

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

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ATTLEE'S GOVERNMENT—WEAK WORLD POWER

WASHINGTON.—The limehouse slums representative in parliament rules Britain and the Empire.

Its man, Clement Attlee, won control on a platform against free enterprise, and in favor of the government taking over fuel and power, inland transport, iron and steel manufacturing and the Bank of England. The world effects of Britain's electoral revolution are being confusingly forecast. Continuance of the Churchill international policies, for instance, has been promised, yet the Attlee labor party campaigned in favor of closer collaboration with Russia than Churchill could provide.



Clement Attlee

Similarly, the ensuing fear of the Socialist program throughout the world has prompted mollifying suggestions that the program will be long in enactment, if ever attained, although strangely the sincerity of its devotees is not questioned. From such circumstances, anything but confusion in forecasts would be difficult to find. To gauge accurately the extent of the electoral revolution, it will be necessary to await Attlee's steps. Statements issued since the election can safely be discounted as inspired for political effect. Only in definite action can uncertainty be dispelled.

My information suggests the commonly published guesses are more logical than sound. The only justifiable conclusion yet apparent is that Britain has weakened herself as a world power. A more accurate way to put it is that she has publicly proclaimed her existing weakness. Her money was gravely shocked by the war. Without the Bretton Woods agreement it might not now have its depreciated stability. Her war effort had to be materially sustained largely from the outside (by us, Canada and Australia), she was able to sustain herself only psychologically. Her navy, which ruled the world for several generations, is now a fraction of ours (one-fifth to one-eighth, whereas it was equal at the start of the war). Her army is a minor world entity as armies go in size and equipment these days.

British Foreign Trade.

Her foreign trade, which furnished the only economic reason for her world position, has become a matter for her gravest postwar concern. The Bretton Woods agreement was designed to help restore it, but we have most of the ships on the seas and the manufacturing capacity, while Russia has great raw materials and industrial ambitions.



W. Churchill

The election is likely to lead to a further culmination of these too glaring conditions. Mr. Churchill, as a world figure, was able to maintain a facial front above them, to cover them while he extemporized. This will be much more difficult for Mr. Attlee, especially in view of his program.

His platform, for instance, does not advocate more coal production, more power, sounder money or finance by the Bank of England, greater or better iron and steel and inland transport. It proposes that his labor party use the people's money to buy these enterprises and operate them, not to make them bigger and better, but to give his party followers a greater share of the profits of operation, in short, higher wages.

Most American officials expect Russia to fall on national wealth. The common fears popular in this country, that Russia will overrun Europe and Asia and eventually relegate us to a second-class power, are not shared by many of our government men in the know. They do not believe Russia can get production, although she is in a better position to get it than a Socialist Britain, as she has the power of compulsion over her workers.

Russia never got enough production on anything to compete with anyone before the war. Not until Nazi invasion brought her unity did her production become satisfactory, and even then her backward mechanical methods prevented her from getting the full measure of effort from her limitless manpower. It was numbers, not materials, which saved Russia, as any military man will tell you.

The United States then occupies the best position economically in this new world of material production as the only wealth.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON

NO DUKE CHURCHILL

When Winston Churchill turned down a knighthood this week, his son, Randolph Churchill, probably heaved a big sigh of relief.

For it meant that his father, in turning down this lesser honor, probably would not accept a dukedom or any other high reward. Should the elder Churchill accept a peerage, he would move into the House of Lords, which would mean that his son, Randolph, upon his father's death, automatically would become a lord, thereby forfeiting the chance of a fighting political career as a commoner.

To inherit a title is the last thing young Churchill wants. His future career lies in the House of Commons, like his father.

Knowing his son's ambition, the prime minister used to hold a sword of Damocles over Randolph's head. When the mercurial Randolph got out of hand, his father half-jokingly would warn: "Tut, tut. Be careful or I'll take a peerage."

BATTLE OVER STEEL

One of the hottest fights in the whole hot history of the War Production board has been raging backstage regarding the future allocation of steel to industry.

It is a fight affecting almost every business in the country—large and small—and if the big industry boys get their way, civilian manufacturers will get less material even than during the third quarter of this year, when we were still fighting a two-front war.

