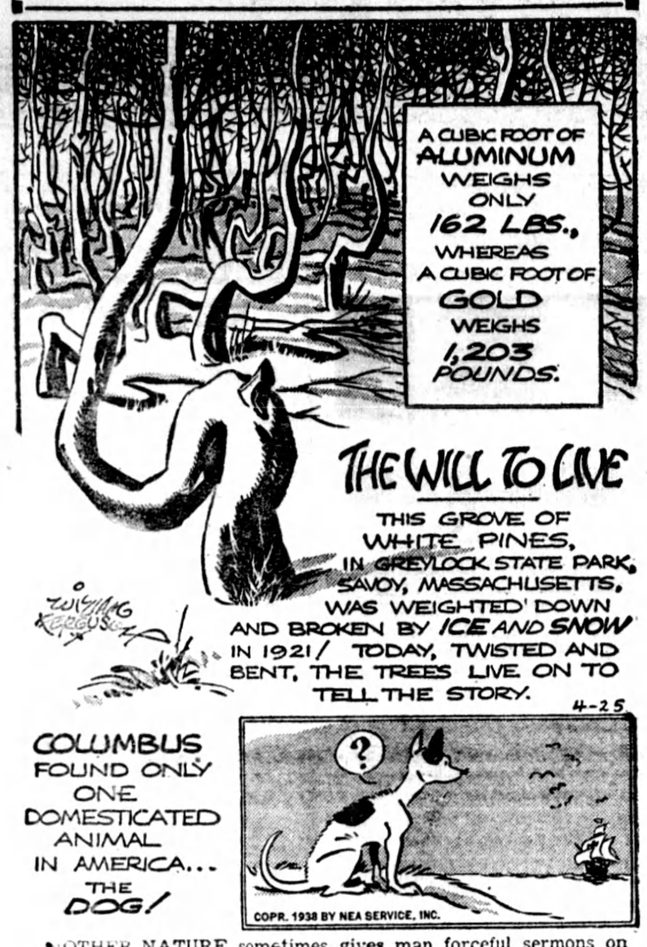
THIS CURIOUS WORLD By William Ferguson



MOTHER NATURE sometimes gives man forceful sermons on how to live. The White Pine forest of Greylock Park is a typical picture of the "Never Say Die" spirit. Some of the trees had the main trunk broken completely off, only to have a new branch carry on the work of the lost member.

NEXT: The blind man who has written 100 books.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That New Ceiling On Storage Vegetables Will Have Immediate Effect Upon Producers

In some cases prices on storage vegetables will actually be higher as a result of the new ceiling imposed by Wartime Prices and Trade Board. According to Wartime Prices and Trade Board officials, the immediate effect of an order placing a ceiling on a commodity is that prices generally move up immediately to the ceiling. For some vegetables this will result in an increased price to the producer.

Another immediate effect of the imposing of a price ceiling is a tendency toward a temporary freezing of the commodities effected. However, the consumer will not suffer any shortage as stocks on hand are plentiful. During winter months consumers will be protected against the prices which ruled during the top period last year, when cabbage was selling for anything from 5c to 19c a pound—mostly between 15c and 19c; when carrots went as high as 10c a pound and beets sold from 3.7c a pound to 15c a pound.

* * *

In the framing of the order, Chairman of the Prices Board, Donald Gordon, stressed the difficulties encountered by Board officials in designing an order to meet in all respects the wide variety of conditions attending production and marketing of vegetables.

"The complications confronting the Board in drafting an order fixing maximum prices in such products are obvious," Mr. Gordon said. "The present order is the result of a considerable period of close study and consultation with growers and distributors. The Board recognizes that after the order has had a period of trial, it may be necessary to readjust certain phases of it, and is prepared to take any remedial action which experience proves desirable."

The present order, taking into consideration the labour involved in growing vegetables, the cost of that labour and general wartime conditions, sets the ceiling on prices to the producer at higher than pre-war level.

* * *

Another point in favour of producers is the provision made for storage costs. This allowance for storage charges is graduated and may be included in the maximum prices commencing December 1, increasing until April, May and June, and decreasing July and August.

For pricing and distribution Canada is divided by the order into two zones. The first includes the island of Montreal, all the main populated part of Ontario, the main portions of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The second zone includes all the remainder of the Dominion. In zone two, maximum prices on all vegetables are one-quarter of a cent a pound higher than those in zone one. The reason for this, it is explained, is that zone two consists of the more sparsely populated areas.

TREASURE

Bright baubles go a lot further in winning over the South Pacific natives than mere words or money, Allied forces have found. Here Yeoman U. S. Aarnham of New York looks over a shipment of junk jewelry received on a Pacific isle from Los Angeles.

