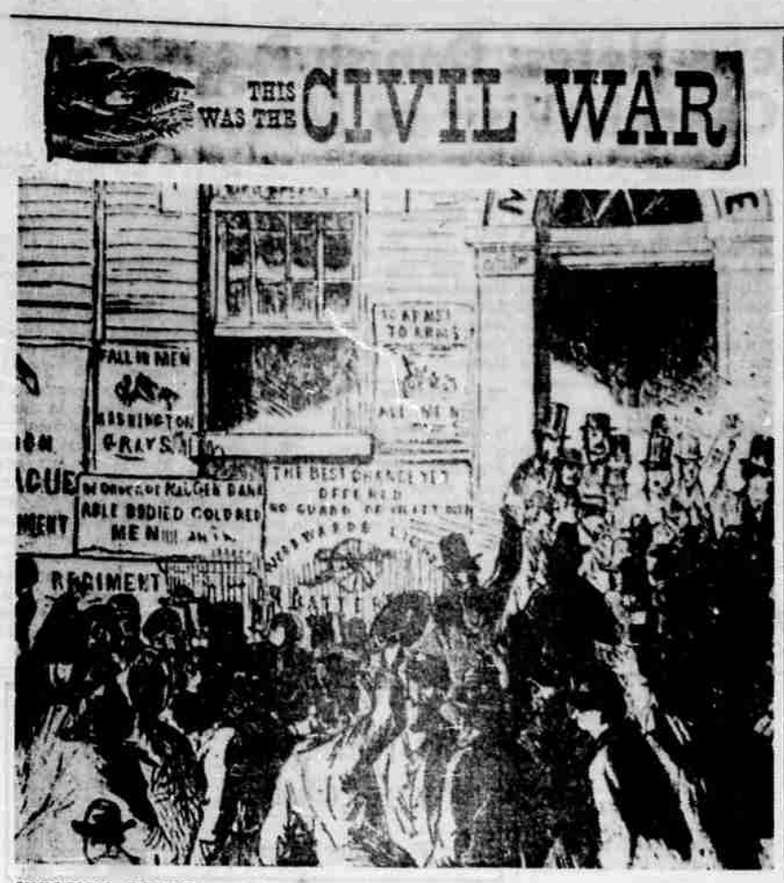

INVASION DOOMED – The second invasion of the North by the Confederates began on June 3, 1863. It was an invasion which would fall in a blaze of glory at an obscure crossroad in Pennsylvania a month later. Gen. Robert E. Lee probably believed that the war was lost, but there was no hint of despair as he recommended that the invasion take place. He felt that the invasion could add zest to any anti-war feeling that existed in the North. He also felt his ill-fed, ill-clad troops could live better off the land to the north. Militarily he believed he could menace Baltimore and Washington. Here in a sketch from the Library of Congress collection, the reaction of some of the people who did not sympathize with Lee is shown. The drawing shows a mass meeting in the north to rally the home front against the invaders. (UPI)

Second Invasion of the North

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

The second invasion of the North, which would fall in a blaze of glory in a month at an obscure crossroads village in Pennsylvania, started June 3, 1853.

The day before, Gen. Robert E. Lee had decided to start his Army of Northern Virginia marching along the classic invasion route in the Shenandoah Valley corridor which runs into Maryland and Pennsylvania. This second invasion was born of necessity and carried an overtone of desperation. Its earlier counterpart of 1862 had splintered on the hills of Sharpsburg, Md., along the banks of Antietam Creek.

On this June day, Lee never had lost a battle to the Union Army of the Potomac as commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He never had beaten it decisively, either. Always after every defeat it had come back bigger and better equipped.

Lee's "perfect battle" of Chancellorsville was a month old almost to the day when he started his hungry army on the march. No one knew better than Lee that Chancellorsville had been a Pryhhic victory. And no one knew better than he that the limit of indecisive victories was near to hand.

Having Reservations

His faith in his army was firm but he was beginning to have reservations. In a letter to Maj. Gen. John B. Hood on May 21 he said "I agree with you in believing that our army would be invincible if it could be properly organized and officered. There never were such men in an army before. They will go anywhere and do anything if properly led. But there is the difficulty – proper commanders. Where can they be obtained?"

