

U.S. CONTROL OF FARMS POSSIBLE

By International News Service.

Memphis, Tenn., April 28.—Should the United States government assume control of the farm lands, indicating what crops are to be planted?

The question is being asked following discovery of a peculiar situation. Land owners in many sections of the South will not permit their tenants to plant food and feed stuffs. They insist on cotton being planted.

They explain that negro tenants who raise cotton cannot cheat them out of their rents. Where corn and grain are produced the negroes feed their stock out of it, use the grain for food and give and sell it to their less fortunate neighbors.

The land owners claim they cannot keep a check on the amount of feed and food stuff raised, but they can check the tenant up on cotton. Cotton must be ginned before it is sold. Each ginner can keep a record of the amount of cotton ginned for each negro tenant, and the landlord has no trouble in collecting his tolls.

One owner of several thousand acres of land told all his negro tenants that if one of them planted a row of corn he would be "run off the place." Investigation has shown that even in the boll weevil districts, where the insects have made the raising of cotton unprofitable, the land owners are still insisting that this one crop be planted. Many negro farmers last season were unable to produce enough cotton to buy feed for their live stock and food for themselves.

It is suggested that the government or the State, or the two working together, assume control of certain plantations and insist the tenants be given the right to plant food and feed crops if they so desire, regardless of the views of the landowners.

HOW STEEL WILL COUNT AGAINST GERMANY

By International News Service.

Pittsburg, April 28.—If success in war is a matter of steel, as the experts insist, then the entrance of the United States into the war is of paramount importance.

In August, 1914, the steel-making countries stood as follows: Entente Powers, Great Britain, Canada, Belgium, France and Russia; Central Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary; neutrals, United States, Italy and Sweden. The world's steel made elsewhere was not 1 per cent of the total. The alignment as to steel-making capacity was as follows:

	Per cent.
Entente Allies	27.8
Central Powers	28.8
Neutrals	43.4

The German purpose, as was readily recognized very early in the war, was to occupy Belgium, comprising 33 per cent of the world's steel-making capacity, and the eastern portion of France, in which about three-fourths of the French steel-making capacity was located. Thereby the Entente lost about 8.3 per cent of their 27.8 per cent; but Italy's entrance into the war gave them 1.2 per cent, leaving them 20.7 per cent of the total, against their enemy's 27.1.

Just before the United States entered the war the alignment stood as follows, in terms of per cent, of the world's original capacity:

	Per cent.
Entente Allies	23.0
Central Powers	28.9
Neutrals	60.3

Total 112.2

Putting the United States into the war, the alignment of production comes out as follows:

	Per cent.
Entente Allies	76.3
Central Powers	25.7
Neutrals	7

The neutral is Sweden. All other countries that produce steel worthy of mention are at war, and the proportion is almost three to one against the Central Powers.

MOUNTAIN FIDDLERS PROTEST PRINTED NOTES

Atlanta, Ga., April 28.—The annual Old-Time Fiddlers' Convention, held here, was out of harmony several minutes one night while the delegates discussed whether or not an old-time fiddler should be permitted to play a printed tune.

The convention was moving along famously, the mountaineers sawing away, keeping time with their heavy cowhide boots, Dock Wells, a Union county fiddler, was next on the program. He announced his intention of playing a new tune, known as the "Memphis Blues," and before the startled audience could catch its breath he was sawing away on a strange tune, all the while reading notes from a book resting on a stand.

A dozen mountaineers finally recovered from their surprise sufficiently to jump to their feet and make a protest. Most of the old-timers followed. There was a long drawn out debate. A resolution was finally passed that a fiddler might play a new tune from "printing" for "demonstration purposes only."

MATS ARE CAUSE OF MARITAL BREAK-UP

Chicago, April 28.—Mrs. John W. Olson's prime weakness was hats. But her husband found little interest in the millinery magazines with which their home was strewn. Neither did he enjoy standing before show windows in which Parisian creations were exhibited. That is where the trouble started.

