

REA GETS SET FOR HUGE JOB FOR DEFENSE

By PETER EDSON
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6 — It looked for a time as though the now vast and still growing Rural Electrification administration might be sacrificed in the interests of national defense, but by dint of some close figuring, plus a slight shift in the objectives of the REA job to tie it in more closely with defense, the \$10 million appropriation for this fiscal year will all be used.

REA's main problem has been to get an allocation of metal. REA lines are now about half aluminum and half copper. Aluminum is out for the duration, but it is a safe bet now that REA will get the 73,000 tons of steel and the 67,000 tons of copper for 305,000 miles of wire, the 3000 tons of zinc needed for galvanizing pole top and guy assembly units, the 5000 tons of porcelain for insulators, and timber for the two million poles that will be needed to carry the program into the fall of 1942.

You might not think that the expansion of a rural electrification program had anything to do with national defense, but REA fits into the picture like this:

First, a big campaign is on to prove that "food will win the war." Anything that helps in the production of food, helps win the war. Electrification of farms helps increase the production of food. Electrification of farms therefore helps win the war.

Second, there is a shortage of power, particularly in some regions. REA figures that by taking a good part of its appropriation and putting it into steam or diesel generating stations, strategically located, it can alleviate this power shortage. Then, when the war is over, these power stations will be available to feed into new rural distribution systems until the country is covered.

Urbanites Attention
For dumb city fellers, and for boys who left the farm before this wonderful age of rural electrification began, it may have to be explained how this juice is used. Take dairy products, for which there is now an extra demand from Britain; Electricity runs the milking machines, water pumps for the stock, separators and refrigerator systems to keep the milk from spoiling.

Take poultry: A farmer who doesn't have electric lights in the hen houses, to make the biddies work overtime and all the time, simply can't compete with modern neighbors who do. Take truck farms: Hot beds are no longer heated by manure, but by electricity.

Incidentally, REA, through the U. S. Film Service, achieved something of an artistic triumph recently through its documentary movie, "Power and the Land," which explained all this. It's as good as the much discussed "Plow That Broke the Plains," and "The River." In the REA contribution, Director Joris Ivens looked around till he found a natural cast of actors in Bill and Hazel Parkinson and their family, of Belmont county, Ohio.

Ivens filmed the home life of the Parkinsons, B. E. — before electrification. Coal oil lamps, hand milking, baths in a tin tub, soured milk in the romantic but inefficient spring house. Then the life of the Parkinsons, A. E. — after electrification. Lights all over the place. Hot and cold running water. Shower baths. Milking machines and electric iceboxes. Radio, electric stove and all the other luxuries.

A Live Wire

REA opened up shop in 1935 with a \$14,000,000 appropriation. At that time, it was estimated that only 743,000 of the 6,800,000 U. S. farms had electricity. Since then, and up to June 1, REA has had appropriations of \$374,000,000. It has strung 354,000 miles of wire. It has 60 generating plants of its own, costing \$11,000,000. House wiring and plumbing cost \$7,000,000 and distribution systems \$348,000,000.

It has advanced loans to 824 co-operators with 1,170,000 customers, and the arrearages on loans is less than 33 cents per \$1000 — a good record for any bank. The money is therefore coming back, with the exception of \$4,000,000 annual administration costs, which the department of agriculture contributes and writes off.

The over-all farm electrification picture today is that two million out of the six million farms are now wired, a 300 per cent increase in six years.

REA distribution system buy 588 million kilowatts from private and government plants and they generate 45 million kilowatts of their own. These

'Mystery Ships' at Attention on New Northwest Base



Blowing as they stand "at attention" at Felts Field, Spokane, Wash., 25 B-25 "mystery bombers" are shown lined up for inspection by Maj. Gen. John F. Curry, commander of the Second Air Force. The 17th Bombardment Group and 88th Reconnaissance Squadron are stationed at the field.

REA power plants are all over the country.

Right now, REA figures that by temporarily sidetracking some of its planned distribution systems and going in for more generating systems it can relieve power shortages tremendously. One of its ideas is for a whole system of connected plants in and around Arkansas, to furnish power for greater production of aluminum—most critically needed as a defense material.

Wire-Tapping by Lineman Brings Startling News

BAMBERG, S. C., Aug. 6 (AP)—The telephone operator tried all morning to find Heyward Braxton of Spartanburg about 200 miles away, to tell him of his brother's death. She decided to try once more.

