

The Evening Herald

HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY, Publishers
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 MACDONALD SPENCER, Managing Editor
 Published every afternoon except Sunday by The Herald Publishing Company at Egan and
 and Pine Streets, Klamath Falls, Oregon
 Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 30,
 1906 under act of congress, March 3, 1879.
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Comment in Brief

THE red hot eastern Mediterranean situation grew hotter Thursday, with reports of the heaviest bombing of Alexandria since the war began.

Alexandria is the key point in the Middle East for the British. It is a great British naval base, and it must be held and used by the British if they are to defend the Suez successfully.

It is now within 500 miles of German bombing bases on Crete, so recently wrested from the British and Greeks. It seems logical to expect that Alexandria from now on is going to take terrific punishment, unless RAF fighter planes can maintain air superiority and drive off the German assaults.

The 100 killed in Alexandria in today's assaults may be the beginning of continuous and heavy casualties.

With Alexandria and Syria the focal points of action, the war seems a long way from England. But in reality, the Battle of Britain is being fought right now in the eastern Mediterranean. If Hitler can cut the British life-line there, it will be a terrific blow at the tight little island that is still fending off attack upon itself.

It is plain that if anything happens of that nature in the Middle East, the Battle of the Atlantic will become more vital than ever. The Atlantic will then be the main remaining lane of supply for the hard-pressed British. Such developments obviously will draw the United States closer to the struggle, and with the Germans concentrating their effort against Atlantic shipping, anything can happen.

Although time works for the British in their island fortress, and it seems that Hitler cannot wait too long for an all-out attack on the island itself, there is reason to believe the German plan right now is to cut the life-lines first.

If a successful blockade can be established, the resultant stress and demoralization inside Britain itself will be an ideal prelude to a gigantic direct assault. Put a man in a room, shut off all food and water for a few days, and you can then go in and bat him around without meeting much resistance.

We all know the United States, under its pronounced policy, cannot permit the British to be blockaded. The British first, but with our increasing aid, are going to go to every extreme to keep the Atlantic sea lanes open.

So watch the battle of the eastern Mediterranean. Every unfavorable development for the British there makes the battle of the Atlantic, which is rapidly becoming our battle, more vital.

And as it becomes more vital, every incident that occurs will add to the danger of American involvement in outright hostilities.

With this the war season, no real lulls can be expected. The Germans can be expected to push to as early a conclusion as possible of the issues in the Middle East—and the Germans have brought issues to conclusion in remarkably short periods.

Hence, no time must be lost in this country in preparation for any eventuality. The pressure must be turned on full blast for production and training. Every minute that is wasted, in inefficiency, in argument, in indecision, is dangerous.

We cannot afford the luxuries of inefficiency, argument and indecision.—M. E.

Petitioners Seek Tax Exemption on Homes in Oregon

PORTLAND, June 5 (AP)—Home owners sought a constitutional amendment here today to provide a \$2000 property tax exemption on owner-occupied homes.

Claiming 3000 signatures already, the Home Owners' Tax Exemption league circulated initiative petitions throughout the state. To gain place on next year's ballot, 25,385 signatures are needed.

C. H. Ager, league president, said the petitions were a result of a recent state tax commission ruling that the variable ratio assessment system, which taxed homes at only a portion of full value, was illegal.

A similar proposal by The Dallas Veterans of Foreign Wars post would grant \$5000 exemptions, a 40-mill property tax limitation and a 2 per cent sales tax to offset property tax reductions. The resolution will be carried before the state VFW convention at Bend June 18-21.

FUNERAL

BENJAMIN F. CLIFTON
 The funeral service for the late Benjamin F. Clifton, who passed away in this city on Tuesday, June 3, will take place from the chapel of Ward's Klamath Funeral home, 925 High street, on Friday, June 6, at 3 p. m., the Rev. Victor Phillips of the First Methodist church officiating. Commitment service and interment will be in the Linkville cemetery. Friends are invited to attend.

