lease-lend shipments up to 8 per cent of British food consumption in tonnage, and 20 per cent in value, that does not mean that our problem as far as production goes is solved. It is easy to provide a lot of things the British do not need, and hard to get some of the things they need most. For example: The British wanted 30 per cent of our whole navy bean crop. Navy beans were encouraged and American farmers produced 35 per cent more navy beans than normal. But a cow can't act that quickly when you ask for more calves, and when you get the calves it takes them longer to produce a quart of milk than it does for a garden to sprout a bean.

Cheese is another product that does not leap out of the ground. In some places you have to plant, not only the cow to produce the milk but you have to produce a factory to process the milk into cheese.

Now, as to point No. 2: What the American farmer is going to get out of all this. Mr. Appleby—expressing, I take it, the opinion of the department of agriculture and the government—feels very definitely that the American farmer must have a profit motive to bring about this extra production and likewise a profit when he has produced it.

What About 6 Per Cent?

"Mr. Morgenthau," I said, "believes that business ought to be allowed to make only 6 per cent on its investment in the emergency."

"Well," said Mr. Appleby, "if the farmer got 6 per cent and wages for his own labor and management, I think he'd be satisfied. Anybody ought to be satisfied with that in time of crisis."

And this factor—giving the farmer some assurance that his plant expansion, as they call it in industry, necessary to produce the things Britain needs, will not be a white elephant when the war is over, I mentioned—namely, the attempt to assure some universal benefit out of the whole lease-lend food effort—a benefit deriving from increased consumption in peace-time which the farmer as well as the rest of the nation would share.

The farmer does not want to have a new lot of surpluses on his hands when the war is over. He and the department of agriculture want to understand that the new production they are now building can be domestically consumed after the war is over.

Such consumption seems a long way off but it is a star worth following—once there were three wise men who had the faith to follow a star.

'Deep Satisfaction'

The other day a friend of mine went into a famous Washington restaurant. When he was seated a tall man strode in and took his seat alone in a corner. He is a well-known figure in Washington and my friend watched him. He took out the evening paper, opened it with a flourish and began to leaf through it. Suddenly his face lit up with a smile of deep satisfaction. He folded the paper carefully, set it up against the water carafe and began to read. His smile spread.

My friend wondered what he was reading and since he had a copy of the same paper and could see the lower half of the page the tall one was reading with such gratification my friend turned to that page in his own paper.

It bore a large picture of John Llewellyn Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and former head of the C. I. O.

The tall man looking at it was John Llewellyn Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and former head of the C. I. O.

¶ De gustibus non est disputandum. The brilliant editor of the Farm Journal, Wheeler McMillen, says he doesn't like parsley. I enjoy the rabbit food myself. But I liked the corn-covered cover of his October issue so well that I pasted it right up next to my map of Europe to take my mind off the war.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

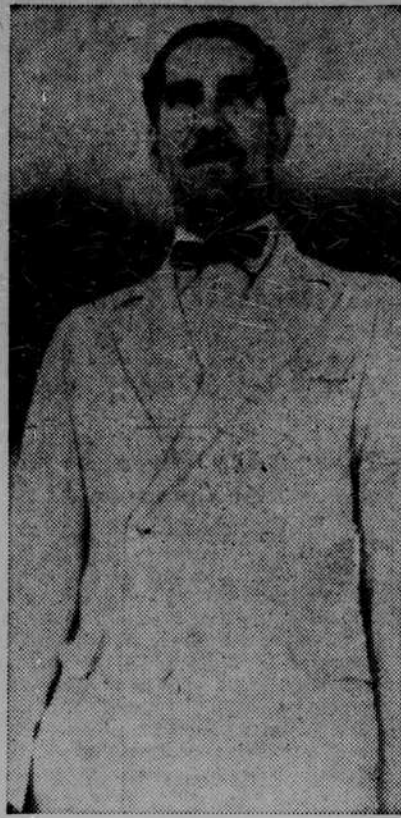
¶ Before June 30, 1942, the United States must supply Great Britain with the output of 50 million hens, or 500 million eggs, according to the department of agriculture.

¶ A good cook could use a barrelful of apples and never repeat herself once, says the Bureau of Home Economics.

¶ The bituminous coal division of the department of the interior is considering a proposal for the establishment of a ceiling over coal prices as a means of protecting consumers from increasing prices.

¶ In the "shoot on sight" system of warfare, it is more important who sights than who shoots.

Trouble in Panama



Dr. Arnulfo Arias, who was ousted from the presidency of Panama, in a coup which placed a regime more favorable to the U. S. in power. He fled to Cuba to save his life, he claimed. Dr. Ernesto De La Guardia assumed the presidency.

Chiefs Meet



First meeting of the U. S. and British commanders-in-chief in the Far East. British Air Marshal Robert Brooke-Popham (left) flew to Manila, P. I., to discuss Far Eastern questions with Lieut. Gen. Douglas MacArthur (right), U. S. chief in the Far East.

