

Clackamas County News

L. D. MEADE, Editor and Publisher

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ADVERTISING

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THIS WEEK IN DEFENSE

The House passed a bill modifying the Neutrality Act to permit arming of merchant ships. Navy secretary Knox told his press conference the navy is ready to put guns aboard the American merchant ships as soon as Congress authorizes the action. He said there are sufficient guns for all merchantmen although not all can be used against both airplanes and submarines. He said arming merchant ships will slow down submarines and impair their marksmanship because they will have to stay below the surface and use their limited supply of torpedoes instead of attacking with shellfire.

Lend Lease Aid

Navy secretary Knox announced two coverage submarines are being transferred to Britain under the lend lease program. The President announced lend-lease transfers during September reached a record of \$155,000,000 in equipment and services, about three times the monthly average of the past six months. The President said aid is going to Britain, China, South America and the refugee Polish and Norwegian governments. Russia he said is paying in gold and strategic materials for supplies sent to that country.

The President reported that only

5 percent of the original \$7,000,000,000 for lend-lease remains unused. The House voted \$5,711,000,000 for further lend-lease activities.

Production

Price administrator Henderson in speaking in Detroit said although the United States is producing 35 percent more than ever before, 45 percent more than in 1929, only 12 to 14 percent of national income is going into defense. He said America is giving only one hour out of eight for defense work. Although OPM schedules show this will be increased to two out of eight hours by next June, he said Hitler is using five of every eight hours for German war efforts.

OPM research chief Stacy May speaking in New York reported spending for defense in September rose to approximately \$1,347,000,000, \$202,000,000 higher than August. He said Hitler could be beaten if the U. S. shifted 50 percent of its productive capacity to armaments and suggested a \$50,000,000,000 a year defense program.

The war department announced medium tank production almost doubled in September as compared with August and light tank production showed a "good gain." Congress passed legislation authorizing a \$1,500,000,000 increase in RFC borrowing and lending power to be used partially to expand steel producing facilities by 10,000,000 tons at a cost of \$1,000,000,000. OPM ordered auto production for January 1942 cut at least 51 percent below last January levels.

The navy instructed its officers to impress on companies behind schedule on ordnance contract the necessity of speeding deliveries even if it means working three shifts seven days a week until caught up. The department asked manufacturers who can increase production by revising their contracts to start new negotiations at once.

Sub-contracting

The OPM Contract distribution division announced large defense orders will be withheld from firms refusing to farm out a sizeable part of the work. The announcement said small business must be mobilized quickly because more than 60 percent of all industrial workers are employed by firms having less than 500 workers each.

The war department reported a 105 mm howitzer was successfully built from parts made by a refrigerator firm, an oil well supplies manufacturer and a railroad car builder none of whose employees had prior cannon producing experience. The navy reported as an example of its subcontracting policy that 75 small shops in New York state are working on parts for naval gun mounts.

Priority Unemployment

The Federal Security agency asked all employees who anticipate layoffs due to shortages to report their problems at once to the nearest state employment office, the first step in obtaining government action to give plants defense orders. The agency said state employment officers have already surveyed 200 plants threatened with shortages and made reports which may result in placing defense orders to prevent unemployment.

Agriculture

The agriculture department reported the farm labor supply at 64 percent of normal and 25 percent below last year and said farmers have been able to keep their hired men from taking industrial jobs only by sharply increasing wage rates. The agriculture department announced national prospects for all crops improved about two percent during September indicating one of the largest total farm yields on record. The department said farmers do not need priority orders to purchase farm machinery except special classes because ratings are assigned to manufacturers and warehousemen who supply farmers.

Prices

The bureau of labor statistics index of 900 wholesale prices remained unchanged during the week ended October 11 although in the past year average wholesale prices have risen 17.3 percent and are the highest since early 1930. Price Administrator Henderson notified tire manu-

facturers he "would not object" to advances in consumer list prices on tires and tubes to not more than 9 percent above June 16 levels. He also announced an investigation of crude oil prices because of suggested price increases.

Priorities

Priorities director Nelson extended priority assistance to virtually all industrial plants needing maintenance and repair parts. The order was in line with SPAB policy of keeping oil industrial machines in good running order. Mr. Nelson suspended until March 31, 1942 the aluminum operations of the Central Pattern and Foundry company, Chicago because it allegedly diverted aluminum to non-defense uses such as the manufacture of slot machines. Mr. Nelson also imposed rigid controls on certain chemicals including some used for dry cleaning.

Ships and Oil

The Maritime commission awarded contract for construction of 49 tankers which it said will be part of the largest and most modern tanker fleet in the world. Including those building or ordered by the commission and private interests 208 new tankers of 2,196,300 gross tons will be finished by the end of 1943 bringing the total available to 568. The commission reported launching this week of two more of these tankers and also adopted a program calling for construction of 15 reinforced concrete barges suitable for carrying oil.

Pan American Relations

Secretary of state Hull issued a statement "that the U. S. has had no connection, direct or indirect, with the recent government changes" in Panama. The U. S. and Argentine signed their first trade treaty since 1953. The army seized 18 planes bound for Peru from Canada because of "the increasing critical situation, (and) needs of national defense."

Army

War secretary Stimson announced the army has adopted a new semi-automatic carbine to replace the .45 caliber pistol. The new weapon will allow 33 percent additional firepower. Mr. Stimson also announced 2000 junior officers of the National guard will be transferred to the air force for ground duty to free flying officers for air duty. The army announced formation of four new coast artillery barrage balloon battalions each with 1257 men.

CO-ORDINATOR OF CO-ORDINATORS

The biggest problem of the United States government today is its own unwieldiness. It has become so big, so far spread that even the taxi drivers (who are the best informed people in Washington on where government departments are located) have to admit to cash customers that they do not know how to help them find the coordinator of this or that office or that.

Consequently in order that one department of the government will be able to locate another department, new coordinating departments are in operation. There is the United States Information service, the coordinator of information and such like but they are now becoming so numerous that a new department seems necessary for coordinating the coordinators. That may turn out to be one of the jobs of the new office of Facts and Figures now being organized in Washington.

In addition to keeping track of all the departments that exist and their functions, coordinating departments are also charged with the duty of helping the various departments to keep from stepping on one another's toes, to prevent overlapping in the work of the departments, to inform one department what department it can get from another department--and in general to help one hand of the government to know what the other is doing.

The Office of Facts and Figures will attempt to see that conflicting facts and figures are not issued by different government bureaus and will also inform anyone who wants to know what facts and figures are available on any particular subject. It is a difficult undertaking and we hope that in regard to its figures the new office can avoid living up to its unfortunate alphabetical nickname, OFF.

Orchard Ridge Dairy. Refrigerator cooling system, good cold milk, butter and cream the whole year round. —Oscar Judd.

It Can Happen Here Business men of Toledo, Ohio, formed a cheering section when WPA workers neared the finish of a repair paving job on a main thoroughfare of that city. They were impressed with the speed of the job.

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**THE BEST THAT'S
LEFT**

around Gresham so say many realtors at the top of hill fronting Powell Blvd. North side southern slope wooded background, nice shrubbery, variety trees, 1/2 acre asparagus, 1/2 acre youngberries, 2 1/2 acres red raspberries, 33 fruit trees, nice variety, 4 walnut trees all bearing. A street full length on east, nice timber for park. This choice piece may now be had for \$2800, well worth \$4000 for a nice home. Look after it now while open.. Only requires \$500, down.

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Communities on the completion of the Northeast Clackamas Co-operative Electric Power lines.

In congratulating you on this achievement we also wish to extend Best Wishes for your continued progress and prosperity.

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