

PRODUCTION

L. I. Sunoco. Tues. Jan. 13, 1942

The President has appointed a Number One Production Boss, a single head to control our vast armament building ~~by~~ program, a director with full power and responsibility. He's Donald Nelson, who hitherto has been director of the supply priorities allocation ~~board~~ board.

For a long time there's been a call for one-man-control to take the place of the various agencies that have been directing war production. There's been a complaint about the division of authority, and ever since the Japanese attack on the United States, the demand for one-man-control has increased.

The President announces that there will be a supreme war production board, with Donald Nelson as its head. The President distinctly asserted that Nelson would have the power to make final ~~decisions~~ decisions.

decisions, and that ~~firm~~ term "final decisions"
means -- full authority.

MALAYA

The news from Malaya tonight features that short but all important word -- air. Aviation activity increased sharply today, with a larger number of planes battling along the fighting lines and over Singapore. Many more planes of the United Nations were in action, which would indicate that strong air reinforcements have arrived -- British, Dutch, and probably American. This ~~type~~ ties in with a statement yesterday -- that the United Nations would have air superiority ^{over} ~~of the~~ Malayan ~~area~~ within a few days.

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In London today official military circles declined to make any comment on that assertion -- ~~air superiority within several days.~~ But they ^{merely} stated that Allied air strength is being concentrated in the Far East.

If there were more United Nations planes in the Malayan sky today, there were also more Japanese.

The tempo of enemy air raids has been stepped up during the past twenty-four hours, and today the Japs staged daylight bombing attacks on the Singapore area.

Their losses too have been higher -- at least eleven bombers are reported destroyed. ~~ix~~ Singapore explains that the increase of Jap air raiding is to be

attributed to the seizure of air bases closer to

Singapore. ^{now} The enemy has captured fifteen British flying fields in the advance down the Malay Peninsula.

Ground fighting is sporadic, more or less, with the British retiring to new positions one hundred and fifty miles north of Singapore. Their line is ^{now at} ~~at~~

Sereban, capital of the Malay Sultanate of Negri Sembilan. The Imperial forces are demolishing ~~xxxxxxkxix~~ everything as they draw back -- the scorched earth policy. The Japanese tell graphically of burning towns and blown-up buildings left in their path, fires

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lighting the sky. They say the British blew up bridges and placed land mines along the jungle trails. The Japs tell plaintively of the difficulties they are having. They say they are battling not only against the Imperial forces but against parching heat, tropical maladies, and the evils of the jungle. A Tokyo dispatch speaks of "jungle Malice," which is not a bad term.

Well, it would appear that they are going to have an increasing portion of that -- "jungle malice," ~~Because~~ ~~after~~ as they draw near ~~to~~ Singapore the terrain becomes increasingly difficult -- rugged mountains, and more and more jungle. I've been talking ^{again} about this to Carveth Wells, author and explorer, who lived and worked in Malaya for years. ^{We were discussing} ~~He tells~~ ~~me that in~~ Johore, the Malay State just above Singapore, ^{where there is a} ~~there's a~~ maximum of equatorial forest. And the coast

is dense with mangrove swamp, that weird wilderness ^{and}
~~xxx~~ morass ^{of} fantastic trees peculiar to southern
Asia.

~~Garveth Wells told me that in the area just~~
~~above Singapore there's~~ ^{no} first-class network of
roads, such as has helped the Japs further north in
the rich lands of rubber plantations and tin mines.
Nor are there ports and rivers just above Singapore --
the kind that facilitated Japanese landings further
north. From now on, the lay of the land will provide
tougher going for the enemy.

EAST INDIES

There are indications tonight of two new Japanese invasion^s in the Dutch East Indies. The indications are -- heavy air bombing. Today Jap sky fleets opened an attack on the central coast of Celebes. ~~That's~~ ^{crooked finger} The big ~~strangely~~ shaped island east ~~part~~ of Borneo. And enemy planes opened fire on the Island of Ternate. That's a hundred and fifty miles south of Celebes, ~~and is~~ in the Molucca group -- the legended spice island of old. The importance of these two air attacks in the Dutch East Indies lies in the fact that hitherto Japanese landings have been preceded by heavy air operations. So it may be that they're about to attempt invasions on the ^{central} ~~simple~~ Celebes Coast, and ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ the ~~island in the~~ Moluccas.

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The Dutch are striking with all their power against Japanese landings -- striking through the air. That small but surprising Dutch Air Force is going all out against enemy warship and transports. In the Past two days they've scored bomb hits on two

Japanese cruisers and four troop ships.

