

Wheat Needs 'Billion Bushel' Rains

U. S. Proposes Long-Range Curb On Reich; Rain Needed to Spur Growth of Early Spring Seeding

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

FOREIGN MINISTERS: Reich Curb

When Secretary of State Byrnes presented the U. S. plan for a 25-year control of Germany to the Paris conference of foreign ministers, he reiterated this government's determination to prevent a postwar military revival of the reich similar to that which occurred after World War I.

Definitely committing this country to active control over Germany to assure international security, the proposal would link the U. S., Britain, Russia and France in a treaty calling for complete demobilization and demilitarization of the reich; elimination of its munitions industries and arms imports, and periodic inspections to check on observance of regulations.

In proposing the 25-year treaty, which could be renewed for an additional 25 years at the date of its expiration, the U. S. took the initiative in seeking to relieve Premier Stalin's fear of a revived Germany. Because of Russia's apprehensions over future German aggression, Moscow insisted upon the formation of a friendly Polish government to act as a military buffer in the west and has worked for the economic and military integration of the Balkan states.

Byrnes' historic proposal shadowed other important developments at the foreign ministers' meeting called for speeding up conclusion of peace treaties with former axis satellites and considering the economic reconstruction of Germany and Austria.



Secretary of State Byrnes (left) chats with Foreign Commissar Molotov (center) of Russia and Foreign Minister Bidault of France.

The Big Four were quick to reach a decision on the reduction of the postwar Italian fleet and the division of the present navy among themselves and Greece and Yugoslavia. Built up into an imposing force under Mussolini, the Italian fleet will be cut to a maximum of four light cruisers, a dozen destroyers and complementary gunboats, coastal patrol craft and auxiliary vessels.

KING COTTON:

The smallest cotton crop since 1921 is indicated for the U. S. by the crop reporting board, the 9,015,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight comparing with 12,230,000 bales in 1944 and 12,293,000 bales for the 10-year (1934-43) average. The record crop was 19,946,000 bales in 1937.

Harvested production of cottonseed, a leading oil crop, in 1945 is indicated at 3,634,000 tons, 26 per cent less than produced in 1944 and 30 per cent less than the 10-year average.

Cheats Death Twice



A diphtheria patient in a Rome, Italy, hospital, three-year-old Alfredo Marsili twice was brought back to life by skillful medics after his heart had stopped beating. The first time he suffocated he was revived by an injection of adrenalin and glass tubes were inserted in his throat to facilitate his breathing. When a nurse dislodged the tubes while washing him, he suffocated again, but once more he was brought back to life with artificial respiration.

WEATHER: Crop Factor

With another record-breaking harvest needed to help the U. S. meet both domestic and foreign demands, the American farmer looked skyward in many sections for the sign of rain that would bring nourishment to the fields. With warm weather permitting early planting in parts of the east, south and west, precipitation was needed to get crops off to an early start.

In the east, spring weather has been erratic, with temperatures ranging from the middle 70s to near freezing. Though rainfall is approximately six inches below normal, recent showers have broken some of the dryness.

A deficiency of rainfall in western Minnesota and North and South Dakota seriously menaced wheat and small grains in those areas and appreciable precipitation before July 1 will be required for good yields. While dryness has resulted in sparse stands in northwestern Kansas, wheat is in good condition in the rest of the state.

Heavy rainfalls throughout the Rocky mountain region have relieved immediate fears of drought while growers in northern Colorado have been warned against insect and cutworm infestation due to early hatching of pests.



MUSIC SOOTHES . . . Herman C. Menge, a retired Racine, Wis., druggist, visited the zoo and found a director trying to tame a raging lion. Menge pulled out his ocarina and started playing. The lion quieted down.

WASHINGTON DIGEST

Complete Trial Needed To Legally Outlaw War

By BAUKHAGE

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As the Nuernberg trials draw to a close, I continue to hear two questions repeated ad infinitum in the market places and bazaars, in the coffee houses and the courtoirs (not to mention the lecture halls).

One is: Why on earth are they dragging out these trials; aren't they ever going to end?

The other is: Do you think any of these fellows (the prisoners) are going to get off?

