Boom Towns Struggle With Labor Influx

War Industries Tax Normal Facilities in Smaller U. S. Cities.

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

In the turbulent economic wake of conversion and war production, a thousand patriotic towns and villages anxiously seek answers today to a multitude of new problems concerned with accommodating Uncle Sam's mobile armies of war workers.

There isn't anything spectacular about these problems that are keeping village presidents up nights and putting furrows in the brows of town councils and boards. They're as commonplace as dishwater, hospital beds, school desks or fire engines. But their solution is very important indeed in the nation's fight to smash the Axis.

Populations Doubled.

Things aren't the way they were before Pearl Harbor in these thousand towns. All-out war production has turned scores of them literally overnight into 1942 versions of boom areas. Crossroads hamlets have had their populations doubled between one sunup and the next.

War boom towns in Illinois, Michigan, Alabama, Washington, Ohio, California, have had to figure and plan as they never did before to provide the most meager housing, transportation, health and educational facilities for in-migrants needed to man the new machines of war. Even large industrial centers have felt the pinch of providing decent accommodations on the home front for the new legions who are taking their places behind the men behind U. S. guns.

From 5,000,000 workers directly employed on war production as of last December 7, the number has risen to more than 8,500,000 today and minimum requirements by the end of 1942 are expected by federal officials to exceed 15,000,000.

American towns and villages are daily demonstrating that they are more than willing to do their part in the all-out effort to produce the tools for victory for the United Nations. But the doing often is beyond the means of an individual locality, and the problems are complex and many.

Serious Medical Problems.

In a Michigan town, medical authorities recently warned that an epidemic of tuberculosis was breeding in the very heart of the suburban factory district, 10 miles from a huge bomber plant. A report on overcrowding in the area stated that "more than 4,000 patients, 450 of them tubercular, are jammed into hospital space designed for 2,500." Officials pointed out that added to the danger from this source is a lack of suitable sanitary facilities for the mushroom community.

The authorities of an Illinois village suddenly awoke to the fact that many of their wells no longer reached the water table in that area, due to the emergency drilling of numerous other wells by war production plants surrounding the village site on three sides; a village in Minnesota found that the increased number of war workers and their families moving into the community necessitated the hiring of another teacher, a part-time janitor and the purchasing of new supplies of books and other equipment.

'Grand Hotel'—1942 Emergency Model

Because of insufficient living accommodations, these weary workers in a small Virginia town are forced to sleep around the stove of a general store. This condition exists in many other crowded defense areas.

In a Pennsylvania town, jammed with war workers, a pumper and fire fighting equipment were required immediately to reduce the hazard of a possible general conflagration; a Kentucky hamlet had to arrange for an extension of its sewerage facilities or suffer the consequences; a Colorado town, a Wisconsin city, and a Texas county were confronted with the need for new schools at once.

The patriotism and morale of these workers are high, but so are their American standards of living. For their families, these war workers ask for livable quarters, good water and sanitary facilities; there must be classrooms for their children, recreation, beds in hospitals for them when they fall sick.

Baird Snyder, assistant administrator of the Federal Works agency.

Congress has recognized both the needs of the mobile armies engaged in war production, and the problems of the localities affected through the enactment of the Amended Lanham act. In the hands of the Federal Works agency the legislators have placed a great part of the job of keeping ahead of the vast community requirements of these industrial legions of Joneses, Cohens, Murphys and Kozlowskis.

Title 2 of the Amended Lanham act provides that in any area or locality where an acute shortage of public works or equipment for public works necessary to the health, safety or welfare of persons engaged in national defense exists or impends, FWA is authorized, with the approval of the President, to relieve such shortage. This authorization is conditioned on evidence that the necessary works or services could not "otherwise be obtained when needed, or could not be provided without the imposition of an increased excessive tax burden, or an unusual or excessive increase in the debt limit of the taxing or borrowing authority."

Need for Construction.

Assistant FWA Administrator Baird Snyder, acting for Administrator Philip B. Fleming, has pointed out that: "Inseparable from the lives of modern industrial workers and their families—for transportation, education, health and recreation—are prosaic roads, sewers, schools, hospitals and many other types of public construction."

