

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

JAPAN'S BATTLESHIPS INCOME TAXES DUE LEASE-LEND REFLECTIONS "MINISTRY OF DEFENSE" FACTS ABOUT THE BASES DEBATE DELAYS CONGRESS AIRPLANES AND ENGINES

As the Senate last week continued its wrangle over the Lease-Lend bill, a review of congressional performances, as Congress entered its third month, showed that only three major bills have been enacted, including one raising the public debt limit to \$65,000,000,000 and eliminating tax-exempt securities, another appropriating \$313,500,000 to construct 200 cargo ships, and a third to provide \$175,000,000 for Army clothing.

The House, having finished its consideration of the Lease-Lend Bill several weeks before, has passed a \$1,415,991,838 appropriation for independent agencies, another \$1,146,394,496 for the Treasury-Postoffice supply bill, authorizing \$245,228,500 for navy public works, including some construction on sites leased from Britain and work at Samoa and Guam; passed a bill to permit the Federal Housing Administration to insure \$100,000,000 of mortgages for defense housing; and a supplemental appropriation of \$1,375,277,202 for Army housing and expanded work at naval bases, also including those on British island possessions in the Atlantic and on Samoa and Guam in the Pacific.

Considerable interest has been aroused by the new issue of Jane's Fighting Ships, which has just been published in London. The volume is considered an authority on naval matters. It reveals that Japan and Germany are busy expanding their navies, with some emphasis upon battleships.

According to Jane's, the Japanese launched three 40,000-ton battleships last year and have two more under construction. In addition, three pocket battleships of around 15,000 tons have been launched and a fourth is under construction. The new German 35,000-ton battleship, Bismarck, is probably ready for service and a sister-ship, the Von Turpitz, will be ready for action next year.

This authoritative naval publication estimates that at least forty capital ships are being constructed, or ordered, and that with the exception of the four Japanese pocket battleships, all are to be of at least 35,000 tons, with at least half of 40,000 tons or more displacement.

If the report of the Japanese battleship program is correct, it appears that Japan will have in the near future fourteen or fifteen battleships in addition to the pocket battleships mentioned. In view of the fact that the United States has only twelve battleships in the Pacific, it will be apparent that the completion of the Washington and the North Carolina within the next few months, will do no more than equalize the fleets of the United States and Japan. If next year, however, the United States is able to commission the four other 35,000-ton battleships now under construction, this country will have a reasonable superiority over Japan in battleships.

This week, millions of Americans will discover that it costs money to prepare a nation for national defense, although it must be admitted, the average taxpayer can expect additional burdens in the years to come. With Saturday the deadline for filing income tax returns, the average person is interested in a few changes which Congress made in the law. Personal exemptions were reduced from \$2,500 to \$2,000 for heads of families, and from \$1,000 to \$800 for single persons. In addition, Congress added a ten per cent. "defense tax" to all income taxes. This means that if your tax figured \$20, you add an additional \$2 for the defense tax.

We have several times, in this column, pointed out that much progress is being made on the national defense program. While there has been a period of delay, due to the necessity of constructing new plants, large-scale production of war necessities is assured during 1941. This does not mean, however, that the United States can afford to take its time in preparing for complete defense. In the training of an Army and the manufacture of supplies and equipment, everything should proceed

as rapidly as possible because the nation faces an unknown factor, the matter of time. No one knows what might happen in the war in Europe and no one knows when the United States may be called upon to protect itself.

Debate on the Lease-Lend Bill has been, in our opinion, somewhat wild-eyed, especially on the part of opponents. Frankly, we see no basis for the allegation that the measure will "establish a dictatorship" in this country, or that it will undermine the fundamental liberties of the American people. That it implements a new national policy, making the United States the "arsenal for the democracies" is undoubtedly true. This represents a tremendous shift of position on the part of the United States but it seems to be in accord with majority public opinion.

The accusation that the passage of the Lease-Lend Bill will automatically put the United States into the war is somewhat far-fetched. Undoubtedly, the United States will face some risk in carrying out its determination to arm Great Britain, Greece, China, and possibly other nations that are engaged in defending themselves from aggression. It is a matter of argument, however, whether these risks are greater than the risks that this country will assume through inaction. Considerable difference of opinion exists on the subject and everyone is entitled to his own conclusion.

