



Washington, D. C.

REARMAMENT DAWDLING

PARITY PAYMENTS
Farm legislation for the new congress is still chiefly in the "talk" stage...

In the new budget now being framed, parity payments are not entirely eliminated, but they are cut to the bone...

It is entirely possible, under the policy of holding down all "normal" expenditures to the bone to provide more funds for defense...

Some congressional farm leaders are making no secret of their desire to supplant parity loans with a more financially sound plan...

This is a modified version of the old AAA processing tax under which processors would pay growers the difference between the market price and parity...

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones wasn't exaggerating when he predicted that this would be the most prosperous Christmas in history...

Economists of the federal reserve board, commerce and labor departments estimate a Yuletide business season surpassing even the peak in 1929...

This is the way the experts forecast the Christmas season:

Employment—Because of the vast defense program, employment will be greater this month than at any time since 1929...

Payrolls—Manufacturing payrolls will be 12 per cent greater than last December. That means \$25,000,000 more a week will be paid in wages to industrial workers...

Retail trade—Sales generally will be from 8 to 10 per cent greater than 1939. Department store sales will be 5 per cent more than last Christmas...

A very Merry Christmas, indeed.

WILLKIE AND NEW CHAIRMAN
There is a sputtering of ire among Republican national committeemen when they heard that Wendell Willkie considers it his right to name the successor to National Chairman Joe Martin...

Willkie picked Martin, and now takes the position that he also is entitled to select Martin's successor.

But to the hard-headed, political professionals, a candidate running for office and a defeated candidate are horses of entirely different colors. The first is a potential incumbent who may have patronage and favors to dispense...

So Willkie's claim to continued party leadership is meeting with very glacial response. When he told some of the national committeemen that they should name the man he wants, the boys tactfully, but pointedly, replied that the national committee is an elected body and alone has the power to fill a chairmanship vacancy.

MARTIN'S SUCCESSOR
Martin is very eager to shed himself of the chairmanship.

The undercover maneuvering for the strategic place already is hot. Tom Dewey, Governor Bricker of Ohio, Sen. Bob Taft, Senator Vandenberg and others, with 1944 in mind, each is determined that no one hostile to him shall get it.

Martin privately is afraid that it won't be possible to find either and that to avoid a battle-royal he will be stuck as national chairman for some time to come.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

William Reuther, young, red-haired executive of the United Auto Workers, has submitted a plan to defense authorities whereby, by using the entire auto industry as one plant, it would be possible within six months to produce an all-metal, single-motor pursuit plane at the rate of 500 a day.

The rearmament program is dawdling for two reasons. Government is not organized for industrial mobilization, and neither is industry.

This is not the fault of the war department. This country made two startling contributions to the art and science of major modern war in 1917 and 1918. One was the selective service idea for the mobilization of man power.

Neither was "fished out of a hat. Both were perfected through a painful period of trial and error—mistake and correction—until, at the end, they were working well.

Almost as soon as the war was over, the war department began a careful study of both. Few regular officers had been included in either effort, but nearly all the principal actors were living and the records and reports were copious.

Year after year, these experienced men were brought back to lecture class after class of officers in the war college and army industrial college on all these experiences—the underlying principles, the blunders and triumphs, the blind alleys explored and all the stone walls against which these pioneers had butted and bloodied their heads.

As a result of all these studies and stories, the war department drew up plans for both mobilizations for major war—men and materials. Year after year, these plans were revised and carefully checked with the veterans of the earlier effort.

On the principle of industrial mobilization, of which he had directed the 1918 effort, Bernard M. Baruch devoted much of his time and energy, patiently helping the war department to perfect an adaptation of his original plan to every changing circumstance.

When this emergency arrived, the war department was ready with plans complete almost to the last comma for both selective service and the industrial effort.

The war department's draft plan was permitted to be put into effect with very few changes, but, for some reason, its equally well constructed and war tested plan for industrial mobilization was ditched.

The result is before our eyes. The draft machinery is running as well as any such great effort could be expected to run. In industrial mobilization we are repeating by page and number and almost by date every single blunder of 1917 and 1918. These all had been plotted and provided against in the war department plan.

It is impossible to carry on without confusion, waste and delay an armament program running into billions by simply flinging it to a peace-gear industry as a bone is tossed to a dog. It requires careful organization of both demand and supply, organization of the many and sometimes conflicting government procurement agencies, as well as organization of the myriad producing agencies of industry. That has not been done at all and that is what is the matter with things.

WASHINGTON—THE CENTER

This City of Washington was established as our seat of government, partly on the argument that it was a central location and partly in a kind of trade to insure national assumption of the debts of the states.

Perhaps the Founding Fathers could not possibly have foreseen the astonishing expansion of our country, but now our central location in area is somewhere in Kansas, and our center of population, (not yet announced from the last census) is probably in Indiana.

As a result, Washington is about as inconveniently located as possible for most U. S. citizens to exercise their constitutional right to visit the seat of the government.

