

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

Farmers Face Problem. Nation Needs Food. Labor Supply Short.

problem of the farmer has been that of the nation. Despite prices for farm products, the farmer is short of labor, and very but confronted with a war-demand for increased production.

labor situation is aggravated by industrial wages which induce workers to leave the farms. They are drafted into active service. Even the Government expects that one million workers to the farms in 1943. Already production in some lines, notably products, is being reduced by lack of labor.

problem is not altogether due to war. By the census of 1940, there were 6,096,799 farms in the United States. Of these, two million, about one-third, produced only 10 percent of the nation's food. The other one million farmers in the higher income groups contribute very little to the country's food supply.

has been known for years that some regions, in Southeastern States, the Ozarks and in a number of sections, farm families are trying to eke out a living on too small, or on land too poor, to provide more than the barest subsistence.

one remembers that the past produced bumper crops, thanks to good seasons, and that the production for 1943 involves the production of seventeen per cent. more poultry, twenty-six per cent. more poultry, two per cent. more milk, thirty-two per cent. more peanuts, more eggs and bigger crops of soybeans, corn, oats and barley, and that instead of an increased supply of farm labor, there will be a net loss of more than one billion farm workers, the magnitude of the problem will be appreciated.

Army's Growth Inspiring. Increase Twenty-Fold.

The people of the United States have every reason to be proud of the record made by the Army, which, according to Stimson points out, has increased from 265,000 men in July, 1920 to more than 5,000,000 men in July, 1943.

stupendous growth naturally has created many problems and difficulties. The rapidly expanding Army has not increased its size twenty times without making mistakes. Errors involved personnel and material.

but as we face the future, there is a general agreement that the Army is the best equipped for war the world has ever seen.

The Secretary of War pays tribute to the work done by General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, and his associates. He warns against appeals arising from "the spurious patriotism" that would seek to strip them from their responsibility, saying it would be a rash thing for any man without their information and training "to challenge their mature decisions."

The growth of the Army has been equalled by that of the Air Force. From 50,000 men, with 2,175 pilots in the summer of 1940, the Air Force now contains "well over 1,000,000 men with tens of thousands of pilots." We have moved a long way from two years ago when there was not enough ammunition in the country to supply our forces now overseas for a single day's fighting. Moreover, in the making of arms, our production has been multiplied twenty times.

The American Army, says Mr. Stimson, is being organized in units equipped and trained as tactical units before they leave these shores. He stresses the fact that our rifles, tanks, self-propelled artillery and airplanes are among the world's best.

Mr. Stimson declares that the soldiers are being trained "with more solicitous care for their health and welfare than those of any other Army in history." He points out that the average soldier "is a sober

man," declaring that only ten per cent. drink distilled liquors.

The Secretary adds that "their attendance at church far exceeds the rate of attendance by civilians and that the general disease rate, including venereal disease, "is less than in any previous war."

Pearl Harbor Humiliating. Our Forces Were Surprised. Jap Treachery Expected.

The American Write Book, recently issued by the State Department, which reviewed ten years of American diplomacy preceding Pearl Harbor, reveals that Ambassador Grew warned from Tokyo that there was danger that the Japanese might launch a "surprise mass attack at Pearl Harbor" in case of trouble with the United States.

While the warning of the Ambassador was timely, the past history of Japan clearly revealed Japanese strategy. Repeatedly, against the Chinese, the Japanese Army moved without notice and without declaration of war. In beginning the war with Russia, the Japanese instituted a surprise attack without any declaration of war.

Practically every American, including officers of the Army and Navy, familiar with the history of Japan, expected a surprise attack in the event that Japan decided to wage war against the United States.

While the Japanese attack upon the American fleet in Pearl Harbor was treacherous, it was also humiliating to the United States. It is hard to understand the amazing success of the attack which caught our armed forces flatfooted in the Hawaiian Islands.

It is worth noting, however, that the surprise achieved at Pearl Harbor was duplicated, some hours later, in the Philippine Islands when Japanese aviators succeeded in damaging most of the airplanes that were assigned for service there.

While battleships were the chief victims of the attack at Pearl Harbor, it has been revealed that at the time at least two naval task forces, including carriers, were at sea. Certainly, the Japanese eluded the vigilance of these vessels and their planes.

Moreover, they managed to avoid discovery by the long-range aerial patrol that was operating in the Islands. Unfortunately, there was a failure to properly evaluate the presence of a small Jap sub, discovered before the attack, or to take advantage of the fact that the Japanese planes were "discovered" by the sound detection apparatus.

With more than a year behind us, since the disaster at Pearl Harbor and with most of the damage repaired, the nation can take pride in what its fighting men have accomplished in the Pacific since that time. However, we must continue to mourn the loss of the brave men who were killed and regret the unfortunate failure which permitted the Japanese to deliver such a humiliating blow.

We Fight in Self-Defense. Isolationists Resurgent.