"Billy" Stamm was twenty-two, well favored and good looking. He adored millinery and he was an artist at turning out nifty headgear from a miscellaneous assortment of trimmings. So Stamm, being an old friend of the family, became an extremely friendly person to Mrs. Olson, and finally they opened a hat store together. Then Olson left home. He has filed suit for divorce, naming Stamm, whose ability to trim hats, he alleges, has wrecked the Olson home.

\$600 IS NEEDED FOR THE BABIES

The work at St. Vincent's Asylum is progressing rapidly and a visit to the asylum yesterday showed that part of the screening was completed and some of the babies were in their new white cribs, enjoying the pure air and sunshine; some were still pale and frail from their recent illness, but others had regained their strength and color and were cooing and gurgling quite as if they wanted to thank the kind friends who had come to their help, for saving them.

Doctor Ryan, the good physician of the asylum, expressed his delight with the change, but he felt that to complete the good work the screening of the front gallery for the creeping babies should be done. The gentle sister who has charge of the tiny babies pleaded for them. "If I could just get my babies that crawl about into the fresh air too, I should be happy." The little ones who creep about need a separate place as they would be hurt crawling about where the cribs are. It is a necessity to screen the small gallery of the isolation ward, that was overlooked. Six hundred dollars (\$600.00) more would include this screening and complete the work. Much has been given in memory of the dead so that halcyon memories, and the flutter of angels' wings will surely bless the babies and comfort the givers. Many whose hearts are pitiful to these little ones have given; some a mile in tender sympathy, and some a generous gift made with personal sacrifices. Outside of the city where the N. O. Bee brought the appeal many have listened and generously helped, so we almost hesitate to ask for more, yet we must, since it will take six hundred dollars more to complete the work of rescue.

Perhaps others may wish to add a small sum to the five dollars contributed in memory of the Archbishop whose last interest was this asylum that he loved and almost his last act the signing of a letter pleading for the babies so it would be a fit memorial.

Donations since the last report have been received from:

Mrs. Patout Burguiere, Boston, La.	30.00
Mrs. McCarthy	1.00
St. Vincent de Paul Society	50.00
Rolon Touge	1.00
L. Sandson	10.00
Mrs. Theo. McEvoy	21.00
Through the Times-Picayune	2.75
Flower	10.00
Mrs. Walter Flower	100.00
Mrs. George Demegre, towards the extra screening	5.00
A generous little child, Nina, from Ancona, La.	71
And another from Harvey, La., her little savings	71

These gifts are especially touching. Bayne Demegre gives a gold crucifix to be disposed of for the babies.

The lady who gave the card party was Mrs. Dyall.

Donations may be sent to: Mrs. George Demegre, President, St. Vincent's Sewing Circle, 3165 Prytania Street.

Mrs. Walter Flower, 1805 Coliseum Street, or to The Sisters at the Asylum, Race and Magazine Streets.

MUSICAL PROGRESS IN ITALY HAS NOT BEEN STIFLED BY THE WAR

By CAMILLO CIANFARRA, International News Staff Correspondent.

Rome, April 28.—The majority of Italy's artists, poets, musicians, painters, sculptors are doing their duty at the front, but the few left behind on account of being beyond military age are not idle. In fact, while the guns thunder day and night and the nation is breathlessly awaiting military events of unusual magnitude, three new lyric operas have been composed and two of them already produced.

The first of the operas produced was by Puccini, and it bears a symbolic title, "Bondine" (the Swallow). According to the story, which the author himself told, it was Weiberger, head of a well-known Vienna music publishing house, who a year before the great conflict broke out, suggested the new opera on a libretto furnished by an Austrian poet. Weiberger wanted a light, comic opera, but as Signor Puccini felt no inclination whatever for that kind of music he soon abandoned the work and resumed his hunting and fishing excursions. Two years later, when the fever of working again seized him, it occurred to him that the "Swallow" libretto, with a few modifications, would lend itself better than any other in his possession to the music of a lyric opera of the "Tosca" and "Boheme" variety.