War as an industrial process, says Mr. Snyder, means that community facilities have to be built not only to accommodate expanded armed forces, but to take care of the mobile and increasingly numerous armies of war workers.

Without such construction, those who have studied the problem declare, the efficiency of industry would be seriously impaired and labor would float from one town to another in fruitless search for decent living conditions. In the last four months, FWA has quickened the pace of work in response to imperative war needs. Today, throughout the nation, this federal agency is building or ready to build all the war works that can be provided with $300,000,000 worth of federal funds plus whatever local contributions are available.

A great deal of red tape has been cut in FWA since war was declared. The Man with the shears in the Great Lakes region and Middle West, for instance, is Markley Shaw, former assistant to the director of the old FWA defense housing division, who casts as personal representative of the administrator.

Full-Scale Wartime Basis.

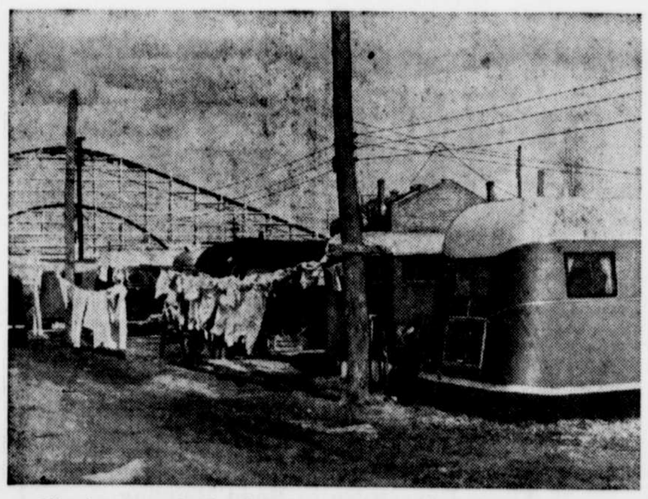
"Public works are now being handled on a full-scale wartime basis," explained Mr. Shaw, whose headquarters are in Chicago. "My instructions are to let nothing stand in the way of prompt, efficient development of war projects. Under new regulations no federal funds will be allotted for the construction of a permanent building under the war public works program, if a temporary or semi-permanent one will suffice. This applies even though the applicant proposes to contribute the full amount of the difference.

"Except where a structure is an addition to an existing facility, negotiations will be opened on the basis of simplified standard plans of the Federal Works agency. Elimination of all building material beyond absolute necessity in war public works construction recently has been ordered throughout the nation, and this step is expected materially to reduce the use of critical war materials as well as to free man-hours of labor for other war production."

Assistant Administrator Snyder has listed the following types of projects directly attributable to war activities as eligible for federal allotment of funds: Schools, hospitals, health centers, detention hospitals, fire department buildings and certain equipment except radio equipment, recreation buildings, water and sewer facilities, and maintenance and operation of schools and hospitals where necessary.

In recent months, the Federal Works agency has built or contracted to build scores of community facilities in every section of the nation where production wheels turn. The U. S. Public Health Service, in co-operation with the state departments of health, is intensifying the application of general health plans in strategic localities.

Co-operating in the general plan to assist individual localities and provide living facilities for war workers is the National Housing agency, which is building thousands of houses and dormitories.



All-out war production has brought living conditions such as these in a midwestern town to hundreds of communities from coast to coast. Many trailer communities lack proper sanitary facilities and a large number of them try to accommodate too many trailers for the space.

'Top-Kicks' Trained in Eight-Week School

WASHINGTON.—A school which prepares soldiers for the exacting job of top sergeant in the American army has won its chevrons at the Signal Corps Replacement Training center at Fort Monmouth, N. J.

Within an eight-week period, this school transforms soldiers into "top-kicks" able to cope with the endlessly varied problems of administration, supply, and company leadership which will face them in the field. Its first graduates are now serving with Signal corps units.

For approximately six weeks, the men are trained in Fort Monmouth classrooms and drill fields. Besides company administration, they study infantry drill and physical training, defense against chemical and air attacks, sanitation and hygiene, first aid, training methods, basic signal communications, map reading and sketching, and morale and supervised athletics.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

Congressmen Worried By Public Attitude Toward Necessary War Measures . . . FDR and Willkie Both Interested In New York's Election.

