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STEEL WAGE RATE FIXED BY BOARD

50 Cents Plus 9 Cents Bonus Is Less Than Asked

Ottawa, March 31 (CP).—The National War Labor Board tonight issued a ruling that the basic rate of pay in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and Sidney, N.S., steel plants be fixed at 50 cents an hour, with a cost-of-living bonus of nine cents an hour, payable to all employees.

The National War Labor Board ruled that, regardless of any downward revision of the cost-of-living minimum rate, plus cost-of-living bonus, is not to fall below 55 cents an hour in either plant for the duration of the war.

The new basic rate of pay is to be effective from the first pay period starting March 23.

Trenton Turned Down. The Labor Board said an amendment to its by-laws, providing for right of appeal to the National Board from decisions of Regional Boards, had altered the circumstances and, as a result, "we find it unnecessary" to discuss the Trenton case.

The board ruled that "no case has been made out" that any of the operations in the Trenton, N.S., plant of Trenton Steel Works Limited and Eastern Car Company Limited are "basic" steel operations.

"However, we do not think it is constructive to leave the matter there," said the judgment.

"We feel it not inappropriate to board fines."
(Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

ALL ITALIANS OVER 17 LIABLE TO ARMY CALL

Rome Takes Drastic Steps as Menace of Invasion Increases

Rome, March 31 (AP).—Italy published today the text of a new law which would place the entire country under military rule and send all men and women of 17 years of age into military detachments in the event of invasion or threat of invasion.

The Fascist press and officials stressed home defense, especially those on Sicily which extends from the toe of the Italian boot to within less than 80 miles of the Tunisian coast.

Aldo Vidussoni, secretary of the Fascist Party, completing a tour of Sicily, declared that every town and city is "a fort" and that the Sicilians would meet the trials and dangers of war with increased calmness and courage "the nearer the danger approached."

In addition to making all men and women of 17 or over not already in service subject to call into military units, possibly local Defense Corps, the new military rule law provides that boys and girls under 17 would be considered as mobilized civilians.

Regulations also were set up for militarization of all industries and organizations.

Violators of the law would come under the military penal code and be liable to the death penalty.

(A Rome radio report published in a Lisbon newspaper said Italy had attacked the Continent as soon as the fight for Tunisia is over.)

The Italian press is giving increasing space to the exploits and acts of bravery of Italian soldiers at the front and under air raids in the homeland.



BATTERED BUT HAPPY are these two veteran 8th Army soldiers after breaking through the Mareth Line in Tunisia. This and two other pictures on Page 2 are the first of the Mareth victory to reach Canada.

Chasing Rommel, 8th Army Spreads Over Coastal Plain

1st Army Recaptures Sedjenane, Occupies Commanding Heights East and South of Axis Strongpoint

Algiers, March 31 (AP).—The British 8th Army fanned out over the coastal plains more than 12 miles above Gabès today in a steady pursuit of Marshal Rommel's bomb-tidden troops, while the British 1st Army in the north recaptured Sedjenane and pressed on to a point only 25 miles southwest of the big Axis-held naval base of Bizerte.

An Allied communiqué also said that the American Army of the center had forced further into the flank of Rommel's coastal belt. The southern wing of the troops under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton was believed to be only 45 miles from a coastal junction with the 8th Army.

Rommel's main forces appeared to be making a hurried flight in open country northwest toward Sfax, 70 miles above the onrushing British vanguards, and the coastal road was reported strewn with many enemy bodies and wrecked machines—victims of a ceaseless shuttle-bombing by Allied aircraft.

Oudjed Captured. The 8th Army captured Metoun and Oudjed, the latter 12 miles north of Gabès, early yesterday morning and advanced units swept on to contact "heavily prepared enemy defenses" in the communiqué.

Oudjed is a junction of the road leading northwest about 45 miles to connect with Patton's southern American wing moving down from El Guezar. Italian rearwards left by Rommel in between the two Allied armies appear to be cut off unless they make a precipitate withdrawal through mountain trails leading northward out of the pocket.

The progress of the United States troops was hampered by extensive minefields laid in the mountain passes.

Lt. Gen. Kenneth Anderson's British 1st Army on the offensive in North Tunisia captured Sedjenane, 40 miles southwest of Bizerte, and the German radio reported that Gen. George S. Patton's 1st Army in the Medjel-Bah sector, 35 miles below Sedjenane, also had begun an offensive.

