

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by
CARTER FIELD

Demands for High Tariffs at Close of War Expected . . . U. S.-Britain Will Train 90,000 Plane Crews Next Year . . .
(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

WASHINGTON.—High tariffs are breeders of wars, in the opinion of many earnest students of international trade and international relations, first and foremost among whom might be cited Cordell Hull, secretary of state. It was his favorite theory for years that peace and friendly relations could be built by the mutual lowering of tariff barriers. Witness his pursuit of reciprocal trade agreements.

But unfortunately it is a vicious circle, if we assume the truth of Mr. Hull's favorite conviction. Although trade barriers may lead to wars, there is no doubt whatever that wars lead to trade barriers.

Let us look into the future a moment, and try to visualize what will happen in these United States when peace comes. We now have an army of nearly 2,000,000 men. Of these all but a little more than 200,000 are TEMPORARY soldiers—soldiers for the duration. By November, 1918, we had an army of more than 4,000,000 men, 2,000,000 of them overseas.

If this war continues as long as President Roosevelt expects, and we either get into the shooting stage, or keep getting closer and closer to the danger of it, we will have an army of not less than 4,000,000 men, probably more, before it is all over.

With peace will come the rapid discharge of more than 3,500,000 men from the army alone. There will be the discharge of men from the navy, which also will have increased enormously by that time.

Defense Contracts Will Be Canceled

But that is only part of the picture. The government will be cancelling national defense contracts right and left, those for our own forces and those for Britain, Russia and whatever other countries may be fighting the Nazis when that day comes. This will mean that MILLIONS of men and women will lose their jobs—always assuming the war goes on for several years more and that the speeding up and expansion of defense production continues as expected.

What has all this to do with tariffs? Just this: Those ex-soldiers, ex-workers in defense plants, etc., will want jobs. So there will be tremendous pressure on congress NOT to let in any foreign products which would thus deprive Americans of their jobs.

The pressure which resulted in the much maligned Fordney-McCumber tariff bill of 1922 will seem mild in comparison. And this time it won't be primarily from manufacturers; it will come most heavily from labor unions, which are much more effective politically.