Puccini is a slow worker. He is too lazy to revise and correct his scores, and so he never puts down a bar unless he is satisfied that it is just what he wants. It has taken nearly three years to compose the "Bondine."

The first two acts take place in Paris, one in the apartment of Magda, a beautiful, sentimental young woman, who, in the realm of operatic heroines, is a sister of the Violetta immortalized by Verdi. Magda's apartment is frequented by students of the Latin Quarter and other young women of Magda's class. One day Rinaldo, a man of mature years, introduces to Magda, of whom he is the official protector, Ruggiero, a student, who has just arrived in Paris to attend the university. Magda likes the naive young man, and finally discovers that she loves him more than she loves Rinaldo. Ruggiero is divinely happy, and he soon conceives the idea of marrying her, provided his mother gives her consent.

As Rinaldo becomes more and more repulsive to Magda, Ruggiero induces her to elope, and the third act shows them in a perfumed retreat of the Cote d'Azur. Magda is happy and Ruggiero is pensive. He has written to his mother for her consent and is eagerly awaiting a reply. At last the letter arrives, and when the young man informs Magda that he can now call her his wife, the smile flees from Magda's face and she becomes in her turn pensive and reserved. When Ruggiero asks her to explain why she spurns his caresses Magda curtly informs him that she can't become his wife. The young man refuses to believe it, and asks in vain for the true reason. When finally the veil drops from his eyes and he guesses the truth he admits his dream of love and happiness has been irreparably shattered. The curtain falls as Magda leaves Ruggiero, never to return.

The music of the new opera is melodious and simple. As the composer has himself said, when he began to compose the score, he was eager to sing, sing with all his might, with his heart and soul, regardless of schools, methods, technique and other restrictions. One of the features of the "Swallow" is that it contains no role for a baritone.

The second opera bears also an ornithological name, "Lodoletta" (little lark), and is by Mascagni. The libretto portrays a Dutch-French idyl, and those who have read it say the happy combinations of French and Dutch elements has resulted in something highly picturesque and exquisitely beautiful.

The first act shows a Dutch village scene in progress in honor of Lodoletta, who is a founding and has been brought up by Antonio, a poor laborer. The children of the village and many grown-up persons bring presents to the girl. Toward the end Flammen, a young exiled French painter, strolls into the village, and, on seeing a painting of the Virgin on the wall of Antonio's house, offers to buy it. When the offer is refused he asks for the permission to copy it. Antonio receives a gold piece which enables him to purchase and present to Lodoletta a pair of red slippers. The act ends tragically, Antonio falls from an apple tree which he has climbed to pick some fruit for Lodoletta, and dies immediately.

The second act takes place in Flammen's house. The girl has

MUSICAL PROGRESS IN ITALY HAS NOT BEEN STIFLED BY THE WAR

fallen in love with the painter, and Flammen fully reciprocates the passion. The town is full of scandalous gossips, but their love so far is of a platonic nature. Gianpinto, who has heard the gossip, goes to see the girl, inviting her to leave the painter's house. When she refuses he hints darkly at what is being said and predicts for her a life of shame. The girl is appalled, and when Flammen calls at her house she entreats him to leave. The artist realizes how dangerous is his association with the girl and, though he loves her, he prouly never to meet her again.

The third act takes place in Paris. The Emperor has pardoned Flammen, who has returned to his studio in the Latin Quarter. It is New Year's Eve and the painter is surrounded by gay friends and models. But he fails to join in the merry-making. His mind and his heart are both in the little Dutch village where Lodoletta lives.

