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Reparations in Manpower

That hard-headed realist, Josef Stalin, is not interested in any money reparations from Axis nations because he knows they are all financially bankrupt and their currency worthless without a Gestapo terroristic enforcement. The lessons of the first world war, when money reparations were imposed and Germany simply refused to pay, are remembered.

Stalin insists upon direct labor for Germans and their satellites, over a period of years to repair the damage done to Russia by German armies. Professor Eugene Vargin, head of the Russian rehabilitation bureau suggests that it will require the labor of 10,000,000 Germans in Russia for 10 years to reconstruct the destroyed cities, industries, power plants, dams, railroads, bridges, and other facilities the Germans have deliberately destroyed. The estimates are probably high but they afford a bargaining base when peace arrives.

Work is the base of Russian values, not money. Unemployment consequently doesn't exist. Work builds Russia and work is the prime requisite for rehabilitation and restoration and will be needed on a great scale. Forced labor does not necessarily mean enslavement as it has in Germany. The Axis countries can be permitted to draft the workers needed and payments can be made to the workers when they return to their own countries. Such service will be an improvement for the individual over military service in foreign conquest, for life will be protected.

Probably Chiang Kai-Shek will also insist upon Japanese labor in rebuilding China, for in the orient as in the occident work is essential in restoring the destroyed wealth of shattered continents. The forced labor draft will be more merciful than the forced army draft has been.

"Labor leaders in this country, such as William Green of the AFL are viewing with alarm the Russian proposal. It will be remembered that it was the objection of French labor unions to the use of Germans in rebuilding France that imposed money reparations. They feared, as Green fears, heavy imports of goods. But Germany has no gold to pay, we already have most of the world's supply buried in the ground, and goods and labor is the only way Germany and Japan can pay for the damage wrought.

Johnny Rebel's Widow

Officials of the CIO union who presume to dictate the hiring and firing of workers at the Bell bomber plant in Atlanta, Ga., find they have a real "Johnny Rebel" on their hands and in their hair in the person of a spirited little lady well along in her nineties, who refuses to be fired or quit her job as a riveter or join the union. She is Mrs. Helen D. Longstreet, widow of Gen. James Longstreet of confederate fame.

Refusing to concede any disability to perform her job and charging that the union seeks to oust her because she defies it, Mrs. Longstreet is resisting a request by plant officials for her resignation, declares she has the eyesight of a 20-year-old and otherwise perfect health, and says she won't quit. She says a union group called on her one day and solicited her views on unions.

"I told them I did not believe a union had a place in a war plant during time of war," she said. "I might add that I am an American and entitled to my opinions and the right to express them as I may—and that many others hold my same belief."

Press despatches say that Mrs. Longstreet is the "real old lady" referred to in a CIO publication last week as responsible for "an awful uproar going on among workers" in one department of the Bell plant. The article charged that she was hired last October "for publicity only," adding that a woman worker had been relieved of a productive job to make room for her.

Mrs. Longstreet, who lived in a trailer near the plant while taking a riveting course, said all of her work "had been marked 100—some of it even 100 plus—by my immediate foreman."

Reasonable Rationing

Finally taking cognizance of a farcical situation existing as regards food-point allotments for public eating places, OPA has revised its rules so that after March 1 ration points for restaurants, hotels and the like will be allotted on the basis of the actual food served, eliminating all food points for sales of beverages and non-food items.

Price Administrator Chester Bowles announces that after that date food rations for eating establishments will be based on the number of persons to whom food is actually served; that after January 1 proprietors of these places will be required to keep separate accounts of their servings of food and of liquid refreshments, and that their allowances of food points will be based on those records.

Heretofore, as the Capital Journal pointed out several months ago, restaurants and other eating places which served soft drinks and beer had an unfair advantage over those serving meals and lunches alone. This has been due to the system of allotting points on the basis of the total number of customers served, no matter what they were served, and total cash sales over a given period. As Bowles explains, the new plan will reduce the food allowances of soda fountains, roadside stands and taverns which, in many instances, get more food points than regular eating places although they serve less food.

The housewife also has reason to rejoice in the new ruling, for Bowles says that the savings in food accomplished by curtailing eating house supplies will be added to the home food budget of the nation.

OPA Flouted the Law

The chief legal advisor of the OPA recently admitted at a congressional hearing he knew by February 1943 that the special wholesale prices for beef fixed in December 1942 were illegal because the fixed prices resulted in an inequitable margin, banned by the law, but no change was made until October 1943, and only made then under fear of an impending adverse court decision.