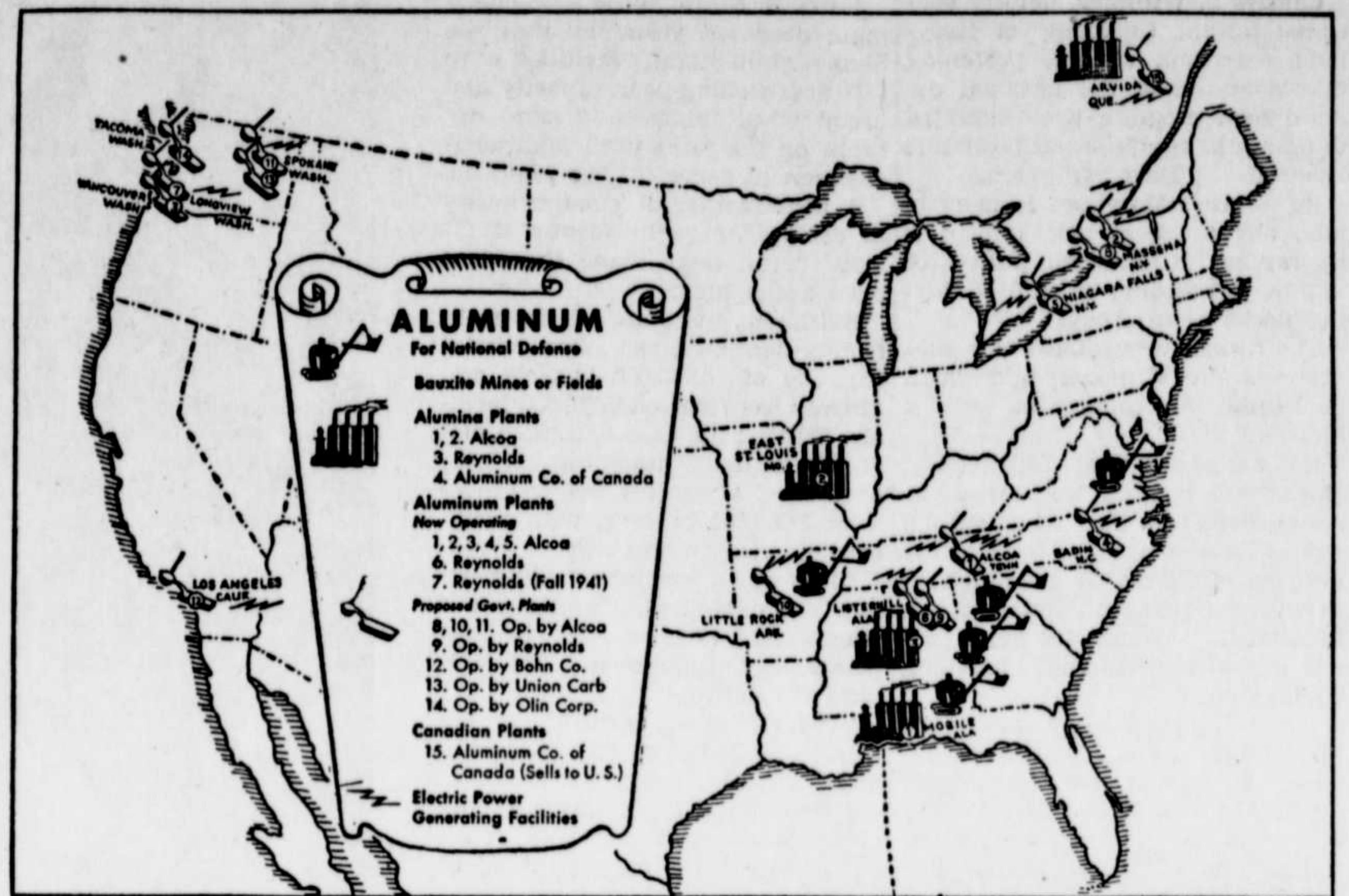
So, to those who think the depression and the war date from the Fordney-McCumber bill of 1922, the vicious circle will start all over again!

U. S. and Britain Air-Training Program

By the end of the year the British empire will be turning out trained airplane crews at the rate of 50,000 a year. The actual number of men in 50,000 crews can be only estimated. The British are not telling that, because it would show the most casual German the precise division as between fighters and bombers planned by the British. But the minimum of course is one man for a small fighter plane, and the present maximum is nine men for the big bombers.

This training is going on throughout the British empire. Much of it is in Britain, more is in Canada. As has been published, much of the training of British and Canadian pilots is being conducted in the U. S.

Build Huge Plants and Power Dams to Supply 2 Billion Pounds Aluminum for U. S. Defense



William Knudsen, director-general of OPM estimates the U. S. will need an annual production of 1,600 million pounds of aluminum for national defense. Map shows where bulk will be produced. Plants indicated by pouring ladle symbol, Nos. 1 to 5 are now producing at combined rate of 635 million pounds, by middle of 1942 will reach 720 million. Plant 6 produces 40 million pounds, and Plant 7 (nearing completion) 60 million. Proposed government plants will produce in millions of pounds when completed: (8) 150, (9) 100, (10) 100, (11) 90, (12) 70, (13) 60 and (14) 30. Part of Canada (15) production has been contracted for by United States.

Special to Western Newspaper Union

WASHINGTON, D. C.—What has been happening throughout the United States during the last few weeks would have constituted a phenomenon anywhere but in a democracy.

