

Severe Drought Hits Australia

Officials Abandon
All Hope of Relief

SYDNEY, Australia — (AP) — All hope of relief before November from the great North Australian drought now has been officially abandoned.

This grim decision came by radio from government officers sent by truck across the desolate plains that stretch in three directions from Darwin. They say light, bog-making showers now will only hasten the death of the 1 million head of cattle in the drought region.

AN AREA comparable in size with the whole of free Europe is gripped by a strange and devastating drought which experts believe will have its repercussions on trade and even defense for 10 to 15 years.

Already the minister for agriculture and commerce, J. McEwen, has announced Australia cannot expect to export any beef this year. The drought is expected to cut the output of beef by nearly 100,000 tons.

Australia's output of beef last year was 652,000 tons, of which more than 60,000 was exported. The beef cattle population was 10,200,000, a record.

Pastoral authorities say the severe drought will make beef scarce on the Australian market for several months and is bound to bring increased prices. Exports probably will be limited for several years because of severe losses among breeding cows and calves.

THE AUSTRALIAN Agricultural Council said recovery from the drought in Northern Australia will take at least five years.

A Brisbane newspaper editor has just returned from a 2,500-mile tour of the stricken area including the world's largest cattle station, Alexandria Downs, which sprawls over 11,200 square miles. "There is hardly a drop of surface water left," says the editor in his report.

"Some 50,000 cattle are already dead in the northern territory alone. The death toll could be 150,000 by November."

"A while ago, cattle were dropping on the shadeless plains from heat exhaustion. The sun temperature has been 140 degrees. Now gaunt, shaggy-legged bullocks and cows face freezing nights."



THE SECRET'S OUT—Stage and Screen Star Judy Garland gestures as she talks to newsmen backstage at the Curran Theater in San Francisco, shortly after her marriage to her business agent Sid Luft was revealed. The couple were secretly married at the home of millionaire rancher Robert Law near Hollister, Calif. Judy gave her age as 29. Luft, presently in Los Angeles, said he was 30. It was the third marriage for both.

U.S. Passport Policy Defended In Reply to Criticism by Morse

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. McCarran (D-Nev.) has defended the Passport Division of the State Department and its chief, Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley, against charges of tyrannical action.

"Mrs. Shipley should be commended for efficiency, courtesy and fair play," McCarran told the Senate.

McCarran's defense was in reply to a speech made last week by Sen. Morse (R-Ore.). Morse said the Passport Division operates so secretly that no one—including a U. S. Senator—can find out why an application for a passport has been rejected.

Furthermore, Morse said, any-

one who has been turned down has no way to ask for a review. Morse jumped on what he called the Passport Division's "tyrannical, arbitrary and capricious exercise of discretion."

McCarran said: "If passports have been denied in certain cases in which the junior senator from Oregon, Morse, is interested, then the embarrassment is his and not the Passport Division of the Department of State."

REPLYING directly to McCarran later, Morse accused the Nevada of using intentional innuendo to leave an impression that would do "great damage to a colleague."

Damp but Gleeful . . .

Kids Parade Despite Rain

PORTLAND — (AP) — Thousands of kids marched through east side streets Saturday in the Portland Rose Festival's annual junior parade, their trek dampened by a morning-long drizzle but their spirits as rosy as the glamour of Friday's grand floral parade.

MORE THAN 10,000 other children, plus a large turnout of adults, gathered along Sandy boulevard to watch the small fry exhibit their dogs, pigs, parrots, rabbits and themselves in the next-to-last-day of the 1952 festival.

Oregon Harvest Needs Increase

SALEM — (AP) — Two-thirds of the strawberry harvest is yet to be reaped and the cherry harvest is starting. And farms in the northern and western parts of Oregon will need up to 10,000 new workers in the next few days, the State Employment service said Saturday.

Seven areas made requests for 6,500 additional berry pickers. Portland, 4,000; Hillsboro, 1,000; Salem, 500; McMinnville, 300; Hood River, 300; Albany, 200, and Oregon City, 200. The Dalles leads in demand for cherry workers with 1,000. McMinnville, Salem and Milton-Freewater each can use several hundred more. Family camps generally are available.

The pea harvest in the Pendleton-Freewater-Milton district is getting well under way and 450 more huskers are needed.

Housing is not plentiful but board and room generally can be found. Thinning of apple and pear trees in the Hood River valley is well started but four weeks more work is expected. Cabins are available but applicants must have bedding and utensils.

The service said because of changing conditions, latest crop, harvest and housing information should be obtained from the nearest of the state's 28 employment officers before a move is made.

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The rain prevented an early turnout of parade participants and most of the gaily-decorated floats were kept under cover until the 10:30 a.m. parade time.

But despite the weather, the uninhibited juniors marched along in good-humored chaos characteristic of their big moment in the annual Rose City celebration — headed noisily from Grant bowl where ice cream and cookies awaited them.

Most of the entrants relied on crepe paper and old clothes from the family attic to provide their share of the paeantry while junior-sized vehicles — ranging from baby buggies and kiddy-cars to motor scooters — carried their pets and prized floral ideas.

JUNIOR QUEEN Alice Whitten and her prime minister, Dennis Brandon, headed the lineup on

their own float as Jack Mather, known to his fans as the "Cisco Kid," acted as honorary grand marshal and Gill Kamerzell served as grand marshal. The Sunburst, Mont., band led off as the honor musical organization.

The Junior court will end its reign over the festival by participating in the annual rose planting ceremony Sunday at 2 a.m. at Peninsula park.

The weatherman said there probably would be sunshine for Sunday's events in Rosaria, the festival's make-believe wonderland.

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