PIERRE LAVAL.

Pierre Laval, the man who now holds the reins of authority in Vichy, France, is no stranger to this country. In 1932 he came to Washington to discuss the German debt moratorium with President Herbert Hoover and was generously wined and dined during his sojourn here. His daughter, Josette, accompanied him on the trip and became the object of wide social attention.

BABY CAULIL

Believe it or not but the census figures show that for February, 1942, the number of births per thousand of population increased by 10.6 per cent over February, 1941, while at the same time the infant death rate declined by 5.8 per cent. Can it be that war has some strange and mystical effect on the infant birth and mortality rate?

TIN AND PALM OIL

Tin and palm oil are presently critical materials and the shortage in these items comes close to every American home. For example consider the ordinary tin can in which food comes to the average American table. It is made of ordinary sheet metal. This sheet metal is covered with palm oil. It is then dipped in molten tin. Without palm oil the tin would not adhere. Tin comes from Malaya and palm oil from the Philippines. About thirty-five pounds of tin will cover a ton of sheet metal. Our scientists are now seeking a electrolytic process to do this job.

FLIGHT PHYSICIANS

Five hundred physicians will be commissioned every month for active duty in the air force as first lieutenants and captains. Some will be designated as flight surgeons and will be entitled to flight pay in addition to regular base pay. A few will be commissioned as majors. The emphasis is on youth and the plan is to commission eighty per cent of this number under age thirty-six and twenty per cent between thirty-six and forty-six.

ARMY AND NAVY LAND ACQUISITIONS

Requests for administrative expenditures to carry on the land acquisition program by the Department of Justice indicates that in the next four months land will be acquired for an additional 172 new Army and Navy projects. Total land acquisition for Army and Navy purposes will then total more than seven and one-half million acres. In most cases this land is acquired by condemnation although some direct purchases have been made.
The Army will have its Army Auxiliary Corps but so will the Navy and, strangely enough, the bill which passed the House last week actually makes members of the Woman's Naval Auxiliary members of the armed forces with pay and allowances. Enlistments are entirely voluntary and the "lady sailors" will serve as clerks, telephone operators, stenographers, decoding experts, etc. They will be serving in capacities similar to the Yeomanettes of the First World War. It is estimated that their service will release thousands of men and officers for active combat duty.

**Gasoline Rations**

In the seventeen states along the Eastern seaboard gasoline is a problem because there are no pipelines and an inadequate supply of tanks, cars and tanker vessels. More drastic rationing, therefore, went into effect on April 16 when service stations and bulk plants were reduced to 66 2/3's per cent of the average deliveries which they received in December, January and February. In general this means that only 2/3's as much gasoline will be available and that there will be only 2/3's as much motor car driving as in earlier months.

**Requisitioning**

Requisitioning is but another word for seizure. The War Production Board has estimated the war requirement of critical commodities and also compiled an inventory showing where stocks of such commodities are located. The WPB then indicates to the owner of such commodities that they are needed in the war effort and respectfully requests that he sell them to the industries who need such items at a price which has been established by the WPB. If the owner refuses, the WPB seizes these stocks and provides for compensation at a later date. Thus far more than sixty requisition orders have been issued under which 4,000 tons of scrap metal, more than seven million pounds of copper, 530 tons of lead, 26,772 bales of silk, 11,000 tons of steel, 5,000 tons of zinc and other items have been seized.

**Revenue Bill for 1942**

Hearings on the Revenue Act for 1942 have ended and an additional three or four weeks will be required to prepare the measure for presentation to the House for final action. It is unlikely that the bill will contain any proposal to tax the revenues from state and local bonds and securities. There is a general disposition toward a general five per cent sales tax without exemptions.