

Metal Use

to Solons

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Officials of the country's two major aluminum fabricating companies told senators here of their plans to expand use of the light metal after the war.

J. Reynolds, president of Reynolds Metal Co., told a Senate committee session devoted to conversion problems that the continued existence of two large companies engaged in aluminum production would be vital to the future of the metal. If aluminum were to be the hands of a single producer, Reynolds said, other industries would cut down their production rather than become dependent on the price rates and output of one concern.

George R. Gibbons and I. W. Wilson, vice presidents of the Aluminum Company of America, urged for gradual reconversion to wartime production.

Asserting his company could not fabricate aluminum for wartime uses "tomorrow" without interfering with war production, Wilson said industry must be allowed to "chink in its production cracks as they develop. It will face a post-war chasm which cannot be bridged."

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FLYERS BEFORE FRYERS—Baby chicks have been tested and found airworthy for post-war shipment to points in this country and abroad. It was disclosed today by the University of Illinois and United Air Lines, which have conducted tests with sample shipments between Chicago and San Francisco. Here Prof. H. H. Alp of the University of Illinois college of agriculture (right) and J. Prescott Blount of United's air cargo department are inspecting a shipment following its return to Chicago from California. They found the chicks perky and apparently quite happy about the whole thing. (United Air Lines photo. Wiltshire engraving)

Crosses In The Sky? Pruett Tells Some Facts Of Them

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, General Extension Division, University of Oregon
Crosses, various and sundry, have at times been reported gleaming in the skies. Constantine, the Roman emperor, announced that the appearance of a cross in the heavens in 313 A.D. caused him to change the state religion. During a recent night air raid over England, a large group of people were sure they beheld a similar

cross over their locality. An Oregon man has stated that one night he saw little crosses centered on all the very bright stars. Four times during the past two years the present writer has received accounts of luminous crosses with the full moon at their centers.

Concerning some of these reports no explanation will be attempted. The fact is well known that certain eye defects cause flares to seem to extend outward from bright stars. To some persons the longest ray may appear below the star; to others, in some other direction. If while looking at the star, one's head is swung so as to rest alternately on one shoulder and then on the other, it will be found that the flare on the star rotates the same amount as the observer's head. Properly fitted glasses would likely destroy this beautiful illusion. Perhaps the common depicting of a star as a five-pointed object came about through faulty vision of some ancient artist.

As to moon crosses, two explanations other than eye defects seem possible. When ice crystals in the higher air are in abundance and at the proper tilt, a cross sometimes—although rarely—is seen radiating from the sun. It seems reasonable that similar lunar crosses may be seen when the moon is at its brightest. A moon-cross reported for 4 a.m. one cold, frosty night in January, 1942, might well have this explanation. Crosses centered on the full moon may be seen easily if the observer looks at the moon through a screen of sufficiently fine mesh. Street lights will give beautiful crosses if viewed from a dark room through a screened window. This is a well-known diffraction effect.

But there are crosses in the sky that are as enduring as the ancient stars, for they are built of those far-away celestial jewels. Travelers below north latitude 30 degrees are always anxious for a view of the famed Southern Cross. In our own skies we have a much larger and more perfectly shaped cruciform figure, the Northern Cross. At nightfall this cross is now well up in the sky somewhat north of east and is lying on its side with the bright star Deneb at its head. A little farther right a vertical row of three stars (of Big Dipper brightness) forms the cross arm. The foot of the cross is farther to the right and under Vega, the brilliant star high in the east.

Sale of Washer at 218 Per Cent of Ceiling Is Whittled Down by OPA
When an article is sold for 218 per cent of its ceiling price, that's an overcharge!

The war price and rationing board told Wednesday of a Eugene man who recently sold a \$57.50 washing machine for \$125. He was called before the board, who told him that sales by individuals (as well as by firms) were affected by ceilings.

He said he knew it, that he had sold the machine for 218 percent of the ceiling, and signed a statement. He also had a roll of bills, in his pocket, to pay the party he had gyped, and he refunded the amount of the overcharge.

The story has a happy ending, because the buyer, as it turned out, only paid a fair price, the board did its duty in helping to cut down inflation, and the salesman was assured that OPA wasn't going to sue him.

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