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## Earl Baker Makes Thoughtful Report On Conditions In The Pacific Area

The open meeting of the Federation of Women's Club held in the college auditorium on Monday evening was well attended. Mrs. Harry Fowler, president of the Federation, introduced "our own Perry Hackett" who played with great finesse three piano numbers, one Gershwin and two Brahms.

The speaker of the evening, still claimed by Eagle, Wisconsin, was introduced as Dr. J. Earl Baker of the United States and China.

"I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet," said Mr. Baker, but the way in which he told what he himself described as "a story with no entertainment in it" reminded one of "the voice crying in the wilderness." "The worst of it is," someone was heard to remark, "that he probably knows what he is talking about."

### Pacific War To Last

The war in the Pacific will last longer than the war in Europe. One reason for this is that the makers of our strategy have decided that the European amphitheatre is more important or more dangerous than the Pacific amphitheatre. But there is the additional fact that it is going to be more difficult to get the implements of warfare over into the Pacific amphitheatre in sufficient quantity. The longer we put off treating seriously the Pacific battle ground the more difficult it is going to be to win. During the first six months of this year our enemy there has spread out at a tremendous rate. She

took the Solomon Islands, surrounded China, came close to taking the Hawaiian Islands. If she had followed up her victory at Pearl Harbor it is more than likely that we would not be fighting in the Solomons at present. We would be protecting Alaska and our Pacific Coast.

### Japs Have Resources

In the seven months succeeding Japan managed to annex to herself a tremendous amount of material that goes into the waging of a successful war. Japan at the present time has control of four hundred million people. You may say that they are not the quality of Americans. But the manufacture of war materials is not entirely a matter of the quality of the people. Our farm boys with no experience in workshops up to a few months ago are now building airplanes, tanks, all kinds of weapons, merely by pushing materials along a moving belt and every little while tripping something with the toe. It doesn't take much preparation to learn this process. All you need is a few engineers to break down the processes into simple steps for the workers. The Chinese under the control of the Japs have the intelligence to do that sort of thing.

You may say, "It is a question of food." But remember that all of those people out there are rice eaters and the territory lately being taken is rice land. The Japanese are not going to want for food.

The Japanese are not trying to keep up to the standard of living some of the towns have had or to our standard of living. They expect to put their people back to 1850 before there was any machinery and make them live in the old, primitive way. There will be no trouble about food.

### Raw Materials

Is it raw material? In China Japan has captured the principal iron mines, a great many of the best coal mines. In the Philippines she has iron mines. I do not know how big her scrap pile is. The fighting has been up in the mountains where Japan could not bring her navy or heavy artillery so metal has hardly been touched.

Japan has the rubber that we need so badly. She took Malaya. She has tin. She can get tungsten from the Chinese. You can't blame people in this weather for trading tungsten for clothes. She has fibers from which to make rope. And so down the line—oil, gasoline. When the Japanese took Burma and the East Indies they got oil. So Japan is no longer at a loss for fuel oil. She has sufficient power driven machinery. The last figures I was able to get hold of were for 1936. At that time we had electrical power dynamos, etc., to about ten times that of Japan. We have increased that and Japan has increased hers. We should have a considerable lead but up to a short time ago we were using our machinery for manufactured goods the Japanese claim they can get along without.

### Advantage In Transportation

We have to carry our weapons of warfare so much farther than the Japanese do. We have got to build the ships and locomotives to carry it. The great bulk of our manufactures have gone to our allies and to the building up of our training forces. The material that goes into the training of that body of men is a tremendous drain upon our capacity. If you could look through the roofs of Japanese factories at the present time you would find the principal activity not that of making munitions. They have been doing that for years. They have been storing them in all the places they feel there is a necessity to defend. What you would find the factories of Japan working most feverishly upon is the building up of turbines, engines, machine tools—things that in a few years would put them more on a parity with this country. A few years from now they expect to be able to put up a much stiffer fight with this country because of this kind of planning.

For five months we have been taking the initiative. We have been having nothing but victories practically all the time. But the fact remains that we do not yet have exclusive control of Guadalcanal. We have not retaken Kiska. The Japanese did abandon two islands. But between where we are now and Japan there are 26,000 islands. In five months we have

forced the Japanese to abandon two. Figure it out for yourself. How long is it going to take to get the rest, island by island? It is possible to get some by striking a base a little in advance and cutting off supplies from surrounding islands. But the Japanese are not putting any great forces in any of these places which they are defending at the present time. A few hundred men held the islands for months. Even in Guadalcanal the Japanese have shown an ability to camouflage themselves. They just delay our approach as much as possible so as to have precious time with which to build up a war machine some place far enough away so that they can hold these precious raw materials which they have been able to take.

### About Bombing Japan

We hear many suggestions about our getting right up to Japan and bombing her production centers. Japan does not have a great many production centers. A few planes could probably put Japan in a difficult position from the standpoint of production. But how to get there. Hawaii is 3900 miles away. We have no planes that can carry much that far. Dutch Harbor would be 2400 miles from the places which should be bombed.