

# Heppner Gazette Times

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE.  
Established March 30, 1883;  
THE HEPPNER TIMES.  
Established November 18, 1897;  
CONSOLIDATED FEBRUARY 15, 1912  
Published every Thursday morning by  
**CRAWFORD PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
and entered at the Post Office at Heppner,  
Oregon, as second-class matter.  
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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

One Year	\$2.50
Two Years	4.50
Three Years	6.00
Six Months	1.25
Three Months	.65
Single Copies	.05

Official Paper for Morrow County

## PAVE THE WAY



Willard Combs cartoon courtesy of Cleveland Press.

### Curfews

It won't be long now until an old favorite poem will come into its own again—"The Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight."

Once curfews were for Little Johnny. Now, from reports of what has happened on a long stretch of the Pacific coast, and forebodings of Portland's woeful mayor it appears probable that a large portion of the Pacific slope war area will sound curfews for all members of the family, be they enemy aliens.

And so the word comes that despite Mr. John Q. Public's willingness to buy defense bonds and pay his income tax, he does not yet fully realize the country is at war. A move is deemed essential by the defense heads, so it seems, to make him stay home and ponder it.

The while those in defense industries are taking on seven-day-a-week shifts. There's little time off for play.

It may be, as one man was heard to remark, that Mr. John Q. Public is not such a poor sport after all.

This man happened to be one of the unfortunate mortals whose duty it is to apply at the grass roots the imponderable mass of rulings and restrictions handed down through the maze of over-lord officials. After wading through a large sheaf of instructions on "must" emergency procedure he came to the sign-off, which read, "there are at present no funds for this purpose."

There must, of course, be lieutenants to do the bidding of the commander-in-chief, but there must, too, be room for conjecture if many thirty-second secretaries today couldn't serve their country better by shouldering a gun instead of thinking up unworkable ideas to keep the man who is doing the work from doing a good job.

If there is any doubt of the patriotism of the man we heard speak, it can be said that he has four sons in the armed services of his country.

It could be that all "Pearl Harbors" are not in Honolulu.

### Red Tape

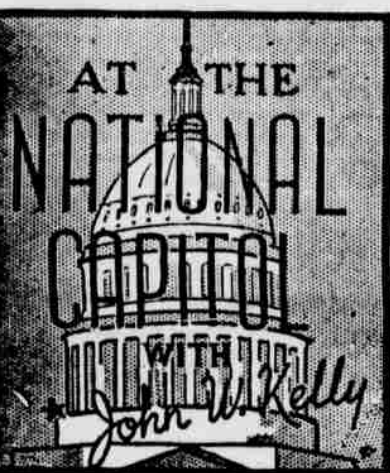
Governmental agencies are laying on with a heavy hand today with rationing and priorities, taxes and promise of more taxes. But, it seems, one of the short cuts to efficiency and speedy procedure has been sadly neglected: That of cutting the maze of red tape.

As for us give us fewer bosses, and more definite instructions. We believe John Q. Public is anxious and willing to do his part when told distinctly and with reason what his part is.

And now that the "fag" tax has fagged out, J. Q. P. in Oregon may light up a little more light-heartedly and, in the glow of the tip of his favorite brand prepare to set his clock back an hour before retiring the night of February 8, so that he may arise a full hour early the morn of February 9 with renewed ambition to show the world the stuff of which America is made.

MacArthur's boys on Bataan peninsula are doing alright, as are the armed forces of Uncle Sam wherever they may be. And they're not going to be let down at home.

What the Japs started in Pearl Harbor they'll rue in Tokyo.



Washington, D. C., Feb. 5.—Stubborn Commissioner Vickery of the maritime commission has had to back up on his invitation for bids for hundreds of barges for the Tigris river. The war department engineer now at Basra preparing an American base requested that the barges be shipped "knocked down," to be assembled on the Persian gulf. Mr. Vickery called for bids that the barges should be built complete and delivered at one or two ports in the south. This shut out bidders from Oregon and Washington, who could not get the barges floated through the Panama canal nor shipped by rail.

Mr. Vickery's idea was to load the barges on decks of freighters going to the Persian gulf, but the barges are so large that it might be a year before all had been unloaded. Re-advertising for bids, Mr. Vickery now follows the request of the engineer at Basra, wants them in knocked-down condition, and this gives builders in the northwest a chance to connect with a contract. About 25,000,000 feet of lumber will be required to fill the order, approximately five shiploads, as the lumber can be stored in the hold as well as on deck. Cut and numbered, the lumber will be assembled by key men and probably native labor at the destination.

