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HOUSE DEFEATS BILL TO SLASH GASOLINE TAX

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purpose," Rep. James A. Rodman (R-Lane) said.

Those voting for the bill: Reps. E. C. Allen (D-Multnomah), Harry Boivin (D-Klamath), Roy E. Carter (D-Curry), C. C. Bradley (R-Multnomah), Farrell M. James Gleason (D-Multnomah), William H. Hedlund (D-Multnomah), Frank J. Loneragan (R-Multnomah), John McCourt (R-Multnomah), Wallace Larkin (D-Yamhill), and J. D. Perry (D-Columbia).

R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer, told the senate roads and highways committee today that the highway department approves the bill to increase truck lengths and weights from 50 to 60 feet and from 54,000 to 68,000 pounds because it is the first such bill "drawn from an engineering standpoint."

Baldock said provisions of the bill, limiting axle weights to 14,000 pounds, would decrease stresses and strains on bridges and pavements allowed under present limits, which permit an axle loading of 18,000 pounds.

There are cross-state roads east and west and north and south, Baldock said, now capable of handling the larger trucks "without hazard in passing or on curves." He enumerates as parts of such routes the Pacific highway from Portland to Albany, the Santiam highway, the Central Oregon highway, the Wapinitia highway, the Old Oregon Trail from The Dalles to the Idaho line, the John Day, Three Flats, Fremont and Redwood highways.

Other roads could handle the larger trucks, he said, but are so crooked there are few places for passing. In this category he listed the Columbia River highway from Portland to The Dalles, and the Pacific highway from Canyonville to Grants Pass.

"Regardless of whether this bill passes," he said, "the highway commission will continue to reconstruct the highways to carry modern transportation units and at the end, all highways of the state will be able to carry such trucks."

The committee probably will report on the bill early next week for senate consideration.

The senate passed and sent to the house a bill to prohibit counties from keeping mentally diseased persons in jail pending commitment to the state hospital.

May Be Named Envoy to London



Because of the extraordinarily heavy duties war imposes on the U. S. Ambassador in London in these times, President Roosevelt is expected to name a U. S. Minister to Great Britain to help carry some of the load. Most prominently mentioned for the post is S. Clay Williams, above, chairman of the board of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company.

CASE OF 'MISSING BOOKS' ENDS HERE

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reports and Corpus Juris by Judge Ashurst, to show that he owned such books.

After Circuit Judge David R. Vandenberg took office, succeeding Ashurst, he appointed a committee to make an inventory of books in the circuit judge's office. Some time later, there was a bill introduced in the legislature to supply Klamath county with the "missing" copies of the Oregon reports. No previous statement has been made publicly as to how the books happened to be absent from the judicial offices here. Intended effect of the resolution adopted by the bar group yesterday was to clear former Judge Ashurst of unfavorable implications in connection with the incident.

Copies of the resolution were ordered sent to the chief justice of the supreme court, other officials and several newspapers.

It was understood about 20 members of the bar association were present at the meeting.

At Salem this week, it was stated the 55 volumes of Oregon reports could be purchased for \$151.25. The state supplies such books for judicial offices.

The resolution adopted by the bar association praised Ashurst's integrity at some length, and asserted that alleged rumors and innuendoes against the former judge were spread "maliciously."

The resolution cited a law enacted in 1915 which provided for furnishing circuit judges with volumes of Oregon reports, beginning with No. 61, and said this is "indisputable proof" that the first 55 volumes of the reports were never issued to the judge's office here.

However, it is apparent a number of volumes prior to No. 61 have been in the local judge's office, and five such volumes, running from 55 to 61, are now in the office and marked "Property of the State of Oregon." In the recent inventory made by a committee of lawyers, it was stated that "slips" on record in

CABINETS TAKE STEPS TO KEEP NATIONS ALERT

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recommended destruction of Britain's great fortress at Singapore as the quickest means of ending the Chinese-Japanese conflict.

Some Japanese circles declared the warning constituted another step in what Japanese newspapers claim to be an American-British-Australian effort to encircle Japan.

