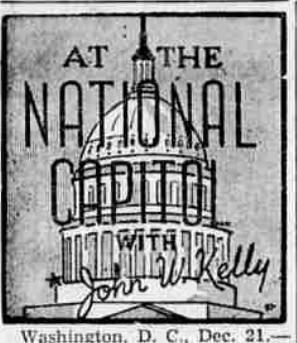


The Weather
 Forecast: Fair tonight and Friday but with morning fog and increasing cloudiness Friday; little change in temperature.
 Temperature:
 Highest yesterday 51
 Lowest this morning 34

Will Reach Him
 The buyer you are looking for may live around the corner. How are you to know? Regardless of where he lives if in this community a Mail Tribune Ad. will reach him.

Thirty-fourth Year No. 234

RUSSIANS BOMB HELSINKI HOSPITALS



Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Phenomenon of congress seriously investigating a government organization, an agency of its own creation (the current probe of NLRB), may be repeated inasmuch as complaint of the wage-hour act will create a demand for an inquiry into that body at the coming session. As a rule, a congressional investigation concerns itself with activities outside of government—lobbying, war munitions, Wall street, holding companies, practices of employers in labor troubles, etc.

Things have to be pretty bad for congress to decide that something is wrong with one of its own children. But with the increasing independence of congress, the gradual return to conservatism, the legislative branch of government is becoming curious about how some new deal experiments are operating.

First to be placed under the microscope was WPA, with special reference to the theater and writers' projects. The WPA inquiry has not been completed, merely suspended. Now the NLRB has other agencies on the anxious seat.

WITH the fundamental principles of the Wagner labor act and the wage-hour act little fault is found. What appears to be wrong is the administration; too many lawyers (450 in NLRB organization) and insufficient practical men. These laws, in brief, are good—require some amendments—but the individuals appointed to execute the statutes are the wrong men for the jobs.

There is no intention of scuttling long-needed reform legislation, but congress appears of the opinion the laws will be dis-

WEDNESDAY MAIL SETS NEW RECORD

All records were broken at Medford postoffice yesterday when 48,394 pieces of mail were cancelled. This is exclusive of parcel post.

Yesterday's cancellation total compares with 42,232 on the same day last year and 40,764 in 1937. Postmaster Frank DeSouza said.

Eleven extra men and four extra trucks are now at work keeping the Christmas mail and parcels moving.

Lord Shuttleworth
 London, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Lord Shuttleworth, a member of parliament under 12 prime ministers, died yesterday, two days after his 95th birthday. He became a member of parliament 70 years ago, held his first ministerial post 53 years and was a privy councillor for half a century.

SIDE GLANCES

by TRIBUNE REPORTERS

John Redfield on his first visit to Medford, being simply so surprised at the lack of sunshine, he always being informed in his home town of Beverly Hills that fair skies prevailed in the Rogue valley.

Friends talking about Ed Leach getting lost in the hallway of his own home, the forerunner being unable to find his way about without a compass.

Pert Grim pining for the day she could see her name in print, like this.

Navyman Georgie Patterson steering clear of the fire hall after going down to another ignominious defeat at cribbage, billiards, rummy and every other battle he engaged the ladies in.

FINNS WIPE OUT TWO BATTALIONS IN LAND FIGHTING

Seven Out of Ten Hospital Buildings Struck by Rain Of Bombs on Helsinki.

By Thomas F. Hawkins
 Helsinki, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Russian fliers today bombed a hospital area of Helsinki, attacked towns and villages for 25 miles around and machine-gunned two trains in a day in which Finnish land forces were officially reported to have wiped out two battalions of Russians.

In the land fighting, an army communique said, the Finns either threw back the invaders with heavy losses or continued their own advances and captured or destroyed 20 tanks and a wide variety of arms, ammunition and equipment.

Two Shot Down
 In the day's aerial operations, two Russian planes were reported shot down over Helsinki, where the invaders bombed a hospital dormitory, heavily damaged a school for the blind and struck seven out of 10 other hospital buildings.

Only two persons were injured and none was killed in the Helsinki hospital area, though more than 30 bombs rained upon it, but there were deaths in the attacks outside the capital.