General Hershey, chief of selective service, says that the boys in Oregon have not been taken from farms in any large numbers. Farmers engaged in raising canning peas, many operating 800 to 1200 acres, are worried about the labor situation and their troubles have been placed on the desk of General Hershey. That official has caused a survey to be made in sample counties, such as Umatilla, Deschutes, etc., and discovered that the loss of agricultural labor is due to other causes than the selective service. The young men have voluntarily enlisted or have been attracted by high wages in war industries. For example, of 110 men inducted in Deschutes county only 12 were associated with some form of agriculture. County by county,

Hershey revealed figures on the number of farm boys inducted, usually about 10 percent of the total. The general sums up with the declaration that there is sufficient farm labor in Oregon but that the workers must receive at least \$50 a month, plus board and lodging.

Since office of civilian defense was given \$100,000,000 with which to buy fire equipment, gas masks, asbestos suits and steel helmets there has been a rush of applicants for fire apparatus, many towns believing they saw an opportunity to acquire new fire engines without cost. OCD, however, has already made a survey and has decided where it will distribute the apparatus. A questionnaire was sent to every city in the United States of more than 5000 population, and the equipment is to be scattered among them. Towns and hamlets of less than 5000 are ignored although many are in as much danger as any metropolitan area which has its paid fire department. For example, a very small town next to one of the big munitions dumps is not considered eligible by OCD, and no consideration is given towns along the coast which are adjacent to forests. All these of less than 5000 have just one protection: they can collect damages to property from RFC war risk insurance if a bomb drops on them. The insurance is for property damage, not the snuffing of life unless it is a cow, horse or sheep.

Any member of congress who has served five or more years and has reached the age of 65 years may now retire on an annuity if he so elects; the longer the member has served the higher the annuity. To be eligible for immediate retirement the member must pay his contribution under the civil service law for the entire preceding five years, and all others who wish to come under the provisions of the law must so declare and begin making their monthly contribution on the basis of five percent of their annual salary.

Just as the war department announced a cantonment at Medford where 32,500 men will be assembled and trained, the Southern Pacific railroad announced the discontinuance of one passenger train into that metropolis of the Rogue river valley. The interstate commerce commission says it has no control over passenger trains, only service and freight. The problem at Medford is how to get that army of men into and out of town, with passenger busses out of the question, for always there will be hundreds of soldiers on leave wanting to dash to San Francisco, to Portland, to Puget Sound cities and other towns of the region.

## A WEEK OF THE WAR . . .

("A Week of the War" summarizes information on the important developments of the week made available by official sources through and including Friday, January 30.)

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill created three Anglo-American boards to pool American and British munitions, shipping and raw materials. The boards will confer with representatives of the Soviet Union, China and others of the 26 United Nations as necessary "to attain common purposes." U. S. representatives are: Harry Hopkins, Munitions Board; Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, Shipping Board; and William L. Batt, Raw Materials Board.

The President told his press conference great progress has been made in unification of American Army and Navy commands. He said such unification has been going on for the past two months and does not result from the Pearl Harbor inquiry board report. Mr. Roosevelt said he is still studying this report, which placed the blame for lack of American alertness at Hawaii on Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, but Presidential Secretary Early indicated further action in regard to the commanders will rest with Navy Secretary Knox and War Secretary Stimson.

### Price Control Legislation Signed

President Roosevelt signed the Price Control Bill which provides for a license system to enforce price regulations, calls for a single administrator and contains provisions to permit farm prices to rise as high as 110 percent of parity. The President said, however, he may ask Congress to correct certain gaps in the bill, particularly the agriculture provisions. He said the prohibition against farm price ceilings at less than 110 percent of parity is a direct threat to the cost of living, although the licensing, rent control and other provisions are useful weapons against inflation. The Department of Agriculture reported the average of farm product prices on January 15 was 102 percent of parity.

