MEN OF EARTH

By Russell Lord

CORN

AMERICAN farming combines those basic practices which spread through Europe from the Mediterranean country with certain elements of a native technique, developed in antiquity on this continent by the Indians.

Eminent among American Indian farmers were those of the eastern seaboard. The five tribes of the Iroquois, especially; they never learned to harden iron; the only animals they ever domesticated were dogs; yet the imprint of their agricultural practices is upon even the most mechanized and complex or our American farms today.

They were Indians who farmed more than they hunted. Their great crop was corn—not the corn of the Bible, which means any one of the small grains indiscriminately, but maize, the giant grass of the prairies, the grain that gives a special savor, particularly, to all that comes out of our middle acres, the corn belt.

These Iroquois place-names which chime beside the Greek in the Finger Lake region of upper New York—Cayuga at Ithaca, Syracuse, Onondaga, Homer, Canandaigua—commemorate a people whose spirit was altogether native and pagan. Their tribal culture grew as naturally as a tree. Not only their sustenance, but their poetry, their oratory, their statecraft and their worship took root in the unalterable realities of the soil and the four seasons. The 6,500 surviving Iroquois penned upon five scattered reservations in upstate New York hold out against the white man's Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist missionaries, and face the sun as pagans still.

By legends which accord with the known facts of geology and of the theoretical history of races, the Iroquois trace back, as do all American Indians, to a wandering tribe supposed to have come afoot from Asia to America, back in the early dawn Stone age.

No man can say how many thousands of years ago they came. But when the first white adventurers penetrated northern America they found the, then, Five Nations of the Iroquois united into a confederacy which was in effect a league to enforce peace. (These nations were the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, the Cayugas and the Senecas. The Tuscaroras, or Sixth Nation, was not admitted until 1714.)

The Five Nations embraced women's suffrage. "Iroquois women," writes Eri Bates of Cornell university, "were voting as early as 1550 and the young bucks and unmarried men had to grow corn, beans and squash to feed the widows and orphans during the winter. Applied socialism when serfdom was the lot of Europe!"

Later, only the women voted. They could depose a chief at a day's notice. What Aristophanes in his Lysistrata relates as satire, the Iroquois matrons established in fact. During the years prior to Iroquois Golden age, which ran from about 1570 to 1770, the men of the Nation had made—as men often do in an agricultural society, the help problem being what it is—certain placations to a female's way of looking at things. But it was not until after 1600 that they submitted completely as a sex to enlightenment and progress.

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Will Hoag, president of the Seneca Republic, was a tall man, slightly stooped, timid and proud. Like most Seneca Indians, he was not very dark. He wore the plain clothes of a plain white farmer, a soft shirt without a collar or necktie, a blue coat when he came to town. Yet he was a person of distinction. His face was long and seamed with each feature gauntly yet thinly molded, and there was about his whole person an almost Lincolnian suggestion of gentleness and strength. As he stood up to take my hand amid all the barber shop elegance of Salamanca's most thoroughly modern hotel lobby, he stood out.

This was in 1927. He was sixty-six years old. He drove a big car diffidently in the manner of one who learns to drive late in life; and hesitantly as he drove he kept up his end of the talk.

It was true, he said, as I had heard: The white people of Salamanca, New York, paid taxes to his people, the Senecas. This railhead and small city is, in a sense, not in the United States at all, but on land ceded by treaty to another nation, his own. The form of arrangement was at that time, a ninety-nine-year lease, the rental divided on a tax basis among the some 10,000 white inhabitants of the town.

It did not come, he said, to a very big tax; not, at least, what the white man would call big. Maybe five dollars a year for the ordinary householder; around $150 a year for the largest business houses. And two dollars for a hunting license, good half a mile back from either bank of the Allegheny river for some 12 miles down—those, he said, were the limits of this 30,000-acre reservation.

The Allegheny reservation; we were toward the middle of it now, passing along a narrow dirt road between small neat farms, their houses and their yards well kept, their fields rising smoothly from the river banks. It was early June; the spring had been late; the days previous had been days of cold, driving rain. But the sun was out now; it was warm, and everything for miles around was growing and shining. "Things look good," said Will Hoag. "It is fine land down here, by the water." He spoke now with greater animation, and permitted himself a slight, encircling gesture, one that did not take the hand more than three inches from the steering wheel.