Warm October



October has furnished some of the hottest days on record in the national capital. Cooling their tootsies in Capitol plaza on one of these record-breaking October days, with the dome of the Capitol as a backdrop, are these girls from Baltimore, Md.

War and Religion



General Nogues, French resident commander of Morocco, shown during a religious conference with native tribesmen, including Moussens de Zaers, facing the general.

Press Conference a la Berlin



Berlin has its press conferences, too, but how free they are is another matter. This radiophoto sent to New York via radio and to Chicago via soundphoto shows Dr. Otto Dietrich announcing military achievements claimed by the Germans on the eastern front, to foreign correspondents in Berlin. Note large-sized war map.

Congressional Leaders Confer With F.D.R.



A delegation from Capitol Hill confers with President Roosevelt on changes in the neutrality law. L. to R., back row: Sen. Tom Connally (Texas); Sen. Charles L. McNary (Oregon); and Rep. Luther A. Johnson (Texas). Front row: Rep. Sol Bloom (N. Y.); chairman, foreign affairs committee, and Rep. Charles Eaton (N. J.).

Fledglings for Britain's R.A.F.



Some of the 589 fledgling fliers from Australia and New Zealand, shown upon arrival at San Francisco on the Matson liner, Monterey, bound for R.A.F. flying schools in Canada. Immediately after the group disembarked, they took a boat for Oakland, Calif., where they boarded a special train for Canada.

Just Good 'Clean' Fun



Heavy rains, which have paralyzed auto and street car traffic in parts of Chicago, served to put the athletic field in excellent condition for the annual sophomore-freshman pushball game at Loyola university. Everybody had a lot of good "clean" fun until the frosh introduced soft tomatoes into the battle. The frosh won out.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By **LEMUEL F. PARTON**
(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

NEW YORK.—During his 16 years in the house, Representative Lindsay Warren of North Carolina used to lie back in his chair with his eyes closed, seemingly asleep. But he never was. When he snapped into action, his mates noted that he had missed nothing of even the most complicated goings on. To them he was known as "The Fox."

Similarly, not much has been heard of him since he became comptroller general two years ago, but here he is suddenly in action with a brief against the National Youth administration, accusing it of playing politics to keep up its membership rolls and get appropriations. Characteristically, he goes into details.

Deceptively Sleepy Eyed, Warren Is Alert as Watchdog Bulky, bull-necked, pompadoured and of a general leathery makeup, Mr. Warren liked to go fishing in old clothes at Hatteras or Kitty Hawk. He didn't want to be bothered with this comptroller general job, although it pays \$10,000 a year for 15 years. His predecessor, the penny-pinching John Raymond McCarl, who once nicked a pullman berth item on General Pershing's expense account, was known as "the watch dog of the treasury." Mr. Warren didn't want to be a watch dog, and after Mr. McCarl quit, in 1936, President Roosevelt offered Mr. Warren the job three times before he took it.

One of his three children, Lindsay Jr., aged 16, is ailing. The importance of getting the best medical care for the boy, and his desire for a permanent home is said to have induced him to accept. He had been one of the most popular men in congress, and watch dogs aren't altogether popular.

His post carries more power than almost any in the federal job portfolio, although no quiz entrant would be apt to list it. He passes on government appropriations, audits governmental accounts, settles claims and in numerous other ways polices hidden or furtive charges in federal expenditures. He had valuable training for this in his long experience as chairman of the house committee of accounts.

He is 51 years old, a native of Washington, N. C., up "through channels" in politics, as county attorney and state senator. He has been regarded as one of the ablest political strategists of the Democratic party. Furthermore, there is a legend that he once trimmed the President handsomely in a weekend poker game. Being deceptively sleepy-eyed, and at the same time alert makes him a formidable poker player.

REINHARDT HEYDRICH, setting up drumhead justice in the former Czech provinces, with more than 100 executions to date, has improved

Heydrich Possibly Has Cost-Finding System on Killings greatly on the comparatively loose and casual techniques of the Germans after the Franco-Prussian war.

In the latter instance the French Francis Trireur gave the Germans a lot of real trouble. The reprisals were ruthless and widespread, but unsystematic, and quite amateurish compared to Heydrich's highly professional exploits, for the fatherland and the iron heel.

Old Baron Constantin von Neurath, whom Heydrich succeeds as "protector" in the Czech region, liked to shoot wild boars, but held back on shooting too many people. So they give a younger man a chance. The new "protector" was Hitler's finger-man in the 1934 blood-purge, one of his principal victims being his friend Ernst Roehm, with whom he had risen to Nazi party eminence in the SS organization. They immediately afterward made him director of the Berlin office of the Gestapo.

As he rose in the Gestapo, Heydrich established precise and up-to-date methods for killings and mayhem.

It was in 1938, when the Gestapo took on the activities of the "International Criminal Police commission," that he foreshadowed the wider outreach of his espionage system. He said: "We are aware that the criminal activities of the world can only be fought internationally." It was reported at the time that in his office there was built up a dossier on "criminals" all over the world, who had spoken disrespectfully of Nazi Germany. One exploit which won him increased power was filching Schuschnigg's private letters and papers.