

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Axis Threat to Western Hemisphere Foretalled by Move on Martinique; Nazis Begin Eastern Crimean Drive To Gain Needed Caucasian Oil Fields

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

PROTECTORATE: In Caribbean

Dealing directly with Adm. Georges Robert as the "ultimate governing authority" of the French possessions in the Caribbean and French Guiana, the United States moved to forestall the Axis powers from gaining any foothold in the Western hemisphere.

Upon orders from President Roosevelt, American representatives arrived at Martinique and informed Admiral Robert that the United States desired to place troops in the French possession to guard against



ADMIRAL JOHN H. HOOVER
Messenger to Martinique.

any Axis threat. The state department ignored Pierre Laval, chief of the Vichy government, to deal directly with Robert.

Adm. John H. Hoover, representing the United States, made it definite that this country would desire to garrison the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off Newfoundland, in addition to Martinique and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean sea.

The state department emphasized that no ultimatum was being served on the French admiral. Robert had been friendly with the two previous American missions since the fall of France in 1940.

PRIME MINISTER: A Report

As he reviewed the war on the second anniversary of his rise to the premiership, Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain indicated that he believed the tide of battle had turned in the favor of the United Nations.

While he foresaw suffering ahead he told his people that deserved to hear the encouraging news that Britain's great air force had been constantly bombing a number of Nazi industrial cities and "would continue to bomb them."

Churchill warned the Nazis that if they used poison gas against Russia, that this same RAF would be used to carry gas warfare in the "largest possible scale against military objectives in Germany." This remark received special attention as less than 24 hours before he spoke, Russia had reported that the Nazis were using gas mines in the battle of the Crimea.

War shipments through the Arctic supply route are definitely getting through to Russia, said the prime minister, although there have been losses to the United Nations in these convoys. He also thinks Russia's army is growing stronger.

COAL: Reserve Supplies

Repeated warnings issued by the nation's coal dealers were strengthened when Donald M. Nelson, war production chief, declared that emergency rationing of coal is probable unless consumers build up their reserve supplies immediately to the limit of storage.

Nelson pointed out that the fuel oil situation on the East coast and winter transportation problems make stockpiling operations now of utmost importance to all consumers who are dependent on coal for heating their homes or running their factories.

Joseph B. Eastman, director of the Office of Defense Transportation, stated that "there is no shortage of coal, nor will there be. But if consumers wait until the fall and winter months to fill their requirements, a serious transportation shortage will possibly result. This we must avoid."

GERMAN DRIVE: In Eastern Crimea

The long-heralded Nazi spring drive finally began with a thrust toward Kerch in the eastern Crimea. Kerch is a key peninsular point along the shortest route to the Caucasian oil fields.

The Nazis' main effort was directed, as many observers thought it would be, at driving across the Kerch peninsula to win the rich fuel deposits. Too, they would be in a position to threaten the Allied eastern flank in Iran, another oil kingdom. Comparative quiet had prevailed in the Kerch peninsula since last December when the Russians hurled the Germans back from the town of Kerch.

Neutral observers stated that approximately 2,000,000 men were in action on the Donetz front. Early reports indicated vast Nazi strength on the 250-mile front between Dnepetrovsk and the peninsula.

MALTA: More Bombs

In a ceremony punctuated by falling Nazi bombs, Great Britain's Lord Gort was sworn in as the new governor and commander-in-chief of Malta, the "most bombed spot on earth."

Lord Gort took his oath of office amid the ruins of a building smashed in a previous attack. Bombs were falling throughout the proceedings and the chief justice administering the oath had his hand cut and bleeding from a wound sustained during the raid.

More than 10,000 high explosive, armor piercing bombs have been dropped on Malta this year, according to an Alexandria, Egypt, source. The island, lying off the coast of Italy in the Mediterranean, has been under constant attack by the Nazi bombing forces because it guards the vital Axis supply routes to Africa and the Middle East.

As a result of these continuing raids an official British check-up shows that Malta's property losses include 15,500 homes, 70 churches, 18 convents, 22 schools and eight hospitals. Seventy-five per cent of the property in Valetta, the principal city, has been made uninhabitable by the attacks.

CORAL SEA: Heavy Toll

Exacting a toll of at least 21 Japanese warships in the Battle of the Coral Sea, American sea and air forces combined to slap back a Jap fleet in its first major attempt to smash through the outer defenses of Australia.

Advanced Allied bases reported that at least 500 planes took part in the five-day battle which was fought 450 miles off the northeast coast of Australia.

