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No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe
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Nature's Air Raid
weather. No foolin'. It was the firrty real "sivue
thaw"-we can call it that and still comply witt the weather censorship now thet two days have
elapsed -in an decade or thereabuts, one un-
matched in severity in at least two decades. matched in severity in at least two decades.
Here in the Wilamette valleys saluorious l II-
mate, nature goes on a rampage so intrequently that the newest lesson of her
always comes as a surprise.
Nature's blitzkrieg was unspectacular-just raindrops falling and and unspectacular-lust raindrops
freezing as they fell. Yet if the bombers of our
foreign enemy had flown over the valley and missiles, the damage could not possibly have
been so widespread and general. Oh, it would persons.
Rubber tires-those precious rubber tires-
pinning helplessly on sheet ice marked the nitial effect of nature's onslaught. Like the
var, it hit us first in the legs. Transportation suffered. But presently it struck in another ex
treneely vital spot. Electric power. Though
was the transmission of power that was dis rupted, not generation, the effect on most in
dividuals was no less serious, temporarily, tha
would have been the bombing of Bonneville Mort few hours or for many, a lesson in their
tor a mependence upon that mysterious and elusive
dentity, electricity. Lights blacked out, cooking
entinges that wouldn't cook, water systems that
rand wouldn't work, clocks that wouldn't tick, radio
silenced. Back half a century to the coal oil
lamp and cooking on a wood fire- if you hap-
pened to have a lamp and a wood stove of some
kind. Most people didn't. They had burned Defense against a lethal air raid would in-
evitably produce its heroes-persons who had
the stuff of heroes in them long before, lacking
only the outlet. Well, nature's air raids also
produced its heroes-the persons who, in line
of duty, went out and repaired damage of one
kind and another, at risk to life and limb in
many cases, and those who carried oo their
regular duties in spite of unusual handicaps.
Our carrier boys, we think, are entitled to some
of the decorations if any are handed around.
"Poems (and telephone wires and roofs.
are made by fools like me, but only God can
make a t tree." The material damage to man-
made gadgets can be soon repaired. Maimed
trees whose beauty can be restored or duppi-
cated only by the slow processes of nature her-
self-these casualties ponstitute the real tra-
gedy of hature's blitzkerieg.


## Billions Talk <br> Those billions of dollars mentioned b President Roosevelt in his "state of the union and budget messages to congress this week are and budget messages to congress this week a those particular billions-working and fighting until July. Other billions figured in an earlier dget are doing the working and fighting now. However, those more numerous billions forthcoming after June 30 have already begun o talk-fluently. They speak, as someone said of nature, "a various language" understandable everywhere in the world. Their words were unevertood in Verlin, in Tokyo, in Rome, perhapa don, in Moscow, in Chung understood in Lon- ding, in Batavia, in Mania. They constituted a threat and a promise They must have been a blow to morale in some capitals and among some peoples, a lift to mo- rale elsewhere. What they said was that the most resourceful of all nations was preparing to devote all its resources to the fight for freedom and world security. "Money talks," men used to say-the phrase didn't have an inspiring connotation There just isn't that much money. These bil <br> News Behind The News

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$\$ 40,000,000,000$ a year or so back.
None flicked a whisker at his
war program to nearly treble it
-at $\$ 110,000,000,000$. All know
it can be done now, and easily.
War hha brough wholly
changed financial circumstaly
to the treasurc. It was one thing
to get a financially depressed na-
tion to pay for what seemed to
some an unjustified aceumula-
tion of debt years and a wholly
different matter to rally patriotic
support in an outraged coun-

 indefinitely.
All the treasury will have to worry about,
herefore, is raising the annual interest. That means, in effect, the future living standard of this
country can never be permitted to slip back intp
the kind of depression wee had beope, else the
treasury would have difficulty raising interest Such a debt thus imposes a greater obligation
on government to keep this country prosperous in
the post-war period when world markets will be There is every likelihood that Russia will be
in war with Japan on the Far Eastern front in the
spring. Such a conflict would relieve the Jap pres spring. Such a conflict would relieve the Jap pres-
sure on Singapore, if the British can hold out that
long in Malayay
The natural antagonism of Russia and Japan
dates back long before this war in ancient enmity. Only the necessities of red woncentration of every
effort against ititer has prevented resumption of
their unended war. Sooner than that may come favorable action
against the Japs in China. They sneaked out most
of their air force for use in their Malayan and
Philippine camppign of their air force for use in their Malayan and
Philippine campaigns. As a result they can no lon-
er scout the positions of the Chinese army. As at Changsha, the Chinese will be able to
muster their strenth at various points undetected.
The Japs still hhave over a million men in
China proper, and possibl 400,000 on the Siberian
frontier (they recently withow frontier (they recently withdrew 100,000 from
there).
Note-The British tried to get the Chinese to NOTE-The British tried to get the Chinese to
go atter Changsha when Hongkong. was besieged
in the hope that it would relieve Jap pressure on
 were inferior in equipmentent and ared, because strenth. Yet
when the Japs finally withdrew troops from Changsha to finish their Hongkong drive the Com
ese rushed in and trapped the remaining force
(50,000 they sand A soint British-Chinese pincers drive from
Burma and Crine upon the backs of the Japs in Thailand and Indo-China is something General
Wavell has in his sleeve.
To all outward appearances, the Chinese and British are merely holding on the northern Malaya
front, and all authoritative information here sug-
gests they will continue defensive tactics indefingests, they will continue defensive tactics ine sudefin-
itely. Jungles confront them and their air force is: Yet a brief dispatch out of Rangoon the other day expressed British opinion that they could hold
there. Unguestionably an offensive from that point
is too tempting a surprise to be overiooked, As


The Headache Will Come Later, (Hon.) Rat, And How!
Bits for Breakfast

| By R. J. HENDRICKS |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Before and after | 1-10-42 | fighting and the dying, and not |

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