Two persons, officials said, were killed aboard the Turko-Helsinki Express, one of two trains machine-gunned, while several died in one city where ten bombs were dropped.

Summarizing the war on land in a communique tonight on yesterday's operations, the army said:

On the Karelian isthmus—The Russians suffered heavy losses and were stopped in their tracks in a daylong battle.

Battalion Destroyed
 On the eastern front—An "enemy battalion was destroyed completely" between Lieksa and Repala. Lieksa is about 125 miles north of Lake Ladoga and 20 miles from the border with Russia.

On the upper eastern front—Russians were defeated in two different places; a battalion being "annihilated" in one and "a great loss" being sustained in the other. In the one, the communique said, "the enemy lost 800 killed on the battlefield."

In the Arctic—Finnish troops reached Hoyhenjarvi, across the Jordan river, a place near the Norwegian frontier about 60 miles south of Finland's Arctic coast.

(A London dispatch from Moscow said the Russian war communique for the second day in succession made no claims of gains in Finland and Norwegians reported seeing Russians moving northward in the far north from lines they had been pushing south.)

The air raid on Helsinki, coming on the 60th birthday of Joseph Stalin, the Russian leader, started four minutes before noon after attacks on towns in the vicinity.

Bucharest, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A new German-Rumanian trade agreement, which doubles Germany's share of this country's oil exports, was signed tonight.

Russians Celebrate Birthday Of Joseph 'Happy Man' Stalin

By Witt Hancock
 Moscow, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Soviet Russia celebrated on a large scale today the sixtieth birthday of her leader, Joseph Stalin, who was eulogized by the press as "the pillar of hope to the workers of capitalistic states."

As his red army legions fought in bitter cold in the invasion of Finland, a new biography of Stalin was published by President Michael Kalinin of the supreme Soviet, describing him as "a happy man who led one-

Red War Machine Paralyzed By Extreme Cold of Arctic

By Alvin J. Steinkopf.
 Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Arctic cold ranging to 25 degrees below zero is congealing both the oil of Soviet Russia's war machine in the far north and, in part, the 24-hour battle-schedule ordered apparently as a "birthday present" for Joseph Stalin.

Finnish circles welcomed the news from above the Arctic circle that violent storms had set in. One report from Norwegian quarters was that more than 200 Russian tanks in northern sectors were stalled by temperatures almost solidifying the oil in their crankcases.

The invaders were said to have been hardest hit south of Kirkenes, Norway, on the extreme northern Finnish frontier, paralyzed by cold in the flimsy portable shelters they brought with them on their drive to sever Arctic communications.

A Kirkenes dispatch said a wound sustained in the far north virtually meant death because the wounded froze before they could be removed to proper shelter.

Advisers from Svanvik were that a number of Spanish and Italian aviators had taken their places with the Finns for attempts to blast the Murmansk railway which parallels the eastern Finnish border and upon which the red forces in the far north were largely dependent for supplies.

The Svanvik dispatches said the Russians had been stopped 30 miles south of Salmijarvi, in the region of the Finns' "Lapland Mannerheim" line on which they counted to defend northern Finland.

From the more active fronts, in the Karelian isthmus and in central Finland, Finnish officers reported that in dead and prisoners the Finns were inflicting 50 times as much damage on the Russians as the Finns were suffering.

M'NARY IN FAVOR OF SUBSTANTIAL LOAN TO HARD PRESSED FINNS

Washington, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Reports Finland is seeking a \$50,000,000 loan from the United States government brought a statement from Senator McNary of Oregon, the Republican leader, today that he would favor a substantial loan "for governmental purposes."

"In view of Finland's attitude in keeping her money covenants with this government, I think we could afford to lend that country a substantial sum of money for governmental purposes," McNary told reporters.

While he did not define the phrase "for governmental purposes," McNary indicated that he doubted the wisdom of making a loan which could be used to buy war materials for use against invading Russian armies.

Representatives of the Finnish government were said to have sounded out congressional leaders on the proposal after they were unsuccessful in obtaining Wall street financing for such a sum.

Stockholm, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The first large contingent of Swedish volunteers, about 200 men, left Stockholm today for Finland. A crowd at the station cheered and sang the Swedish and Finnish national anthems and the Lutheran hymn, "Mighty Fortress."

sixth of the globe to socialism . . . he now is ready to lead them to communism."