At that moment, Braxton, a telephone lineman, climbed a pole near Spartanburg to cut in on a wire for a test—and heard his name called.

EVERY LITTLE BIT

OXNARD, Calif., (AP)—Add aluminum sources: Police Chief George Pryor raided a poker game and confiscated a quantity of aluminum chips.

They'll be used as evidence, then turned over to the OPM.

All Is Apprehension



Chubby, a neighborhood kitten, meets Tippi, who boasts a strain of Eskimo dog, at the annual pet show of the Children's Aid Society in New York. Tenement children's pets without pedigrees have their day at this show.

Ox-Cart Revived as Gasoline Banned

PENACOOK, N. H., Aug. 6 (AP)—The horse and buggy days have been revived in several communities as a result of gasoline sales restrictions at night but this community has returned to the period of the ox cart.

Monday night David Morrell took his girl friend for a ride. When he called on Miss Joan Stuart he helped her onto an ox cart. The tail light was a red lantern and Morrell blew an old horn to acknowledge greetings of passing automobiles.

Some of the funniest stunts in the movies don't get any laughs. They're pulled by the censors.

NIPPON MOVES INTO DELICATE SPOT IN EAST

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
(The Special News Service)

It needs no major prophet to assure us that there are the makings of a brand new war in the far eastern crisis, but it would be a mistake to assume that shooting is inevitable.

I don't believe that Japan wants war at this precise moment with Britain or Russia or the United States—much less a combination of the three. However, it's quite clear that the Nipponese, in trying to get set so that they can take advantage of any major German success in the European war, have maneuvered themselves into a mighty delicate position.

In short, the Japanese are running the very evident risk of military action by Britain. Moreover, authoritative sources in Washington express the belief that the United States will support any action that England takes. The Russian attitude hasn't been disclosed.

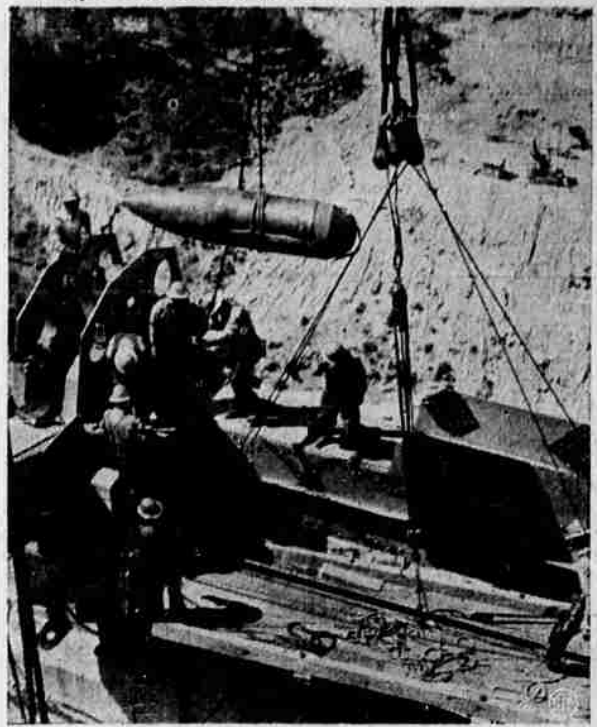
At just what point John Bull might fire a gun in anger is a matter of earnest speculation. The question of immediate concern is whether Japan, having occupied the forbidden land of French Indo-China, will now dare the momentous step of seizing the neighboring state of Thailand.

Possession of Thailand, as well as French Indo-China, would give the Japanese a powerful military base from which they could strike in any direction. The snatching of Thailand would immediately increase the threat against Britain's great naval base of Singapore, the Dutch East Indies with their wealth of oil, rubber and other essentials, and the Philippines.

Will Britain strike if the Japanese carry out their aim of seizing Thailand? That's what Tokyo would like to know, along with the rest of the world. One would expect Nippon to go as far as humanly possible without precipitating war, and then sit very tight pending definite indication of how the European conflict is going.

However, Japan is so far committed to her expansion program that a major German breakthrough of the Russian front at this precise juncture might impel her to cast off re-

No, Sir! Honest, It's Not a Torpedo



Much as it might resemble a projectile of war, the bullet-shaped gadget suspended in the middle of this picture is not at all explosive. It's a forged steel pin to help hold together two spans of the Pit River Bridge being built over a future arm of the Shasta Reservoir near Redding, Calif.

