

Table with sports scores: Oregon Huskies 19, Irish Troy 20, Harvard Yale 14, Ohio State Michigan 20, Nebraska Iowa 14, Northwest Illinois 27, Cougars Gonzaga 59, Staters Montana 27, Indiana Purdue 7, Fordham St. Mary's 35, Penn Cornell 16, Minnesota Wisconsin 41, Rice Texas Ch. 0, Vanderbilt Alabama 7.

Weather: Pull U.S. Weather Bureau report inside. Forecast: Cloudy or foggy today and tomorrow; continued cold today. Temperature: Highest Yesterday 48, Lowest Yesterday 26.

MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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Thirty-sixth Year MEDFORD, OREGON, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1941. NO. 210.

AXIS TROOPS IN LIBYA WAR TRAPPED

News Behind The News



Paul Mallon

Washington, Nov. 22.—Blood-thickening rumors have come in upon these Kurusu-Roosevelt negotiations suggesting the Japs are now ready to move in on Thailand at any moment. First official hint arrived on the heels of the Japanese peace emissary (who bore no peace plan). Such an invasion would bring the British Malay troops into conflict with the Japs, no doubt, and eventually involve the U. S. Asiatic fleet. Our officials suspected the rumors were part of the clumsy Jap diplomatic pressure game, and declined to be disturbed. But they immediately began preparations to send certain very valuable war material to Thailand just in case it should be called for. Lend-lease aid will be granted in event of invasion. This is only one of the official rumors that have disturbed the fragile Japanese-American negotiations. Such stuff seems to have become an expected phase of high-pressure diplomacy. Yet both the rumors and the negotiations have been tempered by the solid inner conviction here that there will be no war—and no peace.

WAR just does not make sense from either the Japanese or American standpoint. Our main commitment is in the Atlantic, against Hitler. We need our fleet for that. While we talk roundly of our far eastern interests, there are only two things we are trying to do there now: (1) Keep Vladivostok open for aid to Stalin (the Persian railroad will haul little for another year yet and the Archangel-Moscow railroad may be severed in a few weeks, leaving Vladivostok as the only port of entry for American goods), and (2) keep the Burma road open for aid to China.

(Continued on Page Eight)

War Bulletins

Nairobi, Kenya Colony, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Surrender of two Italian garrisons at Culqubert and Ferrober in Ethiopia east of Lake Tana yesterday was announced today in a joint British army and airforce communique. Cairo, Egypt, Nov. 22.—(AP)—New Zealand troops have recaptured Fort Capuzzo on the Egyptian-Libyan frontier, it was learned here tonight. Berlin, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The German air force today bombed the Murmansk railway and harbor facilities at Murmansk. DNB news agency said. London, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The RAF in an offensive sweep of northern France this afternoon destroyed six German fighting planes to a loss of one of its own, an authoritative statement said tonight. New York, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The Rome radio said tonight that Premier Mussolini would participate in a conference with Adolf Hitler and Marshal Petain to be held "somewhere in France." NBC heard the broadcast. A authoritative French sources disclosed today that Petain would leave Vichy shortly for occupied France for talks with a high Nazi, possibly Hitler himself. Madras, Nov. 22.—(AP)—A Jefferson county committee under the state defense nutrition committee will be formed here Wednesday.

TOBRUK GARRISON ENDS LONG SEIGE, BLASTS NAZI REAR

Mechanized Force Half Destroyed In Pincer Movement—German Assault Fails.

(By the Associated Press) British capture of Fort Capuzzo on the Egyptian-Libyan border was announced in Cairo last (Saturday) night as Britain's mechanized African army continued its destruction of axis motorized defenses. Nazi armored divisions appeared caught between two jaws, of a monstrous pincer movement when the Tobruk garrison to the west burst through seven-months-old axis siege lines to catch them in the rear. Besides the American-built tanks in the ground spearheads, swarms of Yankee fighter planes were participating in an accompanying air offensive which RAF officers said had given the British mastery of the skies in two days of fighting. Cairo military dispatches said more than half the tanks of German Gen. Erwin Rommel's North African corps had already been knocked out of action, with the British employing the same tactics of encirclement and annihilation used by the Germans themselves in conquering most of Europe. "The aim of the British command is to destroy the German tank force in Libya, and that is what we are doing at the moment," a high British officer declared. Sun-bronzed Australians and British Tommies who stormed into Tobruk last January 22 to the lusty chorus of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" were reported slaying with enthusiasm into the rear of German and Italian troops who, in turn, had beleaguered them for so long. Latest advices said the Tobruk forces had cut their way through three miles of axis positions, driving to join units of the main imperial armies at Rezegh, 10 miles south of Tobruk's outer defense perimeter. British Middle East headquarters said repeated German attempts to break through the British encirclement were defeated in a big battle and that the area of entrapment, originally more than 60 miles deep, had been compressed into a four-mile square zone. General Sir Alan Cunningham's five-day-old counter-offensive in North Africa thus presented Adolf Hitler with the possibility of his first defeat in two years of war. Rome, Sunday, Nov. 23.—(AP)—Violent new British attacks in the Tobruk sector of the Libyan battlefield were reported early today by the official Stefani agency. The British were said to have struck out with armored forces after intense artillery preparation in attacks which lasted throughout Saturday. The agency said Italian troops met British tank charges with hand grenades and declared the British had failed to gain "positive results."

