

The Evening Herald

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Peat Moss and Defense

FROM the Alturas Plaindealer we learn of previously unsuspected and warlike properties of peat moss, which, in our mind, has always been connected exclusively with the peaceful pursuit of gardening.

There is an enormous bed of peat moss at Likely, the town you drive through 20 miles south of Alturas on the way to Reno. There is enough peat moss in the bed there to supply one-half million bales of 140 pounds per year for 40 years. That's a lot of peat moss, and if current plans materialize, it is going to play an important part in national defense.

It seems that the Germans, always clever about such things, have discovered that peat moss is valuable as a substitute for cellulose in the making of munitions and chemicals. Now it is planned to use moss from the big Modoc county beds in the manufacture of munitions at a plant to be constructed at Las Vegas, Nev. A Cleveland, Ohio, company is constructing the \$9,000,000 manufacturing lay-out, and representatives of the firm have been in Modoc county the last few days surveying the peat moss supply and making arrangements to take it to Las Vegas.

One never knows what the potentialities of his surroundings may be. The peat moss beds at Likely were discovered many years ago, and were regarded as just that much waste land. It was only two years ago that Jim Patterson, owner of the land on which the beds are located, conceived the idea of commercializing them. The first carload of peat was shipped from Likely in January, 1939. Now it seems that many carloads will move out of the Modoc county town carrying a material of considerable importance in the defense of the United States in a crisis.

A young man named Phil Hitchcock of Sisters, in the Deschutes country, has made a profound impression in Klamath Falls as a speaker, thinker and patriot. He is the lieutenant governor of Kiwanis International, and his appearances here have been in connection with Kiwanis club meetings. This week he addressed the local club on the recent international convention of Kiwanis, but his talk so differed from the usual boreome convention report that those who heard him pricked up their ears with the realization that here was a man with unusual force, intelligence and ability to express his thoughts. If Mr. Hitchcock can be induced to widen his speaking horizon, his hearers and his country will be greatly benefited.

Defense Bond Quiz

Q. I would like to provide a regular income for myself when I retire. Can this be done by means of the Defense Savings Bonds?

A. Yes. If you purchase a bond for \$37.50 each month, each bond will mature in exactly 10 years. Thus at the end of 10 years you will have \$50 payable each month as each of your bonds reaches maturity.

Q. But I will need more than \$50 a month.

A. Then you should invest a larger amount each month. Every \$75 you put into Defense Bonds will pay you \$100 ten years from now. Meanwhile, your money serves your government during this period of national emergency.

Note—To buy Defense Bonds and Stamps, go to the nearest postoffice or bank, or write to the Treasurer of the United States, Washington, D. C., for an order form.

Vacations Don't Mean Jobless Pay, Warns Commission

Employees taking vacations are not entitled to unemployment benefits, was the warning issued this week by Silas Gaiser, administrator for the state unemployment compensation commission.

"Because many new contracts between employers and unions provide for annual vacations with pay, we are anxious that this be thoroughly understood," commented the administrator. "Of course this does not apply to layoffs for holidays, inventories or other reasons where the employee is not paid."

Unions and concerns which have such contracts are being asked to cooperate by furnishing lists of all workers entitled to vacations and when they are taken. Claim takers at the state employment offices have been requested to get all possible information concerning layoffs and vacation in determining the eligibility of unemployed workers.

Although St. Louis is in Missouri, East St. Louis is in Illinois.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, July 11—The army is stiffening its backbone. Unpublicized orders have gone out to commanders from the war department here requiring them to certify specifically the adequate training condition of troops before permitting them to participate in maneuvers. Certification must be sent to the general staff. If the troops are unprepared it must be accompanied by an explanation why. The general staff apparently has had enough of excuses for the sloppy maneuvering. Actually some of the trainees do not yet know what a soldier should do when he hears the Star Spangled Banner played.

RAYBURN SPEAKS

Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn offered a rare justification of his title when he spoke out against General Marshall's request for extension of the training term of draftees. The rate situation behind it is this: A large number of house members justified their original vote for draft act by telling their constituents that after all, it was only for one year, and only twelve months in the open would benefit the boys. As they looked at the legislative problem, their home-made speeches might be construed as a political promise, especially as their elections come up next year. They wanted to be relieved of responsibility.

Speaking out in a situation like that is one of the prime protective duties of a practical speaker of the house.