But at that moment Lodoletta is dying at the threshold of his house, where she has fallen exhausted by hunger and cold. With Lodoletta love had been stronger than duty. After the artist left she had realized she could not live without him. Consequently she had left Paris on foot in the hope of joining him in the French capital. At midnight, when Flammen opens the door, he discovers Lodoletta and dies with her.

The third opera is by a young Italian composer, Gianni Bucicchi, and has just been produced in Naples.

PRESS AGENT FOR DENVER DIOCESE

By International News Service.

Denver, Colo., April 28.—The dignified Episcopal diocese of Colorado has a press agent.

It has come home to the churches of the diocese that they need live advertising just as much as any business enterprise. Therefore, the Rev. S. R. Gray, pastor of Emmanuel Church and vicar of West Denver, has been named to do the work.

He is not the sort of "director of publicity" that writes reams of copy about the world-astounding, astonishing and amazing attractions of some oil well or gold mine or circus or theatrical performance, but a hustling, live wire writer none the less, who tracks around to the newspaper offices and keeps the special services and other doing of Denver's various Episcopal houses a township before the public.

TREASON IN ST. AUGUSTINE

Officials of Once Fortified City Ran Down a Glaring Case

New York Evening Sun: St. Augustine, Fla.—When the police department reported to City Manager Miller that some one had hung out a German flag City Manager Miller took prompt, decisive steps befitting the head of the most up-to-date form of commission government. He reported to the Federal government, in the person of Postmaster Hopkins. Remembering that they had charge of a fortified city—St. Augustine was fortified in the sixteenth century—they set out immediately to find the flag and lodge a charge of treason.

They found no alien ensign, but they summoned Policeman McCormick, who had made the report. A formal hearing was held at once, bringing out evidence of which the following is a transcript:

Q.—How did you know it was a German flag?

A.—Well, I know it was no American flag.

Q.—Did it have an iron cross on it and "Gott mit uns"?

A.—No, but it did have these letters, "E pluribus unum."

Q.—"E pluribus unum." What did you make of that?

A.—Well, I know enough to know that means "to hell with the Union." (Hearing adjourned sine die. No action taken.)

JAP FORT BUILT TO DEFY PERRY FOR SALE

By International News Service.

Tokyo, April 28.—A relic of the visit of Commodore Matthew Perry of the United States navy to Japan in 1853 has been put up for sale at auction by the Japanese government. This is one of the island forts in Tokyo Bay. Five of these forts were built just off Tokyo during the winter between the first and second visits of President Millard Fillmore's emissary. With these forts the Japanese hoped to be able to defy the "Black Ships" of the American commodore's squadron. They were never used, however, and are to-day only pleasing looking dots of green in the blue of the bay. The government has decided to dispose of them.

DICTIONARY OF UP-TO-DATE SLANG

New York, April 28.—What with Billy Sunday's sermons filling the newspapers and the latest issue of the Police Bulletin—the monthly publication of the police department—devoting its columns to discussion on "Criminal Slang," there is no necessity for anybody using pure English in this town.

"While the police department does not give official sanction to the use of this vocabulary," apologizes the article about "Criminal Slang" in the current Bulletin, "it is mindful of the fact that the members of the force are in close touch with characters who limit themselves to its use, and a reading will no doubt prove of interest."

One has scarcely begun to give the Bulletin's brief list the case over and the up and down when it becomes evident that the dips and yeggs have no respect for even the most impressive solemnities of society.

Take, for instance, so impressive a function as a wake; an educated cop would call such an affair either a "function" or a domestic calamity, or something equally classy. But not the yeggs and gunmen. Painfully the Police Bulletin explains that the roughneck guys so far forget themselves as to refer to a wake as "a cold meat party."

Here are some choice extracts from the same vocabulary, as reported by the police:

A Title Tapper—One who raises money on forged deeds.

A Flying Jib—A talkative intoxicated person.

A Cold Meat Party—A wake.

Anchor—A stay of execution.

A Valentine—A short term sentence.