PRISON TERMS METED Ceour d'Alene, Ida., Nov. 22.—(AP)—Marion M. Montague of Lewiston and Oscar Johnson of Spokane, both 23 and former inmates of their respective state reform schools, pleaded guilty to charges of first degree burglary today and were sentenced to serve 15 years at hard labor in the state penitentiary. COLD WAVE Denver, Nov. 22.—(AP)—A cold wave that pushed the mercury well below zero in Montana moved southward across Wyoming today.

Oregonian Defends Lewis



William Dalrymple (left), Oregon CIO regional director speaks from the CIO convention floor at Detroit, and was applauded when he said "there isn't a greater American today than" John L. Lewis, president of the CIO United Mine Workers.

MINERS AGREE TO JAPAN PROPOSALS ARBITRATION; MEN REMAIN MYSTERY; RETURN TO WORK CLOSELY STUDIED

Washington, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The captive coal mine strike was ended today in an agreement that its issue be submitted to arbitration with both sides bound in advance to accept the results. At the continued entreaty of President Roosevelt, the policy committee of the United Mine Workers of America voted to send its men back into the pits on these terms at once. John L. Lewis, the union's president, said the decision was made "in the public interest." It came, however, as a sharp surprise to those who have kept in close touch with the mine controversy, because Lewis personally rejected the plan earlier in the week. Mr. Roosevelt's statements on the dispute had so prejudiced the public mind, Lewis said then, that it would be "extremely difficult to find an impartial arbitrator."

SCHOOL JANITOR STRIKE AVERTED

Tacoma, Nov. 22.—(AP)—A threatened strike Monday by maintenance men and custodians employed in Tacoma schools was averted today through the mediation efforts of Mayor Harry P. Cain, who announced trustees and union members had agreed to a conference. The employees, whose contemplated walkout was backed by the AFL-Engineers' union, had set Monday as the deadline for a walkout—called in an effort to secure wage increases of 20 per cent. Mayor Cain said an earlier plan whereby a group of citizens would review the dispute and make recommendations by January 1, probably would be adopted.

SOLDIER A SUICIDE Fort Lewis, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The army announced that Pvt. Frank N. Countryman, 30, of the 163rd Infantry regiment, 41st division, committed suicide early today by slashing his throat with a straight razor. HEADS MINING BODY Spokane, Wash., Nov. 22.—(AP)—James L. Leonard of Spokane was elected president of the Northwest Mining association at a meeting of the board of directors today. In one small suburban yard a scientist found 1,402 varieties of insects.

HOLMAN ASSAILS ROOSEVELT RULE; BACKS OWN VOTE

Moser Named Secretary At State G.O.P. Meet—Ingalls Motion Withdrawn

Portland, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Debate over changes in the neutrality act enlivened an Oregon Republican executive committee meeting here today. Claude Ingalls, Corvallis, proposed that the committee commend votes of Oregon's four Republican congressmen against neutrality act revision. U. S. Senator Rufus Holman told the group, "I know that the future will justify my votes to date. . . . Not a single governmental department believes that our country is prepared to engage in war I think that the president is so ambitious about his place in history that he is like the merchant who sets fire to his business to get the insurance. This is by far the most incompetent and the most selfish administration this country has ever had." State Chairman Niel R. Allen said he favored the changes, and believed that the committee should not oppose legislation that has become law. Ingalls withdrew his motion. The committee approved appointment of Carl R. Moser as executive secretary of the state organization at a salary of \$350 a month. Moser has been Oregon department adjutant of the American Legion since 1924. Joseph K. Carson Jr., state Legion commander, appointed June W. Valiant of Portland to succeed Moser.

