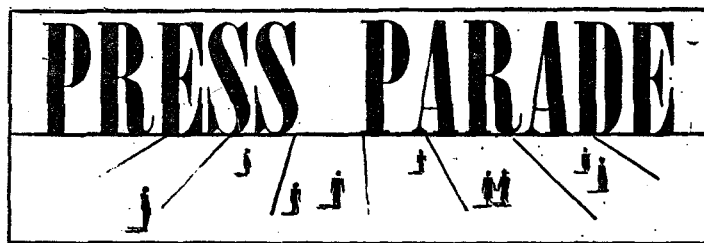


original production ideas. The company admitted recently that such ideas have in the past been responsible for improvements "equivalent to the work of 250 men."

Of great importance was the formation several weeks ago of a council by the eight major aircraft manufacturers of California. This is serving as a "clearing house" to help eliminate production snags and bottlenecks through exchanging parts and materials "wherever possible." Labor had been proposing something along this line for months. An example of the kind of bottlenecks that need to be cracked: during the height of the Japanese attack on the East Indies, completed Lockheed-Vega planes destined for Australia were held up for lack of engines when a batch of exactly the needed type were lying unused at the Douglas plant just a few miles away. But there was no agency to bring air-frames and motors together. Or there is the kind of selfish individualism recently cited by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold: a company holding a patent on an important "gadget"—a hollow type screw fastener—kept scores of otherwise completed planes here and elsewhere in the country grounded.

ON THE other side of the production front the split in aviation labor's ranks due to the existence of two competing unions, the UAW-CIO and the International Union of Machinists (AFL), has been to some extent bridged by the establishment of a "unity for victory" committee as part of the remarkable unity movement among organized labor that has spread up and down the coast, from Seattle to San Diego. One of the first acts of this committee was to call on the government to initiate a basic conference among employers, unions, and Army and Navy representatives to work out plans for increasing production of fighting planes.

There still remains the problem of bringing the whole cooperative program closer to the rank and file. A large number of workers are still in the dark about it and even if they have some general idea of what it's about, they may not know exactly where they fit in. The Nelson office has worked out excellent suggestions for popularizing the plan with the man at the bench. These include such features as scoreboards, posters, suggestion boxes, bulletin boards, literature tables, prizes, surveys of idle machinery, and slogan contests. However, there is still much to be done to encourage participation of the workers in the solution of actual production problems. There seems to be an inclination to shy away from "too many subcommittees" and to rely chiefly on suggestion boxes to encourage workers' ideas. There is seemingly a fear that chaos would result if the production plan were broken down too finely. Just the opposite is true, as has been demonstrated in a number of cases. The most spectacular example of this on the West Coast has been the joint committee in the important sheet metal fabricating department of the Vega Aircraft Co. This committee was set up at the initiative



Doin' the Cliveden Crawl

Doff the war,
put off the war,
latch it, cache it,
stow it, elbow it,
kick it, trick it,
store it, ignore it,
bored with it,
overboard with it;
donkey-pin it,
Mickey Finn it,
anything but win it.

Eve Merriam.

The Military Experts

WE are indebted to the New York "Post" for reminding us that on June 20, 1941, Charles Augustus Lindbergh told a meeting in the Hollywood Bowl:

"The area, the terrains, and the climatic conditions of Great Britain are not advantageous for flying. Enemy air bases on the continent of Europe curve around her in almost a semi-circle. No matter how many fighting planes we build in America and send to England, it is not possible to base enough squadrons in the British Isles to equal in striking power the squadrons that Germany can base on the continent of Europe. English cities and industrial areas are within easy reach of enemy bombers, while British bombers must fly much farther to reach similar enemy objectives."

"... the initiative in the Kharkov sector was passing, as expected, to the Nazis."—Hanson W. Baldwin, New York "Times," May 24, 1942.

"The Germans claim the victory because their flank attack stopped the Russian drive before Kharkov had fallen. . . . But at all times they were on the defensive. Their violent counter-attacks from Barvenkova were only part of this defense, a defense imposed

of union members and with the cooperation of the department supervision the day following Pearl Harbor. It has been responsible for a close to 100 percent increase in production. Yet despite this record, the company has thus far refused to spread the idea to other departments.

Though the unions have led the way in stimulating production, they have not always been as farsighted as they should be. Strong remnants of "unionism as usual" still remain among some of them. There is also a tendency to throw up hands in disgust because of the reluctance of some companies to adopt the

on them from the beginning."—Editorial in the New York "Times," June 2, 1942.

Fletcher Pratt, the I-too-read-a-few-books military "expert," has not been missed from the New York "Post" since his last article appeared on May 8. Fact is that article, in which he announced that the battle of the Coral Sea was "a defeat, a bad one," for our side won him a permanent vacation by request. This was on a par with Pratt's feat of last June when he singlehandedly annihilated the Red Army. The "Post" waited eleven months too long.

Mr. Pound's Sympathizers

"Mr. Pound [Ezra] and his English wife, the former Dorothy Shakespear, are now forced to live entirely on the poet's earnings from his propaganda broadcasts for the Italian government, Miss Horton said. As their income from the broadcasts is not very large, she continued, the Pounds find it necessary to live carefully. . . .