This bureaucratic assumption of power was to blame for the shortage of beef and to demoralization of the market. It is a clear case where official directive supplanted law. But it is not the only instance where the OPA has evaded the mandate of the emergency price control act.

The law provides that the secretary of agriculture must approve ceilings on agricultural products. The war food administrator opposed the ceilings fixed for livestock and the secretary of agriculture was not consulted about them. To justify its adoption of these ceilings despite the opposition, OPA contended it was not a price-fixing order.

R. V. Gilbert, economic advisor to the OPA, said on the witness stand: "This is not a regulation. Let me make this very clear. This is not a price regulation issued under our statute. This is a modification of the subsidy program"

Animal Life

By Beck



The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

(Note—During the temporary absence of DeWitt Mackenzie, this column is being conducted by William Frye of the Washington bureau.)

By William Frye
(Associated Press War Analyst)

The great red army offensive now rolling southwest of Nevel, whatever its immediate tactical aims, is clearly a major blow aimed eventually at collapsing the German left flank.

It is, moreover, in all likelihood only the first of a series of winter drives by the Russians calculated to speed up considerably the probable intention of the German staff to withdraw by spring to the so-called Riga-Odessa line.

The power of this northern lunge is indicated by German confession of losses long before the Russians disclosed progress, or even admitted the drive had started. And the Russians probably expect to keep moving, with growing momentum, until the red army, reaching the Baltic, has relieved the long siege of Leningrad and isolated Fin-

land from her Nazi ally.

There is in some Washington circles a rather strong belief that the "main" Russian show, presumably timed to coincide with invasion of western Europe, is still to come, and will come in the south, aimed through the Ukraine and toward Rumania. Such an offensive probably will be launched.

Initiative Probably Lost

But that should not minimize the importance of the push already undertaken in the north. The truth is that the Germans probably used up their last real armored striking force in the counterattacks in the Kiev bulge, and now that those have failed, have lost the initiative to the Russians along the entire front.

That calls for some line-tightening by the Germans. It calls for it particularly because the Nazis are scraping the bottom of the manpower barrel, and cannot replace their lost divisions with equally strong fighting units. Already men past 40 have been thrown into action on the Russian front, a sufficient indication of Germany's manpower straits. The figure of 300 divisions still is used for German army strength, but many of them are no longer first rate divisions.

All of this points to the likelihood that the Nazi high command will pull back, partly by

Last Rites for Mrs. Eberhard

Funeral services for Mrs. Isabelle Eberhard, who died at her residence at 2182 North Church street, December 17, were held from the Clough-Barrick chapel this afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. M. A. Getzenader officiating and interment was in Belcrest Memorial park.

Isabelle Neal was born in Dallas county, Iowa, February 13, 1863, and while still a baby moved to Missouri with her parents in a wagon drawn by oxen, from which state the family migrated to Colorado. In 1873 the family moved to Ashland, Oregon, where they resided until 1880 at which time they came to Salem to reside. In 1880 she was married to Henry L. Eberhard and the couple took up their residence on French prairie near Cham-poeg, Ore., where they lived until 1889, when they returned to Salem. Her husband preceded

plan but obviously as the result of Russian pressure, to a line pegged on Riga in the north and the Dniester river in the south. By shortening their line that much, the Nazis probably could man the Russian front with 30 less divisions.

ed her in death several years ago.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Phillips of Alameda, Calif., and Miss Elda Eberhard, Mrs. Bertha Chambers and Mrs. Wilmot Curtis, all of Salem; a son, Walter Eberhard of Salem; two brothers, Elmer Neal of Elmira, Ore., and Charles Neal of Grants Pass; two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Williams and Mrs. Cassie Brophy, both of Salem; five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

One of the oldest schools in the world is Moslem university of Cairo, Egypt. It was founded in 970 A.D.

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New Bolivian Regime Pledges Adherence to United Nations

La Paz, Bolivia, Dec. 21 (U.P.)—The new revolutionary government of Bolivia was pledged to full adherence to the United Nations cause today under a manifesto that charged the deposed regime with fascist tendencies.

The manifesto, issued by the revolutionary junta following its ouster of President Enrique Penaranda and his government in a swift military coup yesterday, apparently was calculated to allay allied suspicions that the revolution was pro-axis in nature.

It proclaimed the government's intention of maintaining "constitutional normalcy" and asserted that the new president, Maj. Gualberto Villaroel, and his cabinet had "sincere and

permanent faith in democratic ideals and absolute solidarity with American interests."

