

U.S. war production condemned

JEALOUSY, WASTE, INEFFICIENCY

WASHINGTON, Thursday. AN indictment of United States defence production was made by the Senate Defence Investigating Committee in a report issued in Washington today.

One assertion was that only a quarter of American planes being produced were equal to the best foreign types.

Unless radical changes are made President Roosevelt's production goal will not be reached, the report warned.

The committee, headed by Senator Harry S. Truman, alleged that the country's production programme had been saddled with the back-breaking burden of mistakes, carelessness, inefficiency, waste, extravagance, petty jealousies, refusal to take responsibility, selfishness and strikes.

Chief target of the committee's attack was the O.P.M. (Office of Production Management), "whose mistakes of commission had been legion, and whose mistakes of omission had been even greater."

DEFENCE SIDELINE

The motor industry was attacked on the grounds that it had made defence business "a largely separate but very profitable sideline."

Future prospects of aircraft production, the committee claimed, were not good, asserting that only one-quarter of the present U.S. warplane production was equal to the best foreign types.

Of the O.P.M., the committee said: "In instances where it failed the failure was not due so much to lack of power as to the ineptness of officials and their unwillingness to use the weapons they had."

The report cited the enormous profits of the Ford Company and of General Motors and the Chrysler Corporation, refusing the assertions that taxes absorbed all the profits.

The Office of Production Management has been superseded by the War Production Board, with Mr. Donald Nelson as chairman, Mr. Nelson was Administrator of O.P.M.

Government fixes new corset prices

Full maximum retail price list for corsets and brassieres, enforced by the Board of Trade today, is—

Corsets and brassieres, 8s. 1d.-24s. 2d.; wrap-around and back-lace corsets 5s. 6d.-24s. 2d.; suspender belts 4s. 6d.-8s. 1d.; ordinary brassieres, 3s.-8s. 1d.

Why not get a lovely figure yourself

YOU, too, can have that attractive figure which everyone admires. You, too, can look lovely and keep in radiant health if you remember to take Bile Beans—just a couple at bedtime each night.

Purely vegetable, Bile Beans may be taken regularly with perfect safety. They purify the blood, tone you up and clear the system of fat-forming food wastes. Thus Bile Beans improve your fitness and vitality and bring slim, youthful lines.

So decide now to start with Bile Beans and get perfect health and a lovely figure yourself.

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War amid beauty BLITZ ON THE SPICE ISLANDS

Express Staff Reporter

JAPAN'S air blitz has extended to some of the most romantic and beautiful islands of the Pacific—the Moluccas or Spice Islands.

They lie between the Celebes, now being invaded by the Japs, and New Guinea, commanding the strait which would be Japan's way south if she attacked Australia.

The Moluccas are an important link in the Dutch defence of their Pacific possessions, but modern military preparations go on there with a background of lush Pacific beauty.

This is a land of birds of paradise, bright parrots and the world's most gorgeous butterflies.

Seeptown

Malacca, headquarters of the little "Settlement" of the same name, which was claimed by the Japanese yesterday, is a sleepy old town on the west coast of the peninsula, 115 miles from Singapore.

It is a place of little commercial importance, but great historic interest, and is said to have been captured by the Portuguese adventurer Albuquerque in 1511, it became the emporium for all the spices and silks of the Indies, and was for some time the seat of St. Francis Xavier, first missionary to the Far East.

Cursed by Saint

The story goes that the saint, disgusted with Portuguese gobachery, laid a curse upon it as he sailed out into the sea before sailing for Japan.

The settlement was later ruled for two centuries by the Dutch. Solid, comfortable seventeenth century Dutch houses still reside under the bastions of the fort.

The Malacca Malays, of patrician Sumatra lineage, are the aristocrats of the peninsula, and provide the bulk of the recruits for the Singapore police and the newly-formed Malay Regiment, now fighting.

Pacific war risk rates are doubled

War risk rates for cargoes in the Pacific war zone were last night more than doubled in some cases.