Bonds As Backlogs

Before the discovery of coal, wood was the principal fuel. In storing it for winter's use, care was taken to lay aside large sound sticks for backlogs for fire places to keep the fires burning all night.

Today we burn coal, oil and gas. Fires are easily kept over night, but we need and must provide backlogs of other kinds—savings to tide us over hard times.

With full employment as a result of the war, Canadians are earning more money than ever before. Our national income is at a record high level. Instead of spending the money now on non-essentials we will be wise if we create a few economic backlogs by investing all the money we possibly can in Victory Bonds.

Easy come should not be easy go, again causing the want and misery we suffered a decade ago. — Kitchener Record.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Stalin and Churchill Review Record Of Victories – Hitler Gives Pep Talk

During the last few days, first Stalin, then Hitler and now Churchill have delivered speeches to their people. And while at this moment actions speak louder than words the speeches are still an interesting barometer of the atmosphere prevailing in the two camps, as well as a most encouraging forecast for the future, says the New York Times.

Both Mr. Stalin and Mr. Churchill took occasion to review the record of "a famous year' of almost unbroken victories, which, in Mr. Churchill's words, have inflicted mortal blows on the monstrous juggernaut of German might and tyranny and may well be the precursors of decisive events in the European struggle. Both recounted the achievements of their own forces and gave generous credit to the achievements of their allies; and Mr. Churchill in particular did not stint in paying tribute to the heroic performance of the Russian armies and the Russian people. Both also emphasized the new unity and harmony achieved at the Moscow Conference. And both radiated confidence in final victory, in which Mr. Churchill specifically included victory over Japan, with whom "the British Commonwealth and Empire have an inexpiable quarrel."

Hitler's Admissions

In sharp contrast stands the speech of Hitler, which is one outcry of defeat and despair. Delivered on the sorry anniversary of his abortive beerhall putsch, it foreshadows the failure of his more ambitious putsch against mankind. For behind all the old obsessions, hatreds, falsehoods and arrogance there are admissions, which, coming from that source, must have destroyed the last illusions of the German people. There is talk of "desperate situations," of "impending catastrophe," of "marshaling the last reserves of strength," yes, even the suggestion that the fighting will reach German soil.

But there is also in this speech the desperation of the cornered but still far from conquered beast. For Hitler not only proclaims war against his outside enemies but also against the Germans themselves—a war of terror without mercy in which the Non-German Fuehrer of the Germans threatens death to all who would end the struggle. If any Germans still needed proof of Hitler's pathological megalomania, they can read it in his self-revealing protestation that he is losing neither nerves nor reason, and in his final contemptuous sneer that if they despair they will deserve no better than they get and he will not be sorry for them.

Germany's Greatest Enemy

After that, the Germans must know that they have no greater enemy than Hitler himself. But a desperate madman with a great army at his back is still dangerous, and in estimating that danger Mr. Churchill is a more cautious judge than Mr. Stalin. For while Mr. Stalin sees victory near, Mr. Churchill proceeds on the assumption that, barring a miracle, the climax of the war will not come till 1944, and that the campaign of 1944 "will be the most severe, and to the Western allies the most costly in life, of any we have yet fought." In that estimate Mr. Churchill is in agreement with all military authorities and, fundamentally, in agreement with Mr. Stalin himself. For what Mr. Churchill says is that the air war alone will not win the war, and that victory will require that mass invasion of Europe which he has always promised. Mr. Stalin's renewed call for the opening of another front confirms this judgment.

Allies' Supreme Task

In the light of the grim task that still lies ahead, this talk we have been hearing recently of the war being "all but over" seems frivolous indeed. It is not only "foolish and blameworthy" but dangerous, because, to use Mr. Churchill's words, it tends to "divert the thoughts and efforts of the Allied nations from the supreme task which lies before them—namely, that of beating down into dust and ruins the deadly foes and tyrants who so nearly subjugated the entire world to their domination."

Hitler's Contrasting Speeches

Adolf Hitler's beer-cellar speech, with the usual intermingling of threats and pep talk, can neither restore German confidence in victory nor yet raise any hopes of overcoming the tremendous calamities looming ahead, claims the Christian Science Monitor.

In fact, this speech is more likely to increase the fears of military disaster without and chaos within which are increasing with every new Allied military victory and new Allied bombing of the Reich.

Outstanding is the marked contrast between this speech and those Hitler has delivered on similar occasions in the past.

Three years ago, Hitler could boast that "one day there will be no Churchill but there will be German U-boats."

