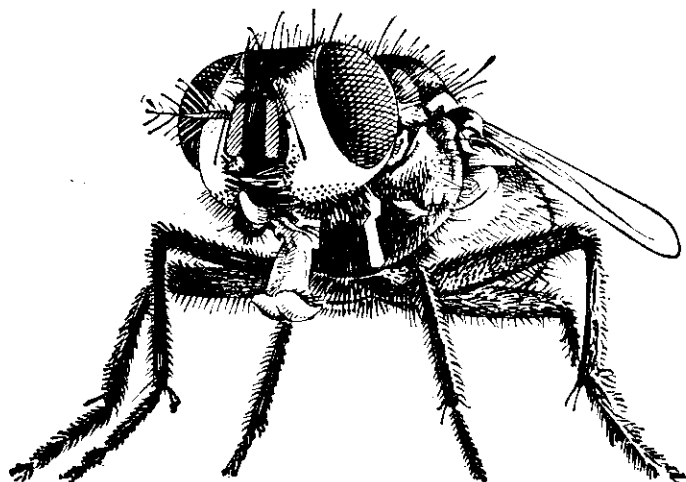


A PLAN TO BEAT THE FLY MENACE



Effective control of flies depends on:

1 GOOD GENERAL SANITATION to check fly-breeding. Proper rubbish collection and disposal. Sanitary and flyproof privies in rural areas. Proper storage and disposal of manure. **NOTE:** Compost heaps and manure kept in towns should be sprayed with a solution of powdered borax at the rate of 11 oz. to each 8 bushels of manure. Dissolve the borax in 2 to 10 gallons of water, or, Merton's Sheep Dip, strength 1 in 80, may be used.

2 EXCLUSION OF FLIES by screening and keeping all food and food utensils covered from flies.

3 DESTRUCTION OF FLIES by

(a) Traps, fly poisons, swatters.
(b) Sprays (which usually contain Pyrethrum) quickly knock over flies, and D.D.T. may be added to kill them.

(c) Residual sprays, such as D.D.T. applied to surfaces where flies rest or crawl, are excellent. An oil solution of D.D.T. should contain approximately 5 per cent. of D.D.T. for residual spraying. One application might be effective for the entire season, certainly for several weeks to several months. Best places to spray or smear with the D.D.T. 5 per cent. solution are: hanging light fixtures and drop cords; edges and arches of doors; window frames and sills and other favourite haunts of the fly. Use it on the rubbish tin, too.

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Japan's Other Island (3)

Peppermint and Ponies

The last of three articles written for "The Listener" by H.R.C., a New Zealander who recently visited Hokkaido, least-known of the Japanese home islands.

IN Hokkaido the shortage of food is much more acute than elsewhere in Japan and this, together with the harsh climate, has caused fairly severe suffering among many of the people. About two months ago some villages were as much as 70 days behind with rationed supplies (which include all staple foods), and while we were in Sapporo there were several large-scale demonstrations of protest. These demonstrations, which could easily have developed into riots if it had not been for the arrest by American authorities of several of the organisers who were advocating violence, were stated to be inspired by Communist elements, but there was no evidence made public to substantiate this and it seemed to me that hunger itself would be enough reason.

The greatest cause for concern was the shortage of the main food, rice, which, because of the climate, does not grow satisfactorily in Hokkaido. Large areas, however, are sown in Uplands rice (known in the United States as Californian rice), grown on dry land where paddies are not possible (on porous, volcanic-ash ground, for instance), and even when the crop is successful the yield and the grain quality are poorer than the usual paddy (or Louisiana) crop. Such ground could be well used for more suitable crops, like potatoes, but to the Japanese rice is so important that they are prepared to take what to-day seems an unjustifiable risk of a crop failure rather than look forward to a potato diet.

U.S. Troops Withdrawing

In Hokkaido, possibly even more than in the rest of Japan, the United States authorities are gradually either withdrawing or heavily reducing their troops and basing their occupation, at least in part, on trained intelligence specialists who speak and write the language and who are able to keep in close touch with the people. As the Japanese have accepted the occupation

peacefully and now that the main tasks of repatriation and demilitarisation are ended this would seem not only logical but also more profitable than maintaining large numbers of troops who actually have little contact with the people, whose influence is not always for the good, and whose upkeep is a severe strain on an almost wrecked economy. It is to be hoped that the BCOF authorities will decide to adopt a similar policy.

Suitably and yet curiously, a large proportion of these intelligence observers are Nisei (American-born Japanese) officers, nearly all in Japan for the first time, who learnt the language in the United States during the war. Their record during the war and since the occupation has been outstanding, and while I found them 100 per cent American in their outlook, certainly (and without self-consciousness) looking on the Japanese as their former enemies, they seemed, naturally enough, to have a greater capacity for understanding of the people and a greater will to leadership than is possible with a European.

At Kushiro, which we were told is second only to London for peasoup fogs, we stayed with a Nisei detachment of six officers. About three weeks before we arrived the ban on the marriage of United States personnel and Japanese women had been lifted and in the first 10 days after the lifting of the ban there had been 1100 applications made by men wishing to marry their Japanese girl friends. This news was the subject of discussion, and to our surprise we found that these Nisei officers personally were anything but in favour of such a course. It wouldn't,

(continued on next page)



"WHILE millions of families in Honshu are without houses... there is almost unlimited timber, already milled, deteriorating in the harsh climate of Hokkaido"