The fight is over how sheet steel shall be allocated.

Basically, this boils down to whether the big automobile companies will get it all, or whether other manufacturers will be given at least a little.

It is exactly the same fight, in reverse, which occurred before Pearl Harbor. At that time, the automobile industry was using up most of the sheet steel. War production was held up until their output could be curtailed, and the auto boys pulled all sorts of wires to keep on producing cars.

Now, the same wires are being pulled to let steel be completely free, and not allocated to anyone. This is just another way of saying that the automobile companies will get it all, because they are the biggest peacetime buyers of steel and the steel companies naturally like to please their best customers.

Big Business WPB

Today, the War Production board, under chairman "Cap" Krug, is more big-business-controlled than ever, so the automobile boys may get their way.

Their fight inside WPB is being led by Vice Chairman Harold Boeschstein, whose glass company sells headlights to auto manufacturers. He and other WPB moguls argue that the present "controlled materials plan" should be "open-ended," in other words, after a steel mill has completed its "must" government orders, it can sell whatever steel is left over to anyone it wishes.

Hitherto, farm machinery, hardware, the railroads and various war-supporting industries got definite steel allocations from the government. They were always assured some steel. Under the new proposal, however, they would have to scramble for it in competition with the automobile companies.

While the railroads, farm implement companies, et al, doubtless can look after themselves, a long list of small manufacturers also would be affected—those making hardware, electric irons, washing machines, etc. Hitherto, they have been able to get a certain amount of steel allocated to them by WPB. But under the proposed new plan, they would have to scramble for it. And in any battle with the auto companies, it is not difficult to guess where they would come out.

Actually there will be very little steel to scramble for. After war needs and war-supporting needs are met, it is estimated only about 1,000,000 tons of sheet steel will be left over. If WPB moguls have their way, however, the scramble will begin in the fourth quarter of this year.

NOTE—It will be up to new War Mobilizer John Snyder to make the final decision.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Every mother's son west of the Mississippi river—and some east—are making moves to get the cabinet job of the toughest, most fearless member of the FDR cabinet—Harold Ickes. Jim Patton of Denver, head of the farmers union, is one of them. Another is genial Gov. Bob Kerr of Oklahoma, who led the switching of delegates to Truman during the Chicago convention. . . . However, "Harold the Ick" may fool 'em.

Farm Topics

Planting of Winter Cover Crops Begins

Production Aided by Legumes and Grasses

Winter cover crop time will soon be here.

Legumes play a triple role in wartime farming: they help prevent erosion by decreasing run-off, they add organic matter which makes the soil more absorptive of water, and they increase the store of nitrogen in the soil when turned under. During the period of decay, following the turning under of the cover



Result of cover work.

in spring, cover crops make plant nutrients more readily available to the subsequent crops.

Most commonly used winter legumes are Austrian winter pea, hairy vetch, smooth vetch, crimson clover, bur-clover and sour-clover. Rye grass is used extensively as a winter cover in practically all areas.

Feed for livestock is made available by such cover crops as alfalfa, kudzu, the clovers and sericea lespedeza.

Rotations of crops vary in different climates and locations, and on different soils. A cover crop program should be worked out for each farm.

When winter cover crop follows a cash crop that has been well fertilized, it serves its best purpose, as the plants quickly take up the soluble plant food and hold it over the winter period for release to the next crop after turning under in the spring.

Postwar Machinery Speedsprayer



The speedsprayer consists of a 500 gallon metal tank mounted with a large capacity centrifugal type pump operating at low pressure. The nozzles are spaced uniformly over the distributing head, controlled by a single valve.

The air blast is developed by an airplane type propeller driven by a large six cylinder gasoline engine. The air propeller discharges 125,000 cubic feet of air per minute. This sprayer has proven practical in orchards of 50 acres or more, or as a community project. Manufactured by John Bean, Lansing, Mich.

Chicken Legumes Are Wealthy in Vitamins

Now is the time to prepare "chicken hay" for the winter laying flock. This is one of the most practical ways to provide those cold weather vitamins. Green oats, alfalfa, or any other legume makes good hay if it is cut when it is nine to ten inches high.

