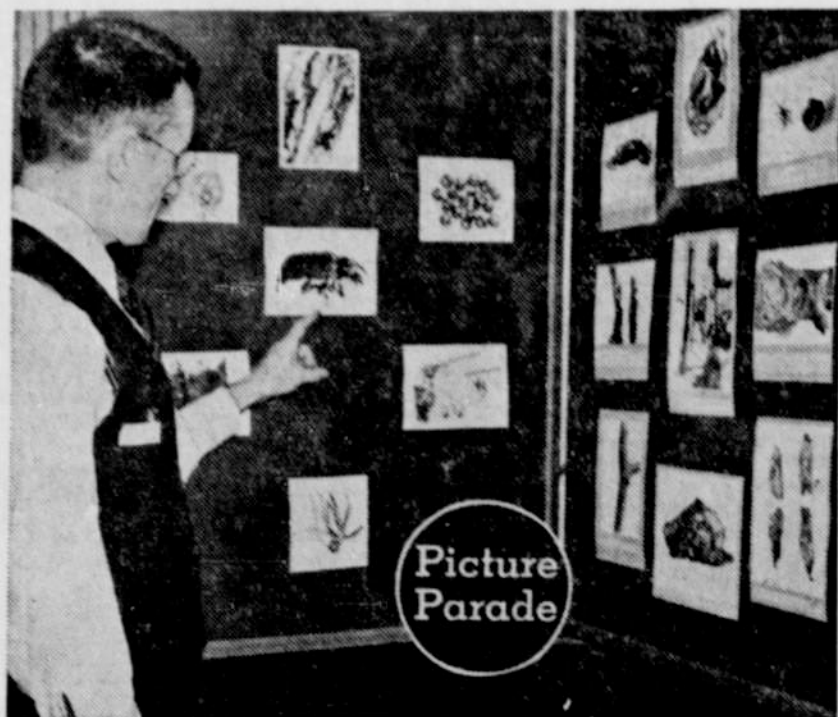


Spotting Saboteurs

Plant parasites and diseases which come to America from foreign lands cost Uncle Sam about 3 billions per year. But the U. S. is busy trying to stop these saboteurs. A chain of plant quarantine stations has been established around our borders where incoming plants must pass rigid inspections. These photos take you to one of these "agricultural Ellis Islands" at Hoboken, N. J.

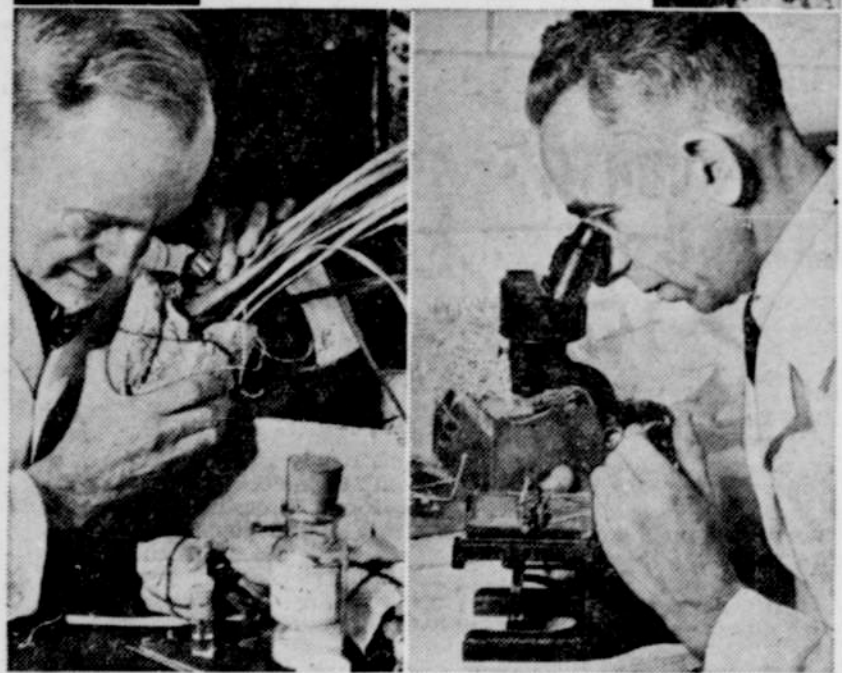


Picture Parade

George Becker, chief entomologist at the Hoboken plant quarantine station, pointing to an enlarged picture of a new beetle, which is found in plants coming from South America.



Inspectors examining a shipment of orchids from England. Yes, even the ultra-aristocratic orchid may have diseases and lice.



Scale Sleuth . . . Inspector Herbert Sanford studying an imported lymbidium orchid with a powerful hand lens. He is looking for scale insects.

Close Work . . . It takes a microscope to spot some species of bug and blight saboteurs. Here Chief Inspector Emil Kostal examines imported plants.



Lethal Chamber . . . Workers of the quarantine station are removing cases of plants from a lethal chamber, where the insects with which the plants were infected were slain with gas fumes.



The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

Washington, D. C.

MEDITERRANEAN KEY

Key to the fateful battle of the Mediterranean which is about to burst in full fury is not the Suez canal, but Britain's great naval base at Alexandria, 125 miles west of the canal entrance.

The loss of Alexandria would deprive the British of their key "bridgehead" in northern Africa and ensure Axis domination of the eastern Mediterranean.

Actually, the Suez canal itself has been of little value to the British for months. It went out of use as the so-called "life-line of the empire" when the Axis air attack that severely damaged the air carrier Ilustrious proved it was suicidal to attempt to convoy shipping through the long and narrow waterway.

