

The Weather

Forecast Rain today and tomorrow: moderate temperatures. Temperature Highest yesterday 56 Lowest yesterday 47

MEDFORD



TRIBUNE

Full Associated Press

Full United Press

Thirty-fourth Year

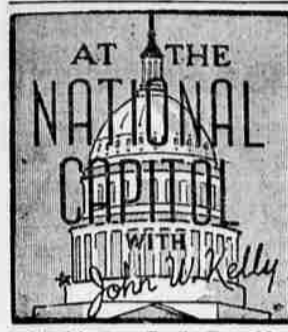
MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 19

No. 241.

Check the Page

By all means do not overlook the classified page this morning. One can never tell. The very opportunity you have been looking for may be advertised. Anyway, why not check the page?

LANDIS FINDINGS EXONERATE BRIDGES



Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—Preview of "the troubled days which lie ahead of us" (Secretary of State Hull's Christmas warning to the far-flung foreign service), indicates that one of the most important issues to the Pacific northwest is what attitude congress will take with Japan.

Maritime commerce, exports and imports, with the interesting little people, is a matter of magnitude with Oregon and Washington. January 22 the commercial treaty with Japan expires. It is possible that an embargo may be declared—will be if certain groups and members of congress have their will.

THIS trade treaty is being abrogated on orders of President Roosevelt in retaliation for Japan's treatment of Americans and American interests in China in the hinterland, which has practically no commerce or contact with Japan, it would be popular if all business relations with Japan were severed, this sentiment being fomented by the invasion of China. Not so, however, in the Pacific northwest where commerce bodies, exporters and other businessmen have been bombarding their senators to do something which will prevent an interruption of peaceful trade.

While it is true that there are groups in those states which have demanded for the past year an embargo on scrap iron to Japan, those who realize the value of commerce and know what this commerce means to the northwest people are worried over the situation.

EARNESTLY urging the state department arrange some sort of trade treaty is Idaho's Borah, ranking Republican on the senate committee on foreign relations. Advocating severance with Japan is Nevada's Pittman, chairman of that committee.

The whole problem will be thrashed out before anything is done and meanwhile northwest commercial interests will be in a stew.

With state department none too friendly toward Japan, it has recalled the ambassador to Germany—would have recalled the ambassador to Russia but is keeping him there as a listening post despite the contempt Russia is displaying toward the president of the United States. ("Getting even," Mr. Roosevelt did not congratulate Hitler on his escape from being bombed; did not felicitate Stalin on his 60th birthday.)

Relations are friendly in the western hemisphere except south of the border in Old Mexico. Coolness exists

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RAIN WITH WIND WEEKEND OUTLOOK

Northern California: Cloudy with rain Sunday, light snow over high mountains; no change in temperature; increasing southerly wind off coast, becoming strong above San Francisco.

Washington and Oregon: Occasional rain Sunday; snow over mountains; little change in temperature; increasing southeast wind off coast.

Ontario, Ore., Dec. 30.—(P)—Coroner R. A. Tacke said tonight an autopsy had proved that Mrs. Clara Thomas, found dead in her ranch home Thursday, died of acute alcoholism.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(P)—The agricultural marketing service reported today that the general level of prices received by farmers on December 15 was one point lower than in mid-November.

NOT A COMMUNIST, ONLY ENERGETIC AS RADICAL, VIEW

Congress May Act, Comment Divided; Coast Labor Turmoil Chief Gloats Over Favorable Ruling.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(P)—The door to possible deportation of Harry Bridges, Australian-born west coast C.I.O. leader, appeared tonight to have been closed by a trial examiner's finding that he is not a Communist, but there were indications that the decisions might have repercussions in congress.

The reaction of legislators already here for the session beginning next week was varied, but some were frankly incredulous that Dean James M. Landis of Harvard law school, who sat as a special labor department examiner in the Bridges case, could have cleared him of any affiliation with the Communist party.

Representative Dempsey (D.-N.M.) commented that the house committee on un-American activities had "rather conclusive" testimony that Bridges had been a Communist and should be deported.

But Senator Burke (D.-Neb.), one of the group of lawmakers who have urged that Bridges be deported, said he was "rather surprised, but I must assume that Dean Landis examined the evidence very carefully in every way."

Senator Capper (R.-Kas.), a member of the senate immigration committee, said he would be "a little doubtful" of the Landis conclusion, but that he did not know whether it was of sufficient importance "for congress to dig into it."

No Deportation. It was accepted at the capitol as a foregone conclusion that Secretary Perkins would not reject the findings of Landis—in the absence of some development indicating he had been misled during the lengthy hearings he conducted on the west coast.

