

DEFENSE

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Office of Lend-Lease Administration, which stated that "total Lend-Lease aid has passed the billion dollar mark." The administrator added that since the beginning of the war our exports to the British, including Lend-Lease aid, have amounted to approximately \$4 billion dollars. Most of this constituted deliveries on orders financed by the British.

The OPM Contract Distribution Division also counted its gains, listing contracts to a total of \$31,577,990 awarded by the Army and Navy for relief of plants hard hit by the scarcity of materials. Muskegon, Mich., was accorded special treatment. Director Odum appointed Alex Taub to engineer the conversion of factories all over the Nation to defense production.

OPM announced that 3,500 tons of scrap steel in the defense program will be rescued from Puget Sound for reuse. Deputies Help Welders' Settlement

OPM Associate Director General Hillman sent two deputies to the West Coast to help apply the principle of fine American Federation of Labor unions that a welder need carry only one union card in transferring from job to job. The Labor Division issued an illustrated pamphlet to tell how working conditions have been sustained throughout the shipbuilding industry.

For the second time since its creation, the National Defense Mediation Board passed a week without a strike on its calendar. The board received the report of a special investigation in the Aluminum Co. of America case, announced agreement to arbitrate in the case of the Waterfront Employers' association of Seattle, and received certification of two new disputes.

The Office of Price Administration brought down sharply the prices of defense-important steel drums, which had been selling higher than new containers. Stabilizing Wood and Paper Prices

OPA spread its activities broadly throughout the lumber, wood products, pulp and paper industries to steady prices. Wood pulp producers agreed there would be no change in prices for the first quarter of 1942. More than 100 whole-

salers of paper products indicated their consent to sharp reductions in jobbers' mark-ups on kraft. Manufacturers of over half the Nation's writing, book and printing paper, including newspaper, reported they did not expect to raise their prices in the near future. Two more dealers in wastepaper signed stipulations for refund, of all charges in excess of the ceiling prices. OPA amended its paper board schedule to let importers add duty to the delivered price regardless of the ceiling.

Prices for doors, doorframes, sash, window frames, and screens made of Western pine were stabilized for the time being by agreement. A ceiling was placed on manufacturers' prices for Douglas fir doors, which represent about 60 percent of all doors made in the United States. Ceiling prices covering all lumber from southern hardwoods are to be discussed at a meeting in New Orleans, December 3. OPA suspended, however, its plans to set maximum prices on wooden household furniture. Since the announcement that a ceiling was being prepared, the upward trend has leveled off.

Scrap Buying Facilitated

OPA also amended its price schedule to encourage the flow of iron and steel scrap into California steel mills and foundries; amended two banded cotton goods ceilings to be contracts made before July 21, 1941, to 15.59-cent "spot" raw cotton; achieved agreements stabilizing prices of the dry colors used in paints, printing inks, lacquers, enamels and plastics; and considered a ceiling on hide glue.

Under the auspices of the Office of Civilian Defense, representatives of 17 women's organizations discussed acceptance of an invitation to visit England and see British women's defense workers at their jobs.

What is the caliber of the big guns on a U. S. battleship? The standard guns of the main batteries range from 12 inches to 16 inches. The effective range of a 14-inch gun is 20,000 yards, or slightly more than 15 miles. The range of a 16-inch gun is somewhat greater.

It is the hardest thing in the world to be a good thinker without being a good self-examiner.

—Shaftebury.

Michigan Mirror

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defense prosperity to get closed shop agreements with checkoff of union dues from employees' wages. Hence the weapon of calling strikes for increased wages or contracts is valued highly by labor leaders.

Congress doesn't want to offend either the farmer or the laborer, since 1912 is going to be an election year for many congressmen.

In the meanwhile, strikes continue and prices continue to go up in an inflationary spiral. The incentive to "buy now" is pushing a \$3,000,000,000 Christmas retail sales—an all time record for these United States.

Lowering Standards

Federal Price Administrator Leon Henderson warned last week that prices have already climbed 11 percent, will continue to do so at the rate of 1 1/2 percent each month, and are expected to soar to 20 percent above pre-emergency level by next spring—unless something is done at once.

As Henderson phrases it, "It means a 20 percent reduction in the standard of living of anyone who lives on a fixed income." Here is another inkling of what the President meant when he referred to "full sacrifice" in our war on Hitler. Everyone is going to "pay" in more ways than taxes and bonds, unless income is increased along with prices. Recent price levels have already nullified wage gains of some labor groups.

As every business man knows, a rise in prices forces up costs, a rise in cost forces up living costs, higher living costs heightens wage demands, higher wages add to manufacturing costs leading in turn to higher prices—and so, on and on.