"It is good here in the spring. This is our small country. We are free. A nation within a nation, separate.

"The Six Nations of the Iroquois, of whom my people, the Senecas, make half, still hold about three times as much land as you see here. We hold this land by treaty with George Washington. It was called the Treaty of Peace and Friendship. The year of it was 1795. It gave us the right to have our own government and to take taxes from the white men who come to live here."

He pointed out different places along the way: "There people raise vegetables and sell them in Salamanca. They do well. . . . This man follows the old ideas of farming, the Indian way. He has better early vegetables, so they say, than anybody else. He plants many herbs, too, that he cannot sell to the white people; they are used among our own people as medicine. . . .

"That house also (it was fairly modern and well kept, with a large garden), it belongs to an Indian who follows the old religion. About half of our people still do.

"They know some things, the people who do things the old way, that your college of agriculture cannot explain. The men who come here from the college at Ithaca have told me that in some ways the old Indian corn beats the white man's varieties, and that Indian tobacco is in some ways best. It is for one thing, less likely to take disease.

"But I think that the old way cannot last. It was good for our fathers, long ago, very good, for them. Then there was plenty of land. They lived in villages, joined in against enemies and went out in the day to farm. When the land gave out, they moved their villages and their farms some place else. They did not know anything about live stock.

"That is the great thing that my people have had to learn, that there are not now any new farms to go to; that they must feed from animals the farms they have now, and keep them rich.

"I had to learn that, myself. I grew early potatoes and my crops kept getting less. Then I got some cows, then more. I am through farming now, my son has the place, but before I stopped I had thirty cows and sold my milk from a wagon in Salamanca. It paid very well. The farm is as good now as it ever was. We will go there."

After a while, we rounded a turn and came upon a board shanty, deserted, with a flaring advertisement for chewing tobacco on its fence.

"That is how my people lived twenty years ago. I was born in the kind of house that came even before a log cabin. I was born in 1861.

"When I was born there were nine hundred of us on this reservation. There are a little more than that now. We moved over into the valley and took up farming. Later, I bought out my brothers and sisters. After a while, I was able to build one of the first modern frame houses on the reservation. . . . This is the place."

We drove in and saw Arthur, Will's son, a graduate, as is his wife, of Alfred university. They are leaders of the tribes' temperance society, and have little to say to white men. "This is a very busy time, in farming," murmured Will. We saw his grandchildren, and took them with us to the White House, their grandfather's small new bungalow. There we left them fishing with bent pins for carp in a newly made presidential fish pond.

The farmer we visited next, S. A. Crouse, was a sort of secretary of the interior to the head of the Republic. He lacked, it seemed to me, only the proper robes over his stained overalls to make of him the perfect Chinese mandarin. He and the president put their feet on the hub of an old wheel and conferred. Treaty matters of moment were before congress. They arranged to run down to Washington in Will's car.

At Tunassa, the Quaker mission school where Will Hoag learned English, we had lunch. Tunassa is Iroquois for Stream of the Shining Pebbles. The school has been there since 1816. It is a boarding school. For more than a hundred years it has given fifty or so Iroquois boys and girls the equivalent of a ten year grade and high school education. "They do not try to make us Quakers," Will Hoag told me, "they only try to make us good. I became a Presbyterian, but I will never forget the kindness of these Friends."

We went back to the bungalow, and he showed me his collection of Iroquois relics—stone implements, bark baskets for the harvest, the wooden mortar-and-pestle that was used as a flour mill. He showed me how they pounded their corn to meal, then sifted it through three differently sieved baskets, each one of a finer mesh. He showed me belts of wampum, fingering which, Red Jacket, Corn Planter, Logan and other great Seneca chiefs were better able to remember their orations. And tom-toms for dancing, and turtle shell rattles commemorating the prowess of their sacred animal, which, say the Iroquois, pushed America up from the bottom of the sea. He showed me also cups and cooking utensils, death masks, ceremonial pipes and headdresses, pottery, papoose boards, maize masks and hides tanned with the brains of deer.

