

NEWS AND VIEWS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The first step which must be taken in carrying the war to Japan is an obvious one—to disrupt and to break the long-extended Nipponese supply lines. Hundreds and in some cases thousands of miles lie between Japanese bases and areas she has conquered. Her life line consists of her merchant fleet and naval convoys. So long as she has enough protected tonnage to carry the immense quantities of supplies needed by her expeditionary forces, she will hold the upper hand. Once substantial intrusions are made into her transport and fighting fleets, she will have to battle against steadily mounting odds. And the farther she goes across the wide Pacific, the more shipping she will require. Therefore, there is encouragement in the commercial circles of the United States and those of other United Nations have been inflicting on Japanese shipping. Much of this news has never been the headlines, which have been largely occupied by accounts of Japan's success in taking and mopping up Pacific positions. But it is the kind of news that, in the long run, will do much to determine the outcome of the war. As Paul Mallon, president of the United States Navy and Army have been pecking away, mainly at the indispensable but unspectacular phase of the Japanese attack—the transport, supply and tanker ships and their convoy protection.

The toll of Japanese losses is impressive. Up to March 19, the United Nations officially reported the sinking of 110 Japanese ships and the damaging of 54, or a total of 164 put out of action. That, according to the most reliable estimates, is an excess of 20 per cent of all Japanese shipping which can be used for supply purposes.

The United Nations further reported the destruction of 17 Japanese cruisers, along with 27 destroyers and 12 damaged. Two Japanese battleships have been sent to the bottom. And so have three aircraft carriers.

The United Nations' ship losses have, of course, also been great. But the military importance of such losses can only be judged in the light of replacement capacity. According to Mr. Mallon, Japan's merchant shipbuilding capacity is 300,000 to 400,000 gross tons per year. We will build in the neighborhood of 6,000,000 gross tons this year and almost twice as much next year. In addition to that, our Allies will produce a considerable tonnage.

This does not mean we should run the danger of minimizing Japan's existing fighting fleet and merchant navy. Her main battle fleet has not yet been in evidence in this war, and is perhaps being held in reserve for a major engagement. It is likely that she has more fighting craft than used to be generally believed—there is certainly no reason for thinking that she carried out her part of the naval limitation agreement which she and all other naval powers signed back in the '20s. What this does mean is that, unless all authorities are wrong, Japan does not possess a ship replacement capacity in any way comparable to ours. Japan probably spent twenty years preparing for this war, and she had a big edge at the start. Our job is to overcome that edge.

The world-wide enthusiasm which followed the announcement of General MacArthur's dramatic transfer to Australia, and his assumption of supreme command of all United Nations' air, army and naval forces in the Pacific theatre, is easily understood. He is the war's number one hero. His achievement in the Philippines alone makes him one of the great commanders of history.

But we must not make the mistake of thinking that General MacArthur, brilliant and daring as he is, will immediately turn the scales. He cannot produce miracles. He made that very clear on his arrival in Melbourne, when he said: "Success in modern war requires something more than courage and willingness to die. It requires careful preparation. This means furnishing sufficient troops and sufficient materials to meet the known strength of the potential enemy. No general can make something from nothing. My success or failure depends primarily upon the resources which our respective governments place at my disposal."

There is a challenge in that to every industry, every worker, every government official in this country. For the great bulk of the supplies of war must come from here. Australia is a vast continent, but it has only 7,000,000 people and relatively little industry. We must become the "arsenal of democracy" in fact, not in theory.

The art of generalship is to do the most with what one has, to gain maximum result at minimum cost. General MacArthur has shown that he masters that art completely. But all his knowledge and competence will be useless if

Seditionists Seek To Use MacArthur

President of Webster College, Babson Park, Pa., April 3.—Walter Winchell has remarked that General Douglas MacArthur is a patriot who performs to fight the war. He is not a seditionist.

MacArthur is that kind of man all right, and as such he now faces what may prove the toughest problems of his long and brilliant career. He has now to keep his eyes to his task and his feet to the path, as crafty politicians and of mauling hero-worshippers unite to make political capital of his military virtue.

Consider what already has happened. The President (who is the only Constitutional Commander in Chief the army and navy can have) recognized his merit and ordered him to proceed to Australia where the trip could most safely and conveniently be made. Naturally this order could not be published. The Japanese, who staff would have been interested.

This was the state of affairs when an opposition politician publicly demanded that MacArthur be made Chief of Staff. General MacArthur is Chief of Staff and doing a magnificent job at it. That he is not a good politician, so he is not good politician. MacArthur is a man of the highest caliber and grace. It is in the light of this that the seditionists of course knew well the change couldn't be made.

Then why suggest it? The reason soon became apparent. The general public responded enthusiastically, the President said nothing, and another politician promptly accused the President of "sheeping" MacArthur to the Philippines in order to get rid of him. That those two politicians appeared to be cooperating to destroy faith in the President as Commander in Chief must have been purely accidental, for did not all fifth column work end on Pearl Harbor day?

About the time MacArthur was slipping through the meshes out of Bataan, the "Loyal Opposition" demanded that President Roosevelt withdraw him from the Philippines and make him Commander in Chief of American forces. Nothing happened. About as he climbed into the cockpit to test for the dash across seas, the ugly charge swept through Washington and out over the country. Roosevelt was holding down MacArthur in order to suppress a potential political rival: Did Goebbels start that?

Then MacArthur reached Australia and took command, revealing the date of his orders. There is no evidence that opposition trouble-makers were embarrassed by this. Consistency is not their objective. Neither is patriotism their motive. They wanted to humper the president and destroy public confidence in him as Commander in Chief. They knew the American public has a short memory.

