

Clackamas County News

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Published weekly on Fridays at Estacada, Clackamas County, Oregon. Entered in the postoffice at Estacada, Oregon, as second-class matter.

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In Clackamas County, one year \$1.50; outside the county and in the State of Oregon, one year \$2.00; outside the State of Oregon, one year \$2.50; foreign \$3.00 a year. Subscriptions are payable in advance.

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ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Weeks ago opponents of the lease-lend bill admitted that their cause was lost. From the beginning it was a certainty that the bill would go thru. And so when an irritable debate-weary Senate finally voted on the bill on the evening of March 8 it came almost as an anti-climax. There was no fullbluster. There was no excitement. Congress simply gave its formal approval to a fateful far-reaching policy which had been established and decided in all basic essentials long ago.

The bill passed with comparatively little change. It gives the President powers which can be compared only to those conferred on Wilson during the World War. He is, in short, empowered to sell, transfer title to, lease lend or otherwise dispose of any and all war materials to any powers whose defense he considers vital to the defense of the United States. The Senate added three more or less important amendments, all of them approved by the White House. One ends the authority of the President to enter into contracts on June 30, 1943, and stipulates that all contracts must be fulfilled by July, 1946. Another limits orders for war materials to amounts which will later be authorized by Congress, and adds a stipulation that not more than \$1,300,000,000 worth of war supplies now possessed by our army and navy can be transferred. The third requires the President to report to Congress on the progress of the program each 90 days.

Two much publicized amendments were beaten. One would have forbidden the President to allow the U. S. navy to convoy ships abroad. As White House spokesman pointed out this meant little or nothing inasmuch as the Constitution gives the President as commander-in-chief of all the military forces almost unlimited authority over naval actions and policy and it would take a Constitutional

amendment to change that. The other amendment would have forbidden sending the A. E. F. to foreign lands without explicit Constitutional approval. Administrations leaders said this would weaken our foreign policy, particularly in the Far East by assuring our possible enemies that we would be unable to back up our talk with action. Congress concurred.

The vote did not divide on strictly party lines. The democrats held their forces well in line, 49 voted for the bill, 13 against. The republicans split. Seventeen said no. Ten voted yes, including the party's senate leader, McNary of Oregon.

It has been widely reported that Mr. Roosevelt was just waiting for Congress to finish its wrangling before taking drastic steps to iron out arms production difficulties. It is one thing to pass a law providing all out aid to England, it is a very different thing to produce and ship arms the belligerents so desperately need. The defense high command has already been shaken up but there is still considerable division of responsibility. No one man has been given supreme command as was Bernard Baruch in the 1917 War Industries board. The feeling persists that the President will be forced to do this before long. And reports are going round that some of the men high in defense councils have not proven to be such production wizards as their buildup indicated.

In the meantime it is next to impossible to find out exactly how well or badly the defense drive is going. Some say it is in fearfully bad shape; others say that it is progressing as well as can be expected. What may prove to have been an important declaration was lately made by ex-Ambassador Bullitt in a speech before the Overseas Press club. Mr. Bullitt said that "we could double our planned output of airplanes and tanks and merchant ships and guns in 1942 if we would buckle to the task now." He indicated that a declaration of "full emergency" would be necessary to awaken and prod the country. And Mr. Bullitt has often reflected the Presidential direction of thinking in the past.

It is true however that the physical effects of the arms drive in the effect of the arms drive can be seen in great quantity now. Manufacturing towns are mushrooming. Shipyards are springing up. Close to 1,500,000 drafted men are under arms and are training. Airplane production is undoubtedly rising. In other words progress is being made, but many an expert thinks it is far slower than the nation has a right to expect.

MEN ENLISTED FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE

Army recruiting sergeants of the Oregon recruiting district must be plugging some little ditty as "Join the Army and See the World" this month according to a recent bulletin from Lieut. Col. B. H. Hensley, Oregon district recruiting officer. Cause for such signing would be a new quota of 78 men which Oregon is expected to furnish for regular army service in the Hawaiian, Philippine and

Panama Canal departments before April 1, 1941.

According to Colonel Hensley men are enlisted for these new overseas vacancies can pick their branch of service from one of the following branches now available; infantry, field artillery, coast artillery corps, air corps, corps of engineers, quartermaster corps, medical department, chemical warfare service and ordnance department.

Qualified applicants must be single United States citizens between the ages of 18 and 35, of good character and in good physical and mental condition. Men enlisted for the air corps must have a high school education and high school graduates are preferred of the ordnance department. Men at least 5 feet 10 inches tall are required for the field artillery, Panama.

Increase in Beet Seed Production Sought Here

An increase in acreage devoted to the production of sugar beet seed will be sought in Oregon this year according to Ray Pendleton representative of the federal bureau of plant industry who has been transferred to Oregon state college from the state experiment station at Davis, Calif. About 1500 acres of seed are being grown in Oregon this year and it is hoped that this can be at least doubled for next season.

Sugar beet seed production is a comparatively new industry for Oregon where conditions have been found excellent for this enterprise when plantings are placed on suitable types of soil and well cared for, say experiment station men at OSC. Growers contract all acreage in advance with the West Coast Beet Seed company a non-profit organization, which serves as an intermediary between the growers and the beet sugar companies of this country. The U. S. is now independent of foreign beet seed supplies and is even exporting some seed, says Pendleton.

Wheat, Ladino Clover Fatten Beef Profitably

The use of wheat as a feed for fattening cattle with irrigated pasture is proving practical on a number of farms in Oregon and it is shown by demonstration figures will be an economical method of producing beef. The results of such a feeding test are included in an experiment station bulletin entitled "Surplus Wheat Feeding Experiments in Oregon," issued at Oregon state college.

In tests carried out last summer it was found that wheat fed to cattle on irrigated ladino clover pasture gave results equal to or better than those obtained a year earlier when barley was used as a grain supplement. The test was made by using twelve head of beef calves pastured as two groups on the same area. Seven head were fattened first followed by five later with the result that the pasture supported almost exactly three animals per acre during the 190-day feeding period.

It was found that an average feeding of 3.76 pounds of wheat per day per head gave with the pasture an average gain per head of 156.91 lbs. or an average daily gain per head of 1.65 pounds. Of the total gains on wheat and pasture amounting to 546.19 pounds were credited to the ladino clover and 395.13 to wheat.

The returns from both pasture and grain were somewhat better when wheat was fed than when barley was fed under similar conditions a year earlier the bulletin shows. As irrigated pasture is becoming more and more common thruout Oregon its use in connection with wheat offers an important source of profit for the livestock raiser according to those who are interested in livestock feeding.

The bulletin which reports on this phase of wheat feeding experiments also includes the results of using wheat as a feed for growing and fattening cattle with hay, growing and fattening sheep and lambs and feeding wheat to dairy cows, hogs and draft horses. Copies may be had free at any county extension office.

The colorful days when America was young are relived again in "Young Bill Hickok," starring Roy Rogers and George "Gabby" Hayes at the Esta theatre this Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22. Other feature on this big double bill is "East of the River," a thrilling story of New York's east side.—Adv.

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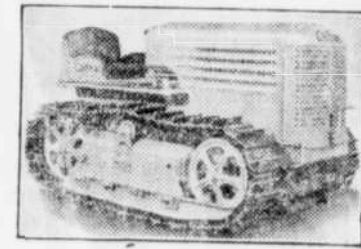
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