



Washington, D. C., July 31.—This town, the heart of America, is practically in the hands of the British and royal refugees. They have moved in bag and baggage and are elbowing the natives to one side. The government is occupying all of its own buildings and is renting 201 other structures, paying rent at the rate of \$5,054,000 a year. Government within the District of Columbia is bursting its bounds and government agencies are spilling over into adjacent Virginia and Maryland. Accommodations for federal workers are difficult to find. Girl clerks are living four and six to a room in the boarding houses. There are 11,500 workers in the old navy buildings on Constitution avenue and there is a cafeteria which can feed 2,500. The other thousands must bring their lunch or go without food, for in the short time permitted for lunch they can not walk to a drug store or cafeteria almost two miles away and return. In the old days some enterprising woman would drive up in a dilapidated car and sell sandwiches to the hungry, but this is verboten now—there is no place for such an itinerant merchant to park her car. The vast green sward at the foot

of Washington monument could accommodate several thousand autos. The navy department has requested the secretary of the interior to permit parking, but the secretary (who has charge of all parks) absolutely refuses; he doesn't want the grass destroyed. Nor will the secretary permit the navy to use the army's polo grounds nearby. There are no underground garages in the new buildings and in these days of the automobile clerks must park their cars miles from where they work.

BRITISH agents of all sorts fill the cocktail lounges and criticize the United States for not "going in." They are demanding that an AEF be dispatched and quote some of the British generals that America must send manpower. At present Britain is said to be receiving 75 percent of the munitions produced in the United States—the British are receiving so much that at the army maneuvers in September (500,000 men) stovepipes and sticks of wood will be used for cannon and machine guns.

The agents of Britain have taken so many offices (ousted government bureaus) that the government has to rent any old mansion that it can find. The British also insist on air-conditioned quarters, which are needed in this climate, and it is asserted that this air-conditioning is paid for from the lend-lease act. The British embassy has had to build two new wings and is still crowded.

Under the lend-lease act British ships are now being repaired in navy yards on the Atlantic coast. In one yard 1,500 American mechanics are tinkering with a battleship whose name is never mentioned. These mechanics are taken away from their work of constructing destroyers and submarines.

FOOD is the first line of defense.

writes an Oregon farmer to Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard, and Oregon dairymen are complying with the secretary's request to speed up production of milk by increasing their herds. While the dairymen are doing this, however, they are unable to obtain the right kind of farm labor. All that many dairymen have been able to hire are inexperienced older men and young boys and with such help it is difficult to operate a farm. The dairy business, writes this Oregon farmer, is an all year proposition, with work required seven days a week, and experience is essential. A similar situation confronts the poultry grower. Secretary Wickard sympathizes and admits that a farmer cannot compete with the wages paid in defense industry, and there is the selective service. Local boards, says the secretary, are misinformed on the law and have taken farm boys when these should be deferred as long as possible.

NATIONAL Youth Administration had an idea. It would teach boys welding, and Portland would be a good place; probably 2,000 youngsters could be taught the trade. NYA arranged for renting a building and began to talk about machinery. At this point they ran up against an Oregon official in Washington. This official asked, "Why don't you make use of existing facilities and expand them instead of starting new and buying machinery which is needed for other purposes?" NYA hadn't thought of that.

Machinery for a quicksilver mine is rusting on the floor of a dealer in the midwest. It is wanted by an Oregon mine operator, but he has been unable to obtain a priority license.

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How to Conserve Rank Stubble is Oregon Problem

The heaviest grain stubble Oregon or the Pacific northwest has seen in a decade or more may still be handled and returned to the soil with a bit of advance planning, according to O. S. C. extension and Soil Conservation men who are familiar with western tillage methods. Burning is unnecessary and costly in soil losses, they say.

The rank straw growth resulted from abnormal rainfall during May and June, and early planting of winter wheat last fall. Wet weather and winds have caused much of the grain to go down, making it difficult to harvest. The net result, it was pointed out, is the heaviest winter wheat stubble in many areas since northwest farmers began turning away from stubble burning and took to using straw scatterers on their combines and tillage methods that conserve the straw for soil-protection and improvement.

Forecasts that many farmers will consider it impossible to utilize the large amount of straw on the ground, and will either burn or be tempted to burn, the tillage men emphasized that the extra work required to handle the greater amount of straw this year will be well worth the effort. Here is what they recommend:

On land to be summer-fallowed—Fall disking, as soon as possible after harvest while the stubble is dry, getting the equipment ready now. The disking, with sharp disks, breaks up the straw and stirs the ground just enough to bring a large percentage of the straw in contact with the soil, so that it will decompose enough during the winter to enable the farmer to make good use of it in next season's summer-fallow. An additional disking before plowing might be necessary, even, if the straw still is quite heavy next spring.

On land that is to be planted to peas next spring—Disking immediately after harvest, likewise, with rough plow later in the season to cover part of the straw and leave part of it on the surface as a protective mulch. The tillage is done effectively with either short moldboards or with the heaviest types of one-way disks.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank the many neighbors and friends who assisted in putting out the fire at my place last week end.

Fred Mankin.

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