After the hay is cut it must be raked immediately and hauled to the barn to be cured, according to M. E. Jackson of Purdue. It should be spread out in barn so it may cure without spoiling. This method saves vitamins and leaves.

The hay may be fed in rack to laying hens during the winter months when hens will enjoy some green feed. Some poultrymen run the hay through a feed grinder or chopper. It can then be mixed with the dry or wet mash if desired.

Storage of All Grains

If grain and corn is to be saved from insect damage, they must be put in bins that are tight enough for gas treatment or fumigation.

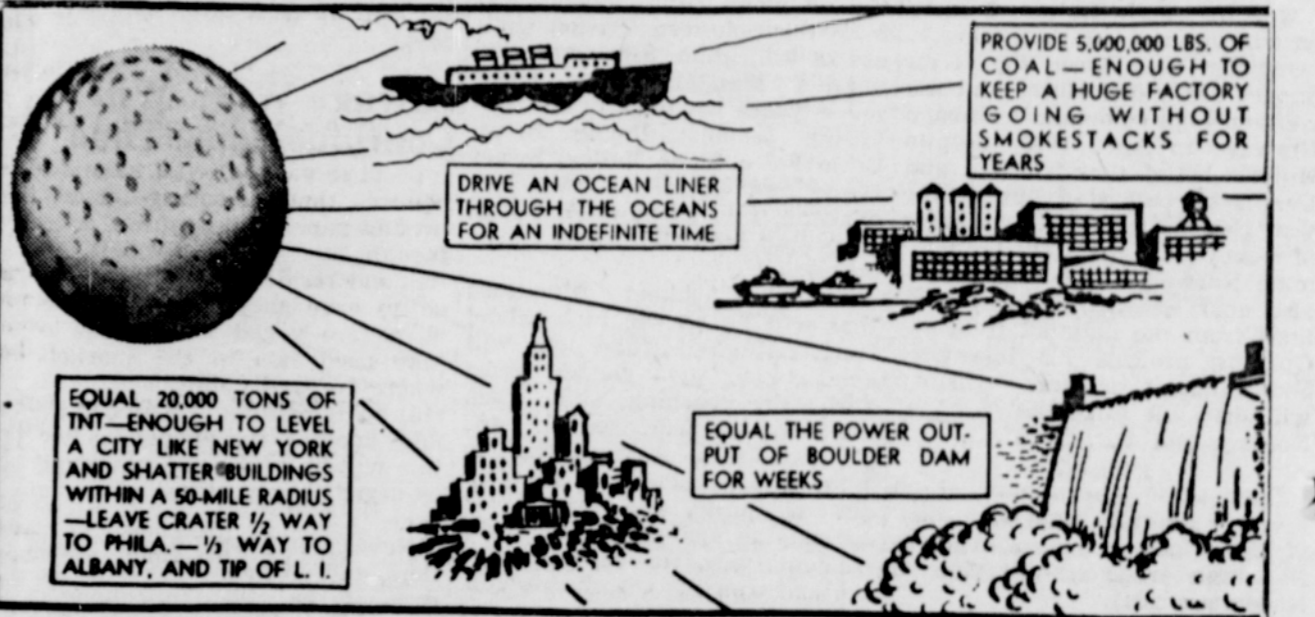
Before the grain or corn is stored, the crib or container should be thoroughly cleaned of old infested grain, even though it is planned to fumigate later. To kill insects in the walls, spray with an oil-lye or other reliable spray. Empty feed bags and clean or dispose of and destroy all spoiled grain.

Russia's Entry Into War Against Japs Provides Bases



Shortly after the Red government declared war against Japan, the powerful Soviet Far Eastern army was already rolling across the Manchurian frontier with the Red air force blasting a path ahead of it. Air bases in Russia will now be available to the United States air forces. This will place Japan in easy striking distance for any type of plane, army or navy, and will cut down fuel load required on trips.