By capturing Oudjed the 8th Army won control of a bottleneck between the sea and the salt sink, Chott el Fedjedj, and sent Rommel reeling back into another pocket 20 miles to the north.

This is the narrow gap between the coast and the salt marsh of Sebket en Noual.

On the flank of this second pocket United States troops have driven to a point only about 20 airline miles from the coast. But for some time Rommel's troops have been holding firm to enable their leader to withdraw the bulk of his troops toward Sfax and the first northern defensive line.

All even the Axis positions at Sfax and Sousse further north are menaced by American and French troops now within 30 miles of Kairouan. The Americans have fought their way east of Fondouk, Kairouan, an Axis air base, is only about 35 miles from the coast. Other coastal points through which Rommel must withdraw to join up with his northern forces.

German broadcasts stress the numerical superiority of the Allied forces, and one said that American troop strength was "gigantic" in its flanking threat to Rommel. The Berlin radio said Rommel meanwhile had erected new coastal positions above Gabès. It spoke of positions between the Fedjedj salt marsh and the coast, an area which the British 8th Army reached early yesterday.

Allied airmen in their continued battering of Rommel's troops and rear positions attacked the La Foucaudie Airfield, 30 miles northwest of Sfax, and El Maou Airfield just north of that city, twice yesterday.

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Meat Rationing Decried At Two Pounds a Week

AMMUNITION BLAST KILLS 400 ITALIANS

Buildings in Port Area of Naples Flattened Over Big Area, Report

New York Times Special to The Globe and Mail, Copyright Berne, March 31.—At least 400 were killed outright and more than 2,000 were seriously injured shortly after noon on Sunday when an ammunition dump in the port area of Naples blew up, flattening buildings in a wide area, according to private information tonight.

An official communiqué issued in Rome this morning listed casualties at 79 killed and 1,179 injured; private sources are categorical that at least this number of troops were killed in the port itself, while the rain of debris—some of which fell more than half a mile away, killed scores and injured hundreds of others.

A military investigation was begun simultaneously with rescue work, at present under way under the direction of Admiral Cavagnari, commander of the port of Naples. So far no results have been published, but uniform rumors spontaneously invoked the ubiquitous "Italian-speaking English and American soldiers—probably parachutists" allegedly seen in the vicinity shortly before the explosion. Another theory holds to the presence of an unexploded or delayed-action bomb undetected in the naval arsenal since the last American air raid on the Tunisian supply center.

Regarding the alleged presence of Italian-speaking Allied paratroops, some credence was lent this thesis with the reported arrest of several inhabitants of nearby Portici, charged with "hushing enemy airmen." No information was forthcoming whether the aviators themselves were seized.

Recent information from Naples late this afternoon stated that the population demonstrated against the "unjustified" attitude of German soldiers during the rescue operations. Incidents reportedly were so acrimonious that a curfew was drawn around nearby Frattamaggio, believed to be headquarters of the Wehrmacht service of supplies to the Tunisian armies. The inhabitants of this area are issued special passes for the city and are being guarded by paratroops.

According to witnesses, in guarded communications to Rome, the centre



Anthony Eden tells Ottawa press conference that the war will be "very long and very tough" before victory is achieved. He is in Canada to supplement discussions recently held in Washington and New York.

Round-Up Tour.

It is in Canada to supplement discussions recently held in Washington and New York.

ITALIAN NERVES FRAYING UNDER TUNISIA THREAT

Davis Expresses Hope They May Break as Heavy Losses Realized

Washington, March 31 (AP).—Hope appears to be rising in United Nations circles that Axis reverses in Tunisia will fray Italian nerves, perhaps to the breaking point, as the hour for invasion of the continent from Africa draws near.

Both here and in London officials emphasize that Italian troops in Tunisia are again being stiffened to save German hides, as they were in Egypt. The officials obviously hope that their words will percolate through to the Italian public.

Prime Minister Churchill gave such a twist to his announcement to Parliament of the occupation of Gabès by British 8th Army troops following collapse of the Mareth line defenses. He said it was too early to say how many Italians had been left to hold the bag in Tunisia as at El Alamein while their Nazi masters escaped.

In Washington today, speaking of Rommel's retreat out of the Mareth trap, leaving a substantial Italian rear guard to help his getaway, Director Elmer Davis of the United States Office of War Information said:

"(The Rommel) again has thrown the baby out of the sleigh so that the rest can escape—the baby in all cases being the Italians."

