

THE WEATHER HERE

GENERALLY FAIR tonight and Tuesday with slightly cooler temperatures. Lowest tonight, 43; highest Tuesday, 74.

Maximum yesterday, 80; minimum today, 51. Total 24-hour precipitation, .02 for month, 1.31; normal, .83. Season precipitation, 1.31; normal, .83. River height, 2.3 feet. Report by U.S. Weather Bureau.

Capital Journal

HOME EDITION

61st Year, No. 223

Entered as second class matter at Salem, Oregon

Salem, Oregon, Monday, September 19,

(18 Pages)

Price 5c

Coal Mines of Nation Closed By Walk-out

Diggers Strike on Their Own Crying "No Pension, No Work"

Pittsburgh, Sept. 19 (AP)—Coal mines shut down across the nation today as John L. Lewis' diggers struck again on their own—this time crying "No pension, no work."

Production of anthracite (hard coal) and bituminous (soft coal) is being choked off by anger of the United Mine Workers over President Lewis' suspension of pension and welfare fund payments.

Actually, miners' pent-up feelings are aimed at southern coal operators who refused any more 20 cent per ton royalty payments into the welfare fund until a new contract is signed. The refusal prompted Lewis' suspension of welfare benefits, 480,000 to be idled.

Most of the UMW's 480,000 members in 20 states are expected to be idle by tonight. Lewis said the welfare pay stop is due to the fund running low on cash. But it's all part of the UMW fight for a new contract. He's deadlocked with operators after prolonged talks.

Walkouts started last midnight and gained headway over the coal fields today as come-to-work notices blew in vain. UMW leaders insisted the union's rank and file is acting on its own initiative, that Lewis has issued no strike call. He never does.

West Virginia, biggest soft coal producing state, reported its 120,000 miners joining the stoppage.

Pennsylvania, No. 2 on the producing parade, saw miners refusing to show up at pits across the state.

Pennsylvania Hit The western Pennsylvania coal operators association said no miners were working in the rich bituminous belt employing 56,000. All big mines in central Pennsylvania, employing 45,000, also were down.

Only a few of eastern Pennsylvania's 80,000 hard coal miners showed up for work. They sat around and talked for a while and then went home. The great majority never reached the mines. Many industry leaders had expected the hard coal mines to continue working since the operators have continued royalty payments. The anthracite pension fund is administered separately from the bituminous fund.

The United States Steel corporation said all its coal mining operations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky were closed with 16,000 men idle. The steel corporation's mine had a daily production of 90,000 tons.

Lewis Silent On Shut-down

Washington, Sept. 19 (AP)—John L. Lewis today kept silent on the shutdown of the coal mines.

The United Mine Workers leader sent word to reporters that he would have no statement of any kind today.

Lewis would not say definitely whether he would attend the resumption of negotiations with the Southern Coal Producers association at Bluefield, W. Va., tomorrow. However, it was considered likely that he would remain in Washington and skip the Bluefield session. He is expected to attend the negotiations with the northern and western operators at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on Wednesday.

Meantime, neither the Federal House or Cyrus Ching, federal mediation chief, had anything to say about the coal walkout. Ching is tied up with negotiations in the steel dispute. He took the position that "we have to deal with one thing at a time."

However, Joseph E. Moody, president of the Southern Coal Producers association, saw Ching and Attorney John C. Gall, counsel for the coal association, during the noon recess in the steel talks.

King Cancels Moose Hunt

Stockholm, Sept. 19 (AP)—King Gustaf V of Sweden today cancelled, because of fading health, his scheduled participation in tomorrow's traditional royal moose hunt. A court announcement said the 91-year-old monarch is suffering from increased shortness of breath, weariness and a cough.

First Effort at Mediation in Steel Strike Fails

Another Peace Meet Scheduled Later—Strike Called Saturday

Washington, Sept. 19 (AP)—The government failed today in its first effort to mediate in the steel strike set for midnight Saturday, but another peace conference was scheduled for later in the day.

After nearly three hours of discussion, first with both union and management representatives and then with the industry group, Federal Mediation Director Cyrus S. Ching admitted he had failed to break the deadlock.

Both Sides Stand Pat Ching said the steel companies were standing by their previous refusal to accept as the basis for negotiations the pension and insurance benefits recommended for the steelworkers by President Truman's fact-finding board.

CIO President Philip Murray, leading the union's delegation, announced at the start of the meeting that 1,000,000 steelworkers would walk out Saturday night unless the companies started bargaining "here and now" on those recommendations.