Likely as not when Lee wrote to Hood he had in mind the loss of Stonewall Jackson, who had died a couple of weeks before from wounds received at Chancellorsville.

The death of Jackson caused a reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee broke up the two-corps army into three, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet continued in command of the first Corps. Richard S. Ewell was promoted to lieutenant general and given Jackson's old second Corps. Ambrose Powell Hill, who had commanded the famous Light Division, was promoted to head the new third Corps.

Compared to the Lee-Jackson - Longstreet combination this was a second team but it was the best the commander could field.

About this time Lee seems to have glimpsed the darkening future of the Confederacy He even ventured some political advice to President Jefferson Davis, something out of character for Lee who was always the soldier, never the politician.

Deep Layer of Words

Lee wrapped his political thoughts in a deep layer of words. He wrote of peace movements in the North and conceded Federal superiority "in numbers, resources and all the means and appliances for carrying on war, (but) we have no right to look for exemption from the military consequences of a vigorous use of these advantages . . .

"We should not therefore conceal from ourselves that our resources in men are constantly diminishing, and the disproportion in this respect . . . if they continue united in their efforts to subjugate us, is steadily augmenting. . .

". . . We should neglect no honorable means of dividing and weakening our enemies . . . It seems to me that the most effectual mode of accomplishing this object, now within our reach, is to give all the encouragement we can, consistently with truth, to the rising peace party in the North.

"Nor do I think we should . . . make nice distinctions between those who declare for peace unconditionally, and those who advocate it was a means of restoring the Union however much we may prefer the former."

Lee closed the letter with "I leave to your better judgment the proper course to be pursued."

He was convinced that the war probably was lost, barring a complete collapse of the North war effort but there was no hint of despair in the suggestion. He would keep fighting, come what might.

Another glimpse of Lee's restless mood came from a distant cousin, Randolph McKim, an army chaplain. McKim wrote:

"As I talked with him after dinner, he cast his eyes across the Rappahannock to the camps of General (Joseph) Hooker's army and said to me, 'I wish I could get at those people over there.' "

To "get at those people" – was exactly what Lee now proposed to do but not in the much fought-over wastes of Northern Virginia. He would lure them north across the Potomac and fight them when and where he chose. Meantime his half starved, half-clothed, half-shod army would live off the fat of the land in Maryland and Pennsylvania, the former touched only lightly by the war, the latter unscathed. There lay hordes of food, herds of horses, stores full of clothing, hats and shoes for the taking if his men moved fast and the Federals slowly, as he anticipated.

Worked Before

Furthermore he could threaten Washington, Baltimore and even Philadelphia. That plan had worked well before.

"I think I can throw General Hooker's army across the Potomac . . . if I can do nothing more and have to return," he wrote to Davis.

The new second Corps commander, Ewell, led off the fateful expedition early in the morning of June 3. He had learned to use his new wooden leg and could even mount a horse unassisted. He had lost the leg at the battle of Groveton in the Second Manassas campaign nearly a year earlier. Just before reporting for his new job he had been married to a widowed cousin, Lizinka Campbell Brown. She was about 44, he was 56.

Historian Douglas Freeman described Ewell as "bald, popeyed and long - beaked, with a piping voice that seems to fit his appearance as a strange unlovely bird; he probably has stomach ulcers and chronically complains of headaches, sleepless nights and indigestion: but he quickly shows that he has a chivalrous, fighting spirit along with a sharp tongue and an odd sense of humor."

Proposed Plan

Longstreet had reservations about the invasion. He proposed to Secretary of War James A. Seddon, that his corps be sent west to reinforce the Confederate army around Vicksburg, Miss. He visualized defeating the army of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant and then sweeping north to the Ohio River. He tried out the scheme on Lee, too, but neither Lee nor Seddon fell in with the plan. Longstreet was not happy about Ewell's promotion, feeling that D. H. Hill was the better man for corps leader.

At a meeting of Lee's leaders on June 2 Longstreet renewed his objections to the invasion.