The reference is to the once widely copied picture of a winter scene in Siberia where a child in arms was being thrown to a following wolf pack to permit escape of the adult passengers in the sleigh. It is a caustic comment on what happened after the British 8th Army broke through the El Alamein line in Egypt and started the 1,500-mile pursuit of Rommel. Two divisions or more of Italian troops, abandoned by their German "commanders," fell into British hands then.

PRETTY RUSSIAN PILOT BAGS TRIP PLANE

Moscow, March 31 (AP).—Lily Litvack, a pretty airplane-checked blonde who is a junior lieutenant of the guard but looks more like a junior high school student, was credited tonight with the destruction of a German plane—her third—in fighting on the southern front.

A despatch said German fighters headed for a city along the Donets and Lily was the first fighter pilot to take off. She was wounded early in the attack but continued to fight, finally sending a Messerschmitt spinning to the ground in flames.

Another famous girl fighter pilot is Katya Budanova. She and Lily took part in the air defense of Stalingrad. Both live in Moscow and each has fought 120 sky battles. Katya, too, has downed three planes in individual fights. Both wear Red Star decorations.

REDS CLOSE ON NOVOROSSISK

Strong Defense Point in Caucasus Captured

London, March 31 (CP).—Russian troops fighting toward Novorossisk on the Black Sea, last major Nazi position left in the Western Caucasus, have captured "a most important defense point," Moscow announced tonight.

A tank-supported German infantry battalion also was hulled back in trying to break the Red Army's defensive line along the northern Donets in the Ukraine, said the midnight communiqué recorded by the Soviet radio Monitor. The enemy left 150 dead and two burning tanks on the battlefield in this battle, it said.

On the Smolenok front in Central Russia there was little change in an area where flooding rivers and clinging mud have hampered military operations, but the communiqué said another Nazi defense point was knocked out, and 100 Germans killed.

Your Morning Smiles

The story goes that, in a Toronto post office yesterday, a woman purchased 300 three-cent stamps. When the clerk commented that it was a big order, the woman replied: "Well, I've heard the Government is to raise the price on stamps, so I thought this a good investment."

Order Becomes Effective During Early Part of May, Hsley Announces in House

Ottawa, March 31.—Meat rationing that will provide two pounds per person per week will become effective in Canada some time early in May, Finance Minister Hsley announced today in the House of Commons.

Details of the program, still in the study stage, will be disclosed in about two weeks.

Rationing of meat had been heralded for several months as a certainty in the 1943 food control measures.

As intimated by The Globe and Mail on March 20, aside from the necessity of providing for domestic and other priority requirements, a surplus that is expected to come because of rationing—plus any normal surplus of beef which might result from normal marketings—will be sent to the United Kingdom.

"These additional supplies are needed because of an unavoidable reduction in shipments from other sources, and will be used, not to increase the British ration of meat, but only to assist in maintaining it at its present low level," said Mr. Hsley.

Meatless Days Likely. Public eating places are contemplated to avoid discrimination against the home eaters. Farmers will be asked to assist in maintaining it within the spirit of the ration.

Just to make certain that farmed meat does not drift into trade channels, restrictions, probably tighter than those which now exist, will be clamped upon the right of slaughter for other persons.

Mr. Hsley's statement contained an implied warning against black market operations.

"I would like to say that once the program is introduced a very serious view will be taken of any attempt at fraudulent practices which might tend to impair the development of black markets," he said.

Inasmuch as beef is closely tied with other meat products, the ration order will cover all meats except poultry and fish, but will exclude lard, heart and delicacies under the heading of "butcher" officials.

Mr. Hsley said that a nutrition advisory committee to the Prices Board food administration had concluded that a ration of two pounds of meat a week, plus customary amounts of milk, eggs, cheese, fish and poultry, gave more protein from animal sources to satisfy nutritional requirements than is required for a person of any occupation.

Repeatedly in his statement Mr. Hsley stressed that success of a rationing plan in an agricultural country like Canada depended upon the co-operation of the people, and to that end he stated at length the necessity of rationing. In announcing the program in advance, contrary to pre-rationing policy, Mr. Hsley said there was no danger of meat hoarding. It was difficult, if not impossible, to hoard meat. It would not keep.

But announcement in advance presented the opportunity of placing before the public the need for rationing and the opportunity of gaining that measure of co-operation which spells the difference between success and failure.

Out of questions on the proposed rationing measure came a direct statement by the Minister that he did not know of any intention to abandon the rationing of meat. It was made in reply to J. J. Lester (Libs., Shefford), listed in the Parliamentary Guide as president and manager of the Grand Dairy Ltd. He asked if, in view of the fact that "the creameries are opening up now with quite a large increase in production," it was the intention of the Government to continue the rationing of meat.

