

Northwest Forest Fire Total Declines

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—Forest fires in the northwest declined 25 per cent last year compared to the 1937-41 average, due to less lightning, the preliminary national forest fire record, presented at a house appropriations sub-committee hearing on a deficiency appropriation bill, shows. Acreage burned was almost double normal, however.

The Oregon-Washington region had the most fires—1,089, of which 839 were caused by lightning, 250 by man. The 1937-41 average is 1,963. Twelve of the fires were larger than 300 acres, and 8,438 acres were burned over inside national forests.

The greatest area destroyed was in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and western Wyoming where 55,372 acres were burned with the comparatively small number of 732 fires. Of these 491 were from lightning, 241 man-caused. The average is 889. This section also had the most big fires: 22 larger than 300 acres in extent.

Montana and Idaho were second in the number of fires—1,040, but only one was larger than 300 acres. Lightning caused 897, man 173, at a cost in acres of 1,948. The four-year average number of fires is 1,946.

Lightning usually causes 6,598 fires throughout the west yearly, Perry Thompson, chief of the forest service fire control stated. Last year there were but 4,348.

Red Cross Drive—

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and in 1943, there will probably be 3,000. This work is only a part of the widespread work contributed to locally, Mr. Simon said. Humanitarianism Noted

Carl G. Washburne, chairman of the special gifts committee, called the Red Cross "the greatest humanitarian of the war" finding its greatest need in "one of the most critical stages in history."

Speaking briefly to the more than 150 workers present were Grace Jackson, local executive secretary; who introduced representatives of the Red Cross canteen, nurses' aides, surgical dressings, motor corps, and staff assistance units; Vern Hawn of the city council; Mrs. A. R. Fredrickson, women's residential chairman, who presented Mrs. W. S. Love, west side chairman, and Mrs. C. B. Swango, east side chairman; Frank Eberhart, campaign assistant to General Chairman Stanley R. Stevenson.

Mr. Stevenson gave final instructions to volunteers, said that those who contribute at least \$1 will be given Red Cross memberships, but that no donation will be considered as "too small or too great." The \$41,400 that must be raised during March is the absolute minimum on which the work of the organization for the next year can be carried out, he stated.

Also introduced was Allen Wheeler, county chairman for the rural districts, who announced a meeting of all his workers and prospective workers for Tuesday noon luncheon in the Osburn grill room.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—The American Red Cross begins today the greatest single crusade of mercy in all history.

Thus spoke President Roosevelt yesterday in proclaiming the month of March Red Cross month and asking Americans to contribute at least \$125,000,000 "to make sure that every American boy on every fighting front has everything he needs which the Red Cross can supply."

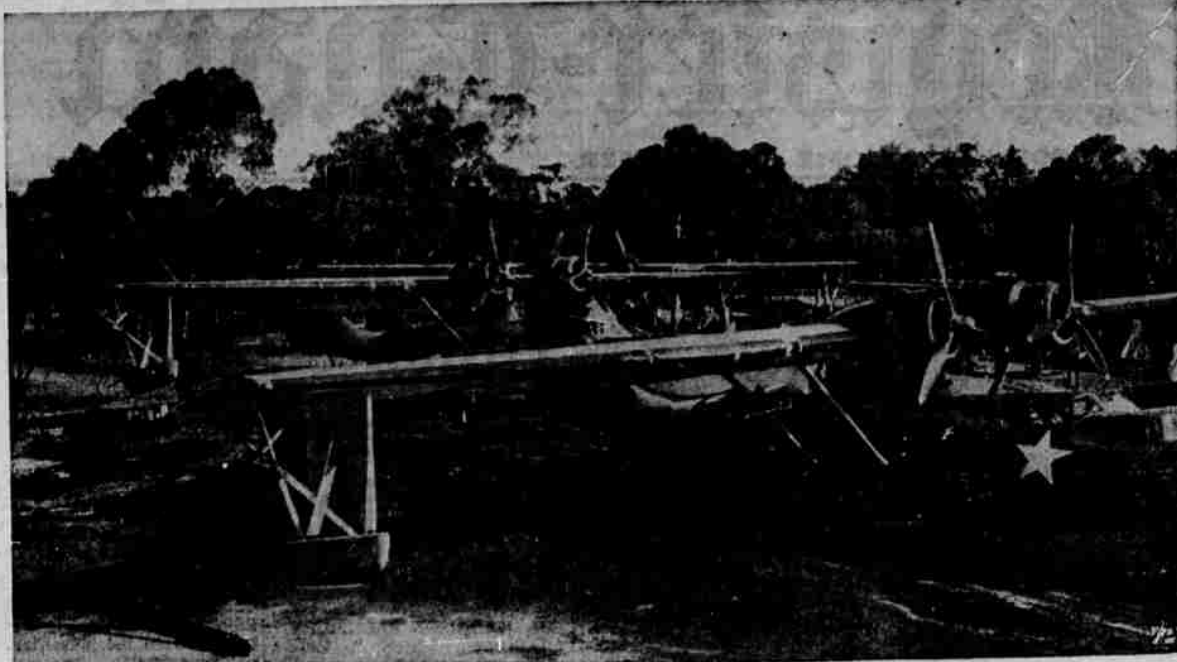
In a message read to the nation by Chairman Norman H. Davies of the Red Cross, Mr. Roosevelt said the organization was "undertaking a task unprecedented—because this war is unprecedented."