OBITUARY

BENJAMIN F. CLIFTON
 Benjamin F. Clifton, a resident of Klamath Falls, Ore., for the past three years, passed away at the family residence on Winters lane, this city, on Tuesday, June 3, at 7:30 p. m. The deceased was a native of Camden, Ind., and was aged 53 years 9 months and 27 days when called. He is survived by his wife, Clara, of this city, and one niece, Mrs. James Sink of Camden, Ind. The remains rest in Ward's Klamath funeral home, 925 High street, where friends may call after 2 p. m. Thursday.

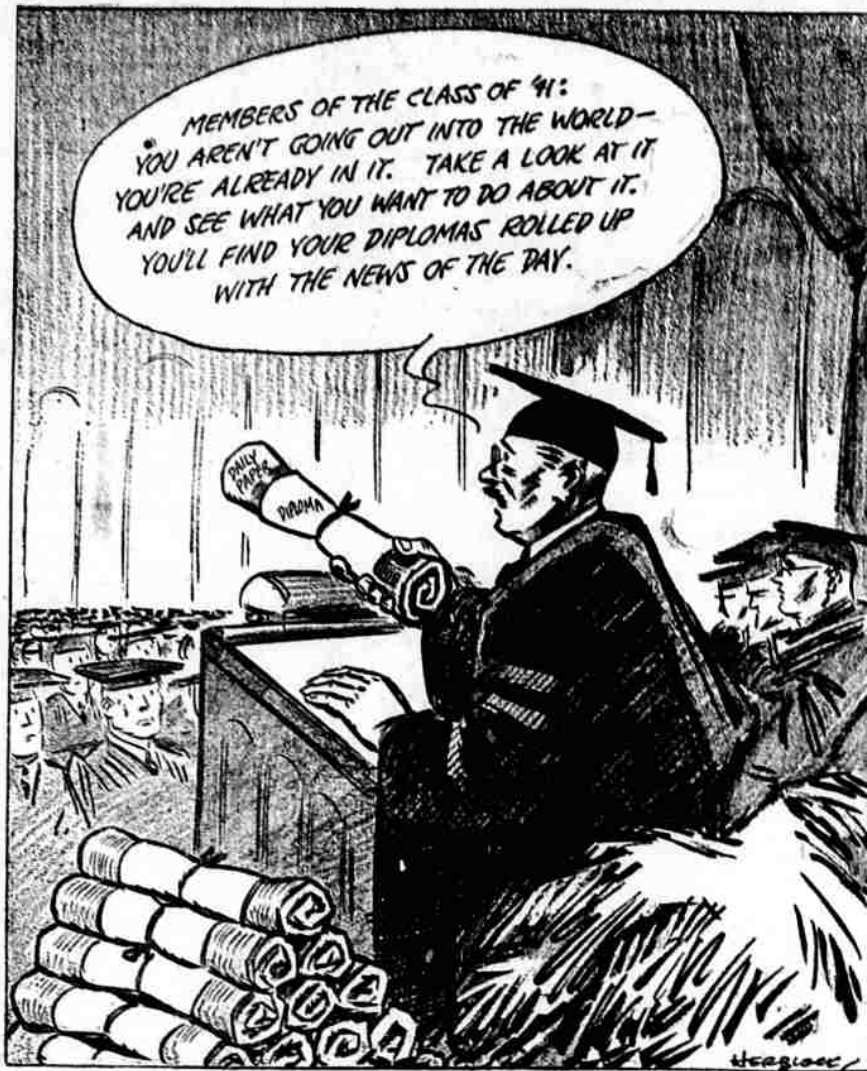
The sparrow is the costliest alien that North America ever admitted.

The lowest level in the United States is in Death Valley, Calif., 276 feet below sea level.

Starts

Saturday Midnite Show
RICH BOY
 meets **SHOW GIRL**
 ...that's **Sunny**
 starring Anna Neagle
 Ray Bolger • John Carroll • Edw. Horton
 Pine Tree Theatre

Commencement Talk



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, June 5—Some people have been putting 2 and 2 together and getting peace rumors. Their arithmetic is denied and denounced by every official authority. What the rumor circulators are putting together are: the arrival of Herr Hess in England, the quietness of the British about it of late, the subsequent Hitler meetings with Darian, then with Mussolini, and now the flight home of our ambassador to London, Mr. Winant.

