

GASOLINE

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Dec. 18/42.

The ban on gasoline to all automobiles except commercial vehicles is temporary, but it looks as if pleasure car drivers in the Eastern states have small chance of getting back ^{to} the gasoline ration to which they have become accustomed. This was indicated today by Oil Coordinator Ickes, who states ^d: "I think they, the pleasure drivers, will have a hard job getting the gasoline they have been getting."

In Washington, officials stated that when the emergency ban ^{is} ~~was~~ lifted, the value of ration coupons in gallons is likely to be changed. They expect that A coupons will be out altogether for some time to come, or their value will be cut drastically - probably to one or two gallons per coupon. A coupons are now worth three gallons in the Eastern states.

President Roosevelt today ^{said} ~~stated~~ that he hoped the new gasoline edict could be lifted in a day

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*the crisis to end
by Monday, or so.*

the weekend.

or two - after which period drivers of vehicles not strictly commercial would be able to get gasoline

The Amer. Autom. Assoc. expects relief
more or less. ^PThe President explained that the emergency

~~xxxxxx~~ was ^{caused} ~~called for~~ by a hurry up order from

North Africa - ~~xxx~~ for more gasoline. Our air force and armored units over there need motor fuel, lots of it,

and right away. This order could have been filled

directly from the oilfields of Texas but that would have taken more time. It ^{is} faster to ship it from the war stocks along the East coast. So, said the President.

The people on the Atlantic seaboard will have to give up pleasure driving for a day or two. He added that he was sure that the people would be willing to make this brief sacrifice.

The order issued by the Office of Price Administration stops the sale of gasoline on A, B and C coupons - save that in cases of emergency one coupon

may be honored. We are not told what is to be considered an emergency. Gasoline ^{is to} ~~may~~ be sold ~~only~~ on T coupons, which are possessed by commercial vehicles - such as trucks and taxicabs.

Public reaction to the new decree varied. In the South, there was a rush on gasoline stations. Down in Dixie the word spread that ~~gasoline~~ sales were being drastically curtailed, and motorists thronged to get supplies. The opposite is true of Massachusetts, where sales were below normal. It was known in advance that the ban on gasoline for non-commercial vehicles would be applied - but Massachusetts weather ^{was} ~~is~~ severe, not conducive to automobile driving. ^{TP} In New York ^{City}, which is having snow and cold, there was no great change in gasoline sales. New York ^{City} expects that the elimination of private cars will jam subways, buses and commuters' trains - especially during the holiday season.

D.C.,
In Washington, [^] forty per cent of employees

normally travel to and from their place^s of business by private car. What will they do now? Officials expect

that buses and *and street cars* trains will experience what they call -
[^] "the biggest jam imaginable." ^{TF} Today a committee of the

Office of Defense Transportation recommended that

Dist. of Columbia
~~Washington~~ [^] schools be closed immediately, to relieve

public conveyances of the crowds of children. The

Christmas holidays would normally begin next Thursday.

The proposal is that they begin right away. And other

drastic changes are suggested for coping with that th

"biggest jam imaginable."

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FOLLOW GASOLINE

And, The gasoline shortage is accompanied by a fuel oil shortage, and this extends to the middle west. ~~Because of this~~ *today* ~~Today~~ Governor Green of Illinois made the demand that fuel oil rationing be suspended until January Fifteenth. The Governor sent telegrams to President Roosevelt and the Office of Price Administration asking that the curb on the sale of fuel oil be lifted until the middle of next month. And then the fuel oil rationing system should be revised all along the line.

Governor Green said the program, as it stands, *is* ~~was~~ unworkable and ~~was~~ hampered by what he called ~~ed~~ *Ed* -- "bureaucrat bungling." He said the present maximum of sixty-five degrees of heat recommended for homes was not enough and proposed a minimum heat range from sixty-eight to seventy-two degrees. The Illinois governor says that changes are needed to avoid actual suffering.

PRICE ADMINISTRATION

The appointment of a new Price Administrator has not yet been announced - a man to succeed Leon Henderson. But the bets are still on Senator Prentiss Brown of Michigan ^{who ~~is~~} ~~when he~~ leaves the United States Senate ^{having been} ~~after being~~ defeated in the November election. Washington is convinced that he will get the ^{O.P.A.} ~~the~~ job, which is considered just about the toughest in the country, - the boss of price fixing, rationing and ^{curbs} ~~other things~~ that come so close to the familiar habits of life for all of us.

