GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

PRODUCTION IS THE KEY TO OUR WEALTH

EACH ARTICLE of merchandise produced in American factories—every automobile, suit of clothes, agricultural implement, radio and the thousands of other things men build and use—adds to the national wealth. The more we produce, the wealthier we become as a nation, and as individuals.

Each pay day in each factory marks a step in the distribution of the national wealth. Of the value of all production, from 68 to 70 per cent goes to the men employed in the factories. That is labor's dividend. Another 24 to 27 per cent goes to government as taxes—municipal, county, state and federal.

What is left goes to those who provide the tools—the factory buildings and the machines—and to those who manage the business and find the customers.

That has been the method of distribution of America's wealth throughout all of our history. Under that method the distribution to the individual has increased materially, despite an ever-increasing population.

We, as individuals, cannot get more unless we collectively produce more. We cannot produce more by breaking down the industries in which we collectively do the producing and from which we individually receive our share of what we help to produce.

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COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

AFTER AMERICA'S ENTRY into the first World war, a Committee of Public Information was organized, with George Creel as chairman, and the secretary of state, secretary of war and secretary of the navy as the other members.

Creel did not attempt to tell newspaper editors what they could or could not print.

Through his hands went such information as the government wished to give to the public and he controlled all war pictures from the allied lines. His big job was to maintain an enthusiasm for the war in which we were then engaged.

According to Walter Davenport, in Collier's, we will soon have another Committee on Public Information, the main job of which will be to create an enthusiasm for America's participation in the second world war. There is a difference.

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PRIDE OF THE NAVY —A FOUR-YEAR PRODUCT

THE FIRST REAL battleship the United States has built since we agreed with the rest of the world to cut down our navy, and actually scuttled some of our ships to keep that promise, will go into commission in April.

The new ship is the North Carolina, the largest and most modern fighting ship this country has ever built. A 35,000-ton monster, fitted with every appliance that will aid in making her a destructive terror to an enemy. She will carry a crew of 1,450 officers and men. It has taken nearly four years to build her and it would take four years to build another. We have not yet learned the secret of mass production in battleship building.

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THE AFTERMATH

A MINNEAPOLIS MAN who had traveled through the airplane and ship producing towns of California, asked a native business man:

"What will happen when the demand for defense equipment is over?"

The reply: "Just what happens when you stick a pin in a toy balloon."

The same question and the same answer will apply to every other state.

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THREE GENERATIONS

A FEW DAYS AGO a disheartened man committed suicide in Los Angeles. His grandfather had amassed a fortune of several millions, but the last of it was gone, and the grandson killed himself. It was a case of "three generations from shirt sleeves to shirt sleeves." That keeps continuously redistributing America's wealth whether the third generation commits suicide or otherwise.

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PHONY DEALS

WASHINGTON TELLS us there must be no profiteering in our defense preparations. Then we are told of funny or phony land deals, of funny or phony prices in the location of training camps. Wonder if a real investigation might reveal some profiteering or something else.

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PATRIOTISM AND POLITICS

PATRIOTISM and partisan politics do not mix well. Patriotism says we must build ships and other defense equipment where they can be built best and quickest; that we must locate training camps at places most advantageous and best suited for the purpose. Partisan politics says our defense equipment must be manufactured where it will produce the most votes, or where those votes are most needed, and that training camps must be located with the same purpose in view.

Women Play Important Roles in Wars Fought Throughout Centuries of Conflict

By ROGER SHAW

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

NEW YORK.—A well-known British historical novelist once remarked to me: "The greatest companionate marriage in world history is that of Venus with Mars." The more you think about it, from any old aspect, the truer it seems to be. Kipling added to this something about the female being deadlier than the male, and there's also the old slogan about the hand that rocks the cradle rules the home, and the home-defense program to boot. All this sounds rather anti-sentimental, but this is meant to be a factual piece, and not one gushing with the Whistler and his Mother spirit.

As a matter of fact, the war functions of women go back a long ways. They date all the way to the mythical amazons of ancient Greece, who were war-women with a kick and a vengeance.