A Moll Buzzer—A thief who steals from women only.

A Gun Moll—A woman thief.

Bunger—A discolored eye.

Blowers—Empty safes.

A Board Stiff—A walking advertisement.

Buzzer—A mean person.

Cannon—A pistol.

Coffin Vornish—Bad whiskey.

Chuck—Food.

Croaker—A doctor.

Daisies—Boots.

Damper Getter—Thieves who rob from money drawers.

Front—Watch and chain.

Fullback—A friend in need.

Fill In—To be one of a party.

Gopher—A safe.

Holed—Either to be armed or to have plenty of money.

Kipp—Lodging house or home.

Lam—To run.

Pad Money—Money used for lodgings.

Peter Man or a Box Man—A safe blower.

Roust—To jostle.

A Stone Getter—A thief who steals diamonds.

Stick and Slug—Keep together and fight.

Spill—Railroad terminal.

Scratcher—A forger.

THE SALMON BOATS HELD UP

Reports of Submarines in the Pacific Scare Italian Fishermen

San Francisco Bulletin: Reports of enemy submarines in Pacific waters, coupled with the immediate prospect of Alaska going dry as the result of Federal legislation, has caused a near strike among the Italian and Sicilian fishermen, who are refusing to sign for the summer fishing season with the Northern salmon fleet.

Approximately two thousand fishermen are involved, and the Alaska Packers' Association, Libby, McNeil & Libby and other concerns engaged in the salmon packing business are facing a serious problem in securing men to take their place.

At the beginning of the season there was some difficulty with the Italians and Sicilians over wages, the fishermen demanding a schedule of five cents a fish in place of the two-cent rate that has for many years prevailed. This difficulty had no more than been settled when news of measures upon the part of the Federal government to make Alaska "home dry" caused another hurry among the fishermen.

To add to this difficulty came reports to the Navy Department of the activities of German submarines in the Pacific. The reports caused great excitement among the Italians and Sicilians, and a party of two hundred of them, who arrived here from Pittsburgh on the San Joaquin river, immediately stored their baggage instead of going aboard the fishing boats.

An effort will be made to convince the Latins that there is no danger from submarines in Northern waters, and that the prospect of Alaska going dry is still some time off.

EXAMPLE OF THE EVIL OF HOARDING

New York, April 28.—Hoarding of sugar by American consumers has led to suspension of export business to meet an abnormal demand for the staple, Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company said in a statement approving the plan suggested by Herbert C. Hoover, national food commissioner, for co-operation between the United States and the Entente Allies in handling food problems.

Pointing out what he declared was a situation in which American refiners have been bidding not only against one another for raw material, but against the Entente governments' commissions, Mr. Babst asserted that Mr. Hoover's co-operative proposal should be considered of as much if not more value to America than to our allies.

"It would help to take the fever out of the situation," Mr. Babst added, "it would be a bulwark against sensational reports leading to consumer panics, such as the sugar industry is struggling with today in many parts of the country. There is consumer hoarding of sugar which is tending unnecessarily to raise prices and especially to embarrass the manufacturing and preserving industries of the country. Refiners have had to suspend the export business to meet this frantic and abnormal demand. This scramble has been going on for weeks in spite of the assurance that there are ample supplies for normal consumption and for the saving of the fruit crop."

"Last year the United States exported more than seven hundred thousand tons of refined sugar. This country has refining capacity to refine one million tons of sugar for our allies without skimping normal domestic requirements. Housewives can do their bit by paying attention to stories and by buying sugar in usual quantities and not in advance of household needs."

BRITAIN'S FOOD STOCK LOW

Lord Devonport Again Warns People They Are Near Privation

London, April 28.—The British public has been solemnly warned by Lord Devonport, the British food controller, that the country's supplies of grain and other foodstuffs are being depleted at a rate which may result in the next harvest was reached.

