

Critical Farm Labor Famine Still Problem

WASHINGTON—America's farmers have been warned by government experts that they cannot expect any immediate relief from the critical farm labor shortage, despite the end of the war and the cutback in draft calls.

Officials said workers probably would not start flowing back to the farms in substantial numbers as long as they could get higher wages and better hours in city factories.

America's rural population dipped from approximately 31,000,000 in January, 1942, to slightly more than 25,000,000 on January 1, 1945, under the pressure of draft inductions and a steady migration of farm workers to better-paying war jobs in the cities.

That trend was reversed slightly last year when the rural population crept back up to 25,520,000.

The experts said even that slight gain may be nullified if the recent prediction of the Veterans Administration that there will be 57,000,000 job openings by the end of the year should materialize. Non-farm workers in March, 1946, totaled only 44,700,000.

The total number of farm workers on the same date was 6,990,000. This did not include some 12,000 prisoners of war and 92,000 foreign workers who were imported from Jamaica, Bahama and British Honduras to meet the critical farm labor shortage.

Officials conceded that farm wages have increased sharply during the war years and still were rising under the impact of fierce bidding by individual farmers. But they contended the increase had not been anywhere near as great as the rise in industrial wages.

As a result, they said, many families who left the farm during the war and are now unemployed still are living in the city, hoping that they will be able to land a factory job.

If a shortage of industrial workers should materialize as predicted by the Veterans Administration, these people probably will remain in the city. If they continue jobless for any length of time, however, they will begin drifting back to the farms.

Meanwhile, the farmer can expect to find the labor situation even tighter this year than during

J. Richard Queen Director Asheville Square Dance Team

J. Richard Queen, of Waynesville, who is connected with the Veterans Administration in Asheville will accompany the square dance team of eight Asheville high school couples to the annual National Folk Festival to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, this week.

The group is sponsored by the Asheville Junior Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Queen is serving as director of the team and will also serve as its caller at the festival.

Sixteen Arrests Made By City Police This Week

The city police department have made 16 arrests since last Monday, with 14 since Friday. One was for larceny, another charged with carrying concealed weapons and another for assault, while 13 were charged with public drunkenness.

Two of the cases for public drunkenness have been tried in mayor's court and required to pay costs and fines. The remaining 14 cases will be tried this week.

Make Dishcloths
You can make yourself some dishcloths if you save the mesh bags which oranges and onions often come in. Boil them for 15 minutes in hot soapy water to which a little bleach has been added. This will shrink them to proper size and remove the coloring. Then wash them thoroughly in suds, rinse.

There now are about only 20,000 war prisoners assigned to American farms and the last of these is scheduled to leave on June 20. In addition, congress has provided funds to import only between 70,000 and 75,000 foreign workers this season instead of the 92,000 brought in last year.

Officials said this meant that city volunteers would have to pitch in again this year during the harvest season unless thousands of acres of crops are to go to waste. The U. S. needs about 3,000,000 farm workers during the peak harvest season.

In 1945, approximately 5,000,000 volunteers helped bring in the crops. They were particularly valuable in preventing great losses of fruits and small field vegetables. They included members of 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts and the Women's Land Army.

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WARDEN TELLS ALCATRAZ STORY



BREAKING A 12-YEAR PRECEDENT when he invited newspapermen to the Federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island, Cal., Warden James A. Johnston (shown in center, talking) reveals details of the desperate 44-hour siege by rebellious convicts. At right is James V. Bennett, Federal Director of Prisons, as the dramatic story is unfolded. (International)

IT'S A GOOD SIGN FOR THE DUTCH



THOUSANDS of wildly cheering Dutchmen thundered approval of Winston Churchill as he stood on the balcony of the Royal palace in Amsterdam beside Queen Wilhelmina and raised his hand in the familiar V-sign. For, it was during Churchill's prime ministership that British aided in liberating the Netherlands from the Germans. (International)

Food And Homes Is Top Problem In Germany Now

BERLIN—Twelve months ago, Alfred Behrendt, his wife, Ilse, his 20-year-old daughter, Vera, and his 18-year-old son, Herbert, spent 12 days in the dank, unlighted cellar beneath their bombed-out apartment house while the Red army stamped out the last remnants of Hitler's military machine in Berlin.