The Dutch military authorities now admit the fall of Tarakan the rich oil island off the coast of North Borneo. It was announced officially today that all the oil fields and equipment at Tarakan were completely destroyed before the Japs took over. Batavia says it will take months before the Japs can get the oil fields working again -- producing petroleum.

PHILIPPINES

There's a rousing American note in the news from the Philippines. We Americans have a legended heritage of marksmanship -- sharp shooting tradition coming down from the pioneers of old. We're also proud of our ability to build guns -- artillery. And that gives a fine flavor of Americanism to the news.

~~For~~ ^{has} in the huge artillery duel that lasted for twenty-four hours General MacArthur's batteries forced the Japs to withdraw their heavy guns to the rear -- after heavy losses. ^{TP} General MacArthur's communique states that eleven enemy batteries were

silenced. It tells us the following: "In twenty-four hours of continuous artillery fighting, American and Filipino batteries proved definitely superior to those of the Japanese. Columns of enemy tanks and other armored units, as well as infantry concentrations were shattered and dispersed by our firing -- with heavy Japanese losses." ^{TP} It then goes on to tell about the American duel against Japanese cannon. "Our counter

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battery fire was particularly effective," states General MacArthur's communique. "Eleven hostile batteries were silenced," he states, "and enemy artillery elements have now been withdrawn well to the rear of the positions formerly occupied. Losses to the American-Filipino troops," he concludes, "were relatively slight."

So there you have it. Eleven Japanese batteries silenced, and the ~~Japanese~~ artillery line ~~has been~~ driven back by the accurate fire of our guns. One can imagine the shades of frontiersman^e of old applauding that Army communique.

HART

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Ten days ago, ^{just} ~~injust~~ as the Jap enemy was about to enter Manilla, ^a United States submarine stole out of a harbor and put to sea. Aboard it were two persons much out of place. One was too old, and the other too fat.

This now is revealed by United States Admiral Hart, Supreme Naval Commander for the United Nations in the Southwest Pacific. Admiral Hart, as we now learn, was the last High American official to leave the Philippine capital before it was occupied by the Japs. *He went by submarine.* Somewhere in Java he tells the story as follows: "There were two persons aboard that submarine, who were very much out of place," says Admiral Hart. And he goes on to tell that ^{one} ~~there~~ was a Netherlands liaison officer at Manilla. This hale and hearty Dutchman weighed ^{ed} over two hundred pounds and he occupied what the Admiral calls -- "an inordinate amount of space." The other

person was the Admiral himself, who is, in his own words -- "much too old to go travelling in submarines."

But they made the voyage safely, the fat man and the veteran of the Navy.

AUSTRALIA

Here's something new in statecraft. ~~Hereafter~~

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The British Commonwealth of Australia will conduct, direct, negotiations with the United States. Hitherto all the British Dominions in their war negotiations with this country have expressed themselves through London -- the ~~gax~~ voice of the British Empire. But now it is revealed that Prime Minister Curtin of Australia took the initiative and stated Australia's position directly to the United States -- this during the talks between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Ax

At Melbourne today it was ~~stated~~ ^{said} that the Australian Prime Minister intends to negotiate directly with Washington in the future -- whenever necessary. Melbourne indicates that the United States fully appreciates the strategic importance of Australia. The people Down Under are keenly aware of the dangers

that the war in the Pacific has for their own sub-
continent.

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From China ^{also} we have the insistent argument
that the Pacific war is all important. The Chinese
press has been criticizing any American-British war
policy that might embody the slogan - "Europe first --
the Pacific later." And today a spokesman of the
Chiang Kai^{sh}ek government stated: "There has been some
debate on the relative importance of fighting Hitler
or the Japanese. Such debate," he added, "is idle
since all agree on the importance of Singapore and
the Dutch East Indies." ^R The Chinese attitude in
general is that the greatest danger to the United
nations is a tendency to underestimate the strength
of the Japs. The Chinese contend that even if Hitler
collapsed, Japan would not collapse -- if ~~the enemy~~
were entrenched in Malaya and the Indies.

China, meanwhile, tells of new successes in battles against the invader -- ~~the~~ fighting ~~is~~ mostly along the line of the Yangtze and its tributary ^{ies,} ~~rivers.~~

LIBYA

North Africa,

In The capture of Salum, in ~~Libya~~, the British capturing ^{ed some} three hundred prisoners -- about half of

them German. The Imperials are now concentrating

on the forces ^{Axis} ~~of~~ ^{at} Halfaya, which is the only Axis

~~held~~ ^{held} point near the Egyptian border. The main

body of General Rommel's Panzers, far to the west

have taken up defending positions ^{and} ~~in the El Ageheile~~

~~section.~~ ^{all set} There the British are ~~making ready~~ to attack

again.