The book was given an initial printing of 1,000,000 copies.

A flood of newspaper articles credited Stalin with many achievements of the Soviet union, including the "liberation" of the Ukrainian and white Russian regions from Poland and parts with the Baltic states, but made no mention of Finland.

The radio and newspapers were devoted almost completely to the anniversary.

AMERICAN NATIONS TO PROTEST WAR IN NEARBY SEAS

21 Republics Who Signed Panama Declaration Are Aroused by Spee Incident.

Rio De Janeiro, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The 21 American republics who signed the declaration of Panama, including the United States, will protest jointly to Europe's belligerent nations today or tomorrow against extension of warfare into the Pan-American neutrality "safety zone," it was authoritatively reported here late today.

Informants usually reliable said the protest probably would be announced in Washington or Panama, the seat of the permanent organization created at the Pan-American neutrality conference in October.

The protest, it was said, would be based on the running battle eight days ago off Uruguay's coast between the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee and three British cruisers.

This battle was well within the "safety zone" limit drawn by the American republics around the American continents, within which the European belligerents were asked not to carry their warfare.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Germany protested today to the Argentine government against "interment of officers and crew of the scuttled pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee."

A communique by DNB, official German news agency, said Germany called Argentina's attention to the fact shipwrecked crews of belligerent states customarily are released after reaching neutral ports.

There still was no official comment on the German liner Columbus, scuttled by her crew southeast of New York.

TRANSIENT COUPLE TAKEN IN CUSTODY

Vivian Davis, 16, was being held in the woman's ward of the county jail, and her companion, Ralph James Carpenter, 20, was in city police custody today while authorities investigated their story of having run away from their homes in Farrington, Mich., last November 15, in search of work.

They were taken in custody by city police last night in a local rooming house. Because the girl is under-age, police are contacting Farrington authorities to determine whether she is wanted back home.

The couple, unmarried, told police they had been "on the road" since leaving Farrington.

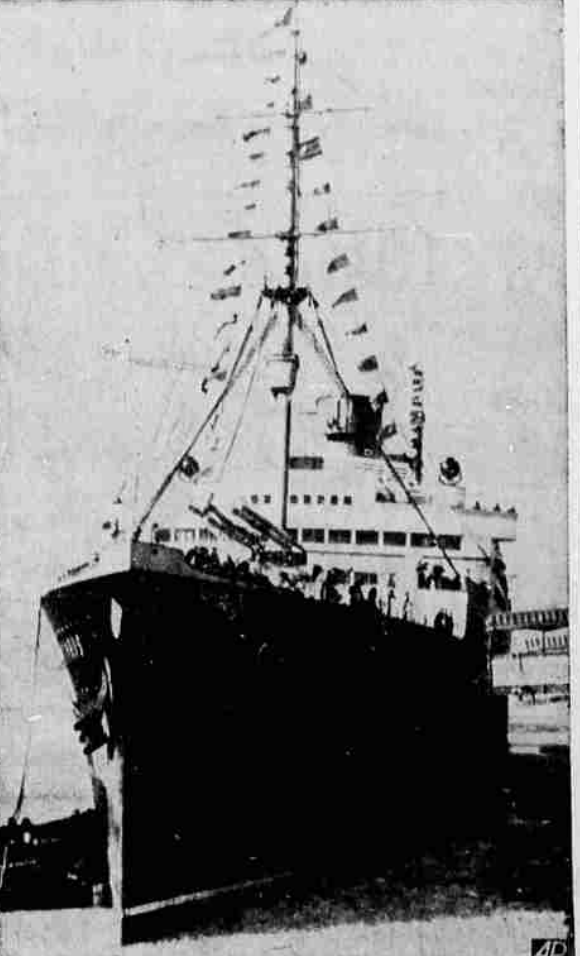
MORGENTHAU OPPOSES WALLACE FARM PLAN

Washington, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Secretary Morgenthau, saying he was opposed to further taxes on consumers, indicated today he was opposed to the proposed "certificate plan" to raise farm parity benefits.

