

AMAZON VALLEY SEEN AS SOURCE OF WAR MATERIAL

Exploitation of 2,500,000
Square Miles of Virgin
Land Expected to Aid
This Country.

By DAVID J. WILSON
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Rio De Janeiro (UP)—The Brazil-

ian government is repeating Horace Greeley's famous saying, "Go West, young man..." as plans are pushed for exploitation of the Amazon River basin, largest virgin land in the world today and considered by experts as possibly the largest potential arsenal of strategic war materials.

The climax of the government's plans came during the visit to the United States of Minister of Finance Arthur de Souza Costa and the visit here of Leon Henderson, member of the U. S. Board of Supplies. Agreements already have been reached by Souza Costa in Washington, and the conferences here with Henderson are expected to lead to exploitation of the vast territory of 2,500,000 square miles, rich in native products such as rubber, mahogany, ebony, rosewood nuts, carnauba wax—a substitute for beeswax—tanning extracts and gum.

In addition the basin is rich in almost all materials produced in other tropical lands. Experts do not discount the possibility that the subsoil also hides a tremendous wealth in minerals, oil, coal and other products of highest importance for the democracies in their present war.

Climate is Atrocious. Thus, the Brazilian government hopes that this may be the El Dorado sought by Spanish adventurers during the 16th and 17th centuries. It is hoped that cultivation of this land and industrialization of the remaining country,

especially in the southern states, will place Brazil among the high-ranking powers.

The present population of the Amazon basin, which spreads from Colombia and Venezuela in the north to the frontiers of Paraguay in the south, and from the frontiers of Peru and Bolivia in the west to the Atlantic coast on the east, is calculated at about 2,000,000 persons—about one person for each three-fifths of a square mile. Climate, jungle, and disease have been principal factors in maintaining the low standard of living in the area.

The climate the year around is a sweltering heat with much moisture. Settlements such as the principal cities and organized farms like that of the Ford Motor Co. rubber plantation call for a special medical corps and large numbers of workers to clear the jungle. The government believes, however, that concentrated effort can clear the jungle rapidly, thus allowing a more bearable life for the white man.

Railroad Around Rapids. Belem and Manaus are the principal cities of the Amazon basin. Belem, capital of the state of Para at the mouth of the Amazon River, is the outlet for the basin and it is hoped that with the development of the basin it will become one of the principal export ports of South America. Manaus, popularly termed "Pearl of the Amazon," is capital of the state of Amazonas and is the prin-

cipal coordination base for all efforts in the basin's development.

Transportation is easy in most parts of the basin due to the Amazon River's many tributaries, although a railroad has been constructed around the Madeira River rapids, thus permitting Bolivia an outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. A government official told the United Press that exploitation of the basin is one of the biggest enterprises ever undertaken by man. The plan calls for transforming the world's biggest jungle into one of the world's greatest production centers.

SAVE YOUR FATS.

New York (INS)—When a gun is shot or a depth charge dropped at a submarine, glycerine is right in there punching, says the War Production Board. It's used in the recoil mechanisms of guns and also in the mechanism that drops the depth charge. Since glycerine is recovered from fats and oils and the Japanese occupation of the Far East has cut off half our fat and oil imports, it's kitchens of the country to the rescue. Save your fats to disable a sub!

HAND-CARVED ROCK HOUSE BEING BUILT OF CORAL STONES

Miami, Fla. (UP)—A domicile of hand-carved rock made of 15-ton slabs of coral rock, with ganaguan doors and all-stone furniture—is being built here by Ed Leedskalnin.

The 46-year-old Latvian weighs but 121 pounds, but he does all his work without mechanical aid or anything but "muscle" power. He has hoisted huge slabs as high as 50 feet in the air, and balanced five and 10-ton stones so delicately a child can turn a table, rock a chair or revolve a giant stone.

"I do it the same way the old Egyptians built their pyramids," he said. His only tools are a rock axe, crowbar, sledges and an ingenious arrangement of levers.

Every object in Leedskalnin's stone age yard serves a utilitarian purpose. There's a stone cradle in solid rock—and it rocks like a

charm. He has twin beds carved from stone, with a bath right alongside, and his giant sun dial's accuracy is unquestionable.

An elevated fish pond, a circular lounge pivoted to turn to any angle for sun baths or shade, and a massive orchestra stand, however, are all dwarfed by two giant monoliths, weighing more than 30,000 pounds each. Facing east and tipped with a monster star and crescent moon, respectively, these pillars also were quarried by hand.

MOON'S TEMPERATURE.

The moon has no atmosphere to shield it from the sun's burning rays. In spite of the fact that its surface may have a temperature of 273 degrees when the sun is overhead, the heat disappears with the sun, and on the dark side the temperature sinks to 307 degrees below zero.

Divide Marriage Certificate.

Korea is the only country in the world where the marriage certificate is divided, one-half being given to the bride and the other half to the bridegroom.

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