When the first conference broke up, both sides were standing pat. Ching told reporters, however, that he planned to meet separately with the management and union negotiators later today.

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Ford Strike Set September 29

Detroit, Sept. 19 (AP)—The CIO United Auto Workers today set a strike deadline of Thursday, September 29, against the Ford Motor company, unless fourth-round economic demands are met.

UAW President Walter P. Reuther gave Ford notice of intention to cancel his union's contract at that time. A strike of Ford's 115,000 production employees would shut down 33 plants across the nation, idle tens of thousands of other workers in a short time and choke off production of 6,340 cars a day.

Cancellation of the contract meant a strike under the UAW's traditional "no contract, no work" policy. However, there was no break off in negotiations and settlement of the UAW's pension health insurance and other demands still was considered likely before the strike deadline.

Termination of the contract, extended on a day-to-day basis since July 15, was taken as a bid by Reuther to strengthen his hand at the bargaining table. Reuther is seeking company-financed \$100 pensions for workers over 60 with 25 years' experience.

Duncan Upholds Flagg's Phone Budget Rejection

Circuit Judge Duncan in an opinion handed down Monday in the case of Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company vs. George H. Flagg, utilities commissioner upholds the commissioner in rejecting certain budget items in plaintiff's contract with the American Telephone & Telegraph company.

The court holds that the plaintiff must establish a reasonable need for the services rendered and to show that it is not disproportionate to the value of the services to the plaintiff.

The court modifies the commissioner's order by eliminating that portion which requires the plaintiff to order or requisition service from the American company as, he says, "the statute is not deemed to confer authority on the commission to prescribe for utilities the method of their doing business."

The case arose over the plaintiff in its 1948 and 1949 budgets setting up certain items which it proposes to pay to the American Telephone & Telegraph company under a license contract based on the gross earnings of the plaintiff for certain services rendered.

The license contract provides for a rate not exceeding 2 1/2 percent of plaintiff's gross earnings totaling \$363,000 for 1948 and \$317,000 for 1949. "The contract is general in its terms," says the decision of Judge Duncan, "as to the services which American is required



Salem Company Takes Airport—Above, men of Company B, 162nd infantry regiment, Oregon National Guard, from Salem unload from troop carrier planes of the air force at the Medford airport in the first airborne operation of the Oregon National Guard since the war. Below, Company B men move on the Medford airport to take the airport, using blank ammunition.

All Schools In Operation

All of the units of the Salem school district were in operation Monday as pupils congregated for their second week of class. Parrish junior high, Lincoln and Washington elementary schools that were delayed a week because of construction work were functioning although under somewhat of a handicap.

The office of the superintendent reported total registration of 7482, just eight shy of the predicted 7500. The total enrollment included 3764 in the elementary department with Hayesville, the latest suburban area to be added to the consolidated district, providing 99 pupils below the seventh grades. The balance are being transported to Parish junior high.

Slight increases were shown in registration at eight of the elementary buildings over a week ago. Bush has the largest enrollment of the grades with a total of 545, including 119 first graders.

Another congested spot is Englewood where 471 pupils were registered. Highland has 375 with 94 of them being in the first grade. Monday high's registration was 1704, a jump of 113 over a week ago. Leslie junior high's registration of 708 was up 30.

At Parrish junior high where Carl Aschenbrenner said "some of the teachers may be a bit surprised to find carpenters or other mechanics in their rooms," reported a preliminary enrollment of 963. This number is approximately 20 more than a year ago.

Price of Gold Hiked London, Sept. 19 (AP)—The price of gold was fixed officially today at 248 shillings per fine ounce. The old price at the week-end before devaluation was 172 shillings and three pence.

ONG Gets First Airborne Operation at Medford

Oregon's National Guard had its first airborne operation since the War Sunday, when Salem's Company B, 162nd infantry regiment captured Medford's airport.

The 2343rd air force reserve training center, at Portland. Shortly after 1 p.m. they disembarked at the Medford airport and immediately began preparations for their attack on the airport.

Under the command of Capt. Burl Cox the men inched forward, staying close to the ground, and moved up on the apron and hangar area of the Medford field. Supporting the riflemen were 60 mm mortars to the rear. Other company B officers making the airborne trip with the men were First Lt. Joe Meier, and Second Lieutenants Roger Todd, Waldo, Gilbert and Louis Osborn.

The airborne attack on the Medford airport was part of the program of the Air day celebration in that city attended by approximately 15,000 persons. The event, held on Air Force day, in addition to being held to stimulate interest in the airport and travel by air commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Medford airport and the 23rd anniversary of the beginning of air mail flights. Airmail flights are of special interest to the town because Medford was the first city in Oregon to have regular air mail stops.