Like tens of thousands of other Berliners, the Behrendts will not celebrate or even observe the first anniversary of the war's end.

"We don't want to remember any military anniversary," Behrendt explained simply. "We just want to forget the terrible war which brought hunger and misery upon us."

Forty-eight-year-old Behrendt, who works as a clerk for the Berlin Traffic company, might be considered the head of a typical Berlin family were it not for one thing: He does not believe, as do many Germans today, that new war clouds are gathering over Europe.

"We do not believe there is another fool like Hitler in the world who would risk a new war," Behrendt said. "We know there are many differences between the western democracies and the Soviet Union, but none that could reasonably cause a new war."

In Behrendt's opinion, the problems of 1939 could have and should have been settled by peaceful means.

"But there was a fool who wanted and who started the war," he added. "Today the political tension is more severe than in 1939, but, thank God, there is no political leader who would dare to start a new conflict. My family and I have unshakable confidence in U.N.O."

Behrendt is a member of the Communist party. With his family, he lives in a small two-room apartment in the Russian sector of Berlin. His monthly salary from the Berlin Traffic company is 340 marks (\$136 at prewar exchange rate), of which he must pay 80 marks in taxes.

As one of Berlin's so-called "victims of Fascism," Behrendt's mother was Jewish, he enjoys certain little advantages. But his big worry is still food and shelter—like everyone else in this bombed out city.

Behrendt firmly believes that the biggest danger for the new German democracy is what he described as "the hunger and misery which now rules our daily life." Unless this problem is solved, he believes there is a great danger that Fascist elements again may gain control.

"A year ago, when we hid in our cellar, we swore never again to grumble about dry bread if only the terrible killing would cease," Behrendt said. "But we all know that human beings too soon forget bad times."

Behrendt believes that Germany's reconstruction must have strong Allied support—at least for two years. He also believes that too many peaceful industrial plants in Germany are being removed as reparations or destroyed.

It is his opinion that food at the moment is Germany's biggest and most urgent problem. The Germans also must have living quarters, textiles and shoes, he pointed out.

Almost all the energies of the Behrendt family are directed toward obtaining their daily rations, which they admit are adequate to prevent immediate hunger, but not sufficient to maintain their health for more than another year.

Behrendt and his daughter, who works for a reconstruction company, have No. 2 ration cards which entitle them to purchase daily: 500 grams of bread, 65 grams of meat, 15 grams of fat, 20 of sugar, 100 of dehydrated potatoes, 60 of cereal, 13 of salt, three of coffee substitute and a pinch of tea.

Herbert Behrendt, who works as an office clerk, has card No. 3, which entitles him only to 400 grams of bread per day, 40 grams of meat and 10 of fat. The other amounts are the same as for No. 2 card. Mrs. Behrendt, who has no outside job, draws the No. 5, or "housewife" ration of 400 grams of bread, 20 grams of meat, seven of fat, 20 of sugar, 100 of dehydrated potatoes, 13 of salt, three of coffee substitute and a pinch of tea.

The Behrendt family spends many evenings now learning Spanish. Behrendt said he hopes they soon will be able to immigrate to Buenos Aires, where Mrs. Behrendt's brother operates a massage parlor.

Bowel Cleansing Power Of Inner-Aid Medicine
One man recently took INNER-AID three days and said afterward that he never would have believed his body contained so much filthy substance. He says his stomach, intestines, bowels and whole system were so thoroughly cleansed that his constant headaches came to an end, several pimply skin eruptions on his face dried up overnight, and even the rheumatic pains in his knee disappeared. At present he is an altogether different man, feeling fine in every way.

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VFW Auxiliary To Be Formed At Canton At Y.M.C.A. Tonight

A meeting will be held tonight at the Y.M.C.A. in Canton for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, according to an announcement by Robert D. Coleman, Jr., newly-elected commander of the Canton post of the VFW.

Mothers, wives and sisters of veterans of foreign service are eligible for membership in the auxiliary, Commander Coleman announced. Officers and committeemen also will be elected during the meeting, it was said.

Nice
Another nice thing about writing to your congressman is that you don't have to enclose a couple of tops from breakfast food packages.

It is the hope of many hundreds of Berliners today to be able to leave Germany.

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