

As another crop season approaches, farmers are becoming alarmed over the lack of fertilizer. During the war the War Production Board allocated supplies and protected the requirements of agriculture. This control has been abandoned. Instead UNRRA has commandeered all nitrates for export to countries it is helping to get back on their feet. This leaves the American farmer holding an empty fertilizer bag.

Aware of the need of Oregon farmers for fertilizer for the production of numerous crops the state college extension service got busy some months ago and secured authorization from government agencies for the alumina plant here to manufacture 5000 tons of ammonium sulphate for local distribution. Of this some 1500 tons has been delivered. This was being manufactured at a loss and the RFC which has been financing this plant protested, since this was not the primary purpose for which the plant was built. Now a plan is being worked out to raise the price to \$49 a ton which will cover the production cost; but it requires the approval of numerous government agencies before it becomes effective and the fear is that this approval may come too late.

The general public is little aware of the need and value of fertilizer in crop production, particularly for specialty crops such as our growers make most of their money from. We grow large quantities of grass seeds for example, like ryegrass and fescue grasses. Nitrogen-bearing fertilizer is required to bring the yield to a profitable level. Sugar beet seed requires the use of 100 to 150 lbs. of nitrogen per acre. Production of vegetables for canning and freezing

(Continued on editorial page)

Dispute Halts All Loading at Portland Docks

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 20.—(AP)—A month old dispute between shipping cargo checkers and the Hawaiian-American Steamship company threatened tonight to spread throughout the port of Portland within 24 hours and tie-up all loading.

R. E. Ferguson, manager of the Waterfront Employers here, announced employees had set a Thursday 5:00 p. m. deadline for members of the supercargo and checkers union, CIO, to work ships as directed or arbitrate their grievance according to their contract.

Ferguson said unless the workers complied the employers would cancel the agreement. All shipping here would be affected if the agreement is broken off, union officials said.

Loading of two Victory ships has been halted since late last month in the dispute over the number of checkers to be employed.

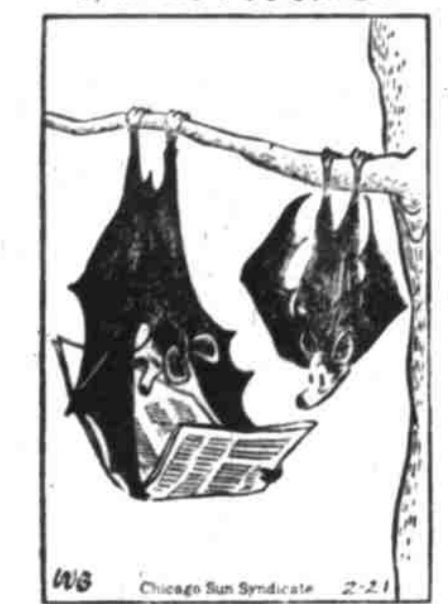
Hirohito Sees War Carnage

TOKYO, Thursday, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Hirohito, on the second day of his first post-war inspection of the area around Tokyo, Wednesday viewed some of the human wreckage of his country's lost war.

At repatriation centers in Uraga and Kurahama he saw gawky survivors of his shattered navy—the wasted frames and pinched faces of men worn down by malaria and malnutrition on the lost islands of the Pacific—the ragged, hungry hopelessness of civilian repatriates.

Those who were strong enough stood erect and bowed as the emperor passed, or knelt humbly on their beds. Many were too weak for any gesture of reverence.

Animal Crackers



"Things are beginning to look all right... the world must be in an awful mess!"

RUSSIANS ADMIT OBTAINING SECRETS

Landlords to Establish Voluntary Rent Control

With the purpose of heading off federal rental control by establishing voluntary regulation of rentals a group of 25 owners of rental properties including apartments and houses, met at the Quella cafe Wednesday and organized a Home and Property Owners' association. J. F. Ulrich, realtor and apartment house owner, was elected president and Ed Piasecki secretary-treasurer. Owners of 200 living units were represented at the meeting.

Retired General Pictures Army As Undemocratic, Feudalistic

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—A retired Brigadier general who was a West Point classmate of Gen. Mark Clark today described the army as "undemocratic and unAmerican—a feudalistic organization carried over into the atomic age."