". . . if we were ever going to make an offensive battle," he wrote later, "it should be done south of the Potomac . . ."

Even President Davis would develop some reservations and hold back troops that Lee needed for the invasion.

And Longstreet would carry his convictions of a defense campaign almost to the disaster point at the Pennsylvania crossroads in an obscure town called Gettysburg.

But the army and other officers liked the prospects of action in new territory.

"Have no fear we shall not beat them" Maj. Gen. Dorsey Pender wrote to his wife.

Anderson Promoted To Assistant Post

Arleigh A. Anderson, transitman at Medford, was promoted Saturday to assistant resident engineer in Eugene, Forrest Cooper, state highway engineer, announced.

The position will involve responsibility in assisting in the supervision of construction projects on the Interstate highway system and other highways in the Eugene area.

Anderson started with the department nine years ago as a chainman and has received two previous promotions.

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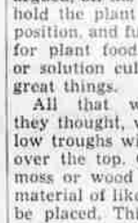

Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

Doubtful That Test Tubes Will Replace Good Earth

A few years ago it began to look like the dirt gardener was on his way out. The man with the hoe and shovel seemed to be ready to be displaced by the man with the test tube. Those folks that delighted in digging in the good earth in order to plant seeds appeared to be playing second fiddle; they seemed to be coming as obsolete as the horse and buggy. Science, especially chemistry, was about to reduce truck gardening to a chemical formula.

There were many optimistic people that sincerely believed that all garden vegetables were going to be grown chemically. After all, they argued, all the ground does is hold the plant in an upright position, and furnish a vehicle for plant food. Hydroponics, or solution culture, promised great things.

All that was necessary, they thought, were long shallow troughs with wire screen over the top. On the screen, moss or wood chips or some material of like nature was to be placed. This was to hold the solution in contact with the roots of the plants.

The troughs were filled with water to which had been added the necessary chemicals to feed the plants. Under the warmth of the sun, or artificial heat, the plants thrived and fruited. The roots, feeding on this concentrated food, sent life-giving nourishment to every stem and leaf. The boys were right, the plants did grow, and did produce fruit.

An experienced grower could determine to a certainty just what chemical to add from time to time to correct any condition or ailment the plants developed. Growth in most instances was really phenomenal. Results, under proper supervision, were better than could be expected in ground culture. It looked as if "they had it made."

The planter knew that plants need carbon, oxygen, calcium, magnesium, sulphur, phosphorus and iron. Lesser amounts of zinc, copper and a few other elements were also necessary. All those must be soluble, otherwise the plant cannot use them. But the formula was worked out. Kits containing the necessary chemicals were packaged and placed on the market.

Bonanza Anticipated

The prospective grower visualized himself raising all the tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables he could carry away. He planned on doing his farming in his garage, or in a corner of the back-yard.

It looked like a big deal. Besides, chemical farming had no geographical limits. It would also conserve space; the directions on the package said truckloads of produce could be raised easily and quickly, and all in just a few tanks.

But there were flies in the solution. Plants use different nutriments at different seasons, or periods of growth, depending on temperature. Another problem was oxygen: aeration of the solution is necessary or the roots will rot. The problem of labor reared its head. Using the proper chemicals at the right time calls for an expert and some scientific training. Without knowledge of plant's needs, just anyone can't cook up or mix up a balanced meal.

It sort of looks like we will have to get along with the good earth for some time; it still promises to furnish food for man's existence. If the dirt gardener ever had a fear that he would be outdated by a test tube, he can rest easy -his fears were "groundless."

Who doesn't thrill to the performance of well-trained athletes—and who doesn't admire their physical condition?

But there's serious concern today about the vast majority of our young people who are not athletically gifted and whose physical capabilities are steadily declining.

There's only one solution to this problem. We must provide our children with balanced educational programs to foster full development—intellectual and physical. All it takes are parents and teachers who care.

Find out about the physical education program in your child's school. Don't judge it by varsity activities alone. Rather, find out what it offers average youngsters.

For information about an activity program that could benefit your child, write to The President's Council on Physical Fitness, Washington 25, D.C.

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