If Miss Perkins accepts the report, the deportation warrant issued against him in March, 1938, will be cancelled. The warrant was based on the allegation that Bridges was a Communist.

In an 80,000-word report, Landis summed up his estimate of the "political beliefs and disbeliefs" of the west coast labor leader in these words: "That Bridges' aims are energetically radical may be admitted, but the proof fails to establish that the methods he seeks to employ to realize them are other than those that the framework of democracy and

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Medford Business Ends Year On Optimistic Note As Pear Gift Box Sales Hit New High

Medford completed 1939 in a business upsurge that surpassed anything in a decade and in some instances shattered all previous records. Two great factors in the year-end upswing were the Christmas gift package business that has been developed here and the Yuletide shopping.

The Christmas trade here was described as the best since 1929 and the wind-up of shopping on the final two days before the holiday was one of the most concentrated periods of buying witnessed in many a year.

Cash Buying Flood As an indication of the proportions of this year's Christmas buying, an authentic source estimated that on the last two business days before Christmas, Friday and Saturday December 22 and 23, merchants took in at least \$70,000 in cash. This figure does not include checks.

The Christmas trade was estimated at 10 per cent larger than it was last year. Merchants generally were obviously

Long Distance Challenge



Julius Denes of New York, Hungarian novelist, uses his umbrella to demonstrate his duelling form after announcing he had challenged Dr. Kalman Ratz, Hungarian Nazi, to a duel. He radioed the challenge to Budapest. His reason, Denes said, was a pamphlet by Dr. Ratz attacking Hungarians of Jewish faith.

AL SMITH FLAYS 'WHITEWASH' USED IN BRIDGES CASE

New York, Dec. 30.—(P)—Al Smith, the "happy warrior" of yesterday, was 66 today and in celebration of the occasion he presented his personal list of Democratic presidential possibilities and threatened to "take another walk" if his party endorsed the new deal headed by his one-time bosom friend.

"If the (Democratic) platform comes out in full praise of the new deal, it'll be time to get my walking shoes out again," he said.

Concerning a third term for Mr. Roosevelt, he said: "I think and always did think two terms were enough for any man. That's been sort of an unwritten part of our constitution since the days of Washington. It's kind of a tradition—an American tradition."

In his criticism of the new deal, Smith asserted that the "underlying theory of the whole new deal policy is to change the American idea of government," which he defined as the belief in "independence and absolute separation of the three branches of government and, secondly, in the rights of states."

He added he did not believe the new deal had "kowitzed" deliberately to communists, but said "a good many policies of the new deal are of communist origin; the present attempt to distribute wealth by taxation attacks of communism, whose theory is to have everybody equal by nobody having anything."

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SAFETY KEYNOTES NEW YEAR'S JOY

By the Associated Press An extraordinary record of safety marked the opening of the holiday weekend last night. Only 31 violent deaths in 23 states were reported for the day, a quasi-festive time in many places, as compared with 122 in 33 states during the same period of the comparable Christmas week-end last week.

Despite the fact that in many states highway traffic was made hazardous by snow and freezing weather, only 18 traffic fatalities, including three deaths in train accidents, were reported in the early week-end holiday poll.

During the three-day Christmas week-end approximately 700 persons died violently, the majority in traffic accidents.

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COPCO PLANS TO EXPEND MILLION IN VALLEY WORK

Rebuilding Gold Ray Dam, New Transmission Line to Grants Pass Among Chief Projects.

A construction program for the coming year, involving expenditures in excess of a million dollars, will be inaugurated early in 1940 by The California Oregon Power company, according to announcement Saturday by Hance H. Cleland, president of the company. The construction budget, which has just been approved, will affect every section of southern Oregon and northern California served by Copco, and will total \$1,014,000.

The largest project to be included in the 1940 construction program will be the building of a new transmission line from Medford to Grants Pass at an approximate cost of \$150,000.

Other major projects, which appear in the budget, include: rebuilding line 8 from Prospect to Gold Ray, \$30,000; rebuilding Gold Ray dam on Rogue river, \$38,000; erection of new switching stations for lines 5 and 9, near Klamath Falls, \$84,000; rebuilding line 5, Klamath Falls to Enterprise substation, \$13,000; installation of 5,100 feet of 12-inch new water main in the Klamath Falls water distribution system, \$30,000; construction of a new east side reservoir in Klamath Falls, \$20,000; completion of the Alturas extension, \$30,000; construction of a new line extension from Elkton to Scottsburg, \$17,000, and the rebuilding of line 14 in northern California, \$13,000.

In addition to these projects, construction work will be undertaken on a smaller scale at other points throughout the area served by The California Oregon Power company, extending 275 miles in length and 100 miles in width. This territory embraces 54 cities and communities, whose economic welfare will be affected by this sizeable program.