From Sauk Center to gay Broadway a fellow could take his girl to the swellest dance in town with no more capital than a couple of battered pots and pans. In Oklahoma City, solid citizens drove downtown to hurl their skittles and double boilers at a target painted on the posterior of an effigy Hitler, then let them lie there for Uncle Sam to pick up. In Harrison, N. Y., a dog bit a girl scout soliciting old aluminum from house to house; he was a German police dog, of course. Gypsy Rose Lee, exhibiting rare form (sic), contributed a pan dance. And more than 1,000,000 Americans did their bit in the drive to collect scrap aluminum for national defense.

In a few short months the threat of Hitlerism had brought the light, silvery metal off the kitchen ranges of the nation and dumped it all over the front page. For just as World War I has been described as a war of steel, World War II was rapidly developing into a war of aluminum.

World War I was a static and surface affair, fought from fixed positions. World War II is characterized by lightning-like movements of highly mechanized fighting forces. Airplanes and tanks rule the land, while airplanes and swift, modern battle fleets fight the Battle of the Atlantic.

Eighty to 90 per cent of today's military airplane is aluminum, for alloys of the metal, as strong as structural steel, are only one-third as heavy. Modern tanks use the aluminum for gun platforms, interior fittings and wherever else it can be employed efficiently to save weight and gain maneuverability. Today's battleship uses more than a million pounds—several times as much as the whole city of New York rounded up in the pot-and-pan drive.

Restricted Use.

This explains why you can no longer obtain aluminum for egg poachers, for refrigerator trays, for streamlined trains, hair curlers, bridge girders or chewing gum wrappers. Gone to defend its country, aluminum is needed in quantities the like of which peacetime America never imagined, much less consumed.

The United States' annual military requirements of aluminum when the defense program gets into full production, have been estimated at from 1,200,000,000 pounds to 2,000,000,000 pounds a year and up. Suppose we take 1,600,000,000 pounds—the estimate of William Knudsen, director-general of OPM—as a fair average. That is twice as much aluminum as the entire world produced only five years ago. It is roughly equal to the entire world production of 1940, notwithstanding the gigantic war machines that were built. In terms more familiar to all of us, it is more than twice as much aluminum as this country has consumed in all its history for cooking utensils and electric refrigerators combined.

What is being done to meet this challenge? A great deal—some of it by private enterprise, some of it by the government, some by the two working together.

The Aluminum Company of America—"Alcoa"—since it was the only producer of virgin (new) aluminum in the United States until this year, was first to get under way with defense expansion. What it has done

USDA Develops 150 New Designs in Cotton Hosiery

WASHINGTON.—The U. S. department of agriculture has announced that more than 150 different cotton stocking designs are now available to the hosiery industry as a result of investigation by the bureau of home economics. Several of these designs are in production and more will be soon, now that cotton is expected to be increasingly important.

In an effort to reduce mounting cotton surplus, and in anticipation of a possible shut-off in silk supplies

will add further tonnage. The pots and pans collected in the recent drive, for instance, cannot be used for making bombers but they might be remelted and used to make army field kitchen equipment or to "quiet" steel, thus freeing other aluminum for airplanes. The steel industry, which burns up one-half pound to five or six pounds of aluminum in the making of each ton of steel, may well consume 100,000,000 pounds next year.

Aluminum, paradoxically, is the most plentiful of all the metallic elements known to man. It is in the clay under our feet, in the rocks high on a nearby hill, in the water we swim in and often in the very food we eat.

Aluminum is never found in the native state, as iron, copper and gold are; it is always locked tight in chemical combination with other elements. Napoleon III, awake to the advantage of light aluminum cavalry equipment would give him over his enemies, offered a fortune to the French scientist who could find a cheap way of producing the metal, which then cost \$545 a pound. But it was not until 1886 that an American youth, Charles Martin Hall, unlocked the secret and paved the way for aluminum at its present price of 17 cents.