For local voyages in the area Straits-Malaya and British Borneo and Netherlands Indies (not touching foreign ports) the rate is increased from 22 a £100 to 25.

Not so cold

Straits: Slightly less cold.

Japs claim U.S. island

WIDE PACIFIC RAIDS

Express Staff Reporter NEWELL ROGERS NEW YORK, Thursday.

JAPANESE planes struck far and wide yesterday across thousands of miles of the Pacific, and Tokyo claimed a fresh landing in the Philippines.

The Americans have inflicted new losses on the invaders. Nine heavy bombers came over Corregidor, America's Far Eastern Malta at the mouth of Manila Bay, in a new attempt to hit the big gun emplacements on the rocky isle.

Two planes plummeted downward as shells exploded in the wreckage and other craft were seen to be hit. Damage to ground defenses was slight.

"Tobruk" stand

On the Bataan Peninsula, north of Corregidor, where General Douglas MacArthur's little army was completing its first week of the "Tobruk" stand, the Japanese commanders sent long fingers of reconnaissance columns probing among the strong points, trenches and blockhouses on the wooded slopes of the volcanic mountains.

The fingers got badly burned in bitter outpost fighting. Several Japanese observers expressed the belief that the reconnaissance was preliminary to a full-scale offensive within the next 48 hours.

Philippines and Americans have repelled four local offensives in the last week.

Tokyo claimed that Japanese naval vessels had seized the island of Grande, which guards the entrance to Subig Bay, in the Bataan peninsula.

Heavy-gun emplacements and ammunition were said to have been taken.

The Japanese also claimed a dive-bombing attack on a U.S. airfield east of Subig Bay.

Amborg, the second most important naval base in the Dutch East Indies, was bombed, according to Dutch and Japanese announcements.

Japs get bases

All military bases and depots in the north-east corner of Celebes, in the Dutch East Indies, were occupied by the Japanese yesterday, says Tokyo today.

All Jap landings on the island of Celebes so far reported have been on the Minahasan peninsula, in the north-east.

Another Japanese communiqué said: "Afterwards of the Japanese Fleet Air Arm undertook widespread attacks against the Moluccas (archipelago east of Celebes), New Guinea, including Babo, Sorong, and New Britain today. Military establishments were destroyed or set on fire."

Other aircraft attacked Ternate in the Moluccas. Two large depots were destroyed, and several ships were started.

New Britain, largest island in the New Guinea group, east of New Guinea, was bombed again after the last war. It has five harbours, but is very little developed.

Singapore

FROM PAGE ONE. Allies in Burma will now go to the rescue of truncated Malaya by attacking the Japanese rear through Siam.

Nothing like this can be expected for some time. Reinforcements have done little more than strengthen Burma for defensive action if she is attacked over land by the Japanese.

An air raid alert was sounded in the Rangoon area during the early hours of January 15, but no enemy aircraft appear to have come near the city and no bombs were dropped.

It was the first time since the early morning of January 4 that enemy aircraft had not attacked the Rangoon area.

Rajah forecasts "flare-up"

Our lost prestige

SYDNEY, Thursday.—Criticism of Malayan officials are made in a Sydney Daily Telegraph interview with Sir Charles Brooke, white Rajah of Sarawak, who before going to Sarawak recently said that Singapore has been a school for the incompetent and others responsible for the fantastic Malayan position should be sacked.

People will be out for somebody's blood over this awful mess," he said to the Telegraph. "There will be a tremendous flare-up in England."

"I believe the British, Australians and Indians will form a defence line in Johore, and hold the line. Most of our airfields are gone, and our air force has gone also. Our Intelligence has been poor."

"Penang is a terrible case. The reason the scorching air policy was not applied was because the Chinese. Towards (merchants) rubber planters and tin mine owners, did not like to see the mines and estates going up in flames. Worse was the under-rating of the Japanese, whom we called the little yellow men."