The London Admiralty today announced the sinking

of an Italian mine sweeper and the damaging of a

supply ship -- attacked by British submarines. As

for the German claim that a U-boat sank the British

battleship Barham off the north African coast, London

official circles said today -- "No comment." ^{TP} ~~The~~

latest about the Soviets is a report that the Red

Army has recaptured the town of Starya Russa an

important point south of Leningrad. This accompanies

general tidings that the Red forces are continuing

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their offensive. They say they've driven a wedge deep into the Nazi lines in front of Moscow, and are threatening a general break-through disastrous for the Germans.

There is a rumor that Hitler has abandoned his headquarters at Smolensk. If true, it would indicate that the Nazis are contemplating a long retreat on the Moscow front.

SHIP

5-7
In the horror story of the steamship sunk off Nova Scotia there's one fantastic and terrifying detail. The horror of the torpedoing is only too graphically illustrated by the loss of life. The steamship, onehundred and sixty miles off the Nova Scotian coast, had one hundred and seventy persons aboard. Eighty-nine survived, ninety-one lost their lives. The ten thousand ton freighter had a Chinese crew, and most of the victims were these. These Chinese, from a warm climate, were unaccustomed to the ~~winter~~ bitter cold of North Atlantic winter. In life boats and on rafts many of them perished.

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~~That~~ detail of fantastic terror is this: The ship was hit by two torpedoes, and when the first blasted -- the explosion blew a man overboard. He was a naval gunner -- hurled from his gun post into the sea. He was swimming near the ship when the second

torpedo came speeding through the water. And the torpedo hit the man. But it didn't explode. Having struck the swimming naval gunner, the monster missile kept on, crashed into the ship, and blew up with a final blast of destruction.

WASHINGTON

President Roosevelt today delivered a vigorous attack against the Price Control Bill as passed by the Senate. He assailed that part of the bill which ~~is~~ has to do with the fixing of agricultural prices. The Senate bill decrees that no ceiling shall be put on farm prices until these have risen a good deal. The increases are figured with respect to a level they call parity, and the Senate's idea is that farm prices shall not be limited until they've reached a hundred and twenty percent of parity.

President Roosevelt today stated that this was a bill to promote inflation -- compel inflation. The Administration believes that the Senate level for farm prices would put up the cost of food by twenty-five percent. And the President is reported to have stated that such a rise in the cost of food prices would be likely to cause new labor unrest -- an outbreak of strikes. The ~~xxx~~ President said he didn't think that the farmers of the nation would want to be accused of starting a trend toward inflation.

The President met with members of the House of Representatives -- the House Banking Committee and he is said to have urged them to reject the Senate version of the price control bill -- the agricultural clauses that the Senators wrote in.

It is admitted that to eliminate the Senate farm clauses, the Administration will have to bring a huge amount of pressure to bear. Because the farm bloc is very strong in both the Senate and House.

Washington gives us a surmise on the always beguiling question of a possible Federal appointment for Wendell Willkie. Today we were told that the President is considering naming his Nineteen Forty rival for the Presidency as -- an Umpire. The new National War Labor Board is to have a supplemental board of referees to give assistance. And the assumption is that the President may appoint Willkie to this Board of Umpires. Other names are mentioned

too -- former Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Jim Farley, and possibly Al Smith.

Republican Leader, Congressman Joe Martin, has urged still another name for a Federal appointment, former President Herbert Hoover. Joe Martin proposed that the ex-President be appointed Price Control Administrator. And he urged other personalities for appointment to one thing or another in our War government. He mentioned leading Republicans and anti-New Deal Democrats as possibilities for high posts in the War Program, to bring an end to what he called "bickerings and jealousies."

LANGUAGE

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Here's a graphic war dispatch from Malaya that reads as follows: "A couple of dieards were leading an ammo gang when 'nip-reckies' were gladeyed. The dieards beat a hasty but couldn't find the divvy."

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That may sound like something in Japanese, but it isn't. It's local battle slang of the British Commandos. Dieards are dispatch riders; ammo means ammunition, nip -- Japanese; reckies are enemy reconnaissance planes; gladeyed means seen, spotted. To beat-a-hasty is to withdraw. The divvy is the divisional headquarters. ~~TP~~ So maybe that explanation will help ~~to~~ translate the dispatch about a couple of dispatch riders who were leading an ammunition gang when Japanese reconnaissance ~~px~~ planes were sighted. And the dispatch riars retreated but couldn't find divisional headquarters. In other words, "A couple of dieards were leading an ammo gang when ~~xx~~ nip

reckies were gladeyed. The dieards beat a hasty
but couldn't find the divvy."

Now Hugh, will you
9 1/2 divvy up a line or two?