Associate Justice Jackson knows as well as anyone else that news from Nuernberg has long since departed inconspicuously from the front page. He knows, from reading the American newspapers which reach him not too belatedly, thanks to the ALS (the army's special courier service), that his role in the Nuernberg case will never bring him a succes de scandale. He knows his presence is needed in Washington on the Supreme court bench.

Why, then, does he tarry?

Full Documentation Is Required

By answering that question, one can answer the other two I mentioned at the beginning of these lines.

One: Why is this thing being dragged out forever . . . ?



GRAND OLD MAN . . . Charles Evans Hughes, only living former chief justice, leaving the White House after conferring with President Truman.

Answer: Because this trial is not merely a trial of a handful of international criminals. These evil villains are only a small part of the drama, even if it is they, and not what is behind their castigation, which sometimes still produces headlines. The trial is a great process of legal documentation.

It is the recording of history, for the first time in history, of history written in blood, and ink hardly yet dry. It must be a complete record; the record of a crime which, until it is so recorded, may never be admitted as a crime in the eyes of international statesmen and lawyers.

The Allied military tribunal (operation justice, as it was known in the army) was planned, and is being conducted to its long and apparently infinite end for the purpose of blueprinting a legal precedent for holding as punishable criminals, the heads of states who plot and carry out aggressive warfare.

That is the answer to question one.

Question two: Are they ever going to convict these fellows? I answered that in part when I said that the proceedings were far more than the trials of the defendants who sit daily in the prisoners' dock of the court house at Nuernberg, or in their lonely cells near by.

And for those who fear that justice will be cheated, let me say that most of those men, if it cannot be established that they took official part in the planning and execution of an aggressive war, are probably wanted on other charges in local courts. If they go free from Nuernberg, the local courts will try them, as the "Beast of Belsen" and others were tried and convicted for their separate and private crimes.

It is possible, for instance, that the sadistic, degenerate Streicher, Jew-baiting wielder of a jeweled whip that was a symbol of his psychosis as well as an instrument of his perverse desire, will not be convicted by the IMT. He is so low that his fellow prisoners won't speak to him; so crooked that even when he was a Gauleiter, he couldn't be trusted to sign a single order of national or international significance. He finally stole so much from the Nazi party itself that he was incarcerated.

The Nuernberg trials will continue until the record is completed. Justice will not be cheated. And it is to be hoped that aggressive war, on the basis of the proceedings of this court, will become illegal. How can the United Nations hope to outlaw war unless they establish with sword, scales and woolsock that war is illegal?



SENATORS URGE RULE CHANGE

WASHINGTON.—Ten senators—Democrats and Republicans—got together secretly the other day to study that most sacred of all sacred cows—senate rules. Behind their meeting was the conviction that die-hard Dixie Democrats can block any measure they oppose via the filibuster, and that the majority must rule if democracy is to function in the U. S. A.

The secret meeting took place after senators received a flood of letters both for and against the attempt by Wayne Morse, Oregon Republican, to secure passage of the anti-poll tax bill through unanimous consent of the senate. Only senators on the floor at the time Morse attempted this strategy were Morse himself and Republican William Langer of North Dakota.

Liberal Democrat Warren Magnuson of Seattle, Wash., was presiding. Had he immediately asked senators if there was objection, there would have been none and the anti-poll tax bill would have passed. Morse had identified the bill only by number, so Magnuson did not at once recognize it. But, even if he had, probably he would have hesitated to pass a controversial bill without debate.

He was rescued from this dilemma by Senator Ernest MacFarland, Arizona Democrat, who quickly came to the floor and objected.

Since then, senate mail has been strong with letters both objecting to the Morse attempt as trickery and supporting Morse on the ground that this strategy was no more unfair than the filibuster.

Regardless of the above merits, a bipartisan group of ten senators has determined that senate rules must be changed. They seek to limit debate on any single bill to ten days, which would bring up the anti-poll tax bill, already passed by the house, before the senate recesses. They are thinking also of bringing up legislation to create a permanent FEPC—provided they succeed in winning their amendment to the senate rules.

