

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Defense workage due to strikes probably exceeds estimates . . . Delay in building cargo ships in U. S. increases starvation threat to England.

(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON. — The newspaper men who attend President Roosevelt's press conferences are getting a little tougher, as time passes, on the importance to national defense of the labor troubles in industries working on U. S. or British war orders. The President's retort about never more than one-quarter of one per cent of the defense production being tied up by strikes at any one time did not end the questioning at a recent conference.

Putting their heads together afterwards, one group of reporters decided that this "one-quarter of one per cent" was much more deceptive than anything the newspapers had printed. One reporter figured out that the Allis Chalmers strike alone was tying up more than one-third of 1 per cent of all national defense orders.

Inasmuch as this one strike had been running for more than six weeks on the day the President made the statement, and inasmuch as there were quite a number of other strikes in national defense industries during that six weeks, it would seem that there must have been some rather extraordinary mathematics on the part of whoever gave the President that figure.

ANY DELAY IMPORTANT

But there is another side to it, which has little to do with percentages. It may be very interesting to know the exact percentage in any given case, but a war is a contest in which one side usually wins, and the other loses. It is not a case of whether either of the combatants makes a passing mark, as in an academic course.

To make the point clear in this case, let us assume for a moment that the possible invasion of the United States about which so much has been said does come about, and that the Gettysburg of this contest would be an air battle. Let us further assume that this air battle was desperately close—as indeed Gettysburg was—and that when it was over the winner had only a few score of planes left, and the loser none.

Now let's go back to this strike situation. Suppose there is a strike in a factory making airplanes, or a plant producing the engines for them, or the aluminum, or whatnot. And suppose as a result of that strike this country has 100 less airplanes on the day of that battle than it would have had had there been no strike.

It might easily make the difference between this country's being conquered and its emerging triumphant, and yet that strike might not figure as one-tenth of 1 per cent of our national defense production at the time it was raging.

Building Cargo Fleet Was Long Delayed

Perhaps the most curious failure to take time by the forelock in the whole defense situation has been the length of time it took the administration to come around to building a fleet of cargo ships.

The shipping problem was realized in September, 1939, more than a year and a half ago. It was known then, by both British and United States officials, that there was nothing more certain than that Germany's most effective weapon would be the destruction of shipping, with the hope of ultimately starving Britain out.

At that time no one, of course, foresaw the collapse of France, nor the seizure of Norway and Denmark, though the fate of Belgium was anticipated. Folks were instinctively following the pattern of the last war in their minds.

It was not realized that, with the collapse of France, and the seizure of Norway, the Nazis would have such favorable bases for both submarine and airplane attacks on shipping.

SHIPPING BECOMES ACUTE
But everybody knew that sooner or later the persistent sinking of merchant ships, just as in the last war, would bring Britain face to face with the danger of starvation. Shrewd observers called the attention of this writer to the certainty that the shipping problem would become acute and these dispatches dwelt upon it in 1939. At that time it seemed inconceivable that these particular observers that this government would not do everything possible to get merchant ship construction going immediately.

This writer made a very bad prediction in these dispatches in 1939. He predicted that this would be done. It was not done. In fact, it has just begun to get beyond the planning stage, with the passage of a bill by congress authorizing the "start" on such a program. This bill provides for 200 ships. It is admitted that it will have to be followed by many other appropriations for ship construction.

Men in U. S. Army Best Fed in Nation With Meals Carefully Planned by Experts

By **HOPE CHAMBERLIN**

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

FT. SLOCUM, N. Y.—America's rapidly growing army will be on display April 7 as Army Day is observed throughout the nation. Whether visiting civilians know it or not, they will be watching the best fed army in the world. They will see men whose diet is watched so carefully that even the number of calories and vitamins they eat are planned far in advance.

"Uncle Sam feeds its soldiers better'n 72 per cent of American families are fed." . . . these are the words of Sergt. Thomas L. Delvecchio, boss of the U. S. Army School for Bakers and Cooks at Ft. Slocum, N. Y. And he should know!

