The Nation At War ★

A complete coverage of the week's news on the all -out effort of the United Nation's fight for freedom.

Production for War

The OWI announced that the U. S. in the year of 1942 will have produced approximately 49,000 planes, 32,000 tanks and self-propelled artillery, 17,000 antiaircraft guns larger than 20-mm., 8,200,000 tons of merchant shipping, thousands of antiaircraft machine guns, and thousands of scout cars and half and full track carriers. Munitions and war construction were "above the most optimistic estimate of our production possibilities a year ago," and food production—a large portion of which was meat, milk eggs, and soy beans—_was 12 percent above the previous year.

Expenditures for the year for munitions and war construction will total $47,000,000,000. In the first 10 months of 1942, more than $13,000,000,000 were collected in taxes and more than $33,000000,000 through the sale of bonds and other Government obligations.. Approximately 17,500,000 people are now employed in war work—compared to 7,000,000 a year ago—but in 1943 an additional 5,000,000 will be needed for war work and for the armed forces. By March 15, 1942, the cost of living had risen 15 percent over the end of 1939, but price regulation, instituted in April, held down the increases in those prices subject to control to 6-10 of one percent as of October 15.

In the first year of war, the Department of Justice has secured court convictions of at least 8 persons charged with treason, has sent to prison, for terms aggregating 530 years, 49 spies in the pay of Germany and Japan, has brought under rigid control more than 2,000 foreign agents, and has indicted 27 war contractors for defrauding the Government. Through the breaking up of international cartels and illegal patent pools a great number of trade secrets and technical processes have been given to American arsenals and manufacturers.

October production of alloy steel was 60 percent higher than the average monthly production in 1941 and 400 percent over the pre-war production peak, the WPB Steel Division announced. October steel plate production totaled 1,100,000 tons, an increase of almost 100 percent over October 1941. The Maritime Commission said U. S. shipyards during November delivered into service 84 vessels totaling 891,700 deadweight tons, raising the total production so far this year to 625 vessels of 6,890,000 deadweight tons. This total is 1,100,000 tons short of the 1942 goal fixed by the President, but the Commission said schedules for December indicate the goal will be reached. Machine tool production in the U. S. during October for the United Nations reached an all-time high of 30,000 units, with the American armed forces receiving approximately 22,500 of these, the War Department reported.

Report on Pearl Harbor

The Navy Department announced that all of the eight battleships in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, were hit, seven of them temporarily disabled and one, the ARIZONA, permanently and totally lost. Those reported damaged have returned to the fleet, while others critically damaged are being repaired and will soon be ready for battle action. Of the 202 U. S. Naval aircraft based at Pearl Harbor, 150 were permanently or temporarily disabled. Army planes destroyed totaled 97. As a result of the Japanese attack, 2,343 officers and enlisted men of the U. S. services were killed, 1,272 wounded, and 960 are still reported missing.

The Navy estimates that 105 enemy planes took part in the attack, and that the enemy lost 28 aircraft and 3 submarines of 45 tons each.

The War Front

Navy Secretary Knox told a press conference that Japanese troops on Guadalcanal may be running short of supplies. The enemy's attempt to land supplies and reinforcements on the night of November 30 was a complete failure, he said. At that time a U. S. Naval task force intercepted and engaged Japanese troop transports and vessels and sank nine ships—two large destroyers or cruisers, four destroyers, two troop transports and one cargo ship—at a loss of only one U. S. cruiser. The enemy will try again, Mr. Knox said, but the November 30 attempt indicates clearly that the condition of the Japanese on the Island is becoming acute. Navy communiques throughout the week reported 170 Japanese killed on the Island, three planes downed and one cargo ship hit.

The Navy reported five U. S. Naval transports were sunk by Axis submarines during the occupation of North Africa in the early part of November, and during the operation three other U. S. transports, one destroyer, and one tanker were damaged. Reports show that 218 Axis planes and 10 tanks were destroyed and a number of prisoners were captured, with the Allies reporting 14 planes missing and five lost.

In a daylight raid on Naples on December 4, Allied heavy bombers successfully attacked docks and other targets, scoring hits on one Italian battleship and two cruisers.

