

Europe Faces Hungry Spring

BY DEWITT MACKENZIE
An Old World Traveler

Europe's food shortage is a decidedly grim problem.



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lem, complicated as it is by the fact that there is hunger in many other parts of the world, thus adding to the difficulties of bringing adequate relief to this continent.

Spring and early summer are going to be a critical time. Indigenous food supplies have been largely exhausted and many countries are mainly dependent on imports.

But unfortunately the crisis isn't likely to end there. Although this first day of spring gives promise of an early season for the tillers of the soil, it doesn't bring the cheer of normal times. The discouraging fact is that misfortunes are swarming the farmlands like an army of locusts, making it certain that the fall harvest will be far short of the customary yield in most areas.

Starved Soil

One of the worst handicaps is a great shortage of fertilizer. The soil already is impoverished for lack of nitrates which were diverted to war purposes, and now the nitrate plants aren't functioning. That's heart-break enough for any farmer, but there is an even worse trial in the scarcity of seed, especially grain.

There is a great scarcity of farm implements, owing partly to destruction wrought in the war and partly to curtailment of the manufacture of such tools. And then, of course, the conflict has robbed thousands upon thousands of farms of the sturdy youths who were their mainstay.

Displaced Persons

Even if crops were normal, there still would be great problems to meet. One of these is the feeding of the displaced persons who have been moved in huge numbers about the continent.

Even if there were food enough in Europe to meet requirements, still it would be impossible to distribute it readily because of the disorganization of transport and the lack of rolling stock.



ENTERTAINERS—William El Cota, xylophonist, and Beatrice, dance comedienne, are featured entertainers appearing nightly through Sunday at The Holland.

Tree Planting Event Slated At Reedsport

REEDSPORT—This community's first annual tree-planting will take place next Monday, launching a project designed eventually to reforest all logged-off areas in this district of Douglas county.

Gov. Earl Snell and other state and county officials will take part in the event, which is sponsored jointly by the Reedsport schools, the city, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, CIO, AFL, State Forestry Department, O & C Revested Lands Administration, local lumber and logging companies and the Coos County Fire Patrol Assn.

The planting will take place on a logged-off area on Highway 101 in the vicinity of the Umpqua River lighthouse and lifeboat station. Trees will be supplied by the State Forestry Department and equipment by the Coos County Fire Patrol Assn., which also will direct the planting activities of students from Reedsport High School and the Reedsport, Gardiner and Loon Lake grade schools. The project committee consists of Mayor John Skaaluren, J. E. Seabloom, High Hamilton, M. H. Durbin and James W. Ford, M. F. Wrenn, J. A. Samuelson, Jack Dunn and Ed Morris. Dean Paul Dunn of Oregon State College will talk to students on Friday afternoon and the students will leave the high school at 9 a. m. Monday morning for the planting site near Winchester Bay. Lunch will be served at noon by teachers of the different schools.

Reforestation and beautifying the logged land along the highway south of Reedsport is the immediate aim of the committee. Land that does not respond to natural seeding and land that requires a change of crop eventually will also be embraced, according to Mayor Skaaluren.

Others who will take part in the event are: County Judge Busenbark, Lynn Cronmeyer, assistant state forester, Lyle Byers and K. Young, of the state forestry office, Ross A. Youngblood of the O & C. C. L. Wood and W. Figurdson of the Crown-Willamette Corp.

Roseburg Judge Hears Civil Case

With Judge Carl Wimberly of Roseburg on the bench, the Lane County Circuit Court Thursday continued with the case of Elizabeth Irene DeYoung vs. Edward C. Adams.

The plaintiff, represented by H. E. Slattery, seeks recovery of property valued at \$337 plus punitive damages of \$1500. The defense is represented by Calkins and Calkins.

Judge Wimberly initially sat on the Lane Martin vs. LeRoy Chase case, opened Wednesday and settled out of court. The plaintiff sought more than \$12,000 damages as the result of a December, 1943 automobile accident.

Perhaps Salem Got Right Man for Rat Committee Head

SALEM—(UP)—A story of what may have prompted the Salem Chamber of Commerce to set up a rat control committee was related here today.

According to the Salem Capital Journal an unidentified woman was watching a movie from a Salem theater balcony. Behind her she could hear tittering among the patrons but she passed it off as some friends having a bit of fun.