Prior to the departure from Salem of the company B troops in the air force planes a National guard C-47 left the Salem airport for Medford carrying Salem newspaper people and Capt. John H. Neilson, public information officer for the adjutant general's office, who coordinated the National Guard's part in the program. Pilot of the plane was First Lt. Homer P. Greening, and co-pilot was First Lt. Allen Stevens. Don Beecher, engineer, was Sgt. Crew chiefs. That plane returned to Salem Sunday evening at 5 p.m. with Gov. Douglas McKay as one of the passengers.

Main speaker at the Medford show was Gov. McKay and also there from Salem for the occasion was Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea, adjutant general for Oregon. The three air force planes from Portland bringing the Salem company to Medford, along with three more C-46s carrying the 234th army band and other personnel of the armed forces were led by Col. Jackson Lewis, commander of the air force reserve training center in Portland. The fighter protection was given by the big planes by 12 F-51s of the 123rd fighter squadron, Oregon Air National Guard, leading the fighters was Maj. Gordon Doolittle. Another National Guard unit taking part in the program was the Medford unit Company A, 186th infantry regiment, which put on a drive.

Aircraft of the armed forces from up and down the coast were in the show to participate. Four B-29s flew in from Castle Field, Calif., with one of them landing. Five jet planes of the California National Guard came in from San Bernardino, Calif.

Reject Plea for 2nd Fireman Washington, Sept. 19 (AP)—A presidential emergency board today rejected a union demand that railroads assign a second fireman on diesel locomotives.

Saying there is no need for an extra fireman on any type of diesel locomotive now in use, the board turned down the request made by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

The board also rejected union demands for: 1. A fireman on rail motor cars; and 2. Equalization of pay for firemen on oil-burning and electric locomotives with pay scales on coal-burning and diesel locomotives.

Recently the same board had denied a plea of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for a second engineer on diesels. The firemen's union had contended an extra fireman on diesels was needed from a safety standpoint and also because the more efficient diesel engines were eliminating jobs of firemen.

Under railway labor law, the firemen's brotherhood must consider the report for 30 days before taking any strike action.

British Pound Devaluation Cheapens Other Currencies

Turmoil Caused All Over Globe By British Action

London, Sept. 19 (AP)—A 30.5 percent cut in the dollar value of the pound sterling hit the British public today like a financial turmoil the world over.

The labor government, in a desperate gamble to save the nation from threatened bankruptcy, hunger and misery, slashed the worth of the pound last night from \$4.03 to \$2.80.

Banks were closed. The London stock exchange and those in France, Holland, Greece, South Africa and many other countries were shut down. Foreign exchange trading was forbidden in much of Europe and the sterling area. In London, harried brokers traded stocks and bonds on the sidewalk.

Business at Standstill Business was at a virtual standstill in this great city which once was the financial and economic heart of the world.

Elsewhere in Europe and Asia quickly cheapened their money to match the British move. Cabinets in other world capitals held emergency sessions to decide what to do.

It was the biggest financial turmoil the world has seen since Britain went off the gold standard on another September Sunday night almost 18 years ago to the day.

Evaluation of the pound was intended to solve Britain's grave financial crisis by selling more and cheaper goods to America. A treasury spokesman said devaluation of the pound would have no effect on Britain's strict currency controls.

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Aim to Increase British Exports

London, Sept. 19 (AP)—Sir Stafford Cripps said today the British must "redouble all our efforts" to export goods now that the pound has been cheapened.

Reviewing the results of the Washington dollar talks, the Chancellor of the exchequer told a news conference:

"We expect to create incentives to export to the dollar areas and make a vigorous attack on production. Well, we have created the incentive, all right."

The pound is now officially worth only \$2.80, compared with the previous \$4.03. The British hope this will stimulate exports by lowering the selling price of British goods.

"If we are to succeed in reaching a long term solution of the dollar-sterling problem," Cripps said, "we must regard it as a joint one requiring joint action."

And that, he added, was the object of the Washington conference.

Lower Dollar Prices Loom Around World

New York, Sept. 19 (AP)—Lower dollar prices around the world are looked for today as an early major result of the week-end devaluation of foreign currencies.

Still more countries may have to follow the devaluation parade which began last night with Britain's cut in the pound from \$4.03 to \$2.80, a slash amounting to a surprise 30 1/2 percent.

The devaluation means the dollar prices of goods produced in these countries could fall a maximum of 30 1/2 percent if the reduction is caused solely by devaluation. But prices will not fall that far. Some may come down only a few cents.