LEGAL WAYS

There are nearly fifty legal ways in which the war department could keep the men it wants in service beyond a year—including voluntary enlistments. One or more of these will be found. The necessity for added training in view of the mechanical trend of warfare, cannot be avoided if the country wants an army able to defend it. This is recognized by both politicians and military men alike. The only really moot question was who would take the responsibility for an unpleasant duty. The army knows by now which men it would like to keep and which ones are trouble-makers, temperamentally unfit, too old. Legal ways will be found to weed these out and to retain those best able to defend the country, between now and the first draft expiration period in December. There will be no trouble about it.

HEMISPHERE

Mr. Roosevelt says he has given up trying to decide where the western hemisphere ends. A

year or so ago when he took over Greenland, he said a reasonable limit would be furnished by a line midway between the bulges of Africa and South America. This would put Iceland and the Azores in Europe. The state department geographer, S. W. Boggs, proclaimed June 8, 1940 (in a letter to Congresswoman Rogers of Massachusetts) that 20 degrees west was the limit accepted by most geographers. This leaves out two-thirds of Iceland, but comfortably takes in the Azores and Cape Verde. (Mr. Boggs called the inclusion "a minor disadvantage" at the time, on the ground that these islands were customarily associated with the old world.) But Mr. Boggs left the matter comfortably indefinite in 2000 words.

The 20 degree limit probably will become the accepted one diplomatically as well as geographically. Occupation of the two-thirds of Iceland extending beyond this limit can be put on necessary military rather than geographical grounds.

DANGERS IGNORED

War dangers involved in the Iceland venture apparently are escaping congressmen entirely. The prevailing impression on the hill is that the nazis will not attack Iceland and therefore the troops there will never see action. This is reasonable, but the overlooked important part of the move is our assumption of the obligation to keep the waters free between here and a spot within 500 miles of Scotland.

Most of the deep, far-offshore Atlantic sub sinkings of British cargo ships have developed just south of Iceland. The convoys lanes run both to the north and south. Many sinkings have been reported far west of Iceland. The battle between the Bismarck and Hood started west of it.

The first results are, therefore, likely to develop from our naval efforts to keep an open sea lane through a German proclaimed war zone. Only the Germans can accurately predict what these results are to be.

Courthouse Records

THURSDAY Complaints Filed

Amy Luryne Elledge versus Russell Foster Elledge. Suit for divorce. Couple married at Klamath Falls September 13, 1937. Plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment and asks custody of one minor and \$30 a month from defendant for child's support. Edward B. Ashurst, attorney for plaintiff.

Amel O. Anderson versus Dorothy J. Anderson. Suit for divorce. Couple married at Klamath Falls September 19, 1936. Plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment and asks that defendant's maiden name, Dorothy J. Conner, be restored. Maynard Wilson, attorney for plaintiff.

Alice G. Schmoie versus Fred A. Schmoie. Suit for divorce. Couple married December 22, 1939. Plaintiff charges cruel and inhuman treatment and asks restoration of her maiden name.

Alice G. Maphet, A. W. Schaupp, attorney for plaintiff.

Justice Court

State of Oregon versus Floyd Fisher. Defendant charged with assault with intent to kill. Waived preliminary hearing, bound over to grand jury. Committed to county jail without bail.

Raymond Edward Walker, no operator's license. Fined \$5.50. Charles Frederick Foulton, no operator's license, no muffler on car. Fined \$5.50 on each charge.

LONDON CRIME

When its police department was organized more than 100 years ago, London was the most criminal place in the world. There was, on an estimate, one criminal for every 22 persons in 1828.

Fire Source Found After Long Search

EAST ORANGE, N. J., July 11 (AP)—After seven fruitless efforts to find the fire in his house Robert Bruce called the fire department.

The floor was getting too hot to stand on, but even the firemen couldn't seem to discover what was causing all the heat last night.

Finally one of them solved the mystery: Bruce had left a pair of pants hanging on an electric light switch. The weight of the pants had thrown the switch. Bruce had plugged an electric heater into the switch sometime ago and forgotten all about it. The heater was on the floor in the

corner of the room hidden behind household materials. The firemen turned off the switch.

UNIQUE TEACUPS

Siberian teacups once provided both cup and drink. Made of tea leaves so solidly compressed that only a portion of the inside melted when hot water was poured in, the cups lasted about six months.

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11 P.M. GABRIEL IN A REEF OF OIL NATIONAL INTERLUDE, WHAT NEXT?

8 P.M. BREAKS HER OUT OF LONDON —PLUS HER TO LISBON

12 MIDDAY THE NEW YORK PLAYS THE PRINCE OF LOVE AND DOES AND LOVE IT!

11 P.M. HE CARRIES HER TO HIS BOYDOR —TAKES TO CHAIN HER HEART

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