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## How Long To Defeat The Japs?

Before Pearl Harbor, the feeling was generally held in this country that Japan was a third rate military power which could be soundly defeated in a matter of weeks or months. Alleged experts had long written that Japan's military equipment was inferior, that her navy was in no way a match for ours,and that she was on the verge of economic collapse. Since December 7, we have learned how tragically wrong those experts were. Japanese planes and ships are excellent in both design and construction. Japanese army striking power is very great, and hergenerals know the art of warfare. The individual Japanese soldier is crafty, brave, cruel, fearless of death, and fanatically determined on victory.

Up to recently, the bulk of the American people also held another theory concerning Japan. They believed that the majority of the Japanese people were pacific and desirous of peace, and that the nations was thrust into war by a handful of war lords who controlled the Japense army, navy and civil government. One Japanese forces were given sharp setbacks by the United Nations, many reasoned, the warlord would lose face at home and the present military government would be replaced by a popular government which would sue for peace.

That is a hartening theory perhaps—but, unfortunately, men who are in the best position to understand the Japanese character have small faith in it. Ambassador Grew, who represented the United States in Tokyo for ten years, and who recently returned to this country as part of the exchange of diplomats between beligerents, has made a number of extremely intresting speeches and statements on the subject. Mr. Grew says, in essence, that Japanese leaders have completely "sold" the Japanese people on this war. Anti-British and anti-American propaganda has been an official Japanese activity for many years, and has been carefully nurtured by the controlled Jap press and radio. The unspeakable treatment given captured United Nations soldiers by the Japanese in Hong Kong and elsewhere, is the direct reflection of that propaganda. The ordinary Japanese trooper reflects the point of view of the common people of Japan—and he is a cruel and fanatical as his leaders.

The civilian population of Japan has accepted, apparently willingly, sacrifices which are almost incredible. In Japan everything is rationed. The clothing and the food available for civilians is qualtitatively and quantitatively bad — everything must go to the army and navy. The masses of the peopele eke out an existence on rations which would cause swift starvation in most countries. But they don't complain. They are convinced that the price is well worth paying for the "glorious destiny" which their Samuria leaders have promised. They work tremendously long hours, and they have little relaxation and no luxuries. Prices have gone up while wages have remained stationery.Yet they look forward with confidence and longing to the day when the United States and Britian will be crushed, and Jap leaders will dictate harsh peace terms in conquered Washington and London.

In the view of some realist the Jap may, in the long run prove to be a tougher nut than the German. In the last war, Germany cracked fast once she began to suffer severe defeats. The Teutonic fanaticism is hardly on the same scale as that of the Oriental with his implicit faith that death in battle will be followed by an eternity in the happiest and most abundant of heavens. The Japanese people, these authorities argue, will never accept defeat, or ask for peace. They will go on fighting—and increase their barbaric practices—to the very end. Therefore, the only way to beat Japan is to scourage her at home. It is important that we take back the territories she has conquered,with their rich resources—but it will not prove decisive.

The Japanese islands are roughly about the size of the single state of Montona. Inside some 1,500,000 square miles are all the Japanese centers of population, all the Japanese factories, all the Japanese facilities of production and transport and distribution. Due to her lack of coal, she has attained an extraordinarly high degree of electrification, and the bulk of her industries are powered from a series of hydro-electric installations in the mountains. Before she can be crushed, it is likely that it will be necessary to knock out these installations and make her industrially impotent. And that will require air raids on an unprecedented scale. It is generally believed that her defense against raids ,in her vital factory areas, are very good

The Solomon Islands action marked the start of our offensive in the Pacific. Before that, we were almost entirely engaged in defensive operations. How long it will be before we can take the offensive on a major scale, either in the Pacific or in Europe, is a question that can only be answered by the High Command—and when the time comes, it will speak with deeds, not words. It is a gigantic undertaking, and it will be long and arduous.

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

### Pour on the Water Now

Anyone who has produced anything for human consumption know that in most articles or farm crops the greatest cost is for labor. Anyone who can read a newspaper knows that the number one aim of labor organizations has been constantly shorter hours and higher wages.

Government has cooperated with labor along these lines. Many of the objectives sought by this program have been in the public interest. But as in every movement that becomes monopolistic and political, grave abuses creep in, for which the public pays.

We are witnessing that result now. The government policy has been that labor must lose none of its gains in short hours, high wages closed shop, etc. Then, after everything that goes into the cost of production has reached a record ceiling, there is a great hullabaloo raised that the cost of farm products is responsible for the high cost of living.

The situation is pretty much like the old story of the pot calling the kettle black. No group in this nation can long profit at the expense of another group. The people can't have cheap food while the farmer pays war wages.

We are now in a war to save our own necks, rather than to save wage or hour or price gains made by labor, or the farmer. We are in exactly the same position as a man whose house is afire and who refuses to exert himself to keep it from burning—he is faced with a condition that recognizeds no social gains, or leisure, or soft hands. He may have to work to exhaustion to put out the fire, or lose his house.