(Reports reaching Santiago from Arica, Chile, said Penaranda and his entire cabinet were being held prisoner at La Paz.)

(The leader of the revolutionists, Victor Paz Estenssoro, in an exclusive telephone interview with United Press Staff Correspondent William Horsey at Santiago, said the coup had "purely internal significance." He was not and will not be, connected in any way with the recent army coup in Argentina, he said.)

(Dispatches from other Latin-American cities, however, said that the membership of the new junta was such as to not inspire confidence in its pro-allied intentions.)

The junta's manifesto charged Penaranda, who signed the United Nations pact for Bolivia at Washington last May and who paved the way for the country's declaration of war against the axis earlier this month, with copying his principles "from the fascist copybook."

The manifesto said the Penaranda regime "made a mockery" of democratic principles by cancelling the municipal elections which constitutionally should have been held on the second Sunday in December. (Penaranda explained the cancellation as due to the state of war between Bolivia and the axis.)

One Man Lost in Boat Collision

Seattle, Dec. 21 (U.P.)—One man was drowned, an army tug sunk and an army freighter damaged yesterday when the two vessels collided near the entrance to the Lake Washington ship canal.

The victim was Frank Banazak, 23, listed as from Pittsburgh, Pa. Three other members of the tug's crew—Master Carl E. Anderson, Tacoma; Oil-er Joe Schlitz, Alexandria, S. C., and Cook Irvin Scharf, Monroe—were rescued.

Col. John A. Barthrop, superintendent of the water division of the Seattle port of embarkation, said preliminary investigation indicated trouble with the tug's steering apparatus was responsible for the collision.

The freighter was secured to shore after it developed a bad list.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Let George Do It

Washington, Conn.—The Red Cross women of this town had an impressive quota of bandages to roll by January 1, feared they wouldn't make it. Someone suggested they have a party, invite the men, serving refreshments. About a dozen men showed up, ate, rolled bandages. Result—quota filled two weeks ahead of time.

Lay That Piano Down,

Memphis — Henry Reynolds, commercial appeal sports writer, saw a blonde lugging a huge parcel into the post office. Chivalrously, he volunteered his services. The weighty package taxed his 150 pounds but he finally made it—after three stops for breath. She said sweetly: "Thanks. Would you like to come out to the matches tonight? I'm Mae Young, the woman wrestler."

Chain Cheer

Tulsa, Okla.—In 1930 Maurice Luther, St. Louis, sent an expensive Christmas card to H. E. Pope, Tulsa. The next year Pope scratched out Luther's name, signed his own and mailed it back. Luther returned it to Pope the third year.

By 1938 the card was a bit battered and so jammed with signatures that they began writing on the back.

They figure someone will have to buy a new one by 1953.

War Stamps Used On Christmas Cards

Shreveport, La., Dec. 21 (U.P.)—Something was wrong, officials decided, when Christmas cards came through the Shreveport postoffice bearing 25 cent war stamps instead of the one cent postage stamps.

They investigated, learned that both types of stamps have the same hue of green, which contrasted nicely at the Christmas season with the color of a red-faced temporary clerk at a post office sub-station who had sold \$400 of the stamps as one-cent stamps.

Hurried patrons had stuck the stamps on Christmas cards without noticing the difference.

Some states of the union levied tariffs against one another before the adoption of the Constitution in 1789.

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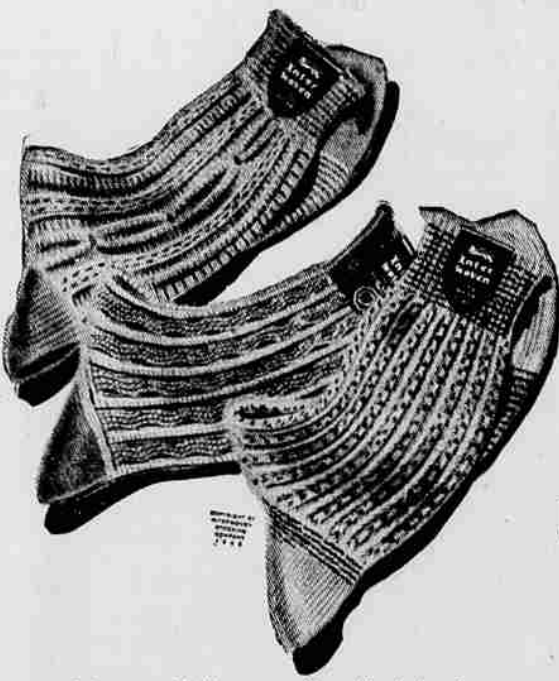
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