ANTI-STRIKE ACT READY NEXT WEEK COMMITTEE PLAN

Washington, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Despite settlement of the coal strike pending arbitration, Chairman Norton (D-N.J.) of the house labor committee said after a White House conference today that President Roosevelt approved of her committee reporting some bill to curb defense strikes. Mrs. Norton told reporters that the president "thinks it is quite important that we should decide on some bill." She added she told the president the committee hoped to have a bill ready next week. "We want to prepare a bill," she said, "that will not harm the existing labor laws and at the same time try to cover the present situation." Representative Norton said that labor had "forced" on congress the necessity to act because "after all the country takes precedence over labor or anyone else."

GAME EXCITEMENT FATAL TO AD MAN

Seattle, Nov. 22.—(AP)—After suffering a stroke while watching the Oregon-Washington football game today, Lloyd Spencer, veteran Seattle advertising man, died in a hospital tonight. His widow, Stella, survives. Spencer had been president of the Association of Advertising clubs on the Pacific coast and was widely known in his profession. He also had held several offices in the Seattle chamber of commerce during the 25 years he operated an agency here.

ALL-OUT ASSAULT DRIVE LAUNCHED TO TAKE MOSCOW

Nazis' Mighty Force Nearest Yet To Capital—Rostov Falls, Berlin Claims.

By the Associated Press Kuibyshev Russia, Nov. 22.—The Germans have renewed their offensive against Moscow in the central Mozhaisk sector, thereby making their current all-out assault on the Soviet capital a general maneuver of unprecedented proportions, Russian dispatches reported today as the German-Russian war began its sixth month. This also brought the current powerful onslaught the nearest to Moscow since it started early in the week on the capital's defense flanks at Kalinin 95 miles to the northwest, and at Tula, 100 miles below the capital. Mozhaisk is 57 miles west of Moscow. The Moscow newspaper Pravda said the Germans were attacking the Moscow defense with "probably the largest concentration of forces ever seen in modern warfare." The German army was said to have been ordered to drive to the capital at all costs. Berlin Nov. 22.—(AP)—The capture of the Caucasus gateway city of Rostov was announced in a surprise special bulletin by the German reich high command today, and tonight German military spokesmen hinted that their advance forces already were smashing eastward beyond the strategic Don river port in the direction of Astrakhan. German commentators, suggesting the Nazis had cut off highly important oil supplies from the Russians, said that in capturing Rostov they had won "the spigot of the Russian oil barrel."

RAIL HEADS AND BROTHERHOOD TO CONFER FURTHER

Washington, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Representatives of railroad managements and employe brotherhoods agreed today to meet again Monday in an effort to reach an agreement on wage increase demands and avert a nation-wide rail strike. This agreement followed another conference with President Roosevelt, who has taken an active part for a week in moves to bring the two sides together. Solicitor General Charles Fahy, who attended the White House meeting along with other government observers, announced the Monday conference. He told reporters that no formula for a settlement had been mentioned at the White House meeting, but that this had been left to "direct negotiations." A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, told newspapermen a meeting last night broke up after the "refusal on the part of the carriers to in any way go beyond" a presidential board's recommendation for settlement of the wage dispute.

51 TRAFFIC VICTIMS Portland, Nov. 22.—(AP)—John R. Hale, 19, was killed in an automobile-trolley car collision today. Hale, a passenger in the automobile, was the 51st person to die in Portland traffic accidents this year. Cold At La Grande La Grande, Nov. 22.—(AP)—The temperature dropped to 18 degrees in this section of eastern Oregon Friday night.

Interpreting The War News

By Kirke L. Simpson

One of the most impressive phases of the British Libyan offensive is the fact that it was launched while a crisis was brewing in Russian defense of the Caucasus front against a triple-pronged German attack. If any one thing is certain about the war at this stage, it is that German seizure of Russian oil fields in the Caucasus would be a crushing blow for the British. A flow of more than 200,000,000 barrels a year is credited to those wells. Half of that as war spoils would enable Hitler to fight on for years. Without it his capacity for all-out warfare is definitely limited by fast dwindling oil reserves. Yet British armies in the east, estimated at 750,000 men, all that could be used effectively on the 140-mile Libyan-Egyptian front, have been hurled into a major assault to smash German-Italian armies in north Africa. The obvious explanation, aside from the diversion effect to help Russia, (which is still uncertain) is that the British hope and expect to clean up in Libya, perhaps force Italy out of the war, before the Germans can reach the oil fields in the Caucasus.