In the Middle ages, lovely ladies often directed the defense of feudal castles, locked into chastity belts of cold, hard iron, while their mailed husbands were off at the crusades. Some of these medieval amazons were very effective in siege warfare, and at times they even wore armor. One rule was always observed in this type of fighting. The lady went with the castle, if she were attractive. So much for medieval chivalry, which was more realistic than Sir Walter Scott is always ready to admit.

Joan of Arc.

Then there was the mad maid of Orleans; that German maedchen

Women are found in almost every branch of service in beleaguered Britain. This woman ambulance driver attends civilian casualties and transports wounded soldiers from camps and hospitals.

from Lorraine known to some as Joan of Arc. Here was a woman at war; a regular feline field-marshal of the first water. She gave the English their worst defeats until the battle of Dunkirk in 1940, which is saying a good deal in anybody's language. Joan was such a good war woman that the English said she was a witch, and burned her as such. As a matter of fact, Joan must have given them a terrible inferiority complex, for when she entered the picture, the French and English had been battling for a century, and the Hundred Years' war was drawing to a disastrous close.

In the Russian revolution there emerged the Women's Battalion of Death, which got even more press-agenting than the U. S. marines, and that's saying an awful lot right from the horse's mouth. This was a Kerensky unit, and it was commanded by a brainy, grim-visaged 1917 amazonian who always carried poison tablets in case she were captured.

Some Actual Fighting.

The w. b. of d. really did some fighting, against the Bolsheviks and the Germans both. They carried the extra-long Russian rifles, with extra-long bayonets which could not be removed from the rifle barrels, and which stood taller than some of the w. b. of d. ladies. Finally, Kerensky ran away, and the Kerensky following dispersed.

In the Spanish civil war, up in the northerly Basque country, the big bounding Basque country girls fought side by side with their men folks. They pushed Italians over cliffs, and vicariously kicked them in the pants. La Passionaria was a famous Spanish Communist fighter, and she raised hades up and down the Spanish peninsula, for years on

Women are playing vital roles as noncombatants in England today. Somewhere in England the young lady above (left) covers plane fuselages with fabric on an airplane assembly line. An expert flier, the other lady (right) serves as an experimental pilot. She is shown in the cockpit of a new bombing plane.

end. Everybody was afraid of her, including the Spanish Loyalist government which she was supposed to be serving, in her own sweet rubicund way. After the end of the civil war, this Passion Flower fled over the border to France.

In the first World war, women went to work in the British and German ammunition factories with a vim and a vengeance. They liked it. It meant female emancipation, higher wages by far, and plenty of wartime glamour, lure, and sex appeal. They worked hard and efficiently, and they had the time of their lives. There were feeble echoes of this in America, but nowhere near the high-pressure goings-on as in the lands of those ill-assorted first cousins, the king and kaiser.

Again, Mars and Venus.

In 1940, June, France collapsed, and the defense program came to the United States. Again it was women and war; Mars and Venus; hearts and swords. When it came to forging the swords, or co-operating with them in other ways, the hearts came in with a vengeance. By the middle of 1941, for instance, some million and a half men will be in training camps. Some six million more people will be needed in offices and industrial plants, to back them up in the speedup of the defense and help-England programs. That six million, required, is where the women come into the present picture, and in large numbers, too. Women are good for any factory process except heavy lifting, or similar strong-arm stuff. In some munitions lines, like special fuse making, the finicky female fingers outmode the mere male.

In Philadelphia it's fuses; but in Detroit it's automobiles. Some Detroit women have been working in auto factories for a quarter of a century, and like it. You find them in all departments: ignition wiring, piston inspecting, soldering things together, body trimming, working a 40-hour week with decent social safeguards. They can't work unless they are 18, and that's enforced rigidly under the stringent Michigan laws, and most of them marry, have children, and lead a home-life.