We might suggest, in connection with the Lease-Lend Bill debate, that the reader should secure a copy of the legislative proposal and read it carefully. The scope of the bill is set forth in understandable terms and while some matters are left to the discretion of the President, the intent of Congress is readily apparent. Of course, those Americans who distrust the President are adamantly opposed to giving him any powers whatsoever.

However, in the present state of world conditions, it seems inevitable that a democracy, in order to assert its rights, must provide its elected officials with sufficient power to deal with the dictator-led states.

Four Cabinet officers, Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau, Stimson and Knox, are expected to administer the procurement program in the cooperative rearmament effort of the United States and Great Britain and to act as advisors in connection with economic cooperation with England, which will probably be greatly extended. The Cabinet group will be, in a degree, a "ministry of defense," with the Office of Production Management, the Knudsen-Hillman organization, charged with the job of producing the materials needed. The President is expected to head the set-up, keeping a constant hand on the organization and its work.

The Anglo-American destroyer-base deal of last Summer provides that the United States can assume military control and conduct military operations in any part of the territory affected if necessary for the protection of the new American bases. This seems to mean that in the event of an emergency, the United States can instantly take over the British possessions in the Atlantic, Caribbean and South America.

Moreover, it is pointed out that the agreement permits the United States to acquire additional defense areas on a similar ninety-nine-year lease arrangement, if desired, and that American naval authorities are given the right to use waters near the bases and to use highways and existing naval facilities in the territories on the same basis as British authorities.

Besides, Chairman Carl Vinson, of the House Naval Affairs Committee, points out that the cost of all private land to be purchased by this Government will be about \$2,000,000. The bases will cover 63,772 acres, with 12,392 acres being under naval jurisdiction and 61,380 acres in the control of the Army.

Mr. Vinson's revelation was made in reply to critics of the deal who attempted to establish that the British had been unfair with the United States. He points out that under the agreement, this country can, if necessary, control the operation of ships and aircraft within the areas leased, control all communications from and to the United States bases, install armaments, nets, bombs, and similar devices in areas leased and establish

Bale-To-An-Acre Counties Named

Raleigh, March 12.—A dozen bale-to-an-acre cotton counties were reported today in a final cotton review issued by the State Department of Agriculture.

The banner counties, reporting production of a bale or more to the acre, are: Camden, Chowan, Cleveland, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt and Wilson.

North Carolina's 1940 cotton crop was valued at \$35,150,000, or about 61 per cent above 1939.

Adding the value of cotton seed estimated at \$7,370,000, to the value of cotton lint, the total value of last year's crop was placed at \$42,520,000 and given the rank of number 2 among the State's cash crops, reports W. T. Wesson, junior statistician of the Department.

The 1940 cotton yield of 425 pounds per acre eclipsed the 1911 all-time record by 83 pounds, while production totaled 740,000 bales from 833,000 acres.

"Production was about 62 per cent above 1939 and 12 per cent above the 10-year (1929-1938) average," Wesson added. "The 1940 production increase was due mainly to the large increase in acreage and yields throughout the eastern part of the State."

"For the 41 coastal counties, the average per acre yield last season was 447 pounds of lint compared with only 235 pounds in 1939. Yield increases were accompanied by an increased acreage of 73,675, resulting in a 126 per cent larger production in coastal counties compared with 1939."

In the United States last year cotton production totaled 12,686,000 bales compared with 11,817,000 for the 10-year (1929-1938) average.

its own military police and import free from all duties, imposts, excises, tolls, customs or any other assessments, all apparatus necessary to establishing the base. At the end of the 99-year period, all improvements may be removed.

The airplane program seems to be getting along, with indications that output will jump fast within the next few months. In 1940, the aircraft industry almost doubled its floor space, from 12,000,000 to 22,500,000 square feet, and made arrangements to double it again. Employees increased from 60,000 to 160,000. The result of this expansion will be reflected in coming months and while the output of planes has barely exceeded 1,000 a month, there is reason to expect much faster production in the future.

