

Tomlinson's News Notes

Scanned and Picked up from Here, There and Everywhere
by J.W. Tomlinson

Air For Iran

It was announced last week by the State Department that a United States-Iranian 10-million-dollar Point Four aid agreement was signed September 3 in Tehran. The aid is designed to help Iran until it once again is receiving revenue from its rich oil resources.

Girl Swims Ontario

According to a news report from Toronto, Canada, Marily Bell, a 15-year-old girl captured the hearts of Canadians a few days ago by swimming 32 miles across Lake Ontario — the first time anyone accomplished it.

By accomplishing the feat, the 5-foot-one, 119-pound girl with a boyish bob won prize-money amounting to more than \$10,000 and prizes amounting to more than \$50,000.

Tax Errors

It was reported from Washington last week that taxpayers filing their returns for last year made errors amounting to \$7,185,440 with a fifth of it in the government's favor.

Newspaper accounts quoted Revenue Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews as saying that errors on returns filed this spring were fewer than a year before. Out of 33,800,000 returns on which the Revenue Service has run a mathematical check, 750,570 errors were found. A year before, 888,880 errors were found in the same number of returns.

Discovery of the errors was worth \$35,107,882 to the government. That was the difference between the \$44,146,660 of errors taxpayers made in their own favor and other amounting to \$11,038,774 in favor of the government which made rebates to the over-generous taxpayers.

Trade Restrictions Eased

The Foreign Operations Administration in Washington announced recently that it has reduced from 297 to 80 the number of items that the free nations have been banned from shipping to Russia and its satellites.

Among the items taken off the restricted list were such things as flat-cars, tank-cars, rails, crude petroleum, diesel oil, locomotives, tractors, nonmilitary tires, plati-

num, cadmium, sodium, strontium, vanadium, asbestos, and mica.

The relaxation applies only to shipments destined for Russia and its European bloc. There was no easing on embargoes of goods for shipment to Communist China, North Korea, or the Communist area of North Vietnam.

Air Force Academy

The first United States Air Force Academy was formally activated recently when orders were signed making the "West Point of the Air" a reality. "72 staff officers are to begin assembling at the Lowry base in Colorado where the first class of 300 cadets is scheduled to start next July 1.

Withdrawal From Korea

The Defense Department announced in Washington recently that four American divisions in Korea are being withdrawn and sent elsewhere.

The statement said the action was being taken because it is necessary to send the divisions to areas where it is believed they will better serve the strategic interest of the United States.

According to reports the withdrawal is already causing deep concern in Korea, where the Republic's National Assembly unanimously voted to oppose it.

The withdrawal of four divisions will leave two American divisions, a British Commonwealth division, and smaller units from other Allied nations in South Korea, together with twenty Republic of Korea Divisions.

Battle Casualties

A revised summary of battle casualties in the Korean War, which was issued a few days ago by the Defense department in Washington, placed the total number of American dead, wounded and missing at 142,067.

Congressional Investigation

A report made by Representative Karl M. LeCompte, of Iowa, chairman of the House Administration Committee, shows that the House of Representatives has granted a near-record amount of \$2,732,050 to its investigating committees during the Eighty-third Congress.

The total is second only to the record \$2,864,500 granted to the Eighty-second Congress in 1951 and 82 of that amount \$634,891 still as unspent in January, 1953.

The largest grant of the last session was \$575,000 and went to the House Un-American Activities Committee, a new record for a two-year session. Representative Le-

Compte's figures do not cover the House Appropriations Committee, which spends about \$500,000 a year on investigations. It is not accountable to his committee, which checks on all other committees.

New Homes

The government Bureau of Statistics reports that 120,000 new houses were started in August. This indicated, the bureau says, that more new homes will be built this year than any other year since the record year of 1950.

U. S. Population

According to the latest reports from the United States Bureau of Census, new population figures as of July 1, 1953 for the nation as of that date was 153,508,000, which was a gain of 5 percent over the 1950 census of 150,677,861. The South Atlantic states as a group increased from 21,182,335 to 22,550,000 or 6.5 percent.

The North Carolina population as of that date was 4,193,000, which was a gain of 3.2 percent over the 1950 census, when the State's total was 4,061,929.

Illegal Aliens Returned

During the first five days of a campaign in the lower Rio Grande valley, as Associated Press report says, about 35,000 illegally entered aliens were rounded up or have voluntarily returned to Mexico.

They were practically all "Wetbacks" (Mexicans who have crossed the Rio Grande River illegally.)

National Finances

Treasury figures made public recently show that the national government wound up its fiscal year with a deficit of \$3,029,000,000.

The federal government spent about \$67,600,000,000 and received in taxes and other revenue about \$64,500,000,000 in fiscal 1954.

The deficit in fiscal 1953 was \$9,400,000,000.

The federal debt on June 30 of this year totaled \$271,341,040,494.

A Bit Of Humor

Entering a lawyer's office in a small Tennessee town a buxom wife from the hills said:

"I ain't a complainin' woman, Mr. Smith, but my husband ain't doin' right. When one of our mules died, he hitched me up with the other one to a plow."

"Why, that's inhumans!" declared the lawyer. "Do you want to divorce?"

"Nope," she answered. "Eh! I want another mule. I've about worked that skinny old one to death, and he ought to have a rest."

A young woman who had married a rather tight-fisted young man decided to deal with her husband's stinginess with humor and grace, a resolution that was rudely shaken when she observed the manager amount of the check he gave her for her first month's allowance.

"I'm going to have this photographed, dear," she tenderly remarked.

Planning To Seed

Planning to seed a few acres of alfalfa this month? If so, you'll get a better stand by seeding it in alternate contour strips with lespedeza.

Frank Doggett, soil conservationist for the State College Extension Service, says fields seeded only to alfalfa are vulnerable to erosion until the stand is well established. Most farmers don't like terraces in their alfalfa fields because they interfere with mowing and raking. This means that strip cropping is about the only practical means left to prevent erosion.

Washing rains do not come often in the fall and winter, says Doggett, but just one rain can do a lot of damage. Therefore, it's best to plan those new alfalfa acres well. Last fall many farmers saw their new alfalfa fields cut up by the drought-breaking rains which left the ground rough for mowing and raking.

Along with strip cropping, other soil-saving practices should be used, says Doggett. Some of these are:

"As a sort of memento of our marriage," the groom inquired.

"No, dear," the bride sweetly replied, "so I can have it enlarged."

—Wall Street Journal.

land prepared so as to leave a trash mulch on the surface and any practice which will give a good stand and quick growth. Early seeding, inoculation, fertilizing according to soil test recommendations, and covering one-fourth to one-half inch deep, are examples of practices that should help to produce a good stand and rapid growth.

Doggett also points out that it is well to reseed pastures on sloping lands in alternate strips also. It takes two years to complete reseeded a field, but the results make it worthwhile.

The first step toward improving the quality of cotton is to determine the proper amount of seed. The cotton producer should determine the proper amount of seed according to the variety of cotton and the soil conditions. He should use the best possible ginning job. It is a major responsibility of the properly harvested cotton to be ginned with results equal to building clear of tar spots, greases, those obtained with cotton which spots, lint fly, loose neps and other has been properly harvested. Near foreign matter that could damage the cotton.

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