



Washington, D. C., Feb. 17—EF-

FORTS have been made for months past to have the war department establish concentration camps in the northwest where the prisoners of war can be used to relieve the manpower shortage on such projects as reclamation jobs, in lumber camps, etc. From the initiation of this movement objections have been raised by union leaders against the employment of any war prisoners to perform work which can be done by card-carrying unionists. Prior to the proposal to use prisoners of war some of the work on government undertakings has been done by conscientious objectors and little or no objection was heard from business agents of the unions. Now a new issue has been injected.

A proposal to employ German war prisoners on an incorporated farm in New Jersey has brought the demand from a business agent that the employer deduct union dues for each prisoner employed. This is the check-off system which labor has forced upon employers with the approval of the administration. Before the check-off system was adopted the going was pretty tough for the union treasury; members neglected to pay union dues. With the check-off—a system originated by John L. Lewis for his United Mine Workers—the employer makes the deduction from the payroll and turns the money over to the treasurer of the union. And strangely enough, the membership of the Lewis miners' union went on a strike several years ago to compel their employers to make the deduction. The coal mine operators kicked, but the miners refused to return to the pits until success crowned their efforts.

Prisoners of war are not members of any union, but the business agents insist that someone—the war department or the employer—takes 25 cents a week from each prisoner and turns it over to the union. Basis for this demand is that the union, represented by the business agent, has a closed shop contract with the incorporated firm. The war department, which has not interfered with the check-off in certain war industries, declares it will not dig up a nickel for dues to a union to which the prisoners do not belong. The federal government pays prisoners of war 80 cents a day and when they are employed the prisoners received the going wage of the locality, but instead of the prisoners receiving this wage scale the difference above 80 cents

is paid to the government by the employer and this money finds its way into the United States treasury.

If anyone is to pay the union it must be the employer, but the war department is indifferent as to whether the employer pays. If he does pay it will have to come out of his profits. Should the union carry its point in the New Jersey instance it will serve as a precedent and when and if prisoners of war are employed on reclamation projects or in the woods in the northwest the contractor will have to battle it out with the unions.

THE reclamation bureau has no objection to the use of prisoners of war on the projects listed for Oregon and Washington, but there is a stipulation that there must be a minimum of free labor and that explosives must be handled and blastings done by free labor. No chances are to be taken by allowing prisoners of war—Germans or Italians—to obtain possession of explosives required for the construction work. The war department is very particular as to the jobs the war prisoners shall be allowed to perform in the woods. Logging is hazardous at best, but certain jobs are more hazardous than others and it is the policy that war prisoners shall not be used on these.

THE proposed Umatilla dam on the Columbia river, touching Oregon and Washington, does not find favor with Idaho if the dam is to be used for the generation of power as well as for navigation. The contention is that if the Umatilla dam generates power it will prevent the building of other power dams for which there is now an agitation in Idaho.

THERE is a possibility that the rationing of shoes for civilians may be tightened in the near future. It will depend upon what the army decides about equipping troops with 10-inch boots. The change has been suggested, though by whom is not stated, and is now being considered by the high command. If the change is made there will be still further inroads upon the scanty leather supply and stricter rationing of shoes may become necessary. The adoption of boots would eliminate leggings, the wearing of which has always been the cause of much grumbling among soldiers.

### Farm News---

#### USED CRAWLER TRACTOR SALES RESTRICTED

The Allied landings below Rome and invasion of the Marshalls had a peculiar reverberation on the home front last week. Used crawler type tractors were placed under War Production Board control. With every new fighting front taking more heavy equipment to build roads, repair air fields, and move supplies, the armed forces are getting most of the crawlers United States plants can turn out. Few new crawlers are available for civilian use so steps have been taken to place used machines where they are most needed. Dealers and others except farmers now may sell used crawlers only to buyers who have WPB approval. Prospective purchasers must apply to the used

construction machinery branch of the WPB in Portland on form WP B-1319.

#### SUPPORT PRICES

The war food administration announced proposed support prices on several additional farm products of importance in the Oregon Food for Victory campaign, according to information received by the Agricultural Extension Service at Oregon State college. The announcement indicates that further details will be given out after adequate provisions have been made for making the support price program effective. The proposed support for smooth

dry edible peas is \$5.65 a hundred for US No. 1 grade and \$5.40 for No. 2 in carloads pursuant to procedure yet to be announced. Dry edible beans are also included.

The proposed support price for late potatoes is 90 percent of parity calculated as of July 1, 1944, effective at the shipping point on potatoes graded, sacked and loaded f. o. b. cars.

#### AAA DEADLINE

March 31 is the final date for signing applications for payment for soil building and conservation practices performed under the 1943

AAA program. Farmers who have not filed a report on 1943 practices performed are advised to contact the county AAA office at once.

#### 1944 PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

In order to estimate the 1944 agricultural production in the United States and make tentative plans for allocating food for lend lease, army, navy and civilian use for the ensuing year all farmers are asked to fill out a 1944 farm plan for their farm during the month of February. Morrow county farmers are asked to call at the county AAA office and do this before February 26.

## Help Speed the Day of Victory Produce More Food!

THE more Victories there are the more food is needed by our Armed forces. Not only for themselves but for the people of liberated countries. These people must be fed so they can have the strength both in morale and physical condition to back our armies in the fight for freedom.

It's up to American farmers to produce for Victory. If your machinery has taken the brunt of years of hard work, let us overhaul it so that you may get maximum performance from your equipment now when you need it most.

**BRADEN-BELL**  
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT COMPANY

# Dog Owners PAY LICENSE THIS MONTH

After March 1st the price will be double  
**NOW**

\$1 for each male and spayed female  
\$2 for each female

## AFTER MARCH 1st

\$2 for each male and spayed female  
\$4 for each female

**JOHN H. FUITEN,**  
Sheriff and Tax Collector



From where I sit...

by Joe Marsh

Sure's a lot of talk going around nowadays about post-war planning...folks passing resolutions... statesmen holding conferences... governments making promises to each other.

But as Bert Childers says: "What good is all this drawing up of plans unless each one of us decides to make his corner of the world a better place to live in?"

From where I sit, Bert's put the problem in a nutshell. Governments can pass all the resolutions and make all the treaties

they can think of—and it's still up to the people themselves to see to it that the world is ruled by tolerance and understanding.

Unless we make up our minds to respect the other fellow's rights and liberties—whether it's the right to enjoy a glass of beer occasionally or the right to vote according to our conscience—all our post-war planning won't be worth the paper that it's printed on.

*Joe Marsh*