Proof of Sergeant Delvecchio's statement comes from Maj. Paul Logan, food expert of the army's quartermaster corps, who states emphatically that the army is and will continue to be the best fed group of our population!

In averaging the analyses made of army messes throughout the country, it was found that the American soldier consumes 5,138 calories a day, as compared to the 3,000 of the average American. In vitamins, the soldier averages 5,760 units of vitamin A, 1,173 of vitamin B, 46 milligrams of vitamin C, and 2.3 milligrams of vitamin B2—all in greater quantities than the average American!

Served Nutritious Food.
"Come and get it" to the soldier of 1941 means a plateful of good, palatable, nutritious food. To food wholesalers and government men it means hard work behind the scenes.

Before prescription, when the army had no more than 50,000 men, split into given units, the food-buying problem was simple. The 130-odd camp quartermasters went personally to local markets.

But the problem changed overnight. Not only will the army shortly have a million and a half men to feed, but the number of men in each camp will be tremendous. Camps of 25,000 men require more food than cities of equal size. The army will be about the biggest food buyer and distributor in the country, exceeded in size only by A & P and perhaps one or two other chains.

On certain staple items, such as canned goods, army purchases may well amount to from 10 to 15 per cent of total production. Food orders that used to require less-than-carload shipments will call for the shipment of many solid carloads. So independent local buying is out of the question, and centralized purchasing is the only logical answer.

Regional Markets.
New York offices will buy all sugar, coffee, tea, spices and other manufactured items. Chicago will buy all canned vegetables, canned meats, cereal, flour and similar foodstuffs produced on a nationwide basis. San Francisco will buy canned and dried fruits, salmon and other West coast produce.

By May 1, the date when the army will start issuing rations to local quartermasters in actual food, rather than cash, these new super offices will be ready to take over all contract letting, according to Douglas MacKeachie, food purchase co-ordinator.

When it comes to buying food, the army is far more finicky than the average housewife. Old army rules read that a packer could deliver on an army contract no lamb weighing more than 45 pounds, and the soldiers' mess tables used to be guarded against all but steer beef. But that's all changed now.

Because the army can't be guided by what the book says, but by what



K. P. (kitchen patrol) ain't what it used to be. These giant spud peelers can each peel a bushel of potatoes a minute.

Government Buys Auto Trailers for Defense Workers

WASHINGTON.—More than 2,000 automobile trailers are being purchased by the government to furnish "stopgap" housing in crowded defense areas.

These orders are expected to absorb virtually the entire output of the largest manufacturer of the trailer business for some time, according to C. B. Baldwin, Farm Security administrator.

The trailer camps will be established as part of the emergency de-



Even though meals are now scientifically planned by experts, army cooks look the same as they did back in '17. This field kitchen staff is hard at work preparing for "mess," because the soldiers will probably be very hungry.

the market offers, lambs up to 60 pounds will be acceptable until April 30, when the new group is well along. Heifer meat will be acceptable for boned, frozen field supplies.

Smaller Cans Used.
The army has also stepped down its ideas on can sizes and will hereafter buy some of its spiced pork products (such as Spam and Prem) in the 12-ounce cans of retail trade, instead of holding doggedly to only those cans large enough to feed a battalion. Also, six-ounce cans of emergency rations will be bought in large quantities.

Soldiers generally get meat for five dinners, five suppers and four breakfasts a week. Allowances for the noon meal alone average around one-half pound per man—more meat than the civilian ordinarily engulfs, no matter how prosperous.

The foregoing facts are probably adequate to convince the reader that military experts recognize the importance of good food in maintaining efficiency of an army. Without good food and nutrition, all other preparation, no matter how carefully planned, will not be brilliantly or efficiently executed.

The collapse of Germany in 1918 was partially due to malnutrition of the German soldier; the rout of the Italians in Caporetto in October, 1917, has been traced to the drastic reduction in the Italian army ration put into effect the preceding February; similarly, the defeat of the British at Gallipoli in the Dardanelles campaign of 1915-1916 has been attributed to the failure of mind, nerve and muscle, caused by rations so unbalanced as to permit a high percentage of both beri beri and scurvy.