These auto workers, or motorettes, so-called, could and can be easily converted into airplane conditioners and girl-groundhogs. They paint plane wings, inspect mechanical details and check deficiencies, clean up, and etch identification numbers in the aircraft works from dawn till dusk. They toil at gun-making, and

While some women play an active role in England's defense, this mother's work is even more important. Life must go on, war or no war.

stick the caps on shells, and fuss efficiently with machine-tools, which have now become the veritable sinews of modern warfare. So it goes. In America we always employ close to two million women in industries, and that figure is going up, up, and up.

Canadian 'Speed-Up.'

Canada has already speeded up its gals, or perhaps the gals have speeded up the land of the maple leaf. Factories and shipyards are on the make in the previously under-industrialized dominion, for England must be served and supplied. All Canadians and Canadiennes over 16, have been registered by the Ottawa government, and the airplane and munitions works are getting rapidly feminized. There are even girlish armament engineers, and so on down the gamut. In Canada the women work 44 hours per week, as against the Yankee 40, but they don't work nearly as hard. They have more fun at it, and it is more human and less on the soulless robot pattern.

The American women take to overalls and old clothes, while the Canadiennes toil in the get-up of our own mid-western college coeds. They munch on candy, sport the old high heels, and kid their male shop bosses, if any. They're not as well protected as the Yankees and they're paid somewhat less, but there's the other side to the coin—that of the lighter heart and the wiser crack. This attitude, too, is reflected in the Canadian male conscription. It's only for a month, as against the grimmer year (a minimum?) of the American draft system. When it comes to Canadian military wives, they get $20 per month from the husband's pay, and another $35 from the government. There is another monthly $12 each for children. A Canadian private soldier gets $1.30 per day, which is very good military money—in fact, the world's top for doughboys.

Then, up in Canada, there are all sorts of women's volunteer groups, for washing sailors' laundry (Halifax), button-sewing-onning (Toronto), work in the Salvation Army, the Y. W. C. A., running military saloons called canteens, dancing with the boys, and marrying them off. They also drive trucks, roll Red Cross materials, collect books and magazines for the camps and campers, and collect blood for transfusions.

Professional Nurses.

Trained nursing is a completely professional job up north of us. Nurses are in the army with the rank and pay of "lieutenants," and there are actually some 14,000 of them—four units being overseas in the snappiest of all the current snappy war uniforms. These are public healthers, diet gals, hospital experts and so-called physiotherapists, plus some free-lances and glamourites. They like it, and are liked. In England they are super-popular and have the time of their lives, so they write home to Winnipeg, or Three Rivers, or Guelph.

In the new American conscript army the women will also take a hand, or hands. Each new camp is to have a librarian and three hostesses, and the local clubwomen sponsor weekly dances and other such goings-on. In some communities, "nice" girls are not supposed to step out with private soldiers, especially in the conservative South. A fair ratio, in the camps, is 50 girls to 250 men when it comes to dancing and such festivals.

By the middle of this year, some 4,000 Red Cross nurses will be called up for the U. S. army, to supplement the hundreds of female "regulars." Army nursing will be multiplied by five, and navy nursing by something like four. They'll all be under 35 years old, and preferably attractive, although that fact isn't advertised. Then, there are the military and naval secretaries, typists, clericals, etc., who throng Washington, and type their country's battles at a snappy clip. These were the naval yeomanettes of 1917-18. And that's only the beginning.

Birth Rate in U. S. During 1940 Highest in Ten Years

WASHINGTON. — Approximately 2,350,000 babies were born in the United States in 1940, the highest number recorded in any one year since 1930, according to preliminary figures released by Vergil D. Reed, acting director of the census.

The 1940 total was nearly 100,000 greater than in 1939 and the increase lifted the national birth rate from 17.3 to 18 live births per 1,000 population. Census bureau officials emphasized, however, that this increase in the birth rate had no long-range implications. From a rate of 24.2 in 1921, the rate has continuously declined to its lowest point—16.5—in 1933. Since then it has risen irregularly. The long-range tendency is still downward, explains the census bureau, the present rise resulting from the fact that babies born from the greatly increased volume of marriages following the first World war are now coming into reproductive ages.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

Willkie 'out of step' with party, but apparently takes wiser course . . . Predict more government ownership of electrical industry.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—"I'll bet they are awful mad with me," Wendell L. Willkie remarked to a personal friend after testifying before the senate foreign relations committee and conferring with President Roosevelt on the Lease-Lend bill.