They relied upon response from the many whose political prejudices and hatreds exceed their good sense. That is exactly what Hitler and Goebbels rely upon, and the ways by which they get their suggestions into the mouths of American politicians are subtle and devious. We have recently seen a little of their technique by which a proved Nazi agent utilized the office of Congressman Fish and wrote speeches delivered by a United States Senator from Minnesota.

The present danger to MacArthur is a double barreled one. Watch it develop. If he is immediately successful, every effort will be made to cast a rift between him and the president, and to use him against his Chief, as opposition sought to use Pershing and did use McChellan. A man cannot be truly indifferent to the suggestion that his country needs him for its peace.

But what the efficiency of a field general with a presidential bee in his bonnet? On the other hand, if he is not immediately successful, MacArthur's great popularity will be used to throw upon those responsible for maintenance of his continuously difficult services of supply—again, to the embarrassment of the Administration.

MacArthur's entire life has been a lesson in single-minded loyalty and devotion to duty. Every effort to divide him from his Commander in Chief is subversive and contemptible. We give aid to such efforts when we give him blind hero-worship and attribute to him all that the careful planning of others may make possible. He is a man—almost a super man—but he is no God and no miracle worker.

Let him be human. Expect a few mistakes and difficulties. Do not split him from his Commander in Chief.

Lex Green Called "Double-Talker" By Overstreet

Miami, Fla., April 3.—Former Rep. Earnest Overstreet, candidate for the new position of Congressman-at-large, today accused Robert Alex Green of being a "political double-talker."

Speaking particularly of Green's activities in the pensions-for-Congress episode, Overstreet declared his opponent said one thing in Washington and another in Florida seeking votes.

"Mr. Green, as congressman from the second district, is mailing out to thousands of Florida voters, at their expense through taxation," said Overstreet, "a postage free speech in which he states he is opposed to pensions for congressmen."

The Congressional Record disclosed, however, that Green was present in the house chamber immediately before and immediately after the passage, without record vote, of the congressional pensions bill, declared Overstreet.

"It is evident that Mr. Green was in the House chamber when the bill was passed; that he knew of it, and actually was in favor of it," the candidate said.

"In proof of the fact that Mr. Green did favor this bill read what he told the Associated Press at Washington after the people had become aroused about this grab of taxpayer money."

"Green told the Associated Press that the pension plan was sound."

that it was nothing but Social Security fraud. Congressmen, but that he was 'going along with the demagogues and vote to repeal it'.

"Hundreds of the needy aged in Mr. Green's present district have told me that Mr. Green promised them, when he was a candidate two years ago, that he would see to it that their pensions were increased."

"Yet, the only pension bill which has passed Congress during the present session is one which benefited Mr. Green materially. In other words, Mr. Green has sold the old folks down the river of political chicanery."

—Earnest Overstreet

Florida Food Prices Lower Than Elsewhere

Tallahassee, April 3 (SDC Special).—Although retail food prices have advanced 19 percent during the past year and now 25 percent above pre-war levels, the Florida averages still show a decided saving for the buyer as compared to the national average.

"E. J. Keefe, state chairman of the food division of the state defense council, reveals this favorable condition through the latest figures from the United States Department of Labor. Florida prices on most foods are from a fraction of a cent to four cents a pound lower than the national average."

The Florida household still has the best of it, according to Keefe. She buys her fresh fruits and vegetables (with the exception of apricots), her canned goods and her meats at prices considerably under those the rest of the country is paying. Butter, cheese and cloverleaf are cheaper, but flour and baked goods are a trifle higher on account of Florida's distance from the milling centers. Eggs are 20 percent cheaper in Florida, retailing here for an average of 34.5 cents a dozen while the national average is 42.2 cents.

So the cost of a good old fashioned, home-cooked beef-steak dinner, starting with a grapefruit cocktail and polished off with apple pie costs a family of four ten percent less in Florida than elsewhere.

A saving of 19 cents on a meal for four may not be anything startling, said Keefe, but a 10 percent saving on a year's food supply, multiplied by all the families in Florida should buy a lot of United States defense bonds.

Planning Industry
Safety Program

Tampa, April 2 (FNS)—Recognizing the need for trained safety men in industry, the United States Department of Labor has created the "National Committee for Conservation of Manpower in War Industries" for the purpose of training in safety at no cost to management or employee.

A preliminary survey to determine the need of industrial safety training courses in this area was made recently by Hon. Judge John

Frank Leahy, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates and former great second baseman of the New York Giants and St. Louis Cardinals, has just written an illustrated bulletin on baseball which can be obtained free of charge at Keds dealers by all boys and girls, according to Frank Leahy, head of the Keds Sports Department of United States Rubber Company.

"Play Ball" is the title of the booklet, which gives full details on fundamentals in pitching, catching, batting, fielding and outfielding, as played by major leagues. A large number of photographs show stance, grip, close-ups with proper use of fingers in pitching a fast ball, curve ball, knuckle ball and other points youngsters always ask questions about.

Frank Leahy announces that during 1942 other official sports bulletins will be issued on such subjects as sports and games to be written by leading athletes. He

D. Petre, regional representative, and James M. Cobb, regional safety consultant, of Montgomery, Ala.

It was definitely decided that there is need for such training in this state and the University of Tampa, Tampa, and University of Florida, Gainesville, were designated as training centers.

Lawrence B. Tipton, National Safety Supervisor, will meet with industrial leaders in Tampa this week to outline the program.

Baseball Bulletin Free For Children

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says: "With America at war, we feel it's more important than ever that boys and girls keep on playing—but play right as they'll develop strong bodies, clear thinking, good judgment, team work."

Napoleon's Greatest Defeat
Napoleon met his greatest defeat when he fought the battle of Waterloo.

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