Visitors Consult Local Chamber on Varied Subjects

Tourists, although no longer required to register, still come into the chamber of commerce in large numbers to obtain information about roads, fishing and other matters, according to Violet Wilson, assistant secretary of the chamber.

A few tourists still ask about registration, not knowing that the legislature at the last session repealed the law requiring out-of-state motorists to register.

The chamber of commerce maintains a large supply of maps and folders for the use of visitors.

SOUTHPAW WINS 21

JACKSONVILLE — Winner of 21 games already this season for the Fort Pierce club of the Class D Florida East Coast league, Chester Covington has been sold to Jacksonville of the Class B South Atlantic.

The southpaw fireballer won 14 games before suffering his first defeat. He struck out 183 batters in 219 innings.

He is 30 years old.

NERVE MESSAGES

It has been found that the electro-chemical impulses by which nerves carry messages from one part of the body to another travel at the rate of 400 feet a second.

INSURANCE FIRMS MAINTAIN SURPLUS

SALEM, Aug. 5 (AP)—State Insurance Commissioner Seth B. Thompson said in his annual report Tuesday that insurance companies "are being efficiently managed" and that a "substantial margin of surplus and contingency reserves is available to take up the shocks of variation in experience from year to year, so as to leave capital and statutory reserves unimpaired."

Life insurance companies at the end of 1940 carried a total of \$756,087,530 insurance in force on 494,027 Oregon policies, an increase during the year of \$26,250,666. These companies paid out \$16,516,187 in benefits during 1940, and collected \$22,306,929 in premiums. Stock fire companies collected \$8,517,579 in premiums during the year, an 18.64 per cent increase over the previous year. They paid \$3,821,051 in claims.

Two Executed as Spies in Britain After Secret Trial

LONDON, Aug. 6 (AP)—Karl Theo Druke, 25, a German citizen, and Werner Heinrich Waelz, 26, identified in an official announcement as a Swiss, were executed today at Wandsworth prison as secret agents for Germany.

They were convicted under the treachery act after a secret trial June 12-13.

A statement by the home office said that the men, who were arrested near Edinburgh, Scotland, apparently had been landed near the British coast by seaplane and had rowed ashore in a collapsible rubber boat.

When seized, the statement declared, each was equipped with a portable wireless transmitting and receiving outfit, a large sum of English money and emergency food rations, including German sausage.

Both men had foreign passports and spoke English.

One was arrested at a station while studying a timetable and the other was picked up later the same day, the home office declared.

It said the men apparently had planned to proceed into southern England to engage in espionage work.

Factory sales of cars and trucks in the United States in April were estimated at 438,000 units.



A Little-Realized Fact EVERY MODERN CAR OWNER SHOULD BE TOLD:

WHETHER your car has gone three thousand—or thirty thousand miles—your engine may have a higher compression today than when it was brand new!

Such still higher compressions tend to make an engine less efficient, not more efficient! They are the cause of motor "let-down"... the "pinging" and engine sluggishness you begin to notice, with the same gasoline that worked "perfectly" before.

Carbon is what causes this trouble. Carbon, accumulating in today's small combustion chambers, making them still smaller, your high compression still higher! Such carbon deposits can't be avoided completely, regardless of what kind of oil or gasoline you buy.

What is the cure? For temporary relief, you can change the spark adjustment—at a cost of both fuel and motor efficiency. Or you can have the carbon removed regularly every few thousand miles.

But we recommend something much simpler... a change to Shell Premium Gasoline.

This super motor fuel automatically compensates for carbon-created compression increases as they occur. It's made to deliver maximum knock-free power every mile you drive.

The secret of it is a special blend of clean-burning gasoline fractions... a patented, scientifically prepared anti-knock compound... and powerful alkylate (similar to that used in 100-octane aviation fuels). Thus, to new cars and old, Shell Premium gives faster knock-free pick up... cooler running... and excellent mileage.

Shell Premium costs 2¢ more than "regular." But if you drive the average amount, it will cost you only about \$1 extra a month for Shell Premium's promise of literally thousands of extra miles of new-car performance.

COME ALONG TONIGHT! You'll have fun!

"SHELL COMES TO THE PARTY" with Art Linkletter
9:15 to 9:45

A Party Every Thursday!
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KSPQ
KIRO • KFFY • KERO

STOP AT THE PUMP WITH THE RED BANDS
At Shell Dealers and Shell Stations

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