If the Axis wins this war, there will be no more labor unions or free enterprise, or the right to say and do as we please—there will remain only the ashes of ideals and freedoms that we have enjoyed, Just as there would remain only the ashes of a house which the owner refused to work to save, after hours or over hours or double hours, if necessary.

We hear a lot about lack of manpower in this nation, while there is resistance to working longer or harder than in normal times. If we are running out of manpower, the men privileged to stay at home and produce for the armed forces are going to have to work longer and harder, just as do the men on the fighting on the firing line when faced with an emergency.

The house of the farmer, of labor and of industry is on fire and they will enjoy in the future none of the gains they have made over the past 150 years unless they put that fire out cold. The time to start pouring on the water is now.

### Rubber or Else!

The nation-wide gasoline rationing program is to be imposed as a means of preserving rubber. In the opinion of some experts, it would have been possible to provide an adequate supply of rubber for civilian use by now if the government had got down to cases when the rubber problem first appeared. That, of course, is water over the dam—but the kind of political vacillation that has characterized the handling of the rubber situation in the past must not be allowed to continue in the future.

The wise course to pursue at this time is obvious. The government must give maximum cooperation to secure the swiftest and largest possible production of artificial rubber from any practical source. Some kinds of rubber are made from oil. Others are made from coal. Others still are made from grain alcohol. All of the processes have merit—and all of them should be developed without further bickering and delay.

This country has been largely built on automobile travel. Unless rubber for civilian tires is made available within a short time, we will be faced with a catastrophic national "slow down." American industry and American chemists must be given the "go" signal on rubber—and they must be freed from political barriers to progress.


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## Get Your Farm Implements In Shape Now

By placing farm equipment in shape now Queen Anne's county farmers can insure against costly delays later, says Mr. Miller, county agent.

As they wind up the present season, farmers know some of the damage their machines have undergone They can check up on each machine as it is put away for winter. If every machine part is carefully inspected the condition noted and the need for repair or replacement determined, the life of the machine can be prolonged, says Mr. Miller.

This year farmers conditioned their farm machinery in earnest. Now we can see the results— a year of record-breaking production. However, it will be more necessary than ever that the machine repaired this year undergo another check-up to see what is needed in the way of repair for the next season of operation Mr. Miller says. The best time to do it is when the machine is put away for the winter.

A nation-wide farm machinery repair campaign was conducted this year. Farmers responded by checking over their machinery, ordering repair parts early and having the machinery in readiness well in advance of the season of use. This timeliness of repairing helped in part to "get by" with the shortage of labor and machinery, says Mr. Miller.

Next year machinery labor will be even more scarce. In fact, a rationing program for farm machinery has already been set in motion. Therefore, it will be even more important next year that farm machinery be in first class condition before the season starts.

Farmers are urged by Mr. Miller to carefully check up on their machinery as they put it away for the winter—oil and grease the machinery, order repair parts early and put each machine in first class condition.

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## Span To Be Razed For Scrap Metal

The old highway bridge spanning the Susquehanna river between Havre de Grace and Perryville is to be razed for its scrap metal, the Maryland Board of Public Works decided yesterday at a meeting in Annapolis.

Governor O'Conor ,board chairman, announced the decision and added that the War Production Board would be advised that the bridge is available for salvage now.

The intrinsic value of the scrap metal, Governor O'Conor said, was more than its monetary worth, estimated at approximately $58,000. The WPB has estimated it will cost $140,000 to raze the structure.

As a token payment the WPB has agreed to pay the State $10 for the steel in the bridge.

The job of arranging the legal technique of transferring the bridge to the WPB will be undertaken today by William C. Walsh, Attorney General, at the direction of Governor O'Conor.

The task of razing the structure and speeding the metals contained in it to steel mills likely will be undertaken by War Materials, Inc., a recently formed subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation

War Materials, Inc., it was said, proposes to let a contract to a private firm to speed the razing because the Works Progress Administration, which has handled such operations in the past, is getting short on funds and manpower, too.

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## Everybody Busy 'Nuf Everywhere

The official figures of employment throughout the nation are rather staggering. Everybody working, including father! That is largely due to the fact that every state and nearly every county has products that are needed by manufacturers of clothing, the packers and retailers of meat, the paper and paperboard mills; the canners of fruit, vegetables, meat and fish, the workers who create furniture, ships, chemicals, tobacco products, machine tool electrical articles, carpets, rugs, boots, shoes, silverware and jewelry and all the natural products of the surface of the earth and minerals underneath, that are called for in war production.

It's a pretty hard job to fix our prices and wages. It is a hard job to say what profits manufacturers will get.

The point of this item is intended to convey to our readers that there are very few dead spots in this vast Republic. No wonder it's getting out of balance!

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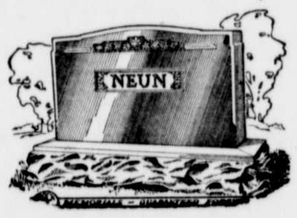

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