The 1940 construction program will also result in improved facilities for serving approximately 33,000 electric customers residing in this area.

One of the most interesting phases of Copco's 1940 program will be the rebuilding of Gold Ray dam. This dam is situated on Rogue river, in southern Oregon, at a spot known to old-timers as Gold Bar, and is a part of the historic Gold Ray plant, erected in 1903 by Dr. C. R. Ray and Colonel Frank Ray. The plant, still in operation and an important unit in the Copco system, will become increasingly efficient with the rebuilding of this dam.

Major Laurence A. Milner, American Legionnaire and former national guard officer: "It was a whitewash." He said he wanted to make no other comment because he did not want to enter a controversy.

John L. Leech, Portland dock commission employe: "I believe the case was whitewashed and that the decision was not reached on the evidence. Also, I would welcome any investigation by any federal court as to my connection with the Portland police department and with Captain Keegan."

OREGON TOLD TO CLIP TAX RATES

Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—Senator Rufus C. Holman (R., Ore.) said tonight that Oregon must put its "taxation house in order" if it expects to obtain industries interested in Bonneville dam power.

Holman, who entrained tonight for Washington for the opening of congress in January, demanded: "What's the use of getting your power costs down if taxes keep going up? What industry wants to come to Portland when it has to pay over 6 percent on the assessed valuation before it turns a wheel?"

An important reason for the Aluminum Company of America's selection of Vancouver, Wash., as a plant site may have been Oregon taxes, Holman said. He predicted, however, that a steel mill would locate soon in Columbia county, Oregon.

Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—Ormond R. Bean, state utilities commissioner, said today electric rate reductions of \$1,050,306, affecting 218,647 users, were made in Oregon in 1939.

MADAME PERKINS ROILS A.F.L. HEAD WITH STATEMENT

Labor Secretary Sharply Criticized For Report to Congress — Ask Quiz.

Washington, Dec. 30.—(P)—The American Federation of Labor accused Secretary Perkins tonight of misrepresenting the facts of the CIO-AFL dispute in her annual report to congress and suggested that a congressional committee summon the labor department head "and wring from her the truth she has suppressed."

In a sharply critical statement, President William Green of the AFL also took exception to Miss Perkins' references in her report to the numerical strength of the two labor organizations.

"The statement of the secretary of labor that the A.F.L. 'claims' four million members is misleading," he said. "We do not 'claim,' we report four million paid-up members. The figures are included in our annual financial report and are subject to verification by expert accountants."

"Our financial report is in the possession of Secretary Perkins. She had no such report from the CIO because they issued none. Yet in the same breath that she states we 'claim' four million members, she says the CIO also 'claims' four million members. Thus she attempts to place both organizations in a position of parity when, as a matter of fact, the paid up membership of the A. F. of L. is probably four times that of the CIO."

In the course of her report, Miss Perkins reviewed the split in the labor movement and described it as "hazardous to trade-unionism" as well as "troublesome" to some employers and to government agencies dealing with labor problems. She mentioned also President Roosevelt's and her own efforts to effect a union of the two warring groups.

Green asserted that this portion of the report was "thoroughly ununiformed, misleading and untrue."

STATE HIGHWAYS CLEARED OF ICE

Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—Oregon's mountain highways were free of ice today, thanks to warm rains and rising temperatures.

The Oregon State Motor association said all major roads were clear. Rains melted ice on the Blue Mountain highway between La Grande and Pendleton.

Heavy fog handicapped shipping at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Three ships dropped anchor outside and three others remained at Astoria awaiting more favorable conditions.

Today's minimum temperatures included Portland 40 degrees, Pendleton 33, Roseburg 47, Medford 47, Eugene 45, Albany 45, Siskiyou Summit 30, Salem 45.

Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—Federal authorities investigated tonight the fatal shooting of Geneva Riddle, 22-year-old Indian woman, on the Klamath reservation at Beatty.

District Attorney Worth Sizemore said he had been informed by a witness that Miss Riddle committed suicide. He said Wilbur Hixon, Carman Riddle and Mervin Duffy were in Hixon's home, where the shooting occurred.

Ford For Farming

Detroit, Dec. 30.—(P)—Henry Ford pointed today to what he termed "the richest opportunity in our history" for American youth.

On the last business day of 1939, the automobile manufacturer made clear he did not support the belief that this country cannot find useful places for the hundreds of thousands of youths who will finish their schooling in the new year.

"If energetic and intelligent young people," he said in an interview, "will stop thinking that they cannot get along without attaching themselves to a payroll and will get out on the land, they will find there is still plenty to do."