The nation's intelligence service has estimated Japanese casualties from the day of Pearl Harbor to November 25, 1942, at 250,000 men killed or permanently injured with Naval losses representing about 10 percent of the Japanese Navy's total personnel. U. S. Army and Navy losses in the same period number about 50,000 men killed or missing, with Naval losses representing about one percent of total U. S. Naval personnel.

The Up-to-the-Minute Man

Agriculture

The 1943 Food-For-Freedom goals are expected to cause some regional changes in agriculture production, as changes from the 1942 production pattern throw sharp emphasis on crops and livestock most essential to the war effort. All possible assistance, the Department of Agriculture announced, will be given farmers in meeting the record goals—to ease the shortage of farm labor, to support prices, to provide loans and technical assistance - but crop payments will be conditonal on the degree to which each cooperating farm family carries out its individual farm plan, with deductions for over-planting of non-essential products and for under planting of essential crop allotments and goals.

To provide labor for 1943 farm production, WMC Chairman McNutt announced a comprehensive program which will be worked out in detail during the winter and launched as soon as spring planting begins. The plant provides for the transportation of mobile groups of experienced farm workers, the transfer of experienced standard lands to productive areas, the adjustment of farm wages in relation to industrial wages, and a farm labor training and management program. Because of the"wide disparity" between salaries and wages paid agricultural labor and those paid industrial labor, OES Director Byrnes gave control over agricultural wages to Secretary Wickard. The House passed and sent to the Senate legislation directing that farm wages be included in calculations of parity prices for farm products, defining wages as those not only of hired hands, but of operators and owners as well.

Rationing

A new system of rationing known as the "point system," will be used with War Ration Book No. 2 to ration certain commodities not yet announced. The system will not replace straight coupon rationing of sugar, gasoline and coffee, as it will be used only for groups of related or similar commodites which can be interchangeably used. Each commodity in each group will be given a point-value--a low point-value if the commodity is plentiful, a high point-value if it is scarce--and the Government, to protect the supply of scarce commodities can lower or raise the point-value of any commodity at any time.

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Maryland Musings

A dairy demonstration team composed of Edmond Calary and Charles Smith of Jarrettsville placed second in the contest at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Each received a $100 college scholarship.

The War Production Board has prohibited dairy producers from distributing whipping cream, or other heavy cream, to household consumers, retailers, restaurants, institutions and others. Coffee cream is not affected. Cream containing more than 19 percent fat is used for whipping and other purposes.

The 1943 corn acreage for the commercial corn area will be 43,423,000 acres, it is announced by Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard. This represents an increase of 5 percent over the 1942 figure of 41,338,000 acres. The national goal for corn, including both the commercial and non-commercial areas, was set at 95,000-000 acres. The allotment of commercial acreage in Maryland is 262,478 acres, compared with 249,154 acres in 1942.

Commercial apple canning plants in this area are now installing dehydrating equipment, saye the Maryland Fruit Grower. This, it states, is in anticipation of the need for dehydrating apples, especially in a coming season when the tin shortage will be acute and greater demand for dehydrated apples will be shown.

It is indicated, Dr. T. B. Symons, director of the extension service, says, that we will need a 20 percent increase in hogs next year over the 1942 production, and also increases in milk and poultry production.

More and more, the people of this country are realizing the size of the task which confronts farmers, and how much the outcome means to us and our allies. They are becoming as interested in food production schedules as in production schedules for munitions.

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FARM EMPLOYMENT. Despite record crops, the number of persons at work on the nation's farms during the recent harvest season was loweh than at any other comparable time since 1929. Nevertheless, the Department of Agriculture reports that actual losses of crops do not appear to have been serious except where weather interfered with harvesting or the quality was too low to justify salvage efforts.. Sales of milk cows between farms have been heavy because some dairymen dependent on hired laber have been compelled to reduce their herds.

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The use of hybrid seed corn added 300,000,000 bushels, or nearly ten percent, to the 1942 corn crop. This is enough to produce 3,300,000,000 pounds of pork.

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The all-purpose general ration book to be issued soon will require three milion pounds of paper, 87,000 pounds of ink and 7,500 gallons of paste. Onehundred and twenty-eight railroad box cars, solidlyloaded, will be needed to carry the books to their destinations throughout the United States.