A minute later she felt something at the back of her neck, the Journal said, but again the woman passed it off, believing her friends were throwing paper wads at her.

Suddenly she felt something dig into her flesh. She turned her head and eyed a large rat perched on her shoulder.

"My gawd," she screamed, and brushed the rodent from its perch.

On her way out she paused long enough to mention the incident to the attendant at the door.

"We don't have rats here," he replied rather indignantly. "I'm sure I'm not having delirium tremens," the woman retorted.

Later the chamber launched its rat extermination campaign and a theater manager was named to head the program.

The swordfish's sword is nearly half as long as the fish itself.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Shaking Heads and Human Liberties

It's a funny thing. Now that war's over, there's a lot of shaking in our town. People say, "What's the younger generation coming to?" "How can we get these strikes?" "The country's going to the dogs!" "There ought to be a law!" etc.

But when the younger generation was valuing the Axis "super-labor" and labor was doing the essential job in history—you've heard a murmur. But now we've back to our traditional of personal liberty, just see how the heads begin to shake again.

I guess there'll always be head-shakers—folks who feel "there ought to be a law"—who believe that the best form of regulation is suppression, whether it's applied to beer or baseball.

But from where I sit, America's done pretty well with the idea of personal choice and individual liberty. I guess that's just the way Americans are made.

Joe Marsh

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Eugene Eagles Organize First Band in State

A new band is being organized by the Eugene Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, with Elbert DeMoss as band master.

The first rehearsal will be held Friday at 7:30 p. m. at the Eagles Hall, with all interested musicians invited to attend. Band members need not be members of the Eagles Lodge. This will be the first Eagles band in the state.

Eugeneans to Attend Jackson Day Dinner

Dr. Laus A. Wood, Democratic candidate to represent Oregon's fourth district in Congress and Mrs. Wood were among Eugeneans going to Portland Thursday to attend the Jackson Day dinner at which Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwelb was scheduled as principal speaker.

Others planning to attend the dinner from Eugene were Lee C. Stuart, Lane County Democratic chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin T. Warlick and Ethan L. Newman.

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Let's Face the Facts About HOME BUILDING

In the confusion created about the shortage of homes in America, one point stands out clearly:

YOU CAN'T BUILD HOMES WITHOUT MATERIALS!

Lumber and building material dealers and contractors obviously have a vital interest in obtaining materials for home building.

They report, nevertheless, that such materials are not flowing through the yards; that they have not been able to get them. Therefore, the Government's RH priorities offered to enable veterans and others to obtain homes, are simply home hunting licenses—for materials in quantity are not available.

As long as OPA continues its wartime control policy rather than a policy of adjustment to aid reconversion, it will neither be able to prevent an inflation or a deflation; it will only be able to prevent reconversion by discouraging production of needed home building items.

Here, for example, is an instance of OPA action that has resulted in increased production. After 6 months' delay, OPA granted a 4% to 10% price adjustment that allowed 125 of 400 closed brick and tile plants to reopen. This price adjustment allowed these plants and 400 others that had been operating, to hire needed labor. As a result, in the next quarter production rose 35%.

But in hardwood flooring, siding, plywood, millwork and construction lumber, OPA clings to its wartime formulas. Instead, OPA follows the unrealistic policy of allowing premium prices to mills for producing lumber for such things as export to foreign countries, and for items that were needed in wartime industry.

Today's question is not essentially one of price control—if there were plenty of homes, no price controls would be necessary. The important question is one of production and manpower.

So far, OPA and Government officialdom in general have contented themselves with controls, allocations and priority systems which at best can do nothing but juggle an insufficient supply of building materials—and at worst, delay and retard production and the employment of manpower.

Homes will not be built in the United States unless the Building Industry builds them. Whether they are labeled "Public Housing" or "Private Homes," the same materials, the same labor, the same building industry will build them.

Production can be un-blocked by the removal or adjustment of OPA's wartime policies. But such a realistic approach cannot be attained as long as Government action is based on a philosophy of lack rather than a philosophy of abundant supply for peacetime prosperity.

The lumber dealers, builders and contractors stand ready to build or rebuild America. But it is up to the people to demand that the way be cleared for the production of materials for homes.

Any government program that does not FIRST remove the obstacles blocking production of materials will simply add additional difficulties to the problem facing the building industry.

Western Retail Lumbermen's Association
TELL YOUR CUSTOMERS THE TRUTH ABOUT HOME BUILDING

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