"We undertake this greatest of all Red Cross crusades in the name of mercy," he said, "now that we are engaged in a war to decide whether all our concepts of mercy and human decency are strong enough to survive."

Ole Floto Dies Sunday

Ole O. Floto died Sunday at 172 Twelfth avenue west, Eugene, at the age of 63 years. He was born in Norway Dec. 13, 1874, and came to the U. S. in 1900. He lived in North Dakota before coming to Eugene in 1935.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Bernice; also a brother in Montana and one in Minnesota and two sisters in Norway. Funeral services will be held from the Veatch-Hollingsworth chapel on Tuesday at 2 p. m. The Rev. H. J. Thorpe will officiate and interment will be in the Rest Haven Memorial Park.



SPEARHEADS OF U. S. SOUTH PACIFIC MIGHT—These U. S. Navy PB4Y patrol bombers on an Australian beach are part of a large force that scout the vast South Pacific sea and air in advance of heavier American forces.

Soviets Reveal—

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northwest but the special communique tonight was the first mention the Russians had made of fighting, since the announcements following the capture of Schlüsselberg in breaking the German ring around Leningrad.

The communique reviewed the initial German drive in the north in September, 1941, when the Germans broke through southeast of Lake Ilmen, capturing Zaluzya, Rechikovo, Demyansk and D'Armes.

"During the subsequent 17 months, the enemy succeeded in holding on to the captured place of D'Armes stubbornly and determinedly and transformed it into a powerful fortified district calling it the Demyansk fortress."

"During the same period above mentioned, the district has been the repeated scene of violent battles in which German divisions were ground down."

The Russians said their offensive started "a few days ago" and that the Red army had pierced the strongly fortified enemy zone on several sectors and "created a serious threat of double encirclement for the German fascist troops."

Post-War Highway Projects Planned

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—Plans for post-war highway construction to cost \$500,000,000 are developing rapidly, Commissioner Thomas H. MacDonald of the public roads administration said yesterday.

"The purpose of this advance engineering is to provide fully planned road building projects ready for immediate construction after the war," he said in a statement. "A considerable number of these projects will be located in and around cities to provide employment for men demobilized from the armed forces and the war industries, and to relieve America's No. 1 traffic problem, which is in the cities."

The construction would be financed jointly by the federal government and the states, with the latter matching the federal contribution. The half-billion dollar program would be equivalent to about two years of federal aid highway work in normal peacetime, said MacDonald.

The preliminary engineering is being financed by a \$10,000,000 fund authorized in the 1941 defense highway act. It is now underway in 22 states where highway departments are preparing plans for roads and bridges to cost \$170,000,000.

Without giving any details, the public roads administration said that planning projects have been approved in and around the following cities:

Idaho—Boise, Couer D'Alene, Lewiston, Pocatello, Sandpoint.
Oregon—Portland.
Washington—Mount Vernon, Olympia, Seattle.