Aware of the importance of food, the quartermaster corps, directly responsible for providing food, and plenty of it, has efficient personnel, highly trained in the science of nutrition, inspection, and preparation of food.

Maintain Cooking School.
Because there has been difficulty in the past in obtaining enough good cooks, the army even maintains cooking schools (one of which is located in every army corps area) whose facilities may be severely tested by the rapid growth of our citizen army. The best cooks, it is said, are Negroes, Frenchmen and Italians.

The ration (food provided for one man for one day) being used by our citizen army for its one-year of training is called the Garrison ration. It consists of 39 items, such as 10 ounces of beef and 8 ounces of other meats; 10 ounces of potatoes and 11 ounces of other fresh vegetables; 12 ounces of flour; 1 1/2 ounces of rolled oats and a little more than 10 ounces of rice and dried beans; 20 ounces of butter; 1 egg; 1 1/2 ounces of lard; 8 ounces of fresh milk and 10 of evaporated; 5 ounces of sugar; 5 ounces of fruit, 20 of coffee and smaller amounts of various others, such as jams, jellies, peanut butter and condiments. The shipping weight of this food is 5 1/2 pounds every day for each man. The cost? \$750,000 a day for a million and a half soldiers.

This Garrison ration, however, is not limited to these 39 items; which might become monotonous. This is prevented by a system of substitution, which permits the mess officer to substitute other items in the same general class of foods of about equal nutritive value. That is, in place of the 10 ounces of beef each day, he may substitute an equal amount of lamb, mutton, veal, liver, or pork.

Latest news for army diets is the plan for feeding soldiers bread fortified by the morale-building B vita-

mins, which, authorities claim, will make them better fighters.

Strain on body and nerves with modern warfare brings about with its lightning speed, whirlwind devastation and nerve-shattering machines causes army nutritionists to feel that soldiers must be fed not only enough food of the right kind, but enriched foods.

Dehydrated foods are also undergoing tests. These foods occupy little space, and therefore help the quartermaster corps in its continual battle to ship as much food in as little space as possible. Soldiers recently ate a test dinner prepared entirely from dehydrated foods, except for the meat and gravy. The menu included cream of tomato soup, roast beef with brown gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed carrots, cole slaw, cranberry jelly, apple and pumpkin pie.

A pound of cranberry flakes, "gross weight," expands to serve 109 soldiers, whereas a pound of canned cranberry jelly represents only 6 1/2 servings.

Food value of the dehydrated preparations is apparently equal to that of canned foods, but tests are now being conducted to obtain accurate information as to the vitamin and mineral values that the dried foods contain.

All this planning is a far cry from the meager unbalanced meals fed the Colonial Army. And it proves that those in command are leaving no stone unturned in their effort to serve, in American Army camps everywhere, the finest mess on earth!

Tuberculosis Death Rate Found Highest Among Young Girls

MINNEAPOLIS.—Girls between 15 and 25 years of age have lagged far behind young men of the same ages, in the improvement of the tuberculosis death rate.

Each year 65 per cent more girls die from the disease than their brothers, boy friends and husbands in the 15-25 age bracket, according to a study by the Northwestern National Life Insurance company.

In the United States tuberculosis does its deadliest work nowadays among women of child-bearing ages, the population segment most vital to America's present and future, the study points out.

Biological differences—the greater changes in the female organism at adolescence—make girls and young women naturally more susceptible to tuberculosis.

The male death rate from tuberculosis overtakes that of women at about age 30, and thereafter runs steadily higher, but in the child-bearing ages from 20 to 35, 22 per cent more women die of tuberculosis than do men of corresponding ages. The greatest number of deaths from this cause among any five-year age-sex group occurs among young women aged 20-24, and the second largest group of fatalities occurs among young women aged 25 to 29.

Since girls first reach maximum susceptibility to tuberculosis in their early teens, the report suggests that all high schools should conduct health classes in which effects of "fad" diets, tobacco, alcohol, insufficient sleep, and scanty clothing are graphically taught.

It also recommends that parents of teen-age and older girls should act promptly upon observing any symptoms of lassitude, even slight elevation of temperature, or loss of appetite.