How long these lower prices may prevail is unpredictable. American business men in their first reaction agreed prices will be lower on foreign goods priced in devalued currencies and sold in America for dollars.

No one knows yet, however, how far prices will go down on individual commodities or manufactured goods over the next few weeks or months.

An important secondary effect is the impact of devaluation on the prices of goods produced in America for sale abroad. American exports may have to be sold more cheaply to encourage sales.



Beating Victim — Earl Adams, constable of the Marion county district court, is shown here as he appeared Monday after a slugging by an irate Salem couple. Both of Adams' eyes were blackened, and his face shows puffiness from the pounding he received.

Brutal Beating For Constable

Complaints were signed Monday for the arrest of a Salem couple who administered a brutal beating to Earl Adams, 50-year-old constable of the Marion county district court.

The assault took place at about 8 p.m. Sunday night in a store at 2395 North Front street where Adams had gone to purchase a package of cigarettes.

He explained that while he was there, a woman approached him and begged for him to act as an agent of the court in serving papers which attached her wages as a cannery worker.

"Without a warning, the man with her struck me," Adams pointed out. A blow to the stomach felled the grey-haired constable, leaving him dazed.

"When I went down, they both went to work on me," the victim related. "I was kicked and punched. There was nothing I could do but lie there and take it. They both went at me before I had a chance to explain that I serve papers as part of my duties under the law."

After signing the assault and battery complaint, Adams, whose face and head were swollen from the many blows and whose both eyes were blacked, went to a physician's office for X-ray photos to determine if ribs had been broken by the kicking.

Salmon Prices Skiddy

Seattle, Sept. 19 (AP)—Salmon brokers today predicted a price drop of 12 to 14 cents per fall can for pink salmon. The wholesale price of pink salmon has skidded from \$18 to \$17 a case (f.o.b. Seattle), they said.

Chain Reaction To Valuation Cut Of 30.5 Percent

Washington, Sept. 19 (AP)—The chain reaction of British pound devaluation — which cheapened numerous other currencies overnight — today was expected to sweep rapidly over Europe, the pound-using areas elsewhere, and into Latin America.

There was every sign that the international monetary fund, with which 48 nations must clear any currency change, will have heavy work in the coming days and weeks.

American officials welcomed the 30 1/2 percent cut in the pound from \$4.03 to \$2.80, and the corresponding cuts by other countries.

For Britain—and for others—further measures are necessary. Sterling balances

They hinted that, as an early step, Britain must make some agreement on the so-called "sterling held" — actually, war debts balances by India, Egypt and others.

Payment on these last year cost Britain \$400,000,000 worth of goods, with no goods received in return. Some officials felt this drain should be cut to one-fourth that amount, if possible, while Britain concentrates on selling to the areas which pay in dollars.

They forecast improvement in British exports to the United States, because Americans can buy in Great Britain for \$2.80 what used to cost \$4.03. That should spur a buy-British movement.

It should also put some economic crimp at work behind Sir Stafford Cripps' don't-buy-American campaign. U. S. goods will cost more in England; many British buyers will cut orders or buy elsewhere, if possible.

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Bradley Key Defense Figure

Washington, Sept. 19 (AP)—Gen. Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the American joint chiefs of staff, appears certain to become the key figure in the Atlantic pact military organization.

The military organization, consisting of a series of defense committees, is to be created here October 5. It is expected to come up with a set of unified defense plans for the whole western European-North American-Atlantic ocean area in about six months.

Speed in laying out at least the general plans of unified strategy is considered essential now by the state and defense departments. One reason is congress may make full-scale American arms aid to Europe at least partly dependent on the existence of such plans. That is one of the major new points in the bill now before the senate.

While the American member of the 12-nation military organization has yet to be designated by the president, defense and diplomatic officials said there seemed to be no doubt that he would be Bradley. The 56-year-old general is noted for getting along with people and getting things done.

He is already regarded highly by Europeans.

6 Oregon Cities Get 9 Percent Cut in Gas

Six Oregon cities got a 9 percent cut in their gas rates today.

They are served by the California-Pacific utilities company, which reduced its rates because prices of liquefied petroleum gas dropped. This gas is the base for the gas used by the six cities.

Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg, who ordered the reduction, said it amounts to \$113,600 a year. The cities, and the amount of reduction in each, are: Klamath Falls \$25,000, Roseburg \$18,900, Grants Pass \$13,500, Medford \$34,000, Ashland \$12,600, La Grande \$9,600.