Battered remnants of the attacking Jap forces were reported to



Commander of U. S. naval forces in the great battle of the Coral sea was Vice Admiral Herbert Fairfax Leary of Washington, D. C. Admiral Leary is a gunnery expert and won the Navy Cross in World War I.

have limped northward to their bases in New Britain and the Solomon islands following the rout.

Sweeping claims by the Japs as to their success in the battle were discounted by both General MacArthur in Australia and by the navy department in Washington. MacArthur's headquarters described Jap reports of Allied losses as "entirely fictional" and the navy department stated that while reports of the damage to U. S. forces was still incomplete, neither a U. S. aircraft carrier nor a battleship had been lost.

Washington Digest Farm Prospects Bright Despite War Restrictions

Experts See Co-operative Solution to Farm Labor Problem; Shortage of Tools Greatest Headache.



By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

As Washington takes a look ahead across the fields and pastures and dairy farms of the nation, the prospects for the farmer seem pretty good. He is going to have some tough problems but they aren't insoluble. And there are good times ahead. The ceilings on retail prices still leave room for price rises which will turn to the farmer's advantage.

Congress has yet to decide whether the point at which the ceiling on farm prices is to begin can be lowered to parity or whether it will be held at 110 as the law now holds.

Price Administrator Henderson is firm for the lower figure. Secretary of Agriculture Wickard has endorsed this view which the President set forth in his fireside chat. But congress will decide.

Meanwhile, behind closed doors the problem will be threshed out as to methods to be used when the lowered retail prices roll back through the processor right up to the barn gate.

This will be the point where the department of agriculture steps in with its technical knowledge and experience to supplement and probably to modify some of Mr. Henderson's ideas. For one thing cannot be forgotten: the farm products of the nation have still to be changed over to some extent from the things that are not essential to the war effort to the things that are essential to the war effort. This cannot all be done by the waving of a big stick; there must be left for the farmer a certain price motive for this change-over on his part. And how to keep prices up for the products needed and down for what isn't, is a complicated problem which cannot be settled entirely by an arbitrary system of retail price controls in a market of increased demand and limited supply.

One hardship which the farmer shares with the rest of the producers, is the difficulty of getting the tools he needs to produce with, when munitions have the first call. That is the thing that is causing the most headaches in Washington right now.

There is the question of farm machinery; of fertilizers and sprays, of transportation from the farm to the primary market, from there to the processor and finally into distribution.

And another bottleneck which backs right up to the barn and the sty is the lack of processing facilities. I understand that if the pig crop now in the making proceeds at the present rate there will not be enough square feet of killing space in America to handle the hogs when they come in. Some of you will recall that in 1924 embargoes had to be placed on certain slaughterhouses to keep the pigs from piling up at their doors.

However, there is more experience stored up in Washington heads than there was then and greater ability, equipment and incentive to make use of it.

One thing that is being done is to get the farmers to begin feeding their hogs earlier so that the peak period of slaughter can be flattened out and all the pigs won't come to market at once.

Experts who have studied the situation say that the farm labor problem is by no means insoluble. It exists but it is going to be licked with the help of women, school children and part-time help from men in the small towns in rural communities who are willing to close up shop and help with the peak load at harvest time. This has already been done in some communities—fruit picking, for instance.

On the whole, the prospects are that the farmer will be much better off than he was after the last war. Then he took his extra money, made down payments on more land, mortgaged what he had to buy still more and when the depression came lost everything. There are no signs of a land-buying boom now. The farmer, once bitten is twice shy, he has begun to lay away this extra cash for the rainy day that he, of all people, knows is coming.

Farmers have already made rainy day payments to the tune of \$5,000,000. This is the amount reported

by the Federal Land banks as the amount which can be used in the future to apply to their long-term installment loans. Every farm over a series of years has its "rainy days" in which income falls below normal or in which the farm family has reverses of one kind or another. These rainy day funds are bound to prove helpful in many ways, and, as President Roosevelt said, those who comply with the suggestions for paying off debts and curtailment of installment buying "will be grateful that they have done so when this war is over."

When A. G. Black, governor of the Farm Credit administration, saw that this year's crops were going to bring more money in than they have for many years he began selling this "rainy day" idea to the borrowers. They were sold to the tune of \$5,000,000. Some farmers have already paid up four or five years' installments on their long-term loans. They will be sitting pretty if rainy days come. "Farmers sometime wonder," says Governor Black, "whether, in these days in which they are being urged to buy war bonds as a patriotic duty, they should lay aside funds with the Federal Land banks with which to meet their own private debts. Well, remember that the Federal Land banks invest the funds received from future payments in government securities. The farmers realize that they are accomplishing not one but two things in placing their cash in the future payment fund—they provide for their own security and stop payment of interest on that part of their loan equal to the funds deposited. They have the assurance that the money in the interim will be working for Uncle Sam."

