

(Note—While Drew Pearson is on vacation, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson contributes a guest column.)

By CLINTON P. ANDERSON
Secretary of Agriculture

WASHINGTON. — The first Sunday after V-J Day, a friend came by with an automobile to take my family and his for a drive into the country to have dinner with another friend. Nothing like that had happened in years. We were all delighted at the chance to ride through country lanes, to talk about the height of the corn, the possibilities of crops, and the probability that we would enjoy meat for dinner.

But as we started back into Washington, we could not help but notice that the roads were filling up. There was a long line of traffic and many folks drove by at speeds which seemed reckless to us. They were perhaps driving 40 or 45 miles an hour and we had become accustomed to the 35-mile an hour leisurely gait.

When one speeding car swirled past us, I heard my wife murmur, "My, what I wouldn't give to have gasoline rationing back."

I began to wonder how many of the things that war had brought to us as sacrifices or privations we would soon come to appreciate as blessings in disguise. I began to wonder how long it would be before people would sometimes sigh for some of the real advantages of the days during the war when we all lived a little closer together, a little more simply, and perhaps a little more in the traditional American pattern that had started this country on its way to becoming a great nation.

Real Values of Life.

Do you remember back in the years of the depression that Henry Ansley out in Amarillo, Texas, wrote a book entitled, "I Like the Depression"? Frankly, I liked his little book, because he told of the blessings that had come to him with a reversal in his financial situation. He told of the discoveries that he had made as the period of wild prosperity passed and the long months of depression set in. He told of the farmers who had gone back to living on their farms instead of living off their farms.

The war has done something to all of us. It made us appreciate some of the real values of life that many of us had lost sight of. We all complained a little about the war, didn't we? We were a little disappointed when we found that the stocks of new cars were frozen, but we discovered that the old car was a lot better and would run a lot longer than we had thought.

Car-Pool Neighbors.

I remember my first experience with a car pool. We had two automobiles at our house; our next door neighbor had two automobiles at his place. We were not well acquainted, mostly because it wasn't necessary, until the war came along. Then my next door neighbor and I and two others, who heretofore had gone to our offices by separate means, found ourselves fused together into a car pool. We were irrevocably tied to each other. We had to rise at the same time in the morning, leave at the same hour for work, and return home together in the evening.

I am sure that at first we all resented a little the fact that we lost our freedom of action, but we gained a great lesson in neighborliness. We found out that the people who lived next to us might be just as interesting and attractive, just as pleasant and just as companionable as the people whom we had always known who lived down the street or across the city.

Victory Garden Blessing.

How many women improved their figures as they walked to market! And think what Victory gardens did for the men!

Like Drew Pearson, I will perhaps be away from Washington when this column is printed, away on a short vacation. While I am gone, someone will be mowing my lawn. During the war I had to mow my own lawn. I couldn't find anyone interested in taking care of my particular little piece of property. And a strange thing happened: I found that I could mow it as well as anyone else, that I could mow it quickly, and that I could learn within a short time exactly how each particular section could be best mowed to develop the best out of grass. And I found out also that when I mowed it myself, I not only improved the lawn, I improved my own digestion.

I'll miss that now that the war is over, because I'll tell myself that I'm too busy to do it when I can hire someone else for the job. I suppose that my wife will miss something, too, because she used to walk to market and carry her groceries back home in a basket.

As for myself, I reflect upon the fact that an automobile salesman used to be able to sell me a new car each year. But when the war came I learned that automobiles will go 50,000 or 100,000 miles and still be pretty dependable as a means of transportation.



EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and serviceman and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

Disability Rate Change

Because of the much greater percentage of survival from gunshot wounds of the brain, chest and abdomen in this war than in World War I and because of new disabilities incident to service in the tropics, the Veterans administration has adopted a new rating schedule in determining the degree of disability suffered by veterans of this war.

The schedule, which has been in preparation for two years, replaces and liberalizes many provisions of one prepared in 1933 and lists, for example, 178 separate disabilities of bones, joints and muscles with numerous gradations within each, as compared to 126 listings in the previous schedule.

Special attention has been given in the new service-connected disability ratings to scars resulting from explosions, oil burns and the residuals from frozen or immersion foot. A number of tropical diseases have been listed as cause for disability with special ratings adapted for each, although only malaria and filariasis have been encountered among discharged veterans.

Changes in the medical concept of the relationship of specific diseases to other conditions and to their service connection are also reflected in the new schedule. This has resulted in the inclusion of many new disabilities, some of which are rated as high as 100 per cent on a temporary basis where they are not expected to produce more than a 10 per cent permanent disability. All changes are designed to facilitate more accurate and more equitable ratings for the various types of disabilities.