"Pound told Miss Horton that he attempted to return to the United States last year to lecture on Fascism, of which he is an ardent convert, but he was unable to get transportation. He told her that he had several sympathizers among members of the United States Senate whom he met on his last visit to this country in 1939."

New York "Herald Tribune."

Confusion Department

"THE greatest outburst of applause greeted the name of Robert Bridges, now under deportation order as a Communist. . . ."—New York "Times," June 4. Robert Bridges was a poet and he's dead. The man whom Attorney General Biddle is trying to deport has plenty of poetry in him, but his name is Harry and he's a labor leader and very much alive.

Nelson plan, and this has often obscured the steady education of employers to an acceptance of the plan. A number of unions have also done too little in acquainting their members with the production program, confining themselves to narrow bread-and-butter considerations.

Yet despite all difficulties, Pacific Coast production is forging rapidly ahead. The people in this part of the nation are aware of their extraordinary responsibilities. And the great majority of them are responding in the spirit of the Tacoma-Seattle shipyard worker: "Can do!"

BERT TALCOTT.

SPAIN IS WAITING

by General Ignacio
Hidalgo de Cisneros



Mexico City. (By mail)

WE ARE to expect in the next few weeks the most important and strongest military operations of this war. The German General Staff will logically aim at one of two principal objectives, the occupation of Moscow, Leningrad, and Murmansk or an attack on the south—primarily aimed to establish contact with the Japanese.

If the first of these two objectives were achieved, Hitler would have dealt a very serious moral and material blow at the Soviet Union. He would have cut the northern road of supplies and would have some excellent bases at his army's disposal for next winter's campaign. These would make up in part for the lack of winter quarters.

The second great objective, the attack through the south, can be attempted following three different directions: through the southern Soviet front, through Turkey, or through Cyrenaica and Egypt in Africa. Success in any of these three would lead to the same result—the possession of the oil wells and a juncture with the Japanese. Any one of these three roads has both advantages and disadvantages. The first road, that is, the road through the Caucasus, has for the Germans one very great advantage besides that of concentrating their forces on the Stalino-Rostov front; the rapid acquisition of oil which they so urgently need. There is only one obstacle for the Germans along this route, the Red Army.

The second road, through Turkey, can be either plain sailing or full of storms, according to whether or not the Turks decide to defend themselves. If the Turks, as is to be expected, defend their territory, they can hold the Nazis or at least slow down their advance considerably until Soviet, British, and American reinforcements can reach them. If Turkey gives way before the Nazis without fighting, Hitler will find himself owner of another country with all its resources and the German divisions placed without a shot on the borders of Syria, Iraq, and Iran—three countries easy to occupy.

Lastly, the attack through Cyrenaica for the control of the Suez Canal, if successfully completed, would give the Germans such clear advantages that it is hardly necessary to point them out. One of the most important would be the absolute control of the Mediterranean. With Suez in the hands of the Nazis, the British fleet would be bottled up without harbors, as Malta is notoriously inadequate. The Mediterranean fleet at the Valetta would present a perfect target for Axis planes. The Straits of Gibraltar can be closed by Franco as soon as Hitler orders him to do so. The Italian fleet, combined with the Japanese and the French ships turned over by Laval to

the Axis, will have a decided superiority in the Indian Ocean. This combined naval strength would make landings of Axis troops possible anywhere in Asia and in East Africa. By thus interrupting the present roads of supplies, the situation would be changed in Asia and Africa in favor of the Axis.

These are the probable military operations which Hitler will undertake in the next few weeks. He has no other way out but to stake all his resources on one of these three objectives—reaching one of them is a matter of life or death. That is why a renewed powerful Axis attack should be expected.

WHAT can the democracies do to prevent or counter this blow? The answer is relatively simple. Place all their might and their resources into the coming struggle; understand the gravity of the situation and open a second front.

England and the United States must not doubt that the peoples of Europe under Hitler's terror anxiously await an opportunity to turn against their oppressors. The landing forces of the United Nations anywhere in Nazi-trodden Europe are sure to find the support of countless civilians who, together with the landing troops, can obtain a decisive victory.

Not to establish a second front now would be suicidal.

The Red Army has shown the world that the Nazis are not invincible. The Soviet people have also proved that when a country is really willing to fight, it does not take stock of its sacrifices nor count its losses. The Red Army, fighting alone since June not only against the powerful German forces, but against Italian, Czech, Rumanian, Finnish, Hungarian, etc., troops as well, has been able to withstand their heaviest blows and throw them back. The world has regained faith in victory and the conquered nations reach once more for freedom. All this the Soviet Union has achieved through enormous sacrifices, placing everything at stake. It is only natural that these sacrifices be shared by all the United Nations, since all face a common peril and all have a common interest in assuring victory this year.

Where to open this second front? This is something the High Commands and General Staffs of the United Nations will have carefully studied. They are the ones to decide.

But this second front must be a land front. Bombardments, however strong and continuous, cannot solve the present critical situation. Of course, air attacks can be extremely effective; they can cause great damage and keep busy part of the enemy's air forces which would otherwise be used at the front. But air power alone will not stop Hitler.