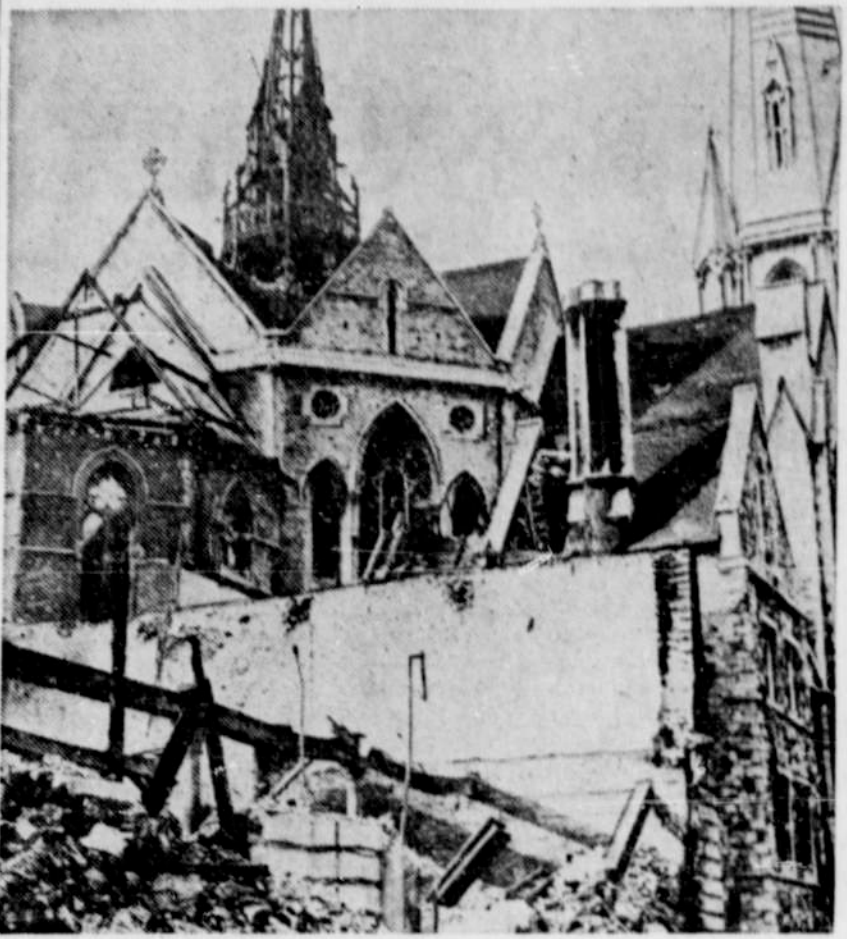
Nobody would dream of suggesting that the capital be moved. Its location is hallowed in our history. What with its own advance and the decline of others due to war and misfortune it is, by all odds, the most beautiful city in the world. It is advancing yearly in beauty as well as in wealth and population.

No, the capital will never be changed, but why are other cities and all the states so complacent about permitting so much of their money to be drained away to be spent in this one spot? The great head administrative offices have to be grouped about the Chief Executive, but why do the hundreds of thousands of workers?

It has always been a marvel to pork-barrel-rollers, whose bid for reelection is the Squeedunk post office or the improvement of Skunk creek, have overlooked this possibility. Instead of making a short snack of work for a dozen plumbers, carpenters and masons or a dredging crew, they might bring home a continuing payroll in real money.

It is astonishing, too, that the states and cities haven't done some low and lofty squawking over being so copiously and continuously milked for a distant community and getting so little in return.

Lincoln Memorial Demolished in Air Raid



Christ church, on Westminster road, London, which was wrecked during a Nazi air raid. When this church was destroyed a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, in the form of a pillar commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States, was destroyed with it.

Plots Dakar Defense



General Weygand (left), former leader of French troops in war with Nazis, in Dakar, Africa, where he has been sent to solidify defense plans for this colonial outpost.

Air Transport Crashes in Missouri Ditch



This picture shows the wreckage of an American Airlines transport, which overshot the runway while landing at St. Louis, and bounced into a ditch which borders the airport. The pilot and co-pilot were slightly injured. Fortunately, five other persons who were riding in the plane escaped injury.

Envoy Pro Tem



Neville Butler, counselor of the British embassy, who will serve as pro tem ambassador to the U. S. from Britain, until appointment of successor to Lord Lothian.

They Seek 12,000 Flying Students



Lieut. W. Wittle Jr., assistant recruiting officer for the Philadelphia flying cadets, is shown (left) going over plans for the procurement of applicants with Lieut. Lawrence Semans, of the U. S. army air corps. Lieut. Semans is advance agent in a drive to get 200 Philadelphians to make up part of 12,000 flying cadets needed in the expansion program.

Off to Caribbean



President Roosevelt waves from the deck of cruiser Tuscaloosa at Miami, Fla., as he starts on his cruise to the Caribbean to inspect new military bases. He said the voyage was strictly for business.

23rd Recipient of Donor's Blood



Mrs. Leslie Watts cheers her mother, Mrs. Hazel Farmer, victim of staphylococcus septicemia, who will be the twenty-third recipient of the blood of Mrs. Rose McMullin, of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Farmer, whose home is in Oklahoma City, was brought to Chicago to await the arrival of Mrs. McMullin, whose blood has saved the lives of 22 persons.

Here From Britain



Sir Frederick Phillips, undersecretary of the British treasury, shown on his arrival in New York. He came to America to straighten out dollar exchange "technicalities."

Slow to Improve

Constantinople was 1,600 years old and had a million inhabitants before it named its streets and numbered its houses in 1916; Richmond, Va., long famed as a great cultural center, was 191 years old and had about 200,000 residents before it established its first public library in 1924; and the telephone was 51 years old before one was installed on the desk of the President of the United States in 1929.—Collier's.

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In Doing Right Do the right and your ideal of it grows and perfects itself. Do the wrong, and your ideal of it breaks up and vanishes.—Martineau.



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