Since then the Mediterranean has been a "no man's land" for all the belligerents. While 2,000 miles in length, its narrow width at certain places has made it extremely hazardous for both sides, and the British have been routing their shipping around the Cape of Good Hope for some time.

Loss of the Mediterranean would, of course, be a serious blow to the British; but it would by no means end the war or mean victory for the Axis. With her fleet intact, Britain would still be able to carry the fight to Hitler and Mussolini.

MACHINE TOOLS

Chief reason behind the big curtailment in auto production was the release of urgently needed machine tools for defense. The machine tool bottleneck could be broken overnight if all the machine tools owned by the motor industry were turned to the making of planes, tanks and other armament.

Defense experts estimate that there are around 1,500,000 machine tools in the U. S., of which more than half are in plants making motor vehicles or parts for them, and in the allied metal fabricating industry. The list includes grinders, milling machines, lathes, boring machines, presses, gear cutters, drillers, and shapers, all vital in the production of defense equipment.

New output of machine tools is now speeding at the rate of 14,000 a month. This is a spectacular achievement and a great tribute to the industry. But it is only a drop in the bucket compared to the 750,000 machine tools already possessed by the auto and metal fabricating industries, which army men say would increase defense production to full flow immediately if pooled and devoted entirely to this purpose.

HIDDEN COLLEAGUE

A stocky, gray-haired man, flanked by a group of sightseers, approached a Capitol policeman and asked directions to the office of Sen. Hiram Johnson of California.

Tucked away in an obscure corner of the north side of the Capitol where tourists never tread, Johnson's office is one of the hardest to find in the great structure.

"I'll do my best to explain how to get there," said the policeman. "Are you a tourist?"

"No," grinned the inquirer, "I'm the other senator from California, Senator Downey."

FERRY SCHOOL

Everybody is wondering how the swarms of fighting planes which U. S. factories will produce for the British in the next 12 months will be delivered overseas. The answer, for the big ships, is that they will be flown across—and in such great numbers that the British are setting up a special pilot training school for that purpose, in the United States.

The school will give an intensive refresher and training course to volunteer pilots to qualify them for "ferrying" the big bombers across the Atlantic.

The volunteers may be British, Canadian, or American. However, it is expected that the largest numbers will be Americans. The British can use 250 of them.

GOOD NEIGHBOR PILOTS

Another "Good Neighbor" gesture will soon be made to our immediate neighbor to the south, Mexico. The state department will offer pilot-training courses to a number of Mexican youths in the United States.

Initiator of the idea was Vice President Henry Wallace. When he visited Mexico last year, one of the problems discussed was the shortage of aviators in the Mexican army. Wallace was told that Mexico wanted to undertake a pilot-training program similar to that in the United States, but lacked planes and instructors.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Leading economists rate the industrial and financial surveys completed by the O'Mahoney monopoly committee as the most valuable source material on the economy of the country ever compiled.

Department of agriculture is recommending a new plant to hold soil in the gullies—but they wish the Japanese would tell how to produce the seed. Known as kudzu, it is one of the plant secrets of Japan. It serves not only as a soil binder but also as a feed, surpassing alfalfa.

U. S. Seizes Nazi Sailors



In another direct anti-Nazi move, government agents rounded up more than 160 stranded Nazi seamen for shipment to American "concentration camp or camps." This soundphoto shows some of those seized boarding a cutter at New York, en route to Ellis Island for detention.

Speaks in Chicago



Lord Halifax, British ambassador to the U. S., shown as he delivered his speech in behalf of American aid to Britain, in Chicago. He declared "war's end must bring a system by which all men will find opportunity to build the foundations of a good and decent life."

Good Will Flight Ends in Tragedy



Bolivian Minister Don Luis Gauchalla, second from left, examines personal effects of Capt. Rafael Rivas, aide to chief of the Bolivian air corps, who died when his good-will plane crashed during take-off from Washington, D. C., airport. Captain Taborga, aide to president of Bolivia, was taken alive from the flaming wreckage, but in critical condition. The ship crashed on the second leg of a 10,000-mile good-will flight.

Against War



Former Gov. Philip LaFollette of Wisconsin, as he delivered a fiery anti-war speech in Hinsdale, Ill. He urged that America remain at peace.

President Opens Defense Savings Campaign



President Roosevelt is shown as he purchased the first defense savings bond and officially opened the treasury's multi-million dollar defense savings campaign. The new savings stamps and bonds are on sale at post offices and banks and range from 10 cents to \$10,000 in denomination. Secretary of Treasury Morgenthau is shown handing the President his bond just before the nation-wide radio addresses.

Happy Birthday?



Faisal II, king of Iraq, who celebrated his sixth birthday while the artillery of his army was shelling British troops who had taken refuge in the R.A.F. base at Habbaniyah, Iraq. Pro-Nazi Rashid Beg Gailani is in the saddle as premier of Iraq.

Chamber Hears Army and Navy Chiefs



Members of the United States Chamber of Commerce attending the twenty-ninth annual meeting in Washington heard from the top-ranking officers of the army and navy. Photo shows, L. to R., Gen. George C. Marshall, U. S. army chief of staff; Admiral Harold R. Stark, chief of naval operations; Thos. McInerney, vice president Chamber of Commerce.

Greek Leader



General Tsolakoglu, who signed the Greek surrender at Salonika, and who is reported to have formed a new government, rival to that of King George II at Crete.