Hall's process, still the basis of the aluminum industry, makes use

of an electrolytic furnace. This large rectangular pot is filled with cryolite, the "stone like ice," found only in far-off Greenland, but manufactured synthetically in large quantities here. Powerful electric current is introduced into the cryolite, passes through it, heating it to a molten mass, and leaves through the lining of the pot. A white substance like powdered sugar, called alumina (which is merely aluminum chemically combined with oxygen), is dissolved in the molten cryolite. The electric current decomposes the alumina, the oxygen passing off as gas and the then molten aluminum, heavier than the cryolite, sinking to the bottom of the pot. The aluminum is then tapped into ladles and poured into ingot at intervals.

Before the Hall process can be employed many complicated operations must be performed to obtain the alumina. It may be recovered from a number of materials, but it is obtained economically only from bauxite, a mineral which looks sometimes like clay and sometimes like rock and occurs in many combinations of colors. Roughly, four pounds of high-grade bauxite will make two pounds of alumina, which will then make one pound of aluminum. 12 kilowatt hours of electricity are required to make a single pound of aluminum.

ASK ME ? ANOTHER ?

A quiz with answers offering information on various subjects

The Questions

1. In navy slang, what is known as an "ash can"?
2. Which of the following is not both in Europe and Asia—Russia, Turkey and Iran?
3. Which, Plato, Aristotle or Socrates first expounded his philosophy?
4. Where is the original Bridge of Sighs?
5. The projectile called shrapnel is named after a general who served in what country's army?
6. What are Kiushiu, Shikoku and Riukiu?
7. What is Polaris?
8. Who was secretary of state in George Washington's first cabinet?
9. How much of Greenland's total area (736,518 square miles) is ice-free land?
10. Where is the world's largest organ?

The Answers

1. A depth bomb.
2. Iran.
3. Socrates.

4. Venice (connecting the palace of the doge with the prison).
5. Britain (Henry Shrapnel, 1761-1842).
6. Islands of Japan.
7. The North star.
8. Thomas Jefferson.
9. Only 31,284 square miles.
10. In Convention hall in Atlantic City. It contains seven manuals, or keyboards, 487 keys, 933 stops, 32 pedals, 7 blowers, with motors totaling 365 horsepower and 33,056 pipes, ranging in height from a quarter inch to 64 feet.

De-Oiling Sea Gulls

For almost two years, a de-oiling hospital for sea gulls has been operated near Penzance, England. Every time a submarine is sunk off this coast, the explosions kill many fish, thereby attracting flocks of gulls, which become so drenched with the floating oil that they cannot fly. As many as 700 of these birds have been rescued and sent to this "de-oilery" in a single day.

Smile Awhile

Private Performance
"And is there any instrument you can play?" asked the hostess who was pressing a guest to entertain the party.
"Not away from home," he replied.
"That's strange. What do you play at home?"
The guest sighed deeply as he answered:
"Second fiddle!"

Surprised Him
Speed Fiend (after the run)—"Whee! Don't you feel glad you're alive!"
Timid Passenger—Glad isn't the word! I'm amazed.

Internal Use
"And how did you find the bath salts, madam?" asked the druggist.
"Well, they taste very nice," said the shopper, "but I don't think they have the same effect as a real bath."

The theory of flight is being taught in some jails to prisoners. Some of them would probably be more interested in its practice.

Not His Want
"Well," asked the landlady, showing a prospective lodger her best bedroom, "what do you think of it as a whole?"
"Oh, I suppose it's all right as holes go," was the reply, "but it was a bedroom I wanted."

Handed Down
"And do you really mean to say I'm the first girl you've ever kissed?"
"Yes, darling. Any skill I may have is inherited."

As a Beginner
Two cavalry recruits were having a chat.
"Talking about riding," said one, "I once saw a chap in a circus who jumped on a horse's back, slipped underneath, caught hold of its tail, and finished up on its neck."
"So what?" retorted the other. "I did all that in my first riding lesson!"

And Half Wrong
"Jane says she thinks I'm a great wit."
"Well, she's half right, anyway."

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