But they have proved fine fighters. The whole situation hangs in the Dutch Indies, and the Dutch are strong and resourceful, and cannot be fooled. It seems unfair and untrue to say that Australia caused the dismissal of Mr. Duff Cooper. I think he did rather well."—Express Correspondent.

Babe-in-the-cab

A taxi-driver left his cab for a minute in Wyndham-place, W.V.I., yesterday, and he had to find a month-old baby on the back seat.

POCKET CARTOON



"I'm beginning to think, Sir Plantagenet, that those fellows Gilbert and Sullivan have rather misled us as to the true nature of the Japanese."

ROMMEL MAKES STAND

GENERAL ROMMEL is fighting a rearguard action 30 miles inland in Libya and reorganising a new centre of resistance with a reinforced air force.

Berlin claimed yesterday that German dive-bombers carried out strong attacks on British supply columns.

The British advance towards Rommel's headquarters at Mersa Brega has been made difficult by strong resistance, reported yesterday by Cairo communiqué.

Two Axis fighters were shot down.

Bombers raided Tripoli and set the docks and railway station ablaze, said the R.A.F. communiqué.

Free French planes pounded direct hits on gun emplacements and on the ammunition dumps.

From these and other operations over Malta and the Mediterranean line of our planes are missing—Exchange and B.U.P.

DIGNITY

"Japan will treat prisoners of war in a decent way and in accordance with the dignity of a great nation," Commander of the prison camp on Sikkim Island, quoted by Berlin radio yesterday.

NEW EMPIRE DEFENCE LINE



Express Military Reporter

IRAQ and Persia, formerly part of our Indian military command, are to be taken over by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief Middle East. It was officially announced yesterday.

The Empire line against the Axis will now be controlled like this:—

NORTH AFRICA TO THE CAUCASUS: General Auchinleck.

INDIA TO BURMA: General Auchinleck.

A general whose name will be announced this week: BURMA TO AUSTRALIA: General Sir Archibald Wavell, commanding all Allied forces.

NORTH-EAST OF BURMA OR IN SIAM: General Chiang Kai-shek will be supreme commander.

That is the stage set for battles which may be fought this year. It is a good rearrangement because it makes for clarity. There was much confusion when Syria and Palestine were under the Cairo command, while Iraq and Persia were controlled from New Delhi.

Strategic importance of the change is the realisation that the Axis, potential arsenal for the Axis in the East, must be defended from a distance. Iraq and Persia are the outer defences on one side; Singapore and the Dutch East Indies on the other.

Auchinleck and Wavell have both been commander-in-chief in India. Now it is their task to ward off attack on India from a distance so that India can furnish men and materials for all the eastern theatres of war.

It is also General Auchinleck's duty to prevent the Germans from reaching the oil of Iraq and Persia.

Pickles—permanent

Wilfred Pickles, B.B.C.'s "Northern Accents on the News," last night secured No. 6 on the staff of permanent news readers after his three weeks' try-out in December.

WORLD-AT-WAR NEWS FLASHES

DR. HITLER TELLS—

More honey.—Dr. Fritz Hitler (no relation to Adolf) made his debut on German radio last night, said there would be no more war films from the front. He explained: "Bitter cold makes direct reports impossible. And if we did show films it would hurt the feelings of soldiers at the front."

More honey.—Canada sending two million pounds of honey to Britain.—Express.

More light.—President Roosevelt to sign Bill putting all American clocks forward one hour.—A.P.

More dark.—No electricity in Athens because of fuel shortage.—B.U.P.

More freedom.—Australia to raise £10,000,000 in new "Freedom Loan."—Express.

More States.—Every seventh Belgian (1,000,000 men) now employed in Germany or by Germans.—Reuter.

More workers.—Over 200,000 unemployed students from training schools start work in war factories today.

More restriction.—All Jews in France forbidden to deal in insurance, real estate, or work for newspapers from today.—Express.

More planes.—India is building all plane parts except engines and instruments in factories under United States supervision.—Reuter.