### The War Front

The Army reported the Japanese were making heavy reinforcements in the Philippines preparatory to resumption of a large scale offensive against Gen. MacArthur's forces which were continuing to hold strong positions in the Bataan Peninsula. In the Philippine area U. S. forces destroyed a 5,000-ton enemy vessel and at least five enemy planes, while in the Macassar Straits, Army and Navy forces sank three large enemy transports, set two more afire, torpedoed an aircraft carrier, blew up another large ship and scored hits which probably sank others. The Army announced United States Army forces arrived in Northern Ireland, and Maj. Gen. James E. Chaney took over command of all U. S. Army forces in the United Kingdom. President Roosevelt told his press conference this force is one of six, eight or 10 American expeditionary forces outside the U. S. in various parts of the world. U-boat activity resulted in the sinking off the Atlantic coast of two American ships and a Norwegian tanker. The U. S. garrison at Midway Island sank an enemy submarine attempting to attack the island.

### Army

The President signed the Fourth Supplemental National Defense Bill carrying a \$12,600,000,000 appropriation for 33,000 Army planes and equipment. War Secretary Stimson announced plans to speed training of 30,000 pilots, observers, navigators and other personnel to match airplane production. War Secretary Stimson announced 20,000 men have been released for duty with combat troops since the Army began replacement of enlisted men engaged in clerical and housekeeping activities by civilian employees, some of them women. He said entrance requirements for officer candidate schools have been changed to allow qualified enlisted men from 18 to 45 to win commissions within six months.

### Navy

The House passed and sent to the Senate a record naval appropriation bill of \$18 billion in cash and an additional \$4 billion in contract authorizations to build the Navy to unprecedented strength. The Senate Appropriations Committee, at the

request of President Roosevelt, added another \$6 billion to the bill to strengthen the naval air arm. The Marine Corps announced regulations for enlistment of 6,000 men 30 to 50 for guard duty at naval shore stations. The Corps revised requirements to permit only college juniors and seniors and qualified enlisted men to enroll in its reserve officers' candidate class. The Navy waived minimum age requirement of 25 years for leaders, leadingmen and quartermen in Navy yards and plants under Navy jurisdiction. The Navy is recruiting skilled construction workers for work at naval bases outside continental United States.

### Production

The Army Ordnance Department estimated it has been spending \$21 million a day for the past five weeks for 1,200 various types of items including ammunition, small arms, artillery, tanks, etc. The Army announced its new 105 mm. howitzer is now in mass production. War Production Chairman Nelson told a meeting in New York City the job facing businessmen, is to rush war contracts through to completion "without stopping to count the cost."

The War Production Board announced a simplified production requirements plan to speed conversion of small manufacturers doing less than \$100,000 business a year. The Board also set up a special section to collect information on all vacant industrial buildings so the Army and Navy procurement branches can award contracts in such a way as to utilize these buildings.

### Conversion of Automobile Industry

Ernest Kanzler, WPB official in charge of converting the automobile industry to war production, said the industry up to January 16 had orders for \$8 billion worth of guns, tanks, planes and other war material. He said the industry's present employment of 500,000 workers may be doubled when peak war production is reached late this year. He said lack of machine tools is the present bottleneck in the conversion effort but labor supply may be the next big problem.

### Aliens

Attorney General Biddle ordered all German, Japanese and Italian nationals to leave specified vital areas in San Francisco and Los Angeles by February 24. Mr. Biddle said 27 additional prohibited areas recommended by the War Department would be published later.

### Priorities and Allocations

The Senate passed and sent to the House a second War Powers Bill extending the Government's requisitioning power and carrying criminal penalties for violations of the priorities system. The WPB cut radio production by 40 percent, prohibited use of aluminum except on war contracts, and restricted consumption of nickel, brass and copper for advertising and decorative purposes to 50 percent of last year. The Board also announced it will withhold a percentage of canned goods in 1942 to insure ample supplies of certain foods for the armed forces.

War Production Chairman Nelson placed full authority in the Office of Price Administration to ration all goods and commodities sold on the retail market and for goods to satisfy personal needs. Price Administrator Henderson said initial sugar sales under the rationing plan to be inaugurated next month probably will be restricted to 12 ounces a week for each individual. The Department of Justice announced the Antitrust Division is investigating practice of requiring customers to purchase designated amounts of groceries in order to obtain limited amounts of sugar.

### Labor

Labor Secretary Perkins said labor shortages require temporary "relaxation in accepted standards," and asked labor and management to place war production on a 24-hour, 7-day basis immediately. WPB Labor Director Hillman announced ratification by unions and owners of an agreement for continuous shipbuilding operations on the Pacific coast. The agreement will be extended to the Atlantic, Gulf and Great Lake zones, Mr. Hillman said. The National Resources Planning Board outlined in a 19-page pamphlet a plan for full employment following the war.