The description, and others just as pithy, was applied by former Brig. Gen. H. C. Hordridge in testimony before the house military committee.

Criticizing the army's advocacy of universal military training, the 53 year old retired Washington general made these other references to the military branch:

"It is always one or two wars behind in its thinking."
"It is 'trying to railroad this legislation through on a wave of postwar hysteria.'"

"Army has not looked at itself in the mirror for 150 years. Its 'most prominent characteristic is its medieval caste system which sets up unsurmountable barriers between the officer aristocracy and the enlisted man... It promotes class consciousness and class cleavages."

Its judicial system "is not a system of justice at all but a system of military discipline and punishment carried over from the days of Gustavus Adolphus by way of the British army."

"The army leadership is class conscious, ultra-conservative, absolutist," and the army itself offers "an excellent breeding ground for totalitarianism."

Septuplet Story Puts Newsmen On Cold Trail

PARIS, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Reporters of various nationalities combed the left bank of the Seine tonight for a woman with seven new-born children.

The furor began soon after a tipster for an English news agency telephoned the "scoop" to his superiors without, apparently checking on its accuracy.

Several hours and many questions later they returned, convinced that the reported birth of septuplets was another "duck," as the French say for a phoney, but not until the residents of tiny Rue Galande had a glorious time agitatedly denying knowledge of any such event.

The patron in one bistro said it was news to him, but if Canada can do something like that so could France. Wasn't that Canadian family really French, monsieur, after all?

YUGOSLAVS MOVE TROOPS

ROME, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Yugoslav troops were reported by the Giornale del Mattino to be moving toward the Morgan line in Venezia Giulia today as an allied commission of experts prepared to investigate the situation in the area claimed by both Italy and Yugoslavia.

Materials, Men Already Gathering at Pacific Outposts in Preparation for Coming Atom Tests

By Don Whitehead
KWAJALEIN, Feb. 20.—(AP)—There is a strange story unfolding today in the sunwashed remoteness of the Marshall Islands as a joint army-navy task force prepares for "operation crossroads"—the atomic bomb tests against seapower.

Kwajalein no longer is merely a lonely Pacific outpost or a way-station on the aerial routes linking Asia and America. It is a busy, vital, exciting place where everyone present knows he will have a ringside seat at one of the greatest experiments of all times. "Crossroads" is a magic word here. Preparations are being rushed and No. 1 priorities are commonplace. More and more officers and men are arriving daily to help with the spadework. Arrangements are being made to help

The Oregon Statesman

Delay Due In Phone Walkout

Mediator Claims Progress in G.M. Strike Talk

By the Associated Press
Threat of a nationwide tieup of telephone service was delayed, at least temporarily, yesterday and a federal mediator reported "substantial" progress toward settling the 92-day-old General Motors strike.

The head of the National Federation of Telephone Workers appealed to government officials to intervene in the federation's wage dispute with the industry, promising not to strike until "after we have talked with you."

But a group consisting of 17 of the 50 NFW affiliates represented at a Memphis, Tenn., strategy meeting, pressed for more direct action, with its leader contending some delegates wanted an early telephone strike date set.

In Detroit, Federal Mediator James F. Dewey said yesterday's negotiations session between the General Motors corporation and striking CIO United Auto Workers was "the best so far" and that substantial progress had been made toward reaching agreement.

Dewey said the negotiators discussed "everything" at issue and that another meeting had been scheduled for 10 a.m. (EST) today and would "probably continue straight through."

Meanwhile some 400,000 families in Detroit were left without milk deliveries when an estimated 1300 employes of four large dairies quit work in a wage dispute.

Only a trickle has reached Japan from Korea and the Kuriles, and Tokyo newspapers said that those "escaped." A virtually complete absence of information here about Japanese in Manchuria is increasing anxiety among local relatives.

Newspaper interviews with "escaped persons" from the Kuriles have described relatively good living conditions, however, with ample food supplies and only limited internment.

So far as is known, these mark the first official Japanese government communications with Washington on international matters.

Pope Pius Hits At Imperialism

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Pope Pius XII declared today that modern imperialism "carries in it germs which endanger the very foundations of human intercession" and called upon the Roman Catholic church to take a militant leadership in preparing a basis on which human society "can rest securely."

The pontiff, speaking in a world-wide broadcast, expressed grave concern over the "unbridled tendency toward expansion" now evident in the world.