There is a striking contrast between Leon Henderson and the man who is expected to succeed him. Henderson is dynamic, full of fiery energy. He stirred up a ~~xxxxxxxx~~ tempest of criticism. He knew it, but never compromised. He was aware that his strong handed ways ~~would~~ ^d arouse ^{that} antagonisms. ~~They~~ ^{They} were undermining him in Washington. ~~xxxx~~ ^{who} denounced him as Price

Ten day ago he told me
Administrator, and I remember hearing him say some
he saw this coming -
weeks ago that he knew they'd get him sooner or later.

But by the time they did, he expected to have his
department so well set up that his work could not be
undone. Hence, I wasn't surprised last night when,
just before broadcast time, the wire flashed the fact
that Henderson was out. ~~I just had time to give the~~
~~first break of the news.~~

The shrewdest analysis of the case of
Leon Henderson that I have seen is ~~that~~^{one} given by
Arthur Krock in the NEW YORK TIMES this morning.

Krock assays Henderson's great energy, ~~and~~ his courage
~~in~~^{and} his defiance of politics. Then the NEW YORK TIMES
columnist gives this analysis: "As an economist and
a schoolman, who never faced the polls, Henderson
became enamored of centralized, scientific formulae
which were framed in the vision of the United States

as one community, without local folkways. When ordinary people protested against this procedure," Krock goes on, "more often than not they were addressed as if they were animated by slackerism or hēdonism instead of by their knowledge that such master plans disregard practical factors in essential local economy."

Prentiss Brown is of another sort decidedly. ~~He is~~ a quiet, conservative type, not afraid to speak his own mind - but, not flamboyant. He has an easy manner and a small town friendliness. Typical of the Prentiss Brown temperament is this: He has seven children, and likes to tell about his letters to them. He writes only one, and makes carbon copies. ~~He~~ Sends each a copy, and does ^{not} write to them individually.

He says Hello Bill, and Marge gets it also.

CHURCHILL

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There is a report from Sweden that British Prime Minister Churchill is ^{again} on his way to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt. In London officials refused to comment on this Swedish rumor.

Another similar story about a Churchill visit to Washington comes from Lisbon - and this today was placed before President Roosevelt. ^{His comment was} ~~He did make comment.~~
^{that} ~~He said,~~ it sounded like Lisbon - which has been a source of a lot of wartime fiction.

SOLOMONS

(News from the Solomons is much the same as
yesterday and the day before - featuring American
bombers and ^{the} a place called Munda, ^{on New Georgia.} ~~Pacific Navy bulletin~~
^{A mid-day Navy Bulletin}
states that Army flying fortresses, accompanied by
cannon-firing ^{air} Cobra fighters, blasted the Japs at
the new airbase they have constructed at Munda, ^{in the}
~~Solomons~~
For the seventh successive day our planes continued in
an effort to put the enemy flying field out of
commission.

^{This}
~~Today's~~ Navy communique gives us a correction
~~of~~ the one issued yesterday. That one told ^{how} ~~of~~ twelve
Jap Zeros attacked a squadron of flying fortresses,
and we shot down all twelve Japs - with ~~the~~ loss of
one fortress. The correction is that all the Zeros
were not shot down - three were, instead of twelve.

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AMERICAN SUBMARINES

Some more Jap supply ships and naval auxiliaries have been sunk by American submarines. This is stated in ^{the} late ^{afternoon} Navy bulletin. The new bag of Jap ships raises the total sunk by American submarines to a hundred and five. The localities of our under-water successes are described as - Pacific and the Far East. (That means that our submarines are operating across the long drawn enemy lines of communication between the conquered lands and Japan proper.)

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNISTS

Australia has lifted its ban on the Communist Party. This was announced today with the statement that the Australian Government had received guarantees that the Communist Party would assist in the war program and help in preventing strikes - and work to keep war workers on the job. The official ban is also lifted on Communist newspapers.