SAIGON, French Indo-China, Feb. 14 (AP)—Japanese correspondents here declare today that Japanese warships were patrolling the entire French Indo-China coast and also the Thailand (Siam) shore as far west as Bangkok.

These sources, whose assertions were not confirmed in any official quarter, said the patrol was set up "as a precaution against possible developments in these waters."

Japan is expecting Germany to attempt an invasion of England, the correspondents went on, whereupon they added "Japan will move against Anglo-American interests in the orient and the Dutch East Indies, first attacking Singapore."

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 14 (AP)—Prime Minister Peter Fraser said today that New Zealand's war cabinet was giving hourly attention to the situation in the Pacific ocean, which he said showed continuing deterioration of the utmost gravity.

The New Zealand government, Fraser said, has received information indicating that the position overseas is becoming increasingly serious. He assured the people that all possible steps are being taken to increase New Zealand's preparedness and said greater sacrifices, which all must share, would be inevitable.

Crooks Talk on Lions, Singers At Breakfast

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ing movies of lions in South Africa to temperamental opera stars.

Appetites Wait

Stars of the concert stage, and there are many touring the United States these days, have good hearty appetites but they very seldom eat much before they sing. A soft boiled egg or two and a pot of tea does very nicely until a more substantial meal is enjoyed after the performance. The average concert artist is no longer the temperamental creature of past years—and they usually have a half dozen or so interests which keep them busy and which also makes them excellent conversationalists.

These and a half-dozen other subjects were discussed Friday at noon and those who had the pleasure of being with Crooks and Schauwecker are that much more interested in hearing them tonight on the Pelican stage.

The judge's office show that three volumes in the 1 to 55 range have been loaned to a local attorney. These borrowings may have been from Judge Ashurst's own set, it was pointed out.

Suburban League To Discuss Plot For Hall Project

Methods of meeting payments on a piece of property located at the corner of Madison street and Shasta way and comprising one acre of ground, will be discussed tonight (Friday), at a regular meeting of the Suburban league at 7:30 o'clock in Shasta school.

Representatives of the league met February 6 and completed arrangements for the purchase of the property on which the league hopes to construct a community building.

DISTRICTING PLANS NARROWED TO TWO

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same result, but would leave Multnomah county alone.

The first district, with 523,000 population, is believed the largest in the United States.

Under the Lane county proposal, there would be 247,000 persons in the fourth district, and 276,000 left in the first district.

The southern Oregon plan would have 184,000 in the new district, and 339,000 in the first.

Labor Elections Ordered in Two Washington Mills

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—The national labor relations board today ordered employee elections within 30 days to determine bargaining representatives for the workers of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., and Long-Bell Lumber Co., both at Longview, Wash.

In ordering the election, the board upheld the company's contention that the employees in the woods and in the mills constituted separate bargaining units. The CIO union, on the other hand, had requested the establishment of a single bargaining unit for both the woods and the mills.

At the Long-Bell Co., the board also ordered two ballots.

Scout Leader in Bonanza — Dwight Gilchrist, Modoc area Boy Scout executive, was scheduled to travel to Bonanza Friday night to aid in the establishment of a new scout troop there.

ACTION MIGHT MEAN ATTACK, SOURCES SAY

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many wants the Yugoslav route in addition to unopposed passage through Bulgaria so her troops could reach as many points as possible in Greece and the Mediterranean sector. These quarters expressed belief the Bulgarian route already was assured.

Southeastern Europe waited tensely for the result of a portentous conference today in Germany between Yugoslavia's premier, Dragisa Cvetkovic, and foreign minister, Aleksander Cincar-Markovic, and Nazi leaders, including Adolf Hitler.

Diplomats with usually reliable sources of information in government quarters said the Yugoslavs would talk with the Germans about passage of German troops through the railway junction of his, Yugoslavia, and thence by rail down the Vardar river valley toward Greece and her vital Aegean seaport, Salonika.

Reports from Sofia said King Boris of Bulgaria might follow the Yugoslavs to Germany today to confer with Hitler.