Lord Devonport's warning was issued in the House of Lords in response to a question by Lord Lamington as to what success had attended the efforts at voluntary rationing and whether the government intended to resort to compulsion.

In a long reply Lord Devonport recited the extensive efforts being made by press, pulpit and school, and also by local committees to impress on the community the urgency of food restrictions. He said that it might be described as a general election on a grand scale with the view of soliciting the allegiance of every citizen, particularly the women, to reduce their consumption of bread.

AGED JAP SOLONS TO CARRY CANDLES IN PALACE

By International News Service.

Tokyo, April 28.—Ordinary mortals who are privileged to enter the palace of the Mikado of Japan are not permitted to wear hats or overcoats or to carry walking sticks.

A special dispensation, however, has been made in the case of four aged statesmen who are frequent visitors to the imperial palace. These men are allowed to carry candles into the palace. They are Prince Yamagata, chief of the Geigo and considered the real power behind the throne; Marquis Okuma, former Premier; Count Hazaki and Count Kabayama. The first two are eighty years old; the last two a year older.

NO CHANGE FOR WAR PROHIBITION

Washington, April 28.—In laying their plans for raising nearly 2 billion dollars for war expenses from taxation, House leaders are proceeding upon the belief that there will be no nation-wide prohibition legislation at this session of Congress. Even many of the most optimistic prohibition champions now are hoping for no more than a law forbidding the sale of liquor to soldiers or sailors.

The case against any attempt at general prohibition legislation has been based upon the argument that a constitutional amendment could not be adopted and put into effect in less than a year or more, and that the government needs the revenue from liquor taxes for the war chest.

The ways and means subcommittee, which is drafting a preliminary revenue bill, is being urged to increase the levies on whisky and beer to the highest possible figure. The proposal is being seriously considered and big advances in the present tax of \$1.10 a gallon on whisky and \$1.50 a barrel on beer are certain to be recommended by the full committee.

Some committee members have gone so far as to suggest that the tax on whisky should be raised to \$5.11 a gallon, the present English rate. The whisky tax, according to a reliable authority, is certain to be more than \$2 a gallon. The income from distilled spirits last year was approximately 159 million dollars, and it would not be surprising, it was declared tonight, if the tax were raised to such a point as to yield between 400 million and 500 million dollars this year. Beer taxes last year amounted to 89 million dollars, but under the present plans the income from this source will be increased more than 100 million dollars.

THE FLAG OF LEXINGTON

Still Preserved in Public Library at Bedford, Mass.

From "The Stars and Stripes: Other American Flags" by Paul Harrison: Under what flag fought the "unbattered farmers' fight" was no national flag, but a provincial flag, which was a flag of the revolution.

The flag is now preserved under glass in a fireproof safe of the Public Library at Bedford, Mass. The ground is crimson colored satin damask emblazoned with an outstretched arm, in the hand of which is an uplifted sword. This representation is the color of silver, as are three circular figures that are probably intended to represent cannon balls. Upon a gold colored scroll are the words, "Vincit et Morituro" (Conquer or die). The flag is about two feet long by one foot six inches wide.

SEND THEM TO BONE-DRY STATES

Philadelphia North American: A move is on foot among women physicians of this city for the formation of a confidential bureau under the recently proposed labor (denial) house at Washington, through which men addicted to drink could be transferred on their own application to substitute for enlisted farmers and laborers in "bone dry States."

"There are many men who because of their drinking habits and physical disability, would be barred from active service, and yet who are anxious to work for their country," said Dr. Lida Stewart McGill, who is one of the women behind the movement. "If these men could be given a chance to fill the places of men in dry States they could make good, and at the same time be given a chance to overcome their weakness."

"The bureau should be confidential. It need not be necessary for anyone to know the circumstances but the employer, farmers and tradesmen in any line, who suffer from dry States, could apply for such men to take their place while they are gone. Many of them would make good, and come back at the end of the war broken of the drink habit."

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