

## ILLNESS HITS HARD AT WAR INDUSTRIES

Nation Lost 24 Million Man-Days of Work Between Nov. 24 and Dec. 20; Common Cold No. 1 Public Enemy.

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP  
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., Dec. 29.—The importance of keeping the nation in top physical health has become paramount as the United States enters a war which, in the last analysis, is an international race of industrial production.

Each day lost from illness by individual workers in American war industries means that much less production of tanks, airplanes, warships and all the myriad supplies needed for modern war.

Despite America's tremendous food resources and medical facilities, illness continues to take a surprising toll of production efficiency. That fact is established in a series of surveys by the American Institute of Public Opinion. From these surveys the following important facts come to light.

1. Throughout the United States as a whole, an estimated 24 million man-days of work were lost in the four-week period Nov. 24-Dec. 20. This is in spite of the fact that the November-December period is normally a period when the nation's health and vitality exceeds the average for the year.

2. In industries connected directly or indirectly with war production, approximately 3,200,000 man-days of work were lost from illness in the same period.

3. The time lost from illness in war industries or war-connected industries would, if it were concentrated entirely on the building of war implements, be equivalent to the time required for the actual building of two heavy cruisers, or 448 medium bombers, or 3200 tanks.

Link Diet, Health

4. One-half of the American adult population, surveys show, have not learned that there is a connection between diet and health. A high proportion of people in poor health have poor diets.

5. The typical American family, recent Institute surveys show, consumes only one-half of the amount of milk per day recommended by the Government.

6. More than one-third of American families, or a total of approximately 12 million families, say that lack of money for food impairs their health. But even if these people had more money to spend on food, surveys have found that many of them would not buy the proper foods to improve their resistance to disease.

7. Only 42 adult Americans in every 100, on the average, say they take any systematic exercise outside their work. Moreover, as many as 43 per cent say that in any one day they do no outdoor walking other than that connected with their work.

Man-Day Estimate

Those facts are of vital importance in the planning of the national program to "make America strong by making Americans stronger."

Studies of work-days lost from illness have been made from time to time in individual factories or business firms, but the Institute's survey is believed to be the first on a complete nation-wide scale.

The survey covered a cross-section of all employed persons in the United States. Each person interviewed was asked:

"During the past four weeks have you been absent from work at any time because of sickness? If yes, how many days did you miss from work?"

Nature of Illnesses Studied

The results for the whole country indicated that 23 days out of every 1000 man-days were lost because of illness.

Among persons employed in war industries or industries indirectly connected with war production, the illness rate was considerably lower than for the rest of the country—14 out of every 1000 man-days.

The survey also inquired into the nature of the illnesses which kept men and women away from their work.

The illness affecting by far the largest number—approximately one-half—was the common cold.

An additional one-fifth said they had grippe, and another one-fifth said they had been laid up with various minor illnesses, such as stomach ache, toothache, headache.

### ANGLO-RUSSIAN AIMS CLARIFIED

Eden Talks With Stalin in Moscow, Advancing 3-Power Unity.

By A. T. STEELE  
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MOSCOW, Dec. 28—Collaboration between the three great powers leading the world struggle against Hitlerism was signally advanced in a series of conversations between British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Soviet Premier Josef V. Stalin and his Foreign Commissar, Vlacheslav M. Molotov concluded here a few days ago. Mr. Eden returned to London today.

Mr. Eden's visit to Russia was a logical move following the Atlantic conference of President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill last August and the three-power meetings held here last September. There is every expectation that a similar exchange of views will take place ultimately between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Atlantic Charter Is Basic  
Behind it all is the Anglo-American hope that meetings like these will pave the way for ultimate agreement of views with the Soviet Union along the lines of the Roosevelt-Churchill Atlantic charter.

The principal results of the Eden-Stalin conversations were these:

1. Strengthening of military cooperation between Great Britain and the U. S. S. R.

2. Frank exchange of views on war aims, with particular reference to the political and economic reshaping of Europe after the present war.

3. Complete clarification by Mr. Eden of Britain's war position. No agreement was signed.

Postwar Europe Discussed

The most significant feature of the Eden-Stalin conversations was a discussion of problems of postwar Europe.

Obviously many points will have to be ironed out before policies dovetail through it is understood that the gap between the British and Russian postwar aims is not as wide as might be supposed.

Nothing has been revealed of the nature of Russian views on central Europe though it will be recalled that the agreement recently concluded between Stalin and Gen. Wladislaw Sikorski, Premier of Poland-in-exile, stresses the need for some form of collective security as a safeguard against any revival of Hitlerism in the postwar world.

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