

From the Plainfield Courier News
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Plain Talk

By Robert Quillen

You have read about the French Company that tried to dig a Panama canal and went broke because too many workers died. You have read how General Gorgas made the present canal possible by ridding the zone of malaria and yellow fever mosquitoes. And no doubt you have read the theory of scientists that malaria was the curse that destroyed so many ancient civilizations.

Ordinary malaria kills many people in our country every year and incapacitates several million more. Yet there are other forms of the disease even more deadly.

China has one of them. In one valley there are swarms of malaria mosquitoes whose bite is as deadly as that of the cobra.

Africa has another kind that kills or permanently disables nine of every ten who get it. A few years ago it was carried from Africa to Brazil, presumably by airplane, and threatened to depopulate the country. The Brazilian government, working with the Rockefeller Foundation, finally conquered it - but the job took millions of dollars and an army of workers spraying every puddle and every cow track in the infected areas.

America's native mosquitoes are carriers of several fatal diseases - diseases that kill dogs, chickens, sheep and horses as well as men.

Yet, experience has shown that scientists with money to spend can quickly control and eventually destroy the mosquitoes that are dangerous. They have done it in sections where mosquito swarms had almost destroyed property values, and what can be done for one neighborhood

can be done for the nation.

Knowing these things, we shall be criminally negligent if we do not prepare for a new kind of trouble more dreadful than any we have ever known.

The deadliness of Africa's malaria mosquito can scarcely be exaggerated. A scientist of the Rockefeller Foundation has warned us that one impregnated female liberated in the South could wipe out our civilization.

Do you doubt that any effort will be made to bring disease-carrying mosquitoes to our country? The Japs have already tried it in China. They are experimenting and learning.

Before this war ends - when the Germans and Japs begin to realize they cannot win - they will use every desperate and dastardly weapon that science can produce. Do you think them too humane to use disease germs?

Big officials will do nothing - and laymen will scoff - till it happens. But those who can had better be making plans to fight a new kind of enemy.

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An Account of the 1942
Malaria Epidemic in India

By Sonia Tomara

New York Herald Tribune

In addition to the political and economic difficulties it has to fight today, the Indian government is confronted with a malaria epidemic which is taking hundreds of thousands of lives. It is interfering seriously with harvesting the rice and millet that now are ripe, and with work in the factories. In some villages around Delhi one in every four persons is stricken. This, I believe, is the most severe epidemic in years, and is