INDIA

London gives us a Nazi report that ~~the~~ Japanese troops have invaded India. Enemy units are described as having crossed the border from Burma, and to have advanced nearly eighteen miles into the territory of India. Official sources in London ^{declare} ~~say~~ they have no information concerning this supposed Jap invasion of India. Unofficial observers ~~said~~ - highly unlikely,

NORTH AFRICA

In Rommel's headlong flight, and the British Eighth Army's equally headlong pursuit - the British advance forces have caught up with the fleeing Nazi North Afrikan Korps. The retreating force is being hit by the advancing force, which is trying to disorganize the enemy flight into a complet^e rout. And Rommel's main army seems to be mighty near ^{to} ~~to a~~ route - utter and complete.

The other Nazi force, the one reported yesterday to have been cut off and trapped, is still in the toils the British have thrown around it. ~~British~~ Headquarters at Cairo state^s that some of the surrounded Panzers may have broken through, and escaped. But the rest ^{are} ~~is~~ standing ^{encircled, and they} ~~surrounded, and it~~ includes most of Rommel's anti-tank artillery and the Fifteenth Panzer Division. They ^{sl} ~~are~~ are at bay in the Wadi Matratin sector, and ~~they~~ face sure destruction.

In Tunisia, most of the action is in the air. Ground fighting is brisk but on a minor scale. Today's War Department communique states: "Our patrols have been active along the whole front." And then it goes on to tell how American bombers and fighters attacked the docks at Bizerte and Tunis, while other air forces struck an important airfield target near Tunis. "Two bombers were shot down by our fighters," says the War Department, and adds: "None of our aircraft is missing from these operations."

SECRET WEAPON

The crushing defeat of the Nazi North Afrika Korps in Egypt is now attributed to a new secret weapon - a new American type of anti-tank gun. For weeks, military secrecy ~~xxxxxxx~~ suppressed all news of this blazing novelty of war. But now, with Rommel's army on the run, ~~the~~ United Press's Correspondent, Richard D. MacMillan, is permitted to give an account of the secret weapon - as he saw it in action on the sands of North Africa.

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"It is a powerful, self-propelling anti-tank gun, mounted on the chassis of a General Grant tank," writes MacMillan. "It was hastily manufactured in the United States, and was shipped to the Middle East in such secrecy that ~~xxxxxxx~~ only a few knew of its existence until the night before General Montgomery opened his offensive. That night the guns were moved quickly up to the front lines. I watched them wheel

into position and open fire," McMillan relates.

"Shells ripped through the armour of all types of Axis tanks. The Panzer divisions crumpled under ^{this} fire.

Their lines dissolved, and they retreated."

Such is ^{this U.P.} ~~the American~~ correspondent's description of the first blast delivered by the American secret weapon, and the story continues much the same - as the new anti-tank gun ripped Nazi armor day after day.

McMillan goes on to tell how the gun came into existence. "An American army officer," he relates, "was sent on a mission to the Near East to report to Washington on the type of modern weapons which the British needed to stem Rommel's drive to Suez and then counterattack. Last July," he goes on, "I traveled over hundreds of miles of desert with this officer. 'The weapon which we need out here,' McMillan quotes the officer as saying, "is a self-propelling anti-tank

gun. It must have speed so it can dash in and out and fight the enemy panzers and then dash away again. It ^{will be} ~~is~~ the obvious successor to the tank itself,' the officer went on. ^{JP} "The gun, he summarized, 'is more important in modern war than the tank.'" ^{JP} Having arrived at this ~~idea in his~~ theory of gun versus tank, the American officer flew back to Washington and presented his report. And a few months later the secret weapon began to arrive in Egypt.

GUN

And
Army and Navy officers were studying today the results of tests of a new and revolutionary type of machine gun, ~~about which there has been some talk.~~ We've heard of the simply miraculous weapon. Today's news dispatch confirms ~~the miraculous part of it,~~ and says the ~~new machine~~ ^{novel} gun is designed to fire twelve thousand rounds a minute. ~~That means~~ Two hundred bullets a second - almost unbelievable..

The gun is fired, not with explosives, but with compressed air. This eliminates ~~the discharge of~~ ^{power charged} cartridges and shell cases. The bullets are poured into ~~the~~ ^a hopper and fed into the firing chamber by vacuum.

A demonstration was made by Inventor W.B.Hale, and today the Army and Navy officers were making up their minds about the new rapid fire weapon - twelve thousand bullets a minute being even faster than rapid.

