



EXPLANATION of Gen. Behron Somervell that he ordered the Canol investment of \$130,000,000 in the oil field at Fort Norman and the building of a pipeline and refinery to prepare for the third war does not satisfy Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior and petroleum administrator. Gen. Somervell did not consult Ickes nor the war production board on this use of war department funds, he testified, and this makes both WPB and Ickes peeved at being by-passed. They regard Somervell as acting too high handed. No other official has gone ahead on his own initiative for such a vast sum of money, but Somervell is like that and he, it should be remembered, is a buddy of President Roosevelt's closest friend Harry Hopkins.

Secretary Ickes says the United States has furnished 95 percent of all the aviation gas that has been used by the allies in this global war. Others of the United Nations have large supplies but which hitherto have been inaccessible because of war conditions. This means that only five percent of the gas for the international fliers has been furnished by the British and the Russians. After the war, Ickes says the United States should protect its supply of gasoline and should assist American citizens in efforts to develop oil fields in other parts of the world than the United States. He estimates that there is a supply of oil that should serve this country some 20 years but that the demand for fuel oil, motor gasoline and aviation gas will be so tremendous that the wise thing for Uncle Sam to do is to begin looking everywhere for new fields.

Mr. Ickes is still protesting that the war department declined to open oil wells in Alaska instead of going to Canada, the Alaska fields according to government reports being far superior to the pool in the Fort Norman district. Originally, Somervell explained that the Japanese threat of invasion caused him to direct the Canol deal, but later he qualified this statement and announced that the Canadian enterprise was also designed to meet a possible situation in world war No. 3. This still does not suit Secretary Ickes, for if the Alaska territory is to be a hot spot years hence the Alaska oil could be developed.

THE administration forces are very anxious to enact legislation which will enable soldiers to vote in the primary and general elections,

whether they are in Australia (Oregon and Washington federalized national guardsmen), in Italy, India, Sicily or anywhere else on the globe as well as at home. President Roosevelt, back from Cairo and Teheran, has expressed himself as being in favor of these absentee voters. As most of the Republicans and many of the southern Democrats see the picture the administration hopes to capture the soldier vote, and they are insisting that state laws should govern elections and the absentee balloting.

Southern Democrats for instance, argue that if a federal law governing the election is enacted the poll tax qualification will be ignored and this would enable thousands of voters (many of them colored) to vote who never have paid a poll tax and who, if they were in their native state, would not vote for they would not be sufficiently interested in voting to pay the tax.

In the past the southern Democrats have been apprehensive that if the colored people voted they would support the Republican ticket and this would make the Democrats a minority party in the south. Now they are concerned lest the colored citizens vote for Mr. Roosevelt for a fourth term, and many of the southern Democrats are fed up with Mr. Roosevelt, and say so in no uncertain terms.

REPUBLICANS, who once could count on the colored vote where the colored people were permitted to vote, realize that they have lost this asset (very important in certain northern states) and they are insisting that a federal law covering soldier absentee voting would violate state rights. Present laws in Oregon and Washington provide for absentee voting, but the administration's argument is that provisions of the state laws could not be complied with in time to permit the absentee votes being returned and counted.

How the absentee ballots would reach the boys from Oregon and Washington is a problem, but by use of airplanes the ballots could be returned within 48 hours from any point on the globe and there should be no delay from that source. Apparently, the location of the soldiers would have to be revealed by the war and navy departments if they are to be furnished with ballots under the provisions of the state laws.

SPENT CHRISTMAS HERE

Billy Schwarz and family spent Christmas with relatives in Heppner. They returned to their home in The Dalles Sunday evening.

Lexington News

Court of Honor Held by Scouts Tuesday Evening

By Mrs. Ruth McMillan

A Boy Scout Court of Honor with both Heppner and Lexington scouts participating was held at the school house Tuesday night. Scout Chief H. D. McDermott of Walla Walla was guest speaker and Kenneth House of Heppner was master of ceremonies. Four scouts were awarded badges. Carter House and Billy Ulrich of Heppner received the first class and star badges respectively. Truman and Franklyn Messenger won second class adges. There were five boys inducted into the tenderfoot class.