WILL RATION (Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

Two N.Z. Generals Escape From Italy

London, April 1 (Thursday) (CP).—Reuters News Agency reported today in a despatch from Lugano, Switzerland, that two New Zealand generals had escaped to Switzerland from an Italian prison camp. They were not identified.

London sources, however, said it is believed they are Brigadier James Hargest and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Ross, captured in Libya in 1941.

Eden Highly Pleased With U.S. Conferences

Regrets Lack of Time to Review War Effort of Canada; Russia Consulted Before Visit

Ottawa, March 31.—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, Britain's bright young man of politics and her outstanding realist in the pre-war "peace in our time" era of wishful thinking, today brought to Canada assurance of full wartime collaboration has been maintained between the United Nations, and in that collaboration rested a determination to create a lasting and secure peace.

The message of the British Foreign Secretary was given not so much as a statement of fact as declaration of "full wartime collaboration has been maintained between the United Nations, and in that collaboration rested a determination to create a lasting and secure peace."

Mr. Eden's first public submissions since he flew into Ottawa yesterday to continue the Washington conference on the "four big powers" particularly to the Commonwealth and to Canada were made at a general press interview on Parliament Hill.

POSTWAR TRADE BENEFIT SEEN FOR DOMINION

Position on Exports Enhanced by Current Activities—Dr. James

Ottawa, March 31 (CP).—Dr. Cornelia James, principal of McGill University and chairman of the Government's advisory committee on post-war reconstruction, said today in a Senate committee on reconstruction and social security today that Canada "will benefit more progressively in regard to her war production and postwar trade than will most other nations."

"Canada will be in a most advantageous position after the war to export foodstuffs and industrial supplies to world markets as a result of the expansion of these activities during the war," Dr. James said.

Regarding postwar employment, his committee had undertaken to ask private industry how much it intended to spend for its post-war expansion.

Full employment, he said, was the purpose of the assistance of the committee and if private enterprise could not meet the challenge it would be up to the Government to step in and provide the necessary capital for projects that would ensure full employment.

Dr. James suggested abolition of excess profits taxes and reduction of corporation taxes for private enterprise so as to permit it to invest money in projects that would bring employment. He said that the present tendency of taxation was to discourage capital investment which would be needed for post-war reconstruction.

In regard to foreign trade, he said that if Canada failed to enter actively in the export trade it would have to import considerable foreign securities.

In the field of taxation, except for the usual national income and current expenditures, Canada should have a budget extending over a number of years, maybe up to 1947.

The second security plan outlined in the March report would involve a yearly expenditure of \$1,000,000 by Dominion and Provincial Governments as he said had been suggested by newspapers, but they pointed out that such a plan would be a "fantastic" industrial expansion.

There had never been in Canada a greater number of people employed in civilian jobs.

After the war Canada would have to meet a tremendous demand for all sorts of industrial products for home consumption as well as demands for foodstuffs for "starving" Europe and China.

It was Canada's business, he said, for about two years after the war to provide employment for all returning men and women. Control of commodity prices should be maintained for a certain period of time, as a large demand for the small number of products available would create a rise in price.

He anticipated a boom in the immediate postwar period, but it would be possible that a depression would occur, and the Government in that event, should be prepared to assume much more considerable responsibilities, he said.

BOMB HARBOR AT ROTTERDAM

American, R.A.F. Planes Make Widespread Raids

London, March 31 (CP).—Heavy American bombers, maintaining the Allied aerial assault by daylight after an overnight lull caused by bad weather, fought a fierce battle 2000 feet over the Channel today, and then the bombers streaked on through the clouds to attack the harbor and Schiedam suburb of Rotterdam.

RCAF squadrons of Spitfires carried out diversionary sweeps in connection with the raid on Schiedam, and the Canadian fighters came back without a loss. One bomber was lost while on a mission to Eindhoven, where they destroyed a ship and shipbuilding yards and Rotterdam suburb.

This American blow followed a R.A.F. daylight attack by Mosquito planes of the Fleet Bomber Command range from the English coast from the R.A.F. base where they destroyed an enemy merchant ship at Eindhoven, Holland, and blasted the Philips works and radio works.

Though the R.A.F. armadas of big bombers over the ground, it was the Mosquitoes which were the overlord of Europe's bombers as they struck on their first attack on