The ten senators are: Democrats—Pepper (Fla.), Magnuson (Wash.), Guffey (Pa.), Glen Taylor (Idaho), Huffman (Ohio), Kilgore (W. Va.), and Mead (N. Y.); Republicans—Ferguson (Mich.), Knowland (Cal.) and Capper (Kan.).

FINAL PEARL HARBOR REPORT

Believe it or not, but the long-delayed reports on the Pearl Harbor investigation at last are being whipped into shape. They will not be published until around June, but here is the inside story on how the final verdict is shaping up.

The Democratic majority on the committee, led by Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky, will absolve the two top military leaders in Washington—Gen. George Marshall and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Harold R. Stark—of major responsibility. They will receive some minor rebukes, especially for poor co-ordination of army and navy intelligence; but nothing serious.

Democratic members of the committee also will absolve the state department of any blame and will let major blame rest where the original Roberts report contended it belonged—on the shoulders of army and navy commanders in the Hawaiian area—General Short and Admiral Kimmel.

Republican members of the committee will file a sharply worded minority report upholding Short and Kimmel and charging (1) that Short and Kimmel weren't sufficiently advised by Washington about intercepted Jap messages presaging the Pearl Harbor attack; and (2) that the two officers weren't provided with enough long-range patrol planes to spot the Jap fleet.

PATTON'S DIARY

The war's stormiest hero, Gen. George S. Patton, was the center of many a controversy before he died. But today the war department is still sitting on one of the hottest of Patton's hot potatoes—the general's secret diary.

Only a few people in the war department and the Patton family know it, but the famous general kept a careful diary all during the Normandy campaign, jotting down his frank comments about the Allies and even about his superior officers. Some of the comments just about burned up the page.

General Patton especially paid his compliments to the famous British field marshal, Montgomery, whom he criticized with almost the same bluntness as the soldier in the Sicilian hospital whom he slapped.

CHIPS FROM A GRANITE LIFE

Most people have forgotten, but it was Harlan Stone to whom the nation owes a debt for picking J. Edgar Hoover as head of the FBI. When Stone became attorney general, he swept out Burns and selected a young career man, Hoover, to take his place. No one had ever heard of Hoover before. . . . Stone was kicked upstairs from the justice department to the Supreme court by Coolidge when Stone dared move against Andrew Mellon's aluminum trust.

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TO SAVE FORESTS

Helicopters for Forest Fires?

MARCH FIELD, CALIF. — With March Field pilots flying the latest model army "egg-beaters," tests have been conducted in Angeles national forest with helicopters to determine their effectiveness in forest fire control. If tests are successful, the forest service may have its own fleet of rotary-wing aircraft.

The helicopters were used for experimental dropping of fire-suppressing materials from the air—a project in which skill approximating that of the wartime bombardier was turned to a peacetime purpose which might mean the saving of millions of dollars worth of national wealth.

The plan, if successful, will ultimately benefit woodsmen in Maine and Tennessee as well as in the Far West. The basic advantage of the helicopter, according to the experts here, is that it would enable the trained fire-fighter and his kit to get closer than ever to the key spot in one hop.

For several years the closest approach to this has been the "smoke-jumper," or parachuting fireman of the forest service. Trained at the regional base at Missoula, Mont., this sylvan paratrooper has served heroically and efficiently, but a chute does not steer like a helicopter.

David P. Godwin, assistant chief of the division of fire control of the United States forest service, flew out from Washington for the tests. He was met by regional officials of the service and by Lt. Col. Rollo Lawrence, in charge of the army air force search and rescue work centered at San Francisco.

Details on the "bombing" with

fire-suppressants would not become available until summer, members of the party said. Like the helicopter experiment, it was approved in principle by the army last October.

March Field's own search and rescue unit, to which the helicopter pilots are attached, is headed by Maj. Fred W. Milam of Meron, Ind. Besides the rotary planes, the unit equipment includes two B-17s, five twin-engine advanced trainers and four Cub-type spotters. Their movements are guided by the rescue control center at North Hollywood.

America's annual loss through forest fires is staggering. Each year thousands of acres of natural forests are lost through fire, largely because fire-fighters cannot reach the blaze to put it out before it spreads over a large area.