It is not clear here just what information the British may have as to Russian ability to hold the Caucasus front on the Don-Rostov-Kerch strait against the lunging nazi attack. However, there is official word from London that the drive in Libya has been in preparation for five months. Berlin claimed yesterday the capture of Rostov-on-the-Don, "spigot to Russia's oil barrel." The main Russian oil source, the Baku field in the trans-Caucasus, however, is still 700 to 800 miles from the nearest nazi threat. It is bulwarked also by the most rugged mountain chain in that part of the world, the Greater Caucasus mountains. To reach the source of more than three-fourths of all the oil of the region German forces must scale those mountains.

There are oil fields in the rolling steppe country north of the mountains and only 200 to 300 miles now from closest German lines. The Maikop and Grozny fields yield a relatively small output annually, however, not sufficient for German needs. That their flow would be greatly reduced or retarded by Russian efforts to destroy those wells if forced to give ground is certain. Hitler can gain little immediately or in the long run so far as Russian oil is concerned unless he drives clear to the Baku field. In all probability it is upon that mountain barrier even more than upon Red armies that British leadership counted in deciding to resist the Libyan offensive now. Against any Russian resistance it seems impossible that nazi forces could actually threaten the Baku oil deposits for months.

PAPAL PLANS TO GUIDE CONSCIENCE

Vatican City, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Pope Pius XII said today that the Catholic church had no desire to mix into a controversy over different political regimes but intended to serve as a "guide of consciences." The pope's statement was made at an audience with Ambassador Llobet, new envoy to the Vatican from Argentina, who presented his credentials in the throne room after a 15-minute private conference with the pontiff. CANNER CHAMP LEAVES Portland, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Louise Williams, 19, Portland, will leave for the National 4-H Club Congress at Chicago next week as Oregon's champion club canner.

PEACE OFFENSIVE BY HITLER SOON, WHITE HOUSE SAYS

German Losses Make Early Conference Vital To Soothe Europe—Nazi Trick Hinted.

Washington, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Cautioning the world's democracies to be on guard, the White House said today that Germany was preparing a winter peace offensive embracing proposals ostensibly restoring economic and political independence to continental Europe, but actually leaving Hitler master of a string of "puppet states." Stephen T. Early, a presidential secretary, disclosed at a press conference that this government had reports of such a plan. A reporter had asked whether an "economic peace" was about to be proposed by the Nazis. Early said both President Roosevelt and the state department had received information from certain European sources that a conference was to be called either in December or January "on some occasion considered propitious by Germany." He added that invitations already were going forth from Germany to "some belligerents, the axis powers, and some neutral European nations."

"So far as our information goes," he said, "the conference would be restricted to a meeting of European powers. That excludes, of course, this hemisphere and, I understand also, that England will not be invited." Early said the reports reaching the United States government gave the reason for the conference as the prospect that "Germany is going to be forced by losses and depletion of reserves to summon such a conference." "The idea," he continued, "is to dress up some high-sounding formula of economic rehabilitation and restoration of independence for all European nations, carefully providing for leaving the door open for German violations later on and for German control of all these governments in practice; that is, what would be essentially a series of puppet states throughout Europe with Germany always holding the strings."

The secretary went on to say that "the fact that Germany is studying such a conference is a matter of some interest and should be discounted well ahead of time by people who really believe in democracy and oppose military domination not only of Europe but of the entire world." Responding to further questioning, Early said he did not believe the proposal had gone far enough for reaction to be received from nations which are supposed to participate in the continental meeting. His statement that some belligerents would be invited was interpreted as meaning Russia as well as Italy, and possibly Finland, Rumania and Bulgaria who are helping the Nazis in their attack on the Soviets. Hungary also would come under the category of axis powers. The "some neutrals" mentioned could be drawn from only five nations still in a non-belligerent status on the continent—Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, and Turkey. Vichy France also might be included. Early said the sources of this government's information could not be revealed for "obvious reasons," but he did say the reports were from "within Europe."

PROWLERS GET \$150 Redmond, Nov. 22.—(AP)—Thieves who broke a rear window escaped with \$150 in cash from the Gifford Motor company office, Redmond police reported Friday.