One minor government man who knows nothing about it has stimulated speculation here by wanting to bet there would be peace within 30 days. But the only bet that can be safely made is that peace now would mean a German victory. The British military situation, to all outward appearances at least, is nowhere near that surrender point.

Vague informal peace negotiations are nearly always being carried on indirectly in all wars. They rarely reach fruition until one side has clearly established a victory.

A negotiated peace now could not conceivably clarify our defense problem, but would only intensify it. For these several reasons official interest in the subject is not yet evident here.

ALL-POWER BILL
 The all-power bill (giving the president the right, theoretically at least, to take the shirt from your back or the gold from your teeth) was written in the war department last March. There, they say, they have nothing specific in mind for which the bill is designed... it was merely written with advice from the

White House bundling up the wartime powers given Woodrow Wilson in 14 or 15 different bills... FDR sent it to congress now to implement further his defense action speech... it takes a long time to get such things through congress and the war department lawyers, as well as the White House, wanted to be prepared for any future requirements...

This is a good story, and no doubt true except that it will be a long, long time before congress will pass that particular bill. Restrictions are expected. One, fixing a time limit on the powers, will be accepted by the war department, but congress will adopt other restrictions which may not be acceptable.

What the framers of the legislation have in mind, they say, are primarily patents and cross-license cases. The necessity of taking control of communications, railroads and possibly utilities in the future is likewise foreseen. The bill has nothing whatever to do with acquiring land. Some difficulties were encountered with land acquisition in Caroline county, Virginia and Camp Stewart, Georgia, but all these have been adjusted.

NO DOPE
 Individual British troops who escaped from Crete have reported the Germans were doped to a fighting fury for the attacks, but you are not likely to see that suggestion offered officially. What the nazis had eaten that made them mad was nothing more dopey than Hitler propaganda.

Being the aggressor, Hitler can concentrate his few most enthusiastic troops at the point of attack. The defenders can not. Stimulants are frowned upon by all military strategists.

LAST DAY
Big 2 Hits
FIRST TOP HIT
JAMES CAGNEY
PAT O'BRIEN
and the U.S. FLEET
HERE COMES THE NAVY
GLORIA STUART
FRANK MCGOUGH
Directed by LLOYD BACON
2ND TOP HIT
CHARLIE CHAPLIN
TEMPLE OAKIE
GREENWOOD
YOUNG PEOPLE
Always 20c No Tax
RAINBOW

Priscilla Lane
Rosemary Lane
Lola Lane
Gale Page
with
CLAUDE RAINS
JEFFREY LYNN
EDDIE ALBERT
Companion Feature
"HOLLYWOOD RACKETEER"
All 25c Inc. Tax
Seats 25c Tax
VOX

presumably including the nazis. Stimulation lasts only a few hours, and the hangover reaction would make troops far less efficient for a considerable period afterward.

CRITICISM

A few readers have written expressing amazement at the recent disclosures in this column concerning army deficiencies and inefficiencies. They contend that the informing of the people on the deplorable state of their defense lends comfort to Hitler.

Their letters came simultaneously with news that the British air chief in the eastern Mediterranean had been kicked out and up to home defenses after the fall of Crete. If he had been subjected to enough criticism to have built some underground airports, Crete would be in British hands today.

This column is working on the conviction that the disclosure of defects will cause their correction. Any American who today says all is well with our defenses is not fooling Hitler, but paving the way for him. Any reporter who conceals defects and thereby lets them continue, is serving the cause of this nation's enemies more effectively than a paid saboteur.

Today's criticism: all three of the tank factories now producing this most vital defense implement are unprotected, except by wire fencing, although dozens of private airfields from which planes can be rented are within a few miles.