He was talking about the Republican leaders in congress. He was absolutely right. They are, and have been for some time.

But the question is: Have they the right to be? Certainly Willkie never concealed his attitude about helping Britain during the recent political battles.

It is a fact that Willkie is out of step with the men who will probably decide who is to be the next chairman of the Republican National committee. It is obviously a fact that he is out of sympathy with a majority of the Republicans in both house and senate.

But neither of these facts is of any great moment NOW. It may be tremendously significant by 1944, or it may not.

CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES

Consider the possibilities. First, let's take the one that Britain may go down in the meantime. It is extremely likely that a vast majority of the people of this country will be distressed by the fact—will wish that it could have been averted. People feeling that way will be apt, it would seem, to be bitter against the political leaders who tried to prevent the largest measure of aid possible to Britain.

Or suppose that Britain is still fighting in 1944. Most people in Washington believe that if the war lasts that long we will be in it, and on the side of Britain. If that is so, it would not seem likely that to have opposed aid to Britain in 1940 and 1941 would be a healthy position for any candidate to occupy.

Or suppose there is peace by 1944. That will involve entirely the sort of peace it is—as to what public sentiment about the whole situation will be in this country. But if history is any guide, more people will be displeased than pleased by the peace terms.

But in order to imagine a situation in which public sentiment would turn strongly to the men who opposed aid to Britain it is virtually necessary for there to have been a revulsion of sentiment here against Britain as a result of some development concerning the ending of the war or the peace terms. It seems a bit thick, with the betting odds heavily favoring the Roosevelt-Willkie position being more popular than that taken by Sen. Burton K. Wheeler and Republican House Leader Joe Martin.

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Predict More Public Ownership of Electricity

A very shrewd observer in the electrical industry predicts that within the next few years the proportion of government-owned systems will reach 40 per cent of the total. Actually this view is regarded by most disinterested observers as very conservative indeed. There are those who expect the next few decades to witness the disappearance of the privately owned electric utility.

Some critics say that the government is rather slow in recognizing a fact capable of demonstration—that steam is cheaper than water power in many instances, though lacking in its appeal to the popular imagination. Political platforms and political oratory have made much of the public right to the natural blessing of falling water.

But the tendency is significant. So far most of this turning to steam is "incidental"—not a happy word to the last ditch opponents of government ownership, since it was "incidental power," almost unavoidable in a dam project designed for navigation and flood control, which steered the TVA safely past the Supreme court.

Steam generation is "incidental" for the next little period in this march of government ownership because it is being projected almost exclusively in areas where it is to supplement hydroelectric power.

But the day is in sight when government steam plants will not be merely supplemental to existing hydro projects.

So long as the battle was waged on hydro power almost exclusively, the government had enormous advantages. It could charge off a big fraction of the first cost of the dam and reservoir—the main elements of cost in any hydro project being interest on the investment—to flood control and navigation. Then, with government bonds, it could borrow the money more cheaply. Finally it escaped a large fraction, at least, of the federal and local tax burdens of its private competitor. With steam, the battle is more nearly even, though the borrowing and tax advantages still lie with the government.

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Humor and Gravity

'Twas the saying of an ancient sage that humor was the only test of gravity, and gravity of humor. For a subject which would not bear raillery was suspicious; and a jest which would not bear a serious examination was certainly false wit.—Shaftesbury.

MORE PEOPLE DIE IN MARCH THAN IN ANY OTHER MONTH

This is because your resistance is generally lower after a long, hard winter. Your blood may have thinned out due to simple anemia, and instead of a rich, red blood you may have thin, weak blood. In such cases B-L TONIC will help nature restore your thin, weak blood to a healthy rich, red blood. You need good healthy blood to have pep and vitality. B-L TONIC is a Tonic, Appetizer and Stomachic. Good for young and old. *Insist on B-L Tonic at your druggist.*

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Few men have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder.—Washington.

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