The treasury head added, however, that the administration had not made a final decision on the certificate plan proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. Wallace has been asked to attend a second meeting of the President's fiscal and monetary committee this afternoon to talk about the idea.

BROKEN WHEEL DERAILS FREIGHT NEAR DUNSMUIR
 San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(AP)—A broken wheel flange caused the derailing of two cars of the southbound Portland-San Francisco freight train No. 319 at 8:30 a. m. today near Lamoine, 22 miles south of Dunsmuir, the Southern Pacific company announced. Nobody was injured.

Nazi Luxury Liner Sunk



The German luxury liner Columbus, (top), third largest Nazi merchant ship, was scuttled by its crew 300 miles off Cape Henry to escape capture by a British cruiser. Below: The German merchant ship Arauca is shown waiting a pilot to take it into Port Everglades, Fla., after it had raced into the three-mile limit to avoid capture by a British warship.

WINTER BEGINS FRIDAY MORNING

Portland, Dec. 21.—(AP)—The temperature dropped off a point or two and fog shrouded many sections of Oregon today in the dying hours of the autumn season.

The northern hemisphere's winter begins at 10:06 a. m., P.S.T., Friday, the shortest day of the year. The government weather bureau said the days between December 18 and December 24 would average eight hours and 38 minutes of daylight.

Light rains were possible tonight in the northwest portion with fog and increasing cloudiness Friday. Generally fair weather was expected in other parts of the state tonight and Friday.

Actor's Chauffeur Dies

Deming, N. M., Dec. 21.—(AP)—An automobile accident in which movie actor Frank Morgan was injured proved fatal to his chauffeur, William Martin, in Deming hospital today.

Rep. Martin Ill

Washington, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Aides of Representative Martin (D-Colo.) said today the legislator was critically ill in Naval hospital here and had been placed in an oxygen tent.

LIBERALS TALKING COMBINED EFFORT IN NEXT CAMPAIGN

Secy. Ickes Reveals National Convention May Be Called To Organize Support

Washington, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Secretary Ickes said today liberals among the Democrats and Republicans might call a national convention some time before the 1940 presidential campaign to organize support for whichever party named a liberal to head its ticket.

At his press conference Ickes said that he had discussed such a possibility with Senators Norris (Ind.-Neb.) and LaFollette (Prog.-Wis.).

The decision to call the conference might or might not depend upon whether President Roosevelt decided to try for a third term, Ickes said.

Third Party Not Aim
 "It (the liberal conference), he explained, "might be called before or after the president had announced a decision or it might be held after both parties had chosen their candidates."

The convention, he said, would not be aimed at setting up a third political party.

Its primary purpose, he continued, would be to direct support to whichever party went to the country under a liberal banner.

In event both named "reactionary candidates," however, he said the liberals might be called upon for a sacrifice hit.

Asked to amplify this remark, he said the liberals might decide, if they had nowhere else to turn, to launch a third party ticket, perhaps in New York state, with almost certain knowledge of defeat.

Politicians Control
 "You can't get anywhere with a third party movement in this country," he said. "The politi-

INSPECTORS QUIZ COLUMBUS' CREW

New York, Dec. 21.—(AP)—Behind closed doors in a building on Ellis Island six inspectors today began questioning the survivors of the scuttled German liner Columbus to determine their status under the immigration laws.

The examination of the seamen was expected to require at least two days. Byron H. Uhl, New York district director of immigration, said the task was rendered more difficult because the usual crew list was not available, it presumably having gone down with the Columbus.

Agents of the federal bureau of investigation were sitting in on the inquiry to determine whether any of the survivors were members of the German naval or military intelligence service.

Uhl explained that "while we want to make things as pleasant as possible for the survivors they will not be permitted to receive mail or other communications or to have visitors until their status is determined."

TRAIN HITS AUTO, GOES INTO DITCH

Richland, Neb., Dec. 21.—(AP)—The engineer and fireman of Union Pacific's eastbound mail train No. 6 were killed last night as the locomotive and nine cars plunged from the track after striking a stalled automobile.

The body of Fireman Albert "Lee" Roberts, Council Bluffs, Ia., was found today buried under the overturned locomotive, which sheared off the edge of a grain elevator. Engineer David Jones, Omaha, was found late last night in a mass of tangled wreckage.