In using the new rating schedule, however, the basic policy of the Veterans administration remains unchanged and the veteran is allowed the benefit of the doubt as between the higher of two ratings, in determining whether or not a disability is service-connected.

Questions and Answers

Q. How does the death rate of wounded soldiers in the present war compare with that of the First World war?

A. According to the war department announcement June 1, the death rate of our wounded soldiers in this war is 8 per cent. The death rate of wounded soldiers, who lived long enough to reach surgery in the First World war was 24 per cent.

Q. Would transfer to a different outfit overseas account for the demotion of a corporal to a private?

A. The war department says that a soldier could be demoted, without prejudice, to the grade of private if he was transferred into an organization where there was no vacancy in his grade.

Q. Is a former member of the Seabees, who participated in the action at Vella Lavella entitled to a star?

A. One star has been authorized to be worn on the Asiatic - Pacific area service ribbon for participation in one or more of the following actions: Vella Gulf action, August 6 and 7, 1943; Vella Lavella occupation, August 15-October 16, 1943, and action off Vella Lavella October 6-7, 1943.

Q. How soon after filing application for a pension can the widow of a war veteran expect payment?

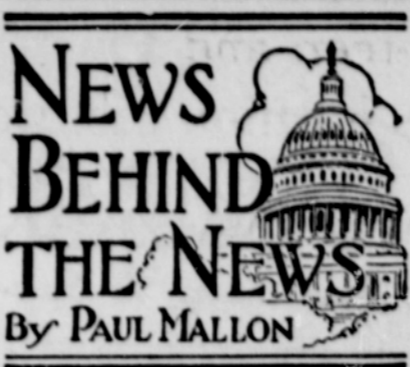
A. There would be no way of telling the exact time which would elapse, but the pension would be retroactive from the date of application.

Q. Would you advise dropping government insurance policy?

A. Most service officers believe it advisable not to drop government insurance, especially if you have a service disability and likely will not be able to pass a physical examination for private insurance. A majority of veterans are converting their government insurance into 20-payment or other form of private life insurance. At least, the veteran should permit his insurance to run its present term until he has a chance to analyze his ability to keep up an insurance schedule of payments. We suggest that you consult your local draft board, veterans administration or your private insurance company.

Q. Can a veteran of either this war or the First World war enter a hospital in another state to take advantage of a better climate, or must he remain in the hospital within the state in which he lives?

A. According to the Veterans administration, it is possible in some cases to be transferred to a hospital outside his state. His transportation would not be paid for unless the physician in charge ordered such a transfer. You should refer the matter to the regional office of the Veterans administration which rated you and is handling your case.



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FUTURE OF LEND-LEASE NOW HELD IN DOUBT

WASHINGTON. — Shenanigans are starting for the dispensing of credit-and-loan billions abroad to replace lend-lease. Mr. Truman announced the good news about the let-down in lend-lease spending, and Mr. Crowley simultaneously took the credit to taxpayers for the news that Britain, Russia, France, China and the rest of the world were coming in with their hands out to him now. Every news reader is naturally asking himself the question what kind of a bargain did we get, or are we going to get? It should be a good bargain because the rest of the world is politically non-co-operative with us in certain glaring examples of foreign policies, but must have our financial help.

The answer is nowhere apparent yet, in front of or behind the news, but some doubtful aspects are discernible to those in the financial know-how.

Take Britain first, the biggest and most-easily-seen case. An American letter to business men, purporting to carry official British viewpoint (although it does not always say so) justifies large loans to London on the ground that the proposed Socialism for the British mines and transport (their purchase by the government) is to be financed by self-liquidating bonds — so we naturally can have no interest in them. That is the kind of propaganda to appeal to the American business mind — self-liquidating loans are sound. They pay themselves off from profits. So, concludes the propaganda letter, there could not possibly be able objection to them in the United States.

The propaganda neglects to reveal to our people the one salient fact of the matter which would knock that whole appeal into a doublecocked Homburg, namely that British Socialism contemplates also taking over the Bank of England, which, of course, is the most important consideration in her future credit standing.

Any American business man who thinks of that fact (he will have to think of it himself because the propagandists will not tell him) will immediately say to himself: "Why, if the Socialists are to abolish the standards of credit of Capitalism in their best, and perhaps change it from day to day, or run it in any direction they want, I would not make them a loan. I would make them give me some unchangeable assurance of financial good faith before I would even consider it."

Cancelled Last Loans.

Now their argument (the British) is that they had to have the Johnson act repealed to cancel their last war debt; the London economist was put up to say that a 50-cents-on-the-dollar settlement is necessary to pull them out of lend-lease red (although no one else said anything officially about paying anything), and they are in a desperate financial plight for dollars, credit and internally from their terrific war debt—but they want more debt from us and want to increase their internal debt untold billions more for Socialism and make their people pay the interest. That sounds like a one-sided proposition.