Mr. and Mrs. Oris Padberg and son Charles were hosts at their home for a family gathering Monday. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Padberg and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg and family of Heppner, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Vinson and family of Lexington, and Pvt and Mrs. Eldon Padberg. Eldon recently received a medical discharge from the army.

Albert Edwards, A. S. son of Mr. and Mrs. Lon Edwards, is confined to sick bay with scarlet fever at his station at Farragut.

Ralph Leach is a flu patient in the Heppner hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones and daughter Charlene of Meacham are spending the holidays with Mrs. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted McMillan.

Edna Luttrell, student from the University of Oregon at Eugene, is spending the Christmas holidays with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Munkers.

Mr. and Mrs. John McMillan and family left Friday morning for Portland to visit relatives and friends.

Dorothy Cutsforth, who is attending St. Joseph's academy in Pendleton, spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Cutsforth.

Jack O'Harra arrived Friday from Moscow, Ida., to spend a short vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Newt O'Harra and sister Patty.

A Christmas pageant depicting "Star of the East" was presented by the Lexington school Thursday evening before a large audience. In addition to the pageant, the primary grades were presented in various numbers.

Characters of the pageant were: readers, Faye Cutsforth and June Van Winkle; Mary, Marcie Pieper; Joseph, Kenneth Way; Angels, Ida Buchanan and Carla Whillock; Shepherds, Wayne Papineau, Floyd Breeding, and Charles Padberg; Wisemen, Ray Papineau and Nor-

man Ruhl.

Mr. and Mrs. S. G. McMillan and Mrs. Eula Barnhouse and daughter Jean left Thursday to spend a week in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dinges have returned from Grants Pass where they have spent the last two weeks with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Acklen.

Mrs. Frank Munkers returned to her home Tuesday after undergoing an operation in The Dalles.

Ralph Jackson was called to Hubbard Wednesday by the death of his father Jerome Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duvall drove to Portland Wednesday to visit with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wickersham.

Mrs. C. C. Carmichael has been confined to her home with the flu for the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hunt and family spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Warner and Mrs. Lou Broadley.

Gene Majeske, Alice Marshall and Walter Wallace were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wallace over Christmas.

DRIVE TO CORVALLIS

Rev. Bennie Howe, Mrs. Howe, Pfc. and Mrs. Don Romine and George A. Corwin drove to Corvallis Sunday afternoon, leaving immediately after church. The trip was made to get Don Romine back to Camp Adair before midnight, the date of expiration of his short Christmas furlough which was spent in Heppner. Mrs. Romine remained in the valley for the rest of the week while other members of the party returned home Tuesday, stopping at Hood River enroute.

HAVE BABY DAUGHTER

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gains of Portland announce the birth on Dec. 16 of a daughter, Shirleeann, weight 10 pounds. The mother is the former Jean Huston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Huston, who are quite elated over their first grandchild.

RETURNS HOME

Mrs. Elizabeth Moore left for her home in Portland Tuesday afternoon spending a few days at Christmas time at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Walls.

CHRISTMAS IN PENDLETON

Mrs. Catherine McIntyre and daughter Rita visited in Pendleton over the Christmas week-end.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the many friends who so kindly came to our assistance during the illness and death of our beloved brother and uncle, Millard F. French, and their expressions of sympathy and flowers in our bereavement and also to those who contributed to his entertainment and comfort during his last weeks among us. Leon W. and Opal D. Briggs Ray M. and Loa Taylor and family
Berl Gurdane



DR. STRAM OPTOMETRIST

Wishes You and Yours the Season's Greetings and may you enjoy Good Health and Good Sight for the coming Year!

STRAM OPTICAL COMPANY Pendleton, Oregon

Our Staff Wishes You All A



We aren't worried about the New Year when we remember the fine spirit of cooperation that you have shown in your dealings with us in 1943! Surely, the American people cannot fail while such a spirit motivates their actions. We wish to thank you for your patience and understanding during these critical months

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See Bill Isom about 80 per cent collision on your car.

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World Peace by next New Year

So help insure it—Buy War Bonds every month of the New Year!

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