CIRCLE NO. SIX MEETS

Circle Number Six of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Hertford Baptist Church met Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Tom Cox with Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Edna Eley as hostesses. Mrs. Clara Gibbs had the program in charge and was assisted by Mrs. Jim Bass and Miss Blanche Butler. The new leader, Mrs. Mark Gregory, made an interesting talk, after which the meeting was dismissed by Mrs. Gibbs.

During the social hour, the hostesses served a delicious fruit salad with cookies.

The next meeting of the circle will be held at the home of Mrs. Fred Chalk with Mrs. Carl Perry as assisting hostess.

CROSS ROADS NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Melton Bateman and daughter, of Ryland, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bateman. Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Bateman and children visited them in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayland Bateman spent Sunday afternoon in Edenton with Mrs. Bateman's mother, Mrs. Hurdle.

Miss Marian Fiske spent the week-end with her mother at Moyock. Miss May Belle Edwards went to her home at Whaleyville, Va., for the week-end.

Mrs. J. D. Hobbs and Hallett Hobbs visited Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Jr., Friday afternoon.

Mrs. J. D. Hobbs, Hallett and John Hobbs visited Mrs. E. L. Winslow and Mrs. Herbert Dale Sunday afternoon.

Tyree Buck, of Winterville, spent the week-end with his wife at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Winslow.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Dale, of Edenton, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dale, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Edna Ansell visited Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Hollowell, Sr., Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Elliott visited friends in Colerain Sunday afternoon. George E. Goodwin, who has been sick with flu, is able to be out.

Mrs. W. T. Craft, who has been very ill with pneumonia, is now much better.

Mrs. W. D. Welch, Sr., is visiting Mrs. Thomas Jackson, at Weeks-ville.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Sullivan, of Hertford, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Hicks and son, of Edenton; Mr. and Mrs. Rob Evans and daughter visited Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dall Sunday af-

ternoon.

Miss Louise Wilson spent the week-end with Mrs. Z. W. Evans.

Mrs. W. D. Welch, Sr., and Mrs. Drew Welch visited Mrs. Belle W. Parker Saturday evening.

C. W. Blanchard, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with his family.

Mrs. Lindsay Evans, who has been quite sick, is now able to be out.

Mrs. A. S. Bush and Mrs. E. N. Elliott visited Mrs. E. L. Winslow, Mrs. B. W. Evans and Mrs. Lindsay Evans Saturday evening.

Mrs. E. L. Winslow, who was critically ill for several days, is now much improved. She dispensed with the services of her nurse Saturday evening.

Mrs. Carroll Byrum spent the week-end in Norfolk, Va., with her sister, Mrs. J. R. Parker.

C. P. Palmer has returned from his home at Kilmarnock, Va., to spend the fishing season with Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Elliott.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Elliott made a business trip to Norfolk, Va., Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Waff, of South Norfolk, Va.; Misses Hettie and Doris Waff and Eva Mae Perry, of Edenton; Marvin Berryman, D. C. Forehand and Ralph Jordan were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hughes Bunch Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jordan, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Fred White and children spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Brady, at Langley Field, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hollowell, of Greenhall, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hollowell.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Welch, Jr., of Washington, N. C., visited Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leary and Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Welch, Sr., during the week-end.

Carlyle Hollowell, of Fort Jackson, S. C., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hollowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Hobbs and children, of Hobbsville, visited Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hollowell Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hollowell and son spent Saturday afternoon and evening with Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Leary, Sr., in Rocky Hook.

Mrs. Cameron Boyce, of Center Hill, Mrs. Ray Carter and son, of Richmond, Va., visited Mrs. C. J. Hollowell Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Copeland and children and Mrs. Herman Copeland visited Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Bateman Sunday evening.

Edward Hollowell, of Van Fleet, Miss., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hollowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Hollowell and children visited Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hollowell Sunday afternoon.

Misses Mary La France and Dorothy Merrick, of Long Beach, Calif., students at Westminster Choir School, and Paul and William Johnston, of Washington, Penn., students at Princeton Seminary, are accompanying Miss Marguerite Etta Evans home for the spring holidays and are expected to arrive Friday night.

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