As compiled by Business Week, the increase of prices and costs during the past nine months have been as follows: Wholesale prices 14.1%; department store prices 12.4%; cost of living, 9.6%; hourly wages, 10.5; and labor cost per unit of output, 7.7. It is proof of one thing; inflation is here.

Politics

If a democracy is to function, it must have elections. And 1942 brings another popular poll.

In Michigan the interest is going to center on candidates for governor and United States senator. Governor Murray D. Van Wageningen and Prentiss M. Brown will be the Democrats' choice. Harry F. Kelly is being pushed far into the lead as the Republican candidate for governor, although Kelly has not committed himself publicly and is heading a movement to organize the party on a state-wide basis.

Fear of offending farm or labor votes in any strike or price legislation is an obvious factor in the present hesitation at Washington. The Smith strike bill drew Michigan support along party lines: Twelve Republicans voted for it, while five Democrats opposed it. And so it goes.

AT THE REDFORD THEATER



Timely as tomorrow is "Dive Bomber" the new picture which the Redford Theater will show starting Friday. The big Technicolor special tells the story of the Navy's unsung heroes who fly more for science than for glory and who made possible the development of dive-bombing.

"Dive Bomber" not only pioneers a brand new story field, it sets a precedent in a lot of other ways. Fred MacMurray, borrowed from Paramount, is co-starred with Warner's own Errol Flynn, and billing is, an even-Stephen matter. MacMurray is the one who does the flying, dies the hero's death. Flynn is a medic, working with "Doc" Ralph Bellamy to solve the mysteries of what happens to men in the stratosphere, blackout, high altitude sickness, aerobolism, night blindness, etc. He plays the role straight, on the serious side.

One of the biggest scenes in the picture goes to Louis Jean Heydt,

an able actor, well established, but a stranger to most audiences until they see him and then say "Oh yes, I remember that fellow in..." MacMurray, killed off late in the story, naturally doesn't get the girl, played by exotic-looking newcomer Alexis Smith.

Neither does Flynn. In fact she doesn't "get" anybody in the picture. She's a divorcee, out for a good time with almost any man in a navy uniform. And in the picture all the men are too busy with naval aviation matters to give her more than a quick kiss and a pleasant brush off.

"Dive Bomber" has another definite bid as the picture unique. Being filmed, as it was with complete navy cooperation and under strictest navy scrutiny to make certain that every single thing was right. It has had six high-ranking technical directors, three of them commanders, one a captain (Captain George D. Murray of the aircraft

carrier Enterprise), and two flight lieutenants.

Because the navy gave full cooperation, millions upon millions of public dollars worth of planes, ground equipment, buildings, facilities and landing fields, not to mention the U.S.S. Enterprise itself, were turned over to director Michael Curtiz, "Shot" by the color cameras for the action-packed film.

WEST FARMINGTON

Mrs. Sarah Knapp

Mrs. Edith Graham has been spending a few days at her home preparing for Christmas.

Mrs. Charles Helker and Mrs. Irvin Knapp called on Mrs. Mary Helker in Pontiac Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Giegler and son Lee of Hartland called on Mrs. Edith Graham at her home

Wednesday afternoon.

The West Farmington Extension Group held its Christmas party and dinner at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Watkins on Hagerly Highway Thursday afternoon.

Several from here attended the meeting of the Farm Loan Association meeting held at the First Baptist Church in Pontiac Thursday.

Gale McDebbitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. McDebbitt of Hartland, is spending a few days with his aunt Mrs. Smith Green.

Leon Grahame's out of school on account of illness.

Ralph Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hunt, is confined to his home by illness.

How long must a bluejacket serve before he is given a rating in the United States Navy?

HIGHLIGHT OF FARMINGTON'S

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CHRISTMAS TELEPHONE CALLS

PILE UP TOO!

You can shop early and avoid the rush. You can mail Christmas cards early. But naturally you want to place Christmas telephone calls on Christmas Eve and Day. And then our rush is on!

Last Christmas the number of long distance telephone calls at some points was EIGHT times normal. This year we expect an even greater "traffic jam".

No amount of stretching can expand a normal telephone system eight times its size for one day in a year. It would not be practicable to build that large a system for just one day's use.

All available operators will be on duty this Christmas and many new toll circuits will be in use. But there still will be delays on many calls—some may not get through at all. You can help speed your message by calling before 9 a.m. Christmas day and by giving the operator the number of the distant telephone.

If there is a delay on your Christmas call, we hope you will understand the situation we face.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE CO.