FLOOD VICTIMS GET CANDY

PHILADELPHIA—Five hundred pounds of candy has been shipped into the flood-stricken counties of Kentucky by a Philadelphia confectioner. Red Cross relief workers visiting the homes of the flood-affected families have taken charge of distribution.

MacArthur Says—

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its offensive against the Japanese along the Burma road, after a month's lay-off due to bad weather, and spilled tons of bombs on warehouses and barracks at Mangahli, 30 miles west of the Salween river, where the Japs have been making some advances in a threat against China's Yunnan province. Huge fires were set.

Other American fliers from India were reported in a communique to have damaged, and probably sunk, a 7,000-ton merchant ship south of Rangoon, big Burma port, and to have spread devastation among warehouses and ammunition dumps at Waingmaw, a Japanese base in northern Burma used for the Yunnan drive.

A Indian coastal patrol, feeling out Japanese defenses 60 miles southeast of Akyab on the Burma coast, clashed with armed enemy

launches and killed 50 Japanese soldiers. The clash was near the scene of a commando-like raid by British troops last week.

The RAF also attacked objectives in Burma, particularly at Akyab, and a British communique announced that guerrillas operating in northern Burma had been so successful in ambushing Japanese patrols that the Japanese had been forced to undertake a major expedition in that area in an effort to mop them up.

Corporation Tax—

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would get little or no reduction.

The other tax-reduction bills would reduce the personal income tax 10 per cent this year and 11.62 per cent starting with next year's payments; cut the property tax 10 per cent by giving school districts surplus income tax revenues; and give men in the armed forces an additional \$3,000 income tax exemption. The senate has yet to act on all of them except the armed forces exemption bill, which has passed both houses.

There is a good chance that the legislature will pass and refer to the people two measures providing for a 3 per cent sales tax and a 30-mill property tax limitation.

The highway fund diversion bill probably won't provide any funds for cities until after the war, as it is doubtful that the motor vehicles revenues amount to \$11,000,000 a year until the war is over. The cities' bill originally asked for 15 per cent of revenues when the total exceeds \$10,000,000 a year, but the house highway committee pruned it.

U. S. Court Reverses Conviction of Viereck

WASHINGTON, March 1.—(AP)—Asserting that a government prosecutor "may strike hard blows" but not "foul ones," the supreme court reversed today the conviction of George Sylvester Viereck on a charge of failing to give the state department full information concerning his alleged activities as a Nazi agent in this country.

Chief Justice Stone delivered the 5-2 decision. Justices Black

and Douglas dissented and Justices Jackson and Rutledge did not participate.

Stone said that the prosecuting attorney, in his closing remarks to the jury, "indulged in an appeal wholly irrelevant to any facts or issues in the case, the purpose and effect of which could only have been to arouse passion and prejudice."

Vegetable Growers' Meetings Scheduled

CORVALLIS, Ore., March 1.—(AP)—The Oregon State college extension service announced today that three vegetable growers' "economic conferences" had been scheduled for Portland, Corvallis and Medford, in the heart of Oregon's three most critical areas.

The conferences, arranged at the request of the state war board of the U. S. department of agriculture, were called to consider methods by which an adequate supply of fresh vegetables might be assured this season.

The Portland meeting will be held March 5, the Corvallis conference March 9 and the Medford conference March 10.

A pair of modestly shabby breeches for the 16th century gentleman might require 100 yds of material.

NURSES MAKE VISITS

In cooperation with physicians, Red Cross public health nurses made 1,000,000 visits to or in behalf of the sick in isolated communities and small towns in the year 1938-39.

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Correct Sizes for All Builds
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Poisoned Barley for Squirrels is Prepared

Two tons of poisoned barley for the eradication of grey squirrels will be mixed in Eugene Tuesday and will be distributed among dealers in the next few days, it was announced Monday by O. S. Fletcher, corn agent. B. A. Rowe, district agent of the United States wild life service, and Chester High, federal co-operative hunter for Lane county, will have charge of mixing.

HOMES ACROSS THE SEA

The American Red Cross is creating more than 150 new clubs for the use of U. S. ex-servicemen overseas. The clubs are established in congested areas to offer our soldiers in a strange place a place to go for relaxation and entertainment during time duty.

A pair of modestly shabby breeches for the 16th century gentleman might require 100 yds of material.

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