The pontiff once again stressed the "supranationalism" of a universal church as exemplified in the 22 nationalities now represented in the college of cardinals, and urged the world "which everywhere hungers and thirsts for unity" to rally around it.

Most Oregon highways offered normal travel conditions Wednesday, despite light snowfall in central and eastern parts of the state Tuesday night, State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock reported Wednesday.

Materials, Men Already Gathering at Pacific Outposts in Preparation for Coming Atom Tests

The Bikini folk are preparing to leave, perhaps never to return. They accepted philosophically the selection of their coral islands for the tests, and on March 1 navy ships will begin moving them and their household belongings to the island of Rongerik, 135 miles to the east. There they will be re-established in new homes built by the Americans.

Kwajalein bears no resemblance to the shambles across which the U.S. seventh infantry division charged on Feb. 1, 1944, to storm the Japanese garrison holed up in pillboxes, foxholes and concrete and steel emplacements.

Lawns have been sodded and neat paths outlined with sparkling white coral rock — but the island's 4000 Americans can't forget that battle. The U.S. cemetery's row of crosses are still too new and too white.

Cabbies Organize for Drive to Capitol



WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Taxi-driving war veterans (shown above organizing in Chicago) bivouacked in Camp Simms, an unused army camp on the southeastern outskirts, tonight and mapped a campaign for federal aid in getting back licenses from their city. They plan to parade around the capitol tomorrow in the 150 black and cream-colored taxicabs they drove here from Chicago in a three-day trip through snow and sleet.

Japs Complain Soviet Holding Nippon Troops

TOKYO, Thursday, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Authoritative allied sources said today that General MacArthur's headquarters has forwarded to Washington the latest of "several" official Japanese government requests for allied help in repatriating Japanese from Russian-occupied areas.

Headquarters acted merely as a forwarding agency, these sources said, pointing out that any future action is up to Washington.

Only a trickle has reached Japan from Korea and the Kuriles, and Tokyo newspapers said that those "escaped." A virtually complete absence of information here about Japanese in Manchuria is increasing anxiety among local relatives.

Newspaper interviews with "escaped persons" from the Kuriles have described relatively good living conditions, however, with ample food supplies and only limited internment.

So far as is known, these mark the first official Japanese government communications with Washington on international matters.

Jack Von, Salem Boxer, Dies After Fight in Armory

Jack Von, 180-pound Salem fighter, died last night in a local hospital from what is believed to have been injuries suffered in a boxing bout at the armory with Bobby Ford, 175-pound Portland negro.

Cause of death was not stated at the hospital and hospital attendants said an autopsy would be performed Thursday.

Von was rushed to the hospital immediately after he lost via technical knockout to Ford in the fifth round of their bout. He died 20 minutes after entering the hospital, attendants said.

(Full details on sports page).

Cotton Garment Plan Aimed to Aid Production

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The government tonight outlined a new program designed to increase production of inexpensive cotton garments by fifty per cent.

It provides for incentive price increases to textile mills so as to boost output of the type of fabric needed for such scarce apparel as men's shirts, shorts and pajamas, women's dresses, and work clothing.

The program also aims at restricting production of less essential but currently more profitable fabrics.

Officials could give no overall estimate of how much retail prices might be increased under the new program, but said the price of men's shirts, for example, might be boosted by from five to six cents.

Riley Recommends Release of Housing

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Release of 2000 more Vanport housing units for use of veterans elsewhere was recommended today by Mayor Earl Riley's emergency housing committee.

The committee said the Vanport project would retain 1230 vacant units which it considered a safe margin for the area's needs.

Board of Control to Take Action on Bid

Possibility of a readvertisement for bids for construction of a patients' dormitory at the state hospital farm was seen Wednesday by some state officials as they speculated on what action the state board of control might take at its Thursday meeting to consider the low bid of \$511,940, which is 60 per cent over the state engineers' estimate of cost.

Friendly Act Costs Salem Woman \$14

Sometimes hospitality doesn't pay, and when it doesn't it's an old story to police. Mrs. L. G. Prescott, 245 S. 15th st., Sunday befriended a strange woman who said she could not find lodgings anywhere in Salem, by letting her sleep on aavenport.