I asked about the present constitution of the Six Nations. Each, he said, is somewhat differently governed. Some have chiefs, some call them presidents, some maintain the title Hiawatha, the legendary Iroquois designation for a chief. Each tribe is in effect a federated republic, sending representatives to a council of eighteen. "I was first made president of the Senecas when I was forty-five years old. Our laws will not allow a president to succeed himself, but I have been elected every third two years ever since.

"Our six nations send twelve students each year to the winter course in agriculture at Cornell. That is the greatest thing for the good of our people to have been started in my time. Some people are too impatient to farm, but for most of us farming is best.

"In our councils, the Bears or farm clan, always sat first. Farming was a part of our religion. Our fathers said that the white man was the most ungrateful man in the world; he had only one Thanksgiving day. They had twelve, following the moons, the feasts of the strawberries, the feast of the green corn, and so on, through the year.

"We do not all of us go to the Long House now to church. But we all keep a part of the old religion. We do not want factories and cities. Our heart is in the soil. The progress that we want, we want it to leave us free."

A few months after I saw him I heard that he was dead."

WNU Service.

Plan to Strengthen Our Land and Sea Defenses

Largest Appropriation for Army and Navy Ever Proposed in Time of Peace Gives Congressional Consideration.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

AN APPROPRIATION of approximately $1,350,000,000 for military expansion on land, on the sea, and in the air is going through the mill of legislation in congress. It is the largest peace-time appropriation of its kind ever attempted by the United States. Officials in Washington have taken particular pains to emphasize the fact that all of the proposed additions are strictly of a defensive nature.

Included in the program are large additions to and replacements for army fighting equipment, naval replacements and auxiliaries, and—what is regarded as most important of all, at least by the Japanese and other Orientals—the projection of America's western frontier 2,000 miles out into the Pacific ocean.

"The world's largest air base," as the Japanese press has been pleased to phrase it, would consist of a chain of air bases stretching in a gigantic, sweeping curve from Alaska through the Hawaiian islands to the Panama Canal Zone. This would, in military affect, make the Pacific coast the secondary western line of defense and would create of the northeastern Pacific a great "inland sea." The plans have been in the making for more than a year and are claimed by officials to have no relation whatever to Japan's recent abrogation of the naval treaty.

Key to the whole project will be an $11,000,000 air base at Hawaii, supplemented by a large naval base. The entire new frontier will of course require considerable added man power and equipment to operate.

The army's share of the appropriation would be $405,000,000, as proposed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, chief of staff. The budget of the navy would be increased to $528,871,347, exclusive of the $278,000,000 the PWA allotted to it for new warships. The latter amount is still largely unused.

Use Merchant Marine.

Besides this, President Roosevelt has conceived a huge subsidization of the United States merchant marine which would permit modernization and strengthening of ships along basic plans of the navy. This would make it possible for the ships to offer a maximum amount of usefulness as auxiliary naval equipment in time of war. His plan also includes gradual replacement of 100 auxiliary naval vessels, with construction of 30 vessels during the next two years, at a cost of about $150,000,000.

The present personnel of the army includes approximately 118,750 men. The expansion program would increase this by at least one-third, and would add 2,320 planes to the air service; President Roosevelt would be given the power of augmenting the personnel, with a limit of 165,000. The army's budget would be increased by $30,000,000; the budget only a short time ago was stepped up more than $48,000,000. The expansion requires an amount about double the average appropriation to the War department for military purposes.

As indicated in a series of meetings of the military affairs committee of the house of representatives, the army's $405,000,000 would be about apportioned along these lines:

New and improved munitions supplies and purchase of reserves, $45,000,000; air corps expansion, as recommended by the report of the Baker board last year, $60,000,000; anti-aircraft equipment, $25,000,000; coast defenses, $23,000,000; mechanization of army units, $16,000,000, and procurement of new types developed since the World war, $18,000,000.

Housing the army would take a generous slice of the total: air corps construction, $44,600,000; army quarters and barracks, $80,100,000; National Guard camps, $6,400,000, and automotive equipment, $22,189,000.

