



## ON THE INSIDE- in Washington!

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Heavy with menace as is the war news from south Russia, recent events in the Pacific must tend to abate Moscow's fears of an immediate Japanese attack on Siberia.

As this is written, American marines, backed by powerful naval forces, seem to have made good their footing in the Solomons. Tokyo is directly confronted with the most serious challenge it has faced since it threw its lot in with Hitler in the dastardly Pearl Harbor surprise attack last December.

Whatever else is at stake in that fight, the Tulagi naval base site is a major necessity for the Japanese both for offensive and defensive purposes. In Japanese hands it has been a constant threat to American-Australian communication lines. American-held, it would be no less a threat to the prime Japanese naval outpost of Truk in the Carolines, 1000 miles to the north.

Fierce fighting between Japanese and American naval craft indicates that the Japanese recognize the strategic threat involved in the American offensive. A major sea-air battle matching those of the Coral sea and off Midway islands may be in progress or in prospect as both sides move in heavy reinforcements. Should the outcome be as definitely favorable to American arms as were those two previous sea-air clashes with the Japanese, the whole nature of the war in the Pacific could be changed overnight.

With the first American offensive action well under way, Tokyo must reach a decision of critical importance. It must accept the American challenge and hurl southward enough fleet and air strength to insure victory; or ignore it to strike at Russia.

There can be no serious doubt that the American move in the Solomons is serving to lessen the probabilities of an immediate Japanese attack on Russia. It has a distinct second-front aspect so far as Russia is concerned, heightened materially by the stepped-up American sea-air blows at Japanese-held points in the western Aleutians.

Japanese attempted in the Aleutian-Midway attacks to impede prompt American air intervention in the event of a Japanese attack on Russia. It proved abortive due to the failure to take Midway and the losses inflicted on Japan. So long as there are Japanese outposts in the Aleutians, however, the air routes to Siberia from the United States must be traveled at hazard.

Aggressively challenged by American landing forces and sea and air forces in the Solomons,

Japan must either divide her forces to support her far separated island outposts in the southwest and northeast Pacific, or concentrate reserves in one place. And the threat in the Solomons is so obvious that it must be in that direction her war craft and air reserves are being sent, leaving her minor footholds in the Aleutians to their fate.

## Wheat Price Authorized

Wheat prices for disposal of surplus government-held grain for feed have been announced for Oregon at two levels in a new program just authorized under terms of recent congressional action, the state AAA office at Corvallis has just announced.

For August the two price levels are 90 cents per bushel for all counties east of the Cascades except Hood River and Klamath, and 94 cents for these two and all counties west of the Cascades. These prices are on the basis of whole wheat delivered in each county, explained N. C. Donaldson, administrative officer. Purchasers desiring cracked or ground wheat will have to get it processed at their own expense.

Prices for September and October will be at an advance of one-half cent per bushel each month. Any undelivered or resealed farm-stored wheat of the 1941 crop may also be purchased under the program for feed.

Availability of this wheat at prices approximating 85 per cent of the corn parity price presents an attractive opportunity for farmers to convert low priced feed into high priced meat, eggs, and dairy products, AAA officials point out. Secretary Wickard is urging the movement of at least 75 million bushels of surplus wheat into feeding channels before the movement of new crop corn gets under way about October 1. Every bushel moved now relieves the storage situation that much.

Deliveries of the government wheat are made only in carload lots, either through local dealers or to individuals or groups of farmers direct. Orders may be placed with any county AAA committee.

## Worker Held For Inquiry On Big Fire

BREMERTON, Wash., Aug. 13 (AP)—The federal bureau of investigation joined the state fire marshal's office Thursday in probing the \$100,000 fire which Wednesday destroyed five units of a new federal dormitory project in the northern edge of this overcrowded Puget Sound navy yard city.

A man described as a 30-year-old navy yard worker was held for questioning after a small blaze was found in the lavatory of another dormitory across the road from the burned structures. He was one of its occupants.

Only fire casualty was Gust

Erickson, an elderly man who was one of the more than 200 made homeless by the blaze. He was burned in escaping from the blaze; was given first aid and immediately returned and rushed into the still burning structure to recover a trunk containing his life savings. He collapsed when he was brought out and was returned to the hospital. He was reported recovering Thursday.

## Synthetic Rubber Plant Scheduled

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 13 (AP)—The office of war information approved announcement Thursday that construction will start shortly on a synthetic rubber plant somewhere in southern California. Cost of the project was not announced, but OWI said it would employ up to 5000 workers.

## Building Item Not Unlawful

The state tax commission ruled Thursday that the inclusion of \$20,000 for construction of a veterans building, in the Clackamas county budget for the fiscal year 1942-43 is not a violation of the law.

A petition contesting the item was filed with the state tax commission by 17 Clackamas county taxpayers, and the hearing was held in Oregon City July 29.

Copies of the opinion were to be mailed late Thursday to the Clackamas county budget committee.

## Dairy Co-op to Plead August 25

PORTLAND, Aug. 13 (AP)—The Portland Dairy Cooperative association, operating in western Oregon and Washington, will enter its plea to a monopoly indictment in federal court here August 25.

A federal grand jury indicted the association and some of its officers on charges of engaging in monopolistic practices in the production and distribution of milk. Counsel for the defendants said a demurrer might be filed or a bill of particulars asked.

## Board Boosts Milk Quotas, Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 13 (AP)—The state milk control board Thursday increased the quotas of 300 market milk producers in the

Portland milkshed in an attempt to meet anticipated shortages. The additional quotas amount to 2000 pounds of butterfat on a daily production basis, the board said.

## Pardon Us!

We told you folks yesterday morning that SALLY'S sale of California Diamond Reproductions would be held Friday and Saturday. It's our error—the sale will be on

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WE'RE IN A WAR: a fact that is being brought home to us in many ways. No longer can we enjoy all the privileges to which we have become accustomed. Johnny can't use the car. Mother can't bake so many cakes. Place the blame squarely where it belongs—in Berlin. The shadow that has darkened so much of the world could lengthen still farther; could bar our freedom of speech, press and worship; yes, and our right to travel when and where we choose.

What are we doing about it? Ask any Union Pacific man. He and thousands of other American railroad workers are exerting every effort to stop that creeping shadow; transporting armament and munitions as fast as our factories can turn them out . . . transporting troops in ever-increasing numbers. It's a job that must be done so we Americans may always be free to go wherever we please, unquestioned and without fear.



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