Bell Syndicate—WNU Features.

WASHINGTON.—There is much uneasiness among members of the house, and among the senators facing renomination and re-election this year. It is due to increasing evidence of popular resentment—resentment not leveled at the conduct of the war itself, but what so many people think is amateurish bungling

As it comes to individual congressmen (always remembering that your average congressman is the best listener at the keyhole for what his own constituents are thinking; that he is a professional at this business, not an amateur) the irritation is not over the fact that sacrifices are imposed, but at what individual citizens regard as lack of intelligence in imposing them.

Your average voter is likely to be a little unreasonable as well as not too strictly confined, in his mental process, to logic. For example irritation on the part of many Easterners on the gasoline rationing—because the folks close to the oil wells can have more despite the fact that the only trouble about gasoline is not production, but transportation. So the only valid reason for restricting gas consumption close to the wells is to save rubber, not fuel.

But, the mail to congressmen shows, too many people are getting sore over too many details of government administration for the good of candidates this year, so the boys on Capitol Hill are worried.

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New York Battle Has National Aspects

Franklin D. Roosevelt and Wendell L. Willkie are beyond doubt the two men most interested in New York's gubernatorial battle this year who are not themselves candidates for the office. Yet each of them, desperately anxious for HIS party to win that contest, is putting obstacles in the way of that development.

President Roosevelt would regard the election of a Republican governor in New York this fall as little short of a calamity. It would distress him not only as a sort of mid-term repudiation of his national administration by his own state, which happens to be the most important state from the standpoint of electoral votes, but because such a "repudiation" might be misconstrued abroad.

Not only in Germany, Japan and Italy but in Britain. The British learned a lesson about American politics from that League of Nations experience, when they paid no attention to the Republican off year victory in 1918, and then saw what happened to the Versailles treaty. So it could be that they would err in the other direction by overestimating the importance of a "repudiation" of the President in New York this year.

With this very sound premise in mind, one would figure that the President, if he took any active part in the selection of the Democratic candidate to succeed Governor Leahman, would be interested only in choosing the strongest candidate possible—the man MOST likely to be elected, almost regardless of everything else.

But that is precisely what the President is NOT doing. He IS taking a very active interest, and he is thumbs down on the two men most New York political leaders think would be the strongest candidates.

These two are James A. Farley, right bower politically of FDR right up to the third-term episode, and States Attorney General John J. Bennett. The President is realiably reported to prefer Owen D. Young, former head of General Electric, and, failing there, Sen. James A. Mead.

Mead's Advantage

The big advantage of Mead's candidacy is that, not being up for reelection as senator this year, he need not risk his chair at the Capitol, while, if elected, he could be counted on to appoint a 100 per cent administration supporter as his successor.

The President is by no means certain that Farley, if elected, would be so compliant should a vacancy occur in the senate. Nor could there be any such sureness as to what the state administration in New York might do with respect to the Democratic national convention of 1944.

All of which would seem to indicate that FDR is very sure the Democrats can carry New York this fall even if they do not nominate the best vote getter available. Senator Mead has no illusions that HE is. He has confided to many that he is glad he is not running for reelection this year, figuring that his vote for a pension for congressmen would make him a rather vulnerable target.

TO YOUR Good Health

by DR. JAMES W. BARTON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

NEW TEST FOR LIVER

When we think of the work done by the liver most of us are likely to think of the manufacture of bile. The statement that life (and health) depends upon the liver has behind it the thought of the value of bile in breaking up fats, in keeping the liver itself active and healthy and in the prevention of constipation.

Dr. Barton

The fact also that the liver can store sugar and proteins—meat, eggs, fish products—for future use may also be in mind as we think about the liver and its work.

However, one of the most important jobs done by the liver is the filtering out from the blood substances that would be harmful to the body, allowing only helpful products of the food to remain in the blood. Thus it can be seen how important to health is this filtering power of the liver.