Target of American attack in the South Pacific is Bougainville, last of the big Solomon Islands. From landings at Empress Augusta Bay, U. S. forces may move down the coast toward Jap bases at Buin and Kahili. This invasion puts Americans close to Rabaul.

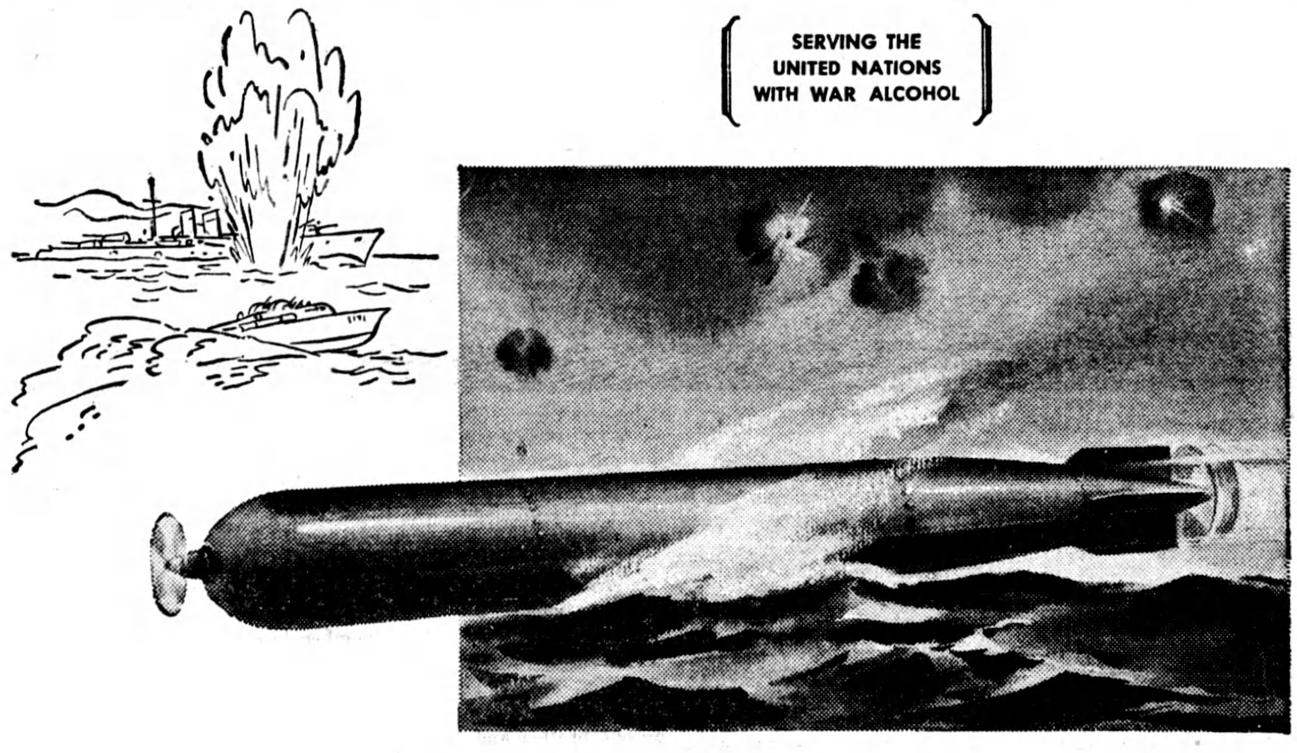
Two years ago, "the pace in Russia is determined exclusively by us," and last year boasting was still the keynote of his utterance.

Threats and Boasts

Last week there were threats, boasts, and jeers, such as those long associated with Hitler speeches, but they sounded emptier than ever, despite the cheers and cheap laughter they aroused among his listeners, and they brought no promises of help to relieve Germany's present situation which a neutral correspondent in Berlin recently described as "grave, difficult, and exacting."

2,550 tanks, 6,200 guns and 70,000 lorries (trucks) were captured or destroyed by the Allied troops in all the African campaigns.

SERVING THE UNITED NATIONS WITH WAR ALCOHOL



WAR ALCOHOL ADDS POWER TO THE DEADLY STRIKE OF A "TIN FISH"

Packed in the warhead of a single torpedo is enough concentrated destruction to sink a ship of war—a special high explosive in which alcohol is used. Alcohol helps to give the torpedo its deadly striking power; helps provide explosives for depth charges, bombs and shells. Alcohol is also an important ingredient in making plastics and other vital war materials. It is the constant ally of the doctor in his fight against infection. Alcohol is performing a myriad of services in this all-out war. Our plants are producing it to the full extent of their capacities.

HIRAM WALKER & SONS, LIMITED

HG-11

REG'LAR FELLERS—Nature Blundered By GENE BYRNES