More harbours.—United Kingdom Commercial Corporation to build piers and harbours for Turkey at Alexandria and Meisin.—Reuter.

'SHUT THE AXIS OUT OF AMERICAS'

Welles urges: Stop all trade

Express Staff Reporter JOHN THOMPSON RIO DE JANEIRO, Thursday.

AFTER a whole day's back-stage work to weld Latin America into a solid anti-Axis federation, President Roosevelt's dapper, frock-coated Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Welles took the platform this evening at the first session of the Pan-American Conference to state Washington's case for a positive Monroe doctrine.

He told the Foreign Ministers of the 20 Spanish American States that they must deal now with the enemies of America in their midst—the hordes of Nazi, Fascist and Jap agents.

"There is only one thing," he said, "which can positively assure the survival of the great family of nations banded in the Pan-American union—the unity which we face this common peril."

'MOBILISE SHIPS'

"It is of the utmost importance that all business, financial and trade transactions which would directly redound to the benefit of the aggressors or injure the defence of this hemisphere should be prevented."

"It is vitally important that all the shipping facilities of the Americas should be mobilised for the transport of strategic materials."

"The United States is prepared to render financial and technical assistance where needed to alleviate injury to the domestic economy of any American Republic resulting from the control of shipping of alien economic activities inimical to the common defence."

STABILITY

"In accordance with his policy of maintaining the economic stability of the other American Republics, the United States will make adequate allocations of rayon, agricultural and industrial chemicals, and iron and steel products to South America."

The line for the conference was laid down by Dr. Getulio Vargas, President of Brazil, who said that his nation was "determined to defend its territory inch by inch against incursions, and would not permit its land or coastal waters to be used as vantage points for aggression against its sister nations."

Chief obstacle in the way of the unity, Mr. Welles is commissioned to see that the Axis ensure is socky, black-browed Ramon Castillo, dictator-in-the-

While they were in conference with the 10 other Foreign Ministers of Latin America there arrived at Rio's airport the man who may be the means of swinging the Argentine to the Democratic cause—Deputy Paul Taborda.

Taborda is the man Castillo tried to silence. It was he who led the weeks-long investigation of Nazi activities in the Argentine.

Research job for Lindbergh

Express Staff Reporter NEW YORK, Thursday.—Colonel Lindbergh, once America's chief isolationist, is now devoting his time to a technical project in which the War Department is interested.—Mr. Stimson, War Secretary, revealed today.

"Mr. Lindbergh asked me," said Mr. Stimson, "if he could be of use to the Government. I told him we always wanted help and advice, and he told me his most useful contribution would be technical experimentation."

SAFE DEPOSIT

"Are you absolutely sure that this is absolutely safe?"

"Entirely secure, sir, humanly speaking. We are deep underground, sir, the walls are of reinforced concrete many feet thick, and the main door weighs forty-seven and three-quarter tons. There are other precautions which I am not at liberty to mention."

"I'm glad to hear it, because this is a very special parcel."

"We are used to special parcels here, sir. Diamond farms, bank coffers, bonds, deeds and documents are all entrusted to our care."

ROSE'S—the Wise Man's Nightcap

I always think of FOX'S Glacier MINTS

AS "MORE THAN A SWEET"

Their Digestive and Refreshing Qualities combined with the Delicious Glacier Flavour make them almost a necessity

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That's how every one wants to feel—and needs to feel to-day. There was never greater need for Energy, Vitality, Strength and Confidence. Vitamin Yeast, in the highly concentrated, convenient form of Yestamin Tablets, will enable you to overcome Fatigue, strain and Depression—will protect you against: Nausea, Pity, Indigestion, Constipation and other common ailments.

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You can't risk a cold now. Attack it at the first sign with the wonderful quick double-action remedy and get instant relief...

THERMOGENE VAPOUR RUB

Ask for T.V.R.

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Permanently Yours Eugene

Printed and Published by the London Express Newspaper, Ltd., Fleet Street, London, England. G.L. Anglo-American, Ltd., 11, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

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