

J. B. Eakin

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November 17, 1942

This being election year we had quite a run of job printing for the various counties in the state which added to the volume of our printing business.

We did not have a good wheat crop as it was too wet a year ago to get the ground in condition and the wheat sowed. Corn, potatoes, alfalfa, and all other crops this year have been unusually good. The pinch now is in the matter of farm help.

There have been a surprisingly large number of farm sales both here and in Minnesota, undoubtedly caused by inability to secure proper help. It seems to me that Iowa, Northern Missouri, and Southern Minnesota were lousy with hogs ~~this~~ year, but the demand has been tremendous. We are perhaps fortunate in one thing and that is the Mohammedans in Northern Africa do not eat pork or pork products. They are, however, large consumers of mutton.

We were greatly pleased over the results of the election. The Republicans gained such a large number of representatives in the House that legislation can no longer be carried on with their opposition. I think perhaps it is well that the Republicans did not secure a majority in the House, for with a Democratic President and a Democratic Senate, a Republican House could not accomplish a great deal and it would be blamed for lack of accomplishment.

We have been heartened by the splendid victories in Northern Africa by the Eighth English Army, by the remarkable stand of the Russians at Stalingrad, by the audacity and success of the American invasion of Northern Africa, and just now by the splendid naval victories in the Solomons. The Japs ~~who~~ thought with their treachery of last December they would quickly win a victory have something else to think about now. While they have spread out over a lot of territory in Thailand, Burma, and Pacific Islands, they have not been in a position to utilize them as they had hoped. A few more victories like we have had in the Solomons and the naval strength of Japan will be reduced to a very low level.

I write you fully in this manner because I think you are interested and because I enjoy the letters I receive from you.

In our own business we are somewhat on edge because we are losing quite a good many men to the army and we have lost a few to the Ordnance Plant. However, we have a very fine and loyal group and wish to do everything we can to aid in winning the war, even to parting with highly valued employees.

I hope that everything is moving along smoothly with you and that you and your wife are enjoying good health.

Cordially,
Your friend