Ray Tucker writes that "the belief widely held here (Washington) is that the United States will be more isolated following this struggle than it was after the first World War."

It is hard to believe that the people of the United States will make the same mistake twice but there is a possibility that Brother Tucker is right for once. Already, the politicians are paving the way for the catastrophe by adopting extremely critical attitudes toward everything connected with the war.

Mysteriously, there seems to be a failure of some citizens to understand why we are at war. The Gallup poll indicates that a large percentage of Americans do not have a clear idea of why we are engaged in the greatest war of our history. This is more than amazing, it is a national catastrophe.

The same people have another fancy of the same type, that Russia is fighting for us and that anybody who engages the Axis anywhere is fighting for love of the good United

THIS BUSINESS OF Living



BY SUSAN THAYER

GUNS AND BUTTER

We used to feel a great deal of pity for those poor German women who had to do largely without butter and other table luxuries in order that their country could build guns—and more guns. It never occurred to us in those lavish days of a few years ago that some day we should have to do with a lot less butter and coffee and meat and fruit than we wanted. But coffee rationing has begun. You're lucky if you can get more than a quarter of a pound of butter, and canned goods rationing has been announced. So it seems that we, the privileged people of the earth, are going to have to pull in our belts and really do without!

But think what a difference! We're not going to stint ourselves on butter and meat and fruit because we're producing less of these supplies. We're actually producing much more of most of them. And we're not being cut down in order to build the materials needed for war because war production was increasing anyhow. But today America is fighting with both guns and butter. One reason for

States. This reasoning, conversely, leads these same simple-minded souls into the hallucination that we are fighting for the Russians, the Chinese, the British and other subject peoples.

There is only one reason for our participation in the present war. It is the aggression of the Axis powers, including Japan, which made it as clear as daylight, to everybody except the congenial pacifists and the political isolationists, that, in time, the free-booting nations would gang-up upon the United States.

There is positive proof to this effect. Japan attacked the United States in December, 1941, and within four days, Germany and Italy declared war upon us. Our declarations of war were meaningless, except that they assured the world that we were possessed of enough intelligence to recognize what had happened and that we had the courage to fight for our national existence.

While every one of the United Nations profits by the exertions of the other, insofar as they contribute to the downfall of the aggressors, each and every United Nation is at war in its own protection and in its own defense. If ever a group of nations fought in self-defense, the United Nations fight to defend themselves and it is the only justification needed for their participation in the struggle.

Pig Production Up 31 Per Cent In 1942

In response to demands brought about by the war, North Carolina farmers in 1942 stepped up their production of pigs 31 per cent over the previous year's crop, according to a survey released today by the division of Agricultural Statistics of the State Department of Agriculture.

The 1942 pig crop on North Carolina farms was estimated at 1,568,000 head, an increase of 136 per cent. above the ten-year average from 1931 to 1941.

Farmers' income from hogs in 1943 will set a new all-time record. From June 1 to December 1 of the past year, 120,000 sows farrowed. It is expected that this figure will be increased to 162,000 during the six-month period from December 1, 1942, to June 1, 1943.

The average number of pigs saved per litter in the State during the past six months was 6.33. This is a slightly higher figure than the average during the preceding eighteen months.

In the United States, the 1942 fall pig crop, most of which will be marketed in the spring and summer of 1943, is 23 per cent larger than the previous record fall crop of 1941.

The indicated number of sows to farrow in the spring season of 1943 in the Nation is 24 per cent larger than the figure for spring farrowing of 1942.

SNOW HILL NEWS

Mrs. Jesse Harrell, Mrs. D. M. Cartwright and Mrs. J. H. Harrell spent Friday with Mrs. George Eure, at White Hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Mason Sawyer and family, of White Hat, visited Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Cartwright Sunday.

John Elmer Wood, of the Marine Base at New River, spent Saturday night with his wife at the home of his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harrell and Mr. and Mrs. Moody Harrell spent Friday afternoon in Hertford.

Amos Lane, of Route One, Lynhaven, Va., visited friends here during the week-end.

Miss Eleanor Eure is convalescing at the home of her parents here.

Mrs. W. M. Mathews spent Thursday afternoon in Elizabeth City.

But with the farmers, the food industry, and our transportation system working together at peak efficiency it can be done. We can produce more food than we've ever produced before

and at the same time increase our production of guns. Only a nation with energy, vision, and industrial "know-how" could put over such an undertaking.



There's A Big Job Ahead

Yes, sir! Now is the time to start preparing your land and doing odd jobs around your farm getting ready for the big job of food production during 1943.

That job calls for TOOLS... and we have them. If you want Tools to cut wood, clean fence rows, or prepare your Spring Garden, stop here today and get your needs.

Of course, Tools are not as plentiful as they have been in years gone by... the boys fighting the Axis need lots of equipment, and are getting it by our giving up some of the things we can do without... but we will endeavor to fill your needs to the best of our ability.

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