According to General MacArthur, army equipment is in a deplorable state. The boys are still drilling with 1903 Springfield rifles, he says. He urged that 175 pursuit, 200 bombing, 140 observation, 100 training and 65 cargo planes, be secured for defensive purposes, and asked that $16,000,000 be set aside for modern arms and mechanism.

Mechanized Equipment.

This amount would equip only one regiment with medium weight tanks, one with light tanks, a mechanized brigade of cavalry, a battery of field artillery, seven troops with armored cars, and seven infantry companies with light tanks. This force would require the acquisition of 285 light-weight tanks, 162 medium tanks, 48 armored cars, 44 combat cars, 33 scout cars and 76 half-track trucks. All these would be armed with .30 and .50 caliber machine guns.

Increases in the National Guard personnel from 190,000 to 210,000 would require $2,500,000 and an additional $854,000 a year for maintenance. Pay, clothing and the necessities of life for additional officers and men would take $25,000,000.

Not included in this outlay is $600,000,000 which will go to the CCC for the next year, the administration persisting in its declaration that the camps are in no way military ventures. Asked if it would not be more advisable to double the standing army than to double the CCC personnel, General MacArthur replied: "Yes, the arguments are invincible. It costs you less by a third for a soldier than a CCC boy, the training is just as good and you are insuring the future of your country."

Long-held ambitions of the air service may be realized with expansions which would give the United States by far the most powerful aviation force in the world. The proposals which were suggested by the Baker committee in its report on the army air corps last July have the full backing of the Federal Aviation commission.

Projections outlined would more than double the air strength of the army. By 1941 the United States would boast 4,230 airplanes, a force much stronger than any which exists in the world at the present moment.

Present strength of the army air corps is about 1,407 planes. Under the expansion program, this would be increased to 2,730 by 1938. The navy today has 971 planes, and would increase this to 1,010 by 1941.

America Not Behind.

The aviation commission reported that America is not seriously behind other nations in the air. Its report said:

"While we are behind some of the numbers of aircraft now of their greatest quality at the present time, we might easily become so if we sought to secure these leaders of the supreme policies of other powers."

This hardly agrees with the charge of Brig. Gen. William E. Mitchell, former chief of the army air corps, before the patents committee of the house of representatives. The fiery general said the United States did not have a single airplane suitable for engaging in warfare against a first-class power. He also let loose a tirade against the manufacturers aircraft association, which has control of most of the aeronautic patents, declaring that an airplane could be made for $1,000 if it were not for this monopoly.

Said the Baker report: "In general aviation the United States leads the world; it is superior in commercial aviation, its naval aviation is stronger than any other power, and with more financial support its army aviation can be raised to a world position equal to that held by our navy."

The Federal Aviation commission was all in favor of the expansion.

"Nothing short of a radical change in the international situation should be allowed to interfere with the completion of this program or with the making of the necessary appropriations to carry it out," said its report.

Aviation Plans.

Military aviation plans in this country—and frequently in others—have always been hampered by two directly opposed schools of thought. These have been deplored by the Baker board, which held that recriminations and individualistic public announcements have destroyed harmony and co-operation.

One of these schools feels that "the next war will be fought in the air," to employ a phrase that has become hackneyed by frequent repetition in the last few years. The faction, supported most laudibly by General Mitchell in America, contends that the air forces should be completely separated from land or sea forces. General Mitchell, when in office, went so far as to secure the aviators special pay and different uniforms. According to his views, a good air force could wipe out all surface vessels of the sea with dispatch and could reduce armies by overwhelming numbers because of the suddenness of their attack.

The other school contends that the air force is only a part of the general military program of defense, and this school seems to find General MacArthur on its side.

This faction, of course, would expand and foster the air service, keeping its speed and efficiency at least on a par with that of the forces of other nations, but it declares that since the planes depend upon ground forces for supply and support, they should be regarded only as extremely valuable auxiliaries to the fighting forces of the land, which in reality take, occupy and hold territory.