Once more the question arose of what Turkey would do in event of a German move into Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

The Turks repeatedly have said they would fight if they were invaded, and last fall massed thousands of men on the Bulgarian border when the Germans went into Rumania.

Observers, however, interpreted an announcement that Nazi-controlled Rumania had agreed to send 160,000 tons of oil to Turkey as an indication that Turkey was not expected to fight to keep the Nazis out of Greece.

BUCHAREST, Rumania, Feb. 14 (AP)—Long lines of German military convoys rolled through the blacked out streets of Bucharest over night and while Nazi and Rumanian fighter planes patrolled the skies over the capital.

A total blackout was enforced by military patrols, and there were continuous instructions to the civilian population over the official radio as to how to behave under air raids.

The newspapers printed col-

umns of instructions on how to treat bomb wounds.

A long trainload of British baggage arrived today at the Black sea, but it was problematical when the ship chartered to take the British diplomatic staff to Istanbul would weigh anchor. Representatives of German occupied countries which have established temporary governments in London are leaving with the British.

Sir Reginald Hoare, British minister to Rumania, still was reported seeking an audience with Premier General Ion Antonescu in attempt to straighten out a threatened delay in the sailing, which was planned for tomorrow.

Survivors of Lost Convoy Landed on Madeira Island

FUNCHAL, Madeira, Feb. 14 (AP)—More than 100 survivors landed here today reported that six ships were believed sunk when a German raider, probably a pocket battleship, attacked a British convoy steaming northward between Madeira and the Azores.

The Germans have announced that six ships were wrecked last Sunday in a convoy off the Portuguese coast. An attack on another convoy, in mid-Atlantic, was reported by the German high command yesterday, in which 14 ships were destroyed. A line between Madeira and the Azores is about 700 miles southwest of Portugal.

BERLIN, Feb. 14 (AP)—DNB, official German news agency, declared tonight that German surface raiders, operating on world seas in the first 17 months of the war have sunk 670,000 tons of "enemy shipping space."

The agency compared this with the activities of Germany's World war surface raiders which, it said, sank only 570,000 tons of shipping in four years' time — this despite the fact that in 1914 the cruisers Emden and Karlsruhe were used as raiders.

SENTENCES

BUCHAREST, Feb. 14 (AP)—Twenty-one members of the Rumanian iron guard were condemned to 20 years of hard labor by court martial today on charges of killing more than 100 Jews in the January rebellion.

There are approximately 300,000 units in an ounce of tobacco seed.

British Turn Back Channel Raiders In Sky Battle

LONDON, Feb. 14 (AP)—A squadron of Spitfire fighters was reported to have turned back a force of German fighter planes high over the English channel today.

The noise of the fight—whining dives and chattering machine-guns—reminded Dover Strait residents of the opening stages of the battle for Britain last September.

Bombs dropped by a single Nazi air raider "caused considerable damage to houses and a number of casualties" in one London district during the night, the British reported, while bad weather prevented large scale RAF operations over the continent.

An authoritative source in London said Reichsmarshal Hermann Wilhelm Goering apparently was splitting the German air force heretofore concentrated principally to attack Britain so as to send more planes to the Mediterranean theater.

He said problems involved in this split "probably were tying up a proportion of operations" against England.

Italians Report British 'Chute Troops Felled

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for 152 miles from Copious springs which are the source of the Sele river. A reservoir at Caposele collects water for the main aqueduct which is tapped by 1507 miles of subsidiary aqueducts running to the cities of Foggia, Bari, Brindisi, Taranto and Lecce.

Protest League To Hear Report

A meeting of the Workers' Seasonality Protest league will be held in the circuit court room Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock to hear a report of the legislative committee which has just returned from Salem.

All interested in seeing the seasonal feature of the unemployment law repealed were urged to attend. Former State Senator U. S. Balentine will speak.

There are approximately 300,000 units in an ounce of tobacco seed.

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FURNISHED 3-room apartment. Couple. 635 No. 8th. 2-20

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