To put it in its simplest terms: Britain wants us to pull her out of the red and yet have her way, exclusive of our interests in any particular. (Her government told parliament it would be awful for us to interfere with her wishes in any way.)

This same proposition is being sold to the public in an equally clever political way. The news accounts out of the Crowley press conference (quite plainly presenting off-the-record material) said a \$3,000,000,000 loan to Britain was being discussed but British officials were anxious to make some arrangements "concerning eternal debts incurred during the war before taking on additional outside debts." Not a word was mentioned about Britain taking on more internal debts by purchasing her own industries — ones which she already controls in the public interest. Our officialdom just let it be known "some way would have to be found to carry Britain over the bumpy road ahead," but not a word that I see about what we would get out of it in any particular.

But one day the news from abroad quotes the British brain truster, Prof. Harold Laski, as suggesting the new British government does not have the interests of the United States at heart in any respect but would work closer to the Russians, developing Socialism throughout Europe, revise England throughout, and enough other things to drive any creditor away, and then days later comes Foreign Minister Bevin, belatedly, agreeing that maybe some of the Balkan elections and plans are not on the level, or our level. Have we any guarantees in this condition?

MacArthur Forces Landing on Japan Homeland



Photograph shows part of the landing party which accompanied General MacArthur when he arrived in Japan to set up headquarters in Yokohama as Nippon's military ruler and to receive the official surrender of that country. General MacArthur landed by air accompanied by a large force of paratroopers. Their first duty was evacuating American prisoners of war from a "black hell hole."

Nothing Left on Corregidor When U. S. Heroes Fell



WACs and U. S. engineers examine a portion of the ruins of "topside" barracks, Corregidor, Philippine islands, showing the complete destruction that resulted before the gallant American forces were defeated by the superior Japanese arms. There was nothing but ruin for the Japs to take over and there is nothing left of the strong prewar fortification now that the island is back in the hands of Americans.

Youth to Spur Drive on Crime



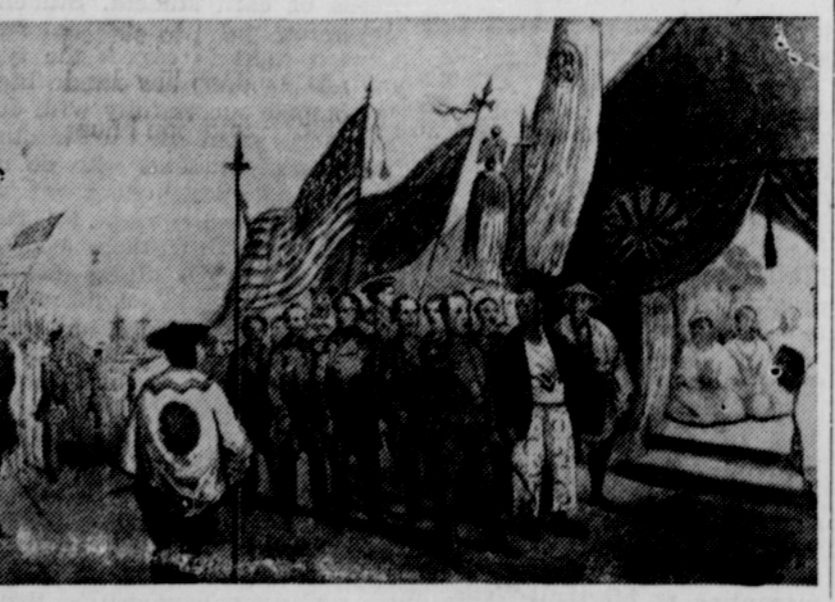
Fearful of a possible increase in juvenile delinquency, civil, religious and business leaders asked the youth of Chicago to redouble efforts for the welfare of youngsters. The Chicago Youth conference is given credit for a 25 per cent reduction in juvenile crime for 1944. It has a membership of 176,000 parochial and public school students.

Under Sec. of State



Being sworn in as under secretary of state to replace Joseph C. Grew, Dean Acheson takes the oath of office. Acheson served as special representative between the White House and congress.

First Yank to Bring Japs to Heel



When General MacArthur landed in Japan to map the future course of conduct for that country towards the rest of the world, he was not the first American to do just that. In 1854, Com. Matthew Perry of the U. S. navy made the Japs cry "Uncle" when he forced the Mikado to open Japanese ports to American shipping and establish commercial relations.

Truman Gets a Hat



President Truman was presented with a "five star beaver hat," by a delegation from Maricopa county, Ariz., when they called upon him to discuss a hospital project.