This important discussion has caused congress for many years to be exceedingly wary in the matter of appropriations of money for aerial expansion. Indeed, the air corps has at times been able to keep a decent pace only by effecting transfers of personnel from other branches of the army, these transfers generally having been accomplished through the efforts of General MacArthur.

To the house military affairs committee General MacArthur calmly asserted that unless the army's proposed $405,000,000 expansion legislation be passed, the United States would without doubt be the loser in "the next war."

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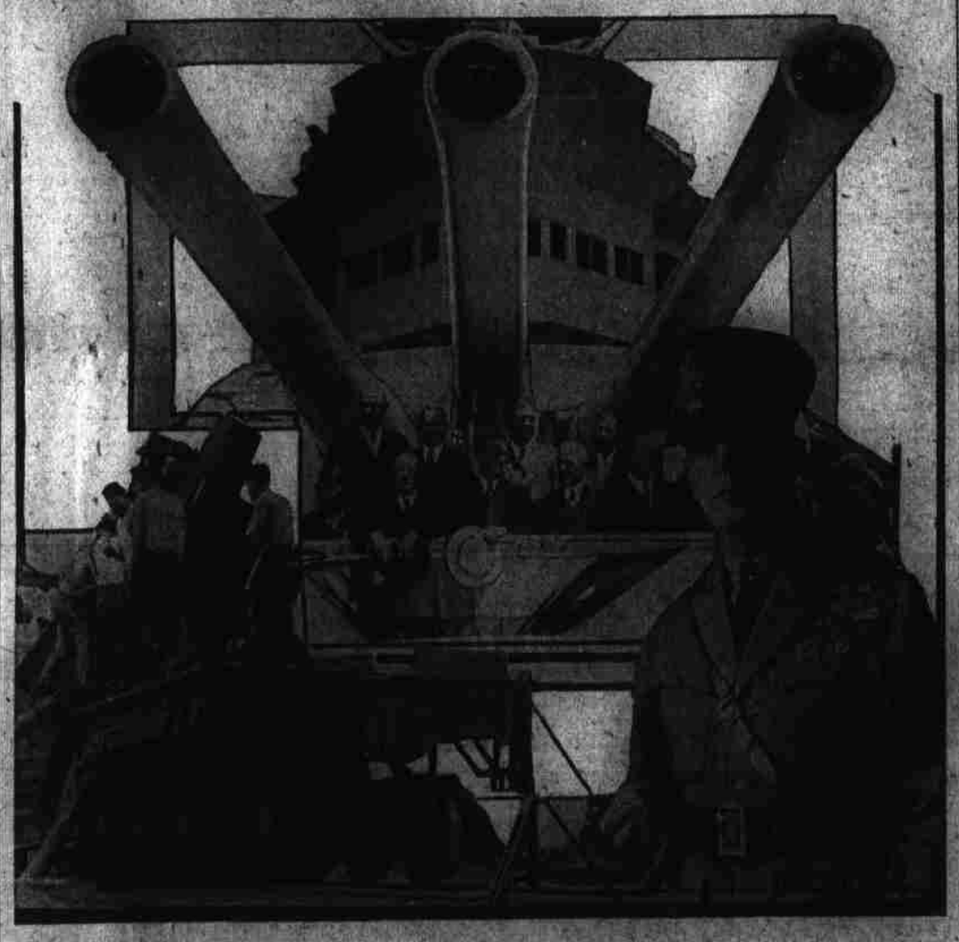

Center, Giant Guns of the U. S. S. Indianapolis. Left, 12-inch Railway Mortar. Right, Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

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Smiles

SEEMED SAFER

Old Lady—Aren't you ashamed to ask for money?

Tramp—I got six months for taking it without asking.—Stray Stories Magazine.

Unknown Language

Lady Visitor—And so your little brother can talk now, can he?

Bobby—Yes, he can say some words very well.

Lady Visitor—How nice! And what words are they?

Bobby—I don't know. I've never heard any of them before.

In Doubt

"What has become of the man who used to say, 'Every day, in every way, we're getting better and better?'"

"I don't know," answered Miss Cayenne, "whether he went to heaven or whether he has joined old friends at headquarters of the Amanias club."