New Atomic Force Harnessed Against Japanese



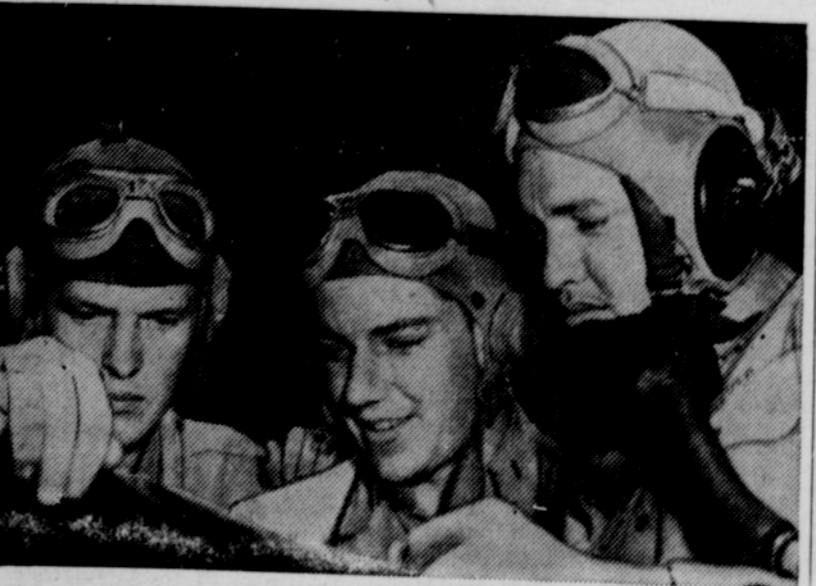
Even one's imagination cannot exaggerate the potentialities of the destruction that will be caused by the new atomic bombs now being dropped upon Japanese cities. The perfected bomb was the work of many leading scientists of the United States, Canada, England as well as those from other European countries. Initial work was started before the United States entered the war. More than two billion dollars was spent to perfect the destructive secret weapon.

Army Air Aces Turn Farmers



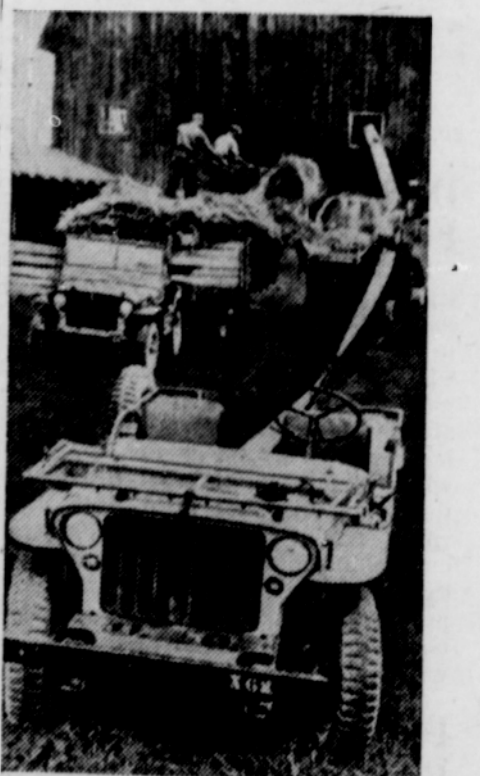
When a soldier speaks of a "chicken" he doesn't often refer to the kind shown here. These army fliers at the Air Force Convalescents' 500-acre farm at Pawling, N. Y., are pretty enthusiastic about the creatures they are feeding. The interest shown by the fliers has proven a big factor in aiding them in regaining their health.

Trio of 'Black Mac's Killers'



Three enemy kills apiece were chalked up by these three members of "Black Mac's Killers," marine nightfighter squadron operating over Okinawa. The squadron, under command of Lt. Col. Marion M. Magruder, leads marine corps in night killings. L. to R., 1st Lt. R. S. Hemstad, Minneapolis, Minn.; 1st Lt. A. F. Dellamand, Brookline, Mass., and 1st Lt. Robert E. Wellwood, Sheridan, Wyo.

Farming by Jeeps



Part of the reconversion plan will put the war-born jeep on the farm. With certain modifications it will be able to perform most of the farm chores except milking—and can even do that by furnishing the power for the milking machines. They are not being made available.

Vets Play Waterball



Basketball the hard way is played with gusto by navy veterans at the U. S. naval hospital, Arrowhead Springs, Calif. Some of the boys are shown crowding the basket.