Nine out of every ten construction workers are now engaged on war projects. One out of every eight is employed directly by the Federal Government, with the remainder working for prime and subcontractors.

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About 40 percent of all railroad sleeping cars and 15 percent of all coaches are currently in use for organized troop movements.

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Kangaroo Species

Kangaroos are found only in Australia and nearby islands, yet there are about 50 separate species of the animal.

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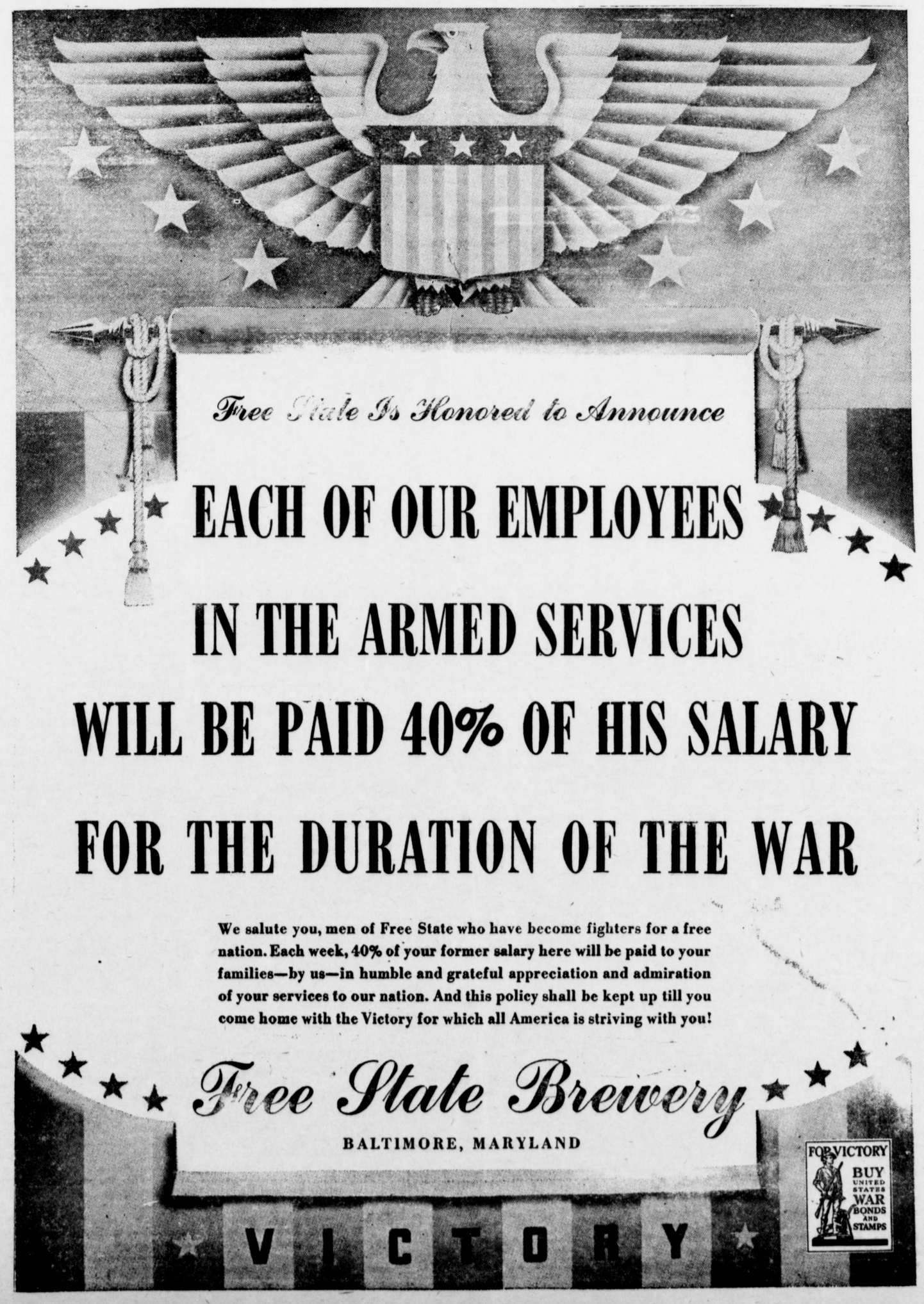

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