A tuberculin test should be made, supplemented by X-ray chest examinations wherever indicated. If there has been any exposure through association with a case of tuberculosis in class or elsewhere, tests should always be made.

A case of pleurisy without pneumonia, the report warns, should in the case of a girl or young woman be considered tuberculosis until definitely proved otherwise. If tuberculosis is detected in its early stages and modern treatment is promptly begun and carried through, a cure is usually assured.

GRASSROOTS

WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

AMERICAN FARMER STILL MINUS WAR TRADE

THE AMERICAN farmer is not profiting to any large extent from the European war, from our preparations for war, or our aid to England. It is the Canadian and Australian farmers who are being called upon to feed England, not those of America. Our January exports of farm products were the lowest for that month since 1869, only \$22,000,000. It leaves the farmer in a tight place and facing still further decrease in cotton, wheat and corn acreage this year.

The government can force prices up, but to do so would result in a wall from American consumers. It can grant larger subsidies, but that would add to the government appropriations and the government debt.

Of course government might encourage American farmers to produce a sufficient quantity of some 60 items which can be raised in America, but which we are now importing to the extent of a billion and a half dollars a year. That amount paid to American farmers would certainly increase farm income.

That would be paying the farmer for doing something which would appeal to him. But evidently no one in Washington has thought about such an idea.

HONEST WAY IS TO MAKE ALL OF US TAX CONSCIOUS

TAXES PAID is a part of the cost of doing business and is included in the price of the merchandise. The consumer pays it, and it is known as "hidden taxes."

Congress must consider a heavy increase in government revenue to pay a part, at least, of the terrific preparedness and aid to England cost.

A plan is being talked of to tax wages and collect it as the social security tax is now collected—the employer to take it out of the employee's pay each payday. That would be more sensible than an added tax on business, which must be passed along to the consumer if business is to continue to operate.

The quickest and surest way to create a demand for governmental economies in this country is to make the mass of people tax conscious, to collect from them a tax they know they are paying.

Close to 30 per cent of the national income is paid to the tax collectors—municipal, county, state and federal. The man who earns a salary of \$30 or more a week pays his share, but he does not realize that he pays. It is a part of the price of everything he buys.

The honest way would be to let him know what he pays by leaving his tax direct, instead of covering it up in the price of the merchandise he buys. Then if he preferred less government at less cost, he would say so.

OWNERS OF BETHLEHEM STEEL

WHO OWNS American industry is evidenced by the fact that Bethlehem Steel company has 140,000 stockholders. One hundred and forty thousand Americans have invested their savings in that one company and by doing so have provided the tools for the employees of that company to work with. There can be a simple accounting system which will determine definitely just how the revenue from each industry is distributed. With such a system in effect, it would be easy to determine fair wage scales and other items of distribution of revenue. The guess method may break business, but that will not solve our industrial problem.

NONE ESCAPES

SENATOR BYRD of Virginia tells us that before the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1942, our national debt will be not less than \$75,000,000,000. Just to pay interest of two per cent on that sum will cost each American—man, woman and child—about \$12.30 each and every year, more than \$61 a year for each family of five. Directly or indirectly, we all pay. No one escapes the penalty. Where do we go from there?

THIRD PARTY

THE GENERAL public represents a third party whose interests are involved in every strike. The consumer pays for increased wages, shorter hours and decreased production. But that greatly interested third party is not considered in the settlement of disputes between labor and capital. It should be.

FILIPINOS NOW NEED US

THE LITTLE brown brother in the Philippines is not now so anxious to pull away from the protecting arms of Uncle Sam as he was a few years ago. He has even asked that the United States army spend some \$20,000,000 of rebated sugar taxes on island defense, instead of turning the money over in cash. Certainly the little brown brother is really frightened. Uncle Sam looks mighty good to him now.

PATTERNS



PERFECT for slim, young figures, this flaring frock has a tiny corselet waistline, and bodice gathers to round you out a bit. With the bolero, it serves as a "little suit" for street wear. Make this of gay silk prints, or flat crepe, plain or with lots of braid in bright contrast.

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