

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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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THIS WEEK IN DEFENSE

The White House announced lend-lease administrator Stettinius had been instructed "to see that the defense needs of the government of Turkey were filled as fast as possible." The navy announced two additional British warships are undergoing repairs in U. S. ports. The U. S. petroleum coordinator announced 38 oil tankers have been released by the British and returned to their American owners.

Navy Progress

Navy secretary Knox told his press conference the navy's shipbuilding program "is continuing to beat all projected schedules." Since January 1, 1941 Mr. Knox said the navy has ordered 5334 vessels at a total cost of \$7,353,000,000 and nearly one billion dollars has been allocated for expanding shipbuilding facilities. During November the secretary said 33 combat ships were launched, keels laid for 52 more and five new ships including the 35,000 ton dreadnaught Indiana, joined the fleet.

Merchant Shipbuilding

The maritime commission announced its goal of "one ship a day" will be attained this month and that plans are under way to increase the program to two ships a day by next summer. Thirty vessels are scheduled for launching in December, 39 in January and 40 in February the commission said. Present objective is approximately 1600 ships, the commission's construction director said "and that end is not yet".

The labor department estimated 300,000 more workers will be needed for ship construction by this time next year. The maritime commission estimated the total number of seamen will have to be doubled by the end of 1943.

New Defense Appropriations

The house passed and sent to the Senate a bill appropriating \$8,243,800,000 to expand the army immediately to 2,000,000 men; maintain the recently mobilized Philippine army; expand manufacturing facilities for critical weapons to double total previously scheduled production and vastly increase the supply of these weapons; increase the number of airports capable of accommodating military planes; increase the army air force from 54 to 84 groups; convert large merchant vessels to aircraft carriers. The bill would bring the total outlay for defense since the fall of France to \$67,990,000,000.

Labor Disputes

The house passed and sent to the Senate a bill which would prohibit mass picketing in defense labor disputes, ban all strikes for organizational or jurisdictional issues and outlaw all strikes that have not been called by a majority of the workers thru a secret ballot supervised by the government. The bill would also require labor unions to register with the federal and state government the names of officials and number of members and the amount of dues and fees charged; empower the chairman of the National Defense mediation board to order a 60-day cooling off period; and deprive any union of its benefits under the Wagner Act if "knowingly or negligently" it allowed a communist, a member of the German-American bund or a person convicted of a felony to hold union office.

Chairman Wayne Morse of the President's special fact-finding board announced settlement of the wage dispute between railway management and labor which had threatened a nationwide railroad strike December 7. The agreement effective until the end of 1942 increased the wages of 350,000 operating employees by 76 cents a day and the wages of 805,000 non-operating personnel by 10 cents an hour.

Sub-Contracting and Small Business

The house created a special seven-man committee of Representatives to determine if, 1, the potentialities of small business to handle defense have fully developed; 2, adequate attention has been given the needs of small business engaged in non-defense work; 3, small business is being fairly treated in allocation of materials.

Director Odium of the OPM contract distribution division speaking in New York said 70 percent of U. S. manufacturing establishments employ 20 people or less. He said these 133,300 small plants are the hardest to find, the most difficult to connect to defense work and the hardest to connect back later to civilian economy.

Materials and Priorities

The OPM asked retailers and the general public to make a special effort to economize in the use of gift boxes, tissue and wrapping paper and similar materials during the Xmas season. OPM issued an order curtailing production of household mechanical refrigerators during January and February from 30 to 53 percent depending on the size of the company. OPM also suspended for 30 days its order restricting the use of lead and tin foil in packaging cigarettes, chewing gum and similar items and extended blanket priorities to institutes for the blind.

Inflation Control

The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill establishing a price control administration under the direction of a price administrator and a five-man board of review authorized to modify or set aside any price order of the administrator. The bill would empower the price administrator to impose price ceilings on all commodities and on rents in defense areas. It would place a floor under fishery commodity prices so that price ceilings could not be below the 1941 average or the average cost of production.

It would also provide no ceiling

shall be established for agricultural products below (1) 110 percent of parity; (2) the price prevailing on October 1; (3) or the average price during the period July 1, 1919 to June 30, 1929. The bill provides for enforcement of the act thru the courts by fines of not more than \$5000 and imprisonment for not more than two years.

Prices

The department of agriculture issued a statement that farmers are bringing to a close their best year since 1929 with production, prices and incomes at high levels. The department said its index of farm prices stands at 135 percent of the August-1909-July 1941 average, or 36 points above a year ago. The department of labor announced its index of wholesale prices reached an 11-year peak and stood at 92.3 of the 1926 level.

Price-administrator Henderson asked rubber footwear manufacturers to hold prices where they are; began an investigation of 12 and 20 percent increases in prices of rubber used for retreading auto tires; reached agreements with manufacturers to stabilize prices of western pine doors and door and window frames; set a ceiling for asphalt and tarred roofing products; and won agreements of manufacturers to hold prices of six nationally-advertised brands of inner spring mattresses at \$39.50.

LIBERTY'S BIRTHDAY

The 150th birthday of the American type of freedom was celebrated throughout our country on December 15, the anniversary of the day on which our Bill of Rights became part of the constitution.

During these days when all freedom is threatened it is particularly fitting that the citizens of our country have this opportunity to commemorate an important birthday of Liberty, to reflect on the history of what generations before us have done to keep freedom alive in this nation.

The day of December 15 signifies the ratification of the Bill of Rights by the state of Virginia. Virginia's assent in 1791 meant that three-fourths of the states had ratified the bill and it thus legally was added to the constitution.

This part of the constitution includes our guarantee of freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, protection of individuals property, trial by jury, the things which all loyal Americans have since then defended at all cost.

On this anniversary communities throughout our country held celebrations in honor of the event. The President addressed the nation, defense organizations held special ceremonies and schools took advantage of the opportunity to instill the spirit of freedom in the younger generation.

With 150 years behind it, the Bill of Rights to most of us is no longer just a law, it is ingrained in our philosophy and expressed in all our actions. We take it for granted because we always have had freedom but we don't have any illusions about what our life would be like if these freedoms suddenly were snatched away. We've watched freedom die in Poland, in France in Russia, and in Germany, and we will never permit any foreign nation or any group in our country to harm this sacred provision of our constitution upon which our way of life is founded.

Enlistments in almost classes of the naval reserve are now authorized for two, three or four year periods, according to officials of the 13th naval district. Young men who enlist before the age of 21 may terminate their enlistment when they reach that age.

However every applicant is required to study and consider the following statement which he signs before enlisting. "In the event of war or national emergency during my term of service I further obligate myself to serve thruout the war or national emergency if so required."

Classes V-7 and V-5 in the naval reserve are not included in the new enlistments inasmuch as the quotas on both these have been reached officials stated.

Upon completion of twenty years of service in the U. S. navy a sailor if physically fit can transfer to the fleet reserve and receive one-half of his base pay.

The service schools of the U. S. navy where sailors are trained are divided into three classifications. Class A schools offer elementary instruction in certain specialties to recruits; Class B supplement the training afloat by giving more advanced instruction in certain specialties selected experienced enlisted men; and Class C schools give advanced

instruction in certain subjects not normally a part of shipboard training.

How large was the U. S. navy force in the Pacific a hundred years ago? The Pacific force a hundred years ago consisted of the U. S. S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) and two armed schooners. American shipping trade in the waters consisted of 500 American whaling vessels and an additional 500 American merchant vessels.

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WHAT DO YOU SAY?

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