Of prospects for 1940, Ford said: "Business ought to be good. Why not? People are losing their fear that America is going to get into trouble overseas. Confidence is growing. Confidence in America with its new frontier—the land."

BRITISH EXPECT 'REAL WAR' OPENS IN EARLY SPRING

Guess Conflict Will Last Six Months to Three Years—Editorial Warns of Pinch.

By J. C. Stark London, Dec. 30.—(P)—Britons looking into the New Year today generally foresaw the beginning of "real war" with Germany by early spring and guessed that the conflict would last from six months to three years or more.

Four months of warfare took a heavy toll at sea, disrupted family life and business generally and brought hardships to the public.

That the war won't continue in its present form much longer is taken for granted here.

The conflict to date has been totally different from what the average man expected. He counted on blitzkrieg—sharp blows and quick horrifying air raids. The absence of such large-scale attacks enabled Britain and France to organize their war program with comparatively little interference except to shipping.

Britons are to become more keenly aware of the war before the New Year is very old. Income and other taxes are going up.

The first food rationing will start a week from Monday. Still more men will be called to the colors soon.

The Daily Mail struck a keynote in the British press in warning against excessive optimism about the war and said also that one of the illusions "of which we recently divested ourselves is that the United States is likely to give us anything more than sympathy or goods for cash."

It added: "There has been far too much moral and mental leaning on America during the past two decades."

Many Britons predict Germany will be forced by the allied blockade to try some big military effort in early spring.

Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—The federal government gave Oregon \$80,810,994 in loans and outright expenditures in the 1939 fiscal year which ended last June 30, Edgar Freed, state director of government reports, said today.

Loans totaled \$21,989,419, grants-in-aid and other expenditures \$58,821,575. In addition, the federal housing administration insured \$7,634,923 worth of housing improvement notes and mortgages in the state.

FIGHTING FINNS FORCE RUSSIANS ACROSS FRONTIER

Murmansk Railroad Cut as Soviet Plans Major Offensive — No Air Raids.

Helsinki, Dec. 30.—(P)—Finland's warriors of the snows today flung a third Red Russian army back onto Soviet soil—in full rout—and faced the new year exultant in the strength they have shown to the world.

(British accounts of the operations at the start of the second month of northern war went so far as to credit Finnish "suicide patrols" of skiers with cutting Russia's vital railway from Murmansk to Leningrad in three places. These dispatches said there were reports of a food shortage in Murmansk as a result of the raids on the railway, which is the main supply line for the invading Russians.)

Other Finnish armies stood fast against attacks on the Mannerheim line while this little capital, in contrast to the bloody aerial blitzkrieg of a month ago, had not single air raid alarm all day.

Soviet bombers, however, attacked other towns both close to Helsinki and on the Karelian isthmus. Half a hundred bombs were dumped on Hanko, southwestern naval base, destroying a hospital and four other buildings and injuring 30 patients. Vaasa, in the capital area, was bombed with three to five civilian deaths; Sipoo, 30 miles east of Helsinki, was raided and a little girl was killed; there were civilian casualties in raids on Kakisalmi and other isthmus towns.

The third battle in which the attacking Russians were pushed back across the border took place near Kuhmo, about 50 miles north of Lieksa, in lower central Finland. The Finnish command charted the course of the Russian rout as southeast, past Kieki.

Previously, the Reds had been forced back over the border at points east and southeast of Lieksa. The Finnish ski troops, moreover, have been reported in dashes into Soviet territory near Salla, further north, in attempts to shear off the Soviet rail "life line."

Finland's army command detailed victorious Finnish stands on the ice of Lake Suvanto, on

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MARSHFIELD MAN FORESTRY CHIEF

Salem, Dec. 30.—(P)—Carl L. Davis of Marshfield has accepted appointment of the state board of forestry as state forester on a temporary basis, Gov. Charles A. Sprague announced shortly before noon today.

Davis was not an applicant for the position and "is accepting a temporary position only," the governor said.

Son of a logging industry family, Davis has been engaged in the logging business at Marshfield and for several years has served as secretary of the Coos Fire Patrol association.

Davis will take up his position as of January 1, effective date of the recent resignation of J. W. Ferguson as forester.

Admits Taking Bribe Spokane, Dec. 30.—(P)—Lee C. Thomas, former Spokane county commissioner, pleaded guilty to a charge of soliciting a bribe when arraigned today before Superior Judge Fred Witt.

Germany Weakened. Portland, Dec. 30.—(P)—The decline in scientists and engineers has undermined Germany's military strength greatly, Dr. Arthur H. Compton, professor of physics at the University of Chicago, declared during a brief visit here today.