On Wednesday Mrs. Prescott told local police her davenport lodger had disappeared, and so had \$14 from a purse left at home when Mrs. Prescott went out shopping.

'Amazed' At Canada Release

Moscow Radio Declares Data 'Insignificant'

LONDON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Russia acknowledged tonight that Canadian citizens had given "insignificant secret data" to soviet representatives in Canada, but declared that the position taken by the Canadian government was not "compatible with friendly relations between the two countries."

A Russian statement, broadcast by the Moscow radio and heard here by the Associated Press and the Soviet monitor, said the Soviet military attaché in Ottawa had been recalled because of the "inadmissibility" of the actions of members of his staff. But it expressed "amazement" that the Canadian government had published its statement on the leakage of information last Feb. 15 instead of previously asking an explanation from the Soviet government "as is expected between countries maintaining normal relations."

The radio said the statement was being handed to the Canadian charge d'affaires in Moscow. First Russian Word

The broadcast was the first word to come from Russia since Prime Minister MacKenzie King announced in Ottawa last Friday that highly secret information had been divulged to a foreign mission, later authoritatively identified as the Soviet embassy.

"It was ascertained," the Moscow statement said, "that the data concerned such technical details as were not needed by the soviet order in view of the fact that in the U.S.S.R. higher technical achievements are in existence and which may be found in publications on radio-location and similar subjects as well as in the well-known pamphlets of the American Smythe on atomic energy. In view of this it would be ridiculous to assert that the communication of such insignificant secret data could create any danger whatsoever for the security of Canada."

The Moscow statement said the ambassador and other members of the soviet embassy in Canada "had no connection whatsoever with the matter."

The statement that called attention to what it said was a campaign "hostile to the soviet union, which had started in the Canadian press and radio simultaneously" with the MacKenzie King statement last Friday.

"One must recognize," the statement said, "that the above-mentioned unbridled anti-soviet campaign was part of the plan of the Canadian government, and is aimed at inflicting political harm to the soviet union."

Canadians Lash Back At Moscow Motives

OTTAWA, Feb. 20.—(AP)—An official government spokesman who declined to permit further identification, declared tonight that the Russians were making "political capital" out of the Canadian espionage case.

Shortly after receipt of a Moscow broadcast charging that Canada in handling its "spy" investigation was encouraging an anti-soviet campaign, the spokesman declared:

"The soviet statement started out as an admission of guilt sufficient to cause the withdrawal of its military attaché and then proceeded to minimize the whole matter and sought to make political capital by imputing motives to the Canadian government."

Farmers Urged To Back CVA

HILLSBORO, Feb. 20.—(AP)—Herbert Peet, executive secretary of the Columbia Valley Authority league, today urged members of the Oregon Farmers' Union to support CVA as a means of encouraging "unified development of the Pacific northwest."

The Seattle office of the league organized by a score of Washington and Oregon groups declared opponents of the CVA plan "sought to cloud the merits of the program" by claiming it threatens local and state rights.

Peet said the CVA would operate on federal authority already possessed. He told the members the Pacific northwest has 42 per cent of the hydro-electric power potential of the U. S.

Harbor Probe Ends Hearings

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—(AP)—The Pearl Harbor investigating committee wound up today three months of open hearings preliminary to an attempt to fix responsibility for the success of Japan's Dec. 7, 1941 attack.

The 10-member senate-house group has until June 1 to assess the evidence it has received and prepare a report on what circumstances enabled Japanese air raiders to catch Hawaii's defenders napping and knock out 18 ships of the Pacific fleet.

Richard Cutler Elected to Head New World War II VFW Post

Richard C. Cutler was elected commander of a new post for World War II veterans Wednesday night, when 38 ex-servicemen met in VFW hall to form Meadowlark post No. 6102. Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The new post will be officially instituted and its officers installed at a public meeting in VFW hall at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3, with an Oregon City VFW drill team officiating. A delegation from Marion post No. 661, Salem's long established VFW post, also will take part in the program.

Last night's organization meeting was conducted by the district VFW commander, Virgil Bolton.

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Rain
Salem	37	39	Trace
Uglen	34	39	.09
Portland	33	39	.05
Seattle	25	42	.20
San Francisco	50	44	.30

Willamette river 25 ft.
FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Cloudy today, occasional light rain. Highest temperature today 46 degrees.