"Buy bonds of course," says Governor Black, "but also reduce your farm mortgage indebtedness while you have an opportunity."

And that is just what the farmer is doing.

1917—1942 Concepts of War

How does it feel to register for the second time?

When the men from 45 to 65, especially those near enough the top of the bracket to have served in the first World war, went to the school house and signed their registration card, they did it with quite a flourish. Of course they knew they would probably never be called for military service but just the same it gave them a sort of a "we did it before we can do it again" feeling. They felt, if the feelings of one of them who is making these observations are typical, as if there was quite a lot of fight in the old dog still.

But any one of them who paused to reflect a moment must have realized what a wholly different attitude many of the boys of 1942 have compared with the draftees or the men who enlisted in 1917. A quarter of a century ago America had only the quaintest conception of war. It was based chiefly on romance. It had little or nothing to do with the experiences soldiers in previous wars had encountered, still less of the experiences they themselves were to encounter, such as for instance trench warfare under sustained bombardment or aerial attack.

To the men of 1917 fighting a war was, besides being a patriotic duty, more or less of a sporting thing. But the writings and the teachings of the last 20 years have served to root out the idea that war is a chivalrous thing. To many of the modern generation it seems contemptible and patriotism doesn't appear to be involved.

There is one thing that many people fail to understand. One has to live through war conditions to understand war. This understanding makes it possible, paradoxical though it may seem, for a normal person to adjust himself to the utterly abnormal conditions about him. To live under a code contrary to that which he has been taught; to bear up under discomfort, delay, suffering and danger. This factor evolves from a crowd psychology which produces a mass patience, self-reliance, courage and self-sacrifice.

Gay Vanity Table Is Easy to Make



Underneath It's a Packing Box.

THIS is what your bedroom needs—a Southern-belle vanity! Between frothy ruffles of red-dotted white swiss you get tantalizing glimpses of red ribbon, run through beading and tied in bows.

Darling, with pretty curtains and bed-spread to match! Our 32-page booklet tells details of making the vanity. Also tells how to make inexpensively a book-rack side table, pillow tops, pot holders, many other attractive items for yourself or as gifts. Send your order to:

READER-HOME SERVICE
117 Minna St. San Francisco, Calif.
Enclose 15 cents in coins for your copy of HAND-MADE GIFT NOVELTIES.
Name.....
Address.....

To Get ACTUAL MARKET PRICES

Ship Your
CASCARA BARK
(Green or Dry)
HIDES PELTS
WOOL MOHAIR
ORE. BALSAM OF
FIR
TO
Blue Mountain Hide,
Wool & Fur Co.
1704 S. W. Front Ave.
PORTLAND

DON'T LET CONSTIPATION SLOW YOU UP

When bowels are sluggish and you feel irritable, headachy and everything you do is an effort, do as millions do—chew FEEN-A-MINT, the modern chewing gum laxative. Simply chew FEEN-A-MINT before you go to bed—sleep without being disturbed—next morning gentle, thorough relief, helping you feel swell again, full of your normal pep. Try FEEN-A-MINT. Tastes good, is handy and economical. A generous family supply costs only 10¢.

Personal Actions
I am for each individual doing just as he chooses in all matters which concern nobody else.—Lincoln.

TRY THIS IF YOU'RE NERVOUS

on "certain days" of month
If functional monthly disturbances make you nervous, restless, high-strung, cranky, blue, at such times—try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—famous for over 60 years—to help relieve such pain and nervous feelings of women's "difficult days."
Taken regularly—Pinkham's Compound helps build up resistance against such annoying symptoms. Follow label directions. Well worth trying!

When Your Back Hurts -

And Your Strength and Energy Is Below Par

It may be caused by disorder of kidney function that permits poisonous waste to accumulate. For truly many people feel tired, weak and miserable when the kidneys fail to remove excess acids and other waste matter from the blood.

You may suffer tagging backache, rheumatic pains, headaches, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling. Sometimes frequent and scanty urination with smarting and burning is another sign that something is wrong with the kidneys or bladder.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won countrywide approval than on something less favorably known. Doan's have been tried and tested many years. Are at all drug stores. Get Doan's today.

DOAN'S PILLS