The testing of the ability of the liver to filter out or remove substances from the blood has been done for a number of years by injecting a dye into the veins or taking the dye by mouth and finding how long it takes the liver to remove all this dye from the blood. Ever since the dye method has been used there has been a controversy as to whether dye taken by mouth or dye injected into the veins, is the more accurate method.

It is gratifying to know that a new test for liver function (ability) is reported from Cuba by Drs. A. Castellanos and J. Beato-Nunez, Havana, in the Bulletin of the Cuban Society of Pediatrics.

The patient takes fruits or fruit juices instead of breakfast. A small quantity of blood is withdrawn. Then an injection of colloidal carotene is injected into the veins, the amount injected depending on the weight of the individual. Five minutes later blood is again withdrawn. The amount of total carotenoids in the blood is separately determined in the two different blood specimens. If the specimen of blood withdrawn five minutes after the carotene is taken is the same as the blood withdrawn before the carotene was taken, it shows that the liver is normal, doing its work properly. Any increase of the carotene in the blood five minutes after the injection into the veins of the carotene shows that the liver is not doing its work properly.

These physicians found that this simple test is as reliable and better than the "classic" tests now in use.

Rheumatic Fever Foe of Children

There is a disease of children that destroys seven times as many children as infantile paralysis, and it seems only fair that we should know about these children and what public and private help be given them. I am referring to rheumatic heart disease.

Dr. Alexander T. Martin, New York city, in the Journal of the American Medical Association, says:

"In one sense the child stricken with infantile paralysis is more fortunate than the child stricken by rheumatism, because the child with rheumatic heart disease may have more attacks which may further cripple his activities or even cause death. In fact, each fresh attack means the likelihood of further attacks. On the other hand, infantile paralysis, as dread a disease as it is, usually causes no further attacks and the afflicted child may expect some improvement. Many children who contract infantile paralysis recover completely. Very few children who contract rheumatic fever escape without some damage to the heart."

How can these crippled hearts be helped? Dr. Martin reports his investigation over a period of 20 years (1921-41) of 1,398 children with rheumatic heart disease who were given after care in three country homes. The average age of the first attack was from six to eight years.

Of this 1,398 children 431 were dead after 20 years. Of the 967 living Dr. Martin was able to follow about 90 per cent.

To show what watchful care in an institution or in a foster home can accomplish for these heart cripples the report states that 357 are regularly employed at gainful occupations, 10 have irregular employment, 260 are in a regular or public school, 83 are in a special class in school for heart patients and 14 have a visiting teacher.

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QUESTION BOX

Q.—Please give me some information regarding the extract used in cases of hard of hearing.

A.—Extract of ovary is being used by physicians to relieve symptoms of menopause. Some physicians have found this extract helpful in sinus disease. Still others have found it helped some cases of hard of hearing. Your physician can prescribe it by injection or taken by mouth. Ask him about it. It must be prescribed by a physician.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

A chocolate pie will take on a new flavor if left-over coffee is substituted for half the milk.

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Never wash the grids of a waffle iron and never put the iron in water. Instead clean the grids with a wire brush and dry cloth, wipe the outside of the iron with a damp cloth and a soft polishing cloth.

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A stick of cinnamon broken into the milk beaten into custards gives the custards a faint cinnamon color but does not darken them.

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Coffeepots need thorough washing, scouring, rinsing and airing. Clean the spout with a stiff paint brush, frequently dipped in cleansing powder, and then rinse in quantities of boiling water. Invert until dry. Air the pot in the sun at least once a week.

J. Fuller Pep

By JERRY LINK

The Deacon used to say, "Bad news doesn't need any pushin'. It moves along fast enough by itself. But good news is kinda sluggish. So nudge it along all you can!"

I sort of like that idea myself. So I'm nudging along to you how KELLOGG'S PEP is extra-rich in vitamins B_1 and D—the two vitamins hardest to get enough of in ordinary meals.

And nothing that tastes as good as PEP has any business being good for you! Try it. I just know you'll like it!

Kellogg's Pep

A delicious cereal that supplies per 1-ounce serving: 1/2 daily need of vitamin D; 4/5 to 1/5 minimum daily need of vitamin B_1.

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