PINE TREE
Now
A STORY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOVED... and those who have never loved, but hope to
Frank Conway
DUNNE GRANT
"Penny Sororade"
with
Bonnie BOND
Edgar BUCHANAN
EXTRA!
Sport News
Scoop!
Thrilling, Exclusive, Blow-by-Blow Pictures
Buddy BAER
Joe LOUIS
FIGHT
CARTOON
LATEST NEWS

RAIL WORKERS DEMAND HUGE WAGE BOOST

CHICAGO, June 5 (UP)—The nation's railroads today faced formal demands for a \$500,000,000 annual wage increase for 1,150,000 employees.

Delegates of 14 railway organizations adopted unanimously yesterday a plan for pay gains averaging 30 to 34 cents an hour for 850,000 skilled and semi-skilled workmen. The five major railway brotherhoods previously had asked a flat 30 per cent wage gain for their 350,000 operating trainmen.

Points Listed
 The demand was based on three points:

1. Wages of the railroad industry are near the bottom of the nation's 25 leading industries.

2. The "low and grossly inadequate wage rates" constitute a menace to national security and represents a disparity of income among industrial workers.

3. The railroads have been "backward" in "bitterly resisting" workers' requests for vacations with pay as provided employees in other major industries.

The demands of both the "big five" and the 14 miscellaneous unions will be presented to the railroads formally on June 10. The labor organizations have asked approval of the wage gains effective July 10.

Rate Doubled
 The proposed increases would virtually double the hourly wage rate for some 75,000 semi-skilled laborers, union spokesmen said. The council recommended a 70 cents hourly minimum for this class of workmen. The prevailing rate is 36 cents.

Highly-skilled railroad employees, under the proposal, would receive hourly rates up to \$1.15, or approximately 30

SIDE GLANCES



"I don't want to know how much all this cost—just tell me if there's enough left in the bank to buy a can of tobacco."

cents above current maximum levels.

Among the 850,000 employees embraced in today's action, the proposal would affect an annual wage gain of about \$300,000,000. Union spokesmen said the figure could not be set exactly, because of the part-time status of many employees.

Courthouse Records

WEDNESDAY

Complaints Filed

Laura T. Duffy versus Edward F. Duffy. Suit for divorce. Plaintiff asks award of 1941 automobile of which she is the owner. Cruel and inhuman

treatment charged. D. E. Van Vactor, attorney for plaintiff.

Decree

William Franklin Jones versus Jennie May Jones. Divorce granted to plaintiff on ground of desertion. Defendant awarded custody of five minors. Plaintiff to pay \$35 a month during minority of children. J. C. O'Neill, attorney for plaintiff.

Order for Dismissal

Arthur W. Johnson versus Earl Woodworth. Suit involving alleged accident dismissed with prejudice.

Looking for Bargains? Turn to the Classified page

PELICAN
ENDS TODAY
5 ★ ★ ★
BK TIME 8:30
ACTS Vauville
A Round Dozen Splendid Entertainers
FEATURING
BALBOA FOUR
"Song Brokers"
LEO DIAMOND
KING OF THE HARMONICA
BEN MC ATEE
HOLLYWOOD'S NEWEST COMEDIAN—FROM MARCUS MUSICAL COMEDIES
JACK GUINN AND CO.
"Aristocrats of Deception"
MILLER BROS. AND LOIS
"HARLEM MADCAPS"
And On The SCREEN
Scattergood says... "forget your troubles!"
CLAUDE RAINS
PULLS THE STRINGS
with GUY KIBBEE
REGULAR LOW PRICES
Doors Open 1:30 and 6:30 P. M.
Showings 2:00 • 7:00 • 9:00 P. M.
Vaudeville Matinee—Evening
PELICAN
ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED, HOME OPERATED THEATRES

Tomorrow
TO ALL FRIENDS OF MR. DEEDS:
MEET MR. DOE!
A FRANK CAPRA PRODUCTION, STARRING GARY COOPER AND BARBARA STANWYCK
"Meet John Doe"
The lanky, lovable star... the great director... the brilliant writer who made "Mr. Deeds" so memorable now share with lovely Barbara Stanwyck the thrill of creating another great American portrait... John Doe!
PELICAN
ONE OF YOUR HOME CONTROLLED, HOME OPERATED THEATRES