BULLETIN

Price Administrator Leon Henderson assured the East tonight that he hopes to lift the virtual suspension of gasoline rations by midnight Sunday. Henderson said a thoroughly integrated plan is being worked out to take the place of the suspension order and he said he hopes to be able to announce it by Sunday and put it into effect Monday morning.

as if a major attempt might be made to get reinforcements across ~~the~~ Mediterranean waters - this according to reports from Madrid. We hear that an Axis convoy of a hundred and fifty ships is massed and ready for an attempt to make the run to Tunisia. The convoy is likely to get a hot reception from Allied ships and planes.

In Tunisia ~~it~~ itself, not much activity is reported. Today's Army bulletin tells merely of one enemy ^{ground} raid. An Axis detachment made a local attack, which was repelled. (It is assumed that bad weather is hampering military ^{ground} operations - perhaps air operations also. Today's Army bulletin has only this bit of sky fighting to report: "In the course of routine patrols over Tunisia yesterday," it says, "our fighters destroyed one enemy bomber and one enemy fighter, without loss.")

BURMA

In Burma, British General Wavell continues his advance into the ~~Japanese-occupied province~~ ^{country}. The British, pushing down ^{along} the Bay of Bengal, are now within sixty miles of the important port of Akyab. The Japs are offering no resistance apparently. Why not? We don't know. Neither do we know whether Wavell's thrust is merely a local operation or the beginning of a major attempt to recapture Burma.

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The British are being supported by American air forces based on China, General Claire Chenault's big bombers struck heavily at the ace Jap air base at Lashio, ^{put it} and ~~they put the airdrome~~ out of commission. The ~~amount of damage done is related~~ ~~vividly~~ vividly by Captain John Ruse of LaGrange, Illinois. He led a bomber formation that attacked the ~~warehouse area~~ ^{Lashio} of the air base. "We could see two big fires," says he, "and the remainder of that area of the city was

RICKENBACKER

Today one of Eddie Rickenbacker's companions in that adventure and ordeal on the Pacific, told about the attitude of the others toward Rick. Lieutenant James G. Whitaker says: "When we started out, we thought he was just another man who had influence enough to get a ride."

When the plane was forced down at sea, ^{and} they went drifting for three weeks in a boat, ~~and~~ their attitude changed. "Captain Rickenbacker took the leadership and pull ^{ed} us through," says Lieutenant Whitaker.

Not only did America's ace in the First World War display the moral qualities that made him a leader, but he also showed the greatest amount of physical stamina. Lieutenant Whitaker says that when they were finally picked up, none of the others could have lasted more than forty-eight hours - while Rickenbacker

could have ^{stuck it} ~~stayed~~ out for another week.

Today people were talking about the extraordinary story that Rick told on Saturday at a War Department press conference and ^{yesterday in part} ~~later~~ on the radio.

One ~~xxxxxx~~ particular thing ~~that he told~~ is provoking a lot of discussion; how the castaways prayed for food, ^{And how Rick} held a prayer meeting. ~~Rick now~~ goes on to tell:

"Within an hour after the prayer meeting," says he,

"A seagull came in and landed on my head, and you can imagine my nervousness in trying to turn around and get him, which I did."

So they had seagull to eat, ^{and for bait to catch fish} ~~and the episode~~

^{Another episode} ~~is one~~ to add to the anthology of stories ^{of} ~~is~~ response

to prayer.

for food.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Probably the largest number of American war correspondents ever to be together at one time will foregather Wednesday evening of this week. They are going to see the American premiere of a motion picture called "In Which We Serve." ~~Although~~ Some of the correspondents, Quentin Reynolds and others, have already ^{seen} ~~had~~ a preview ~~of this film~~ which tells the life story of a destroyer in this war. -- ~~The~~ picture was conceived, the story written and produced, by one man. And, he plays the leading role. His name is Noel Coward. And the role he plays is supposed to be taken directly from the life of young Lord Louis Mountbatten.

At any rate, at the American premiere this Wednesday night at the Capitol Theatre in New York, the entire proceeds will go to a fund for American war correspondents. In proportion to their number, more war correspondents have been killed in this global war than men in any other line of activity. There are no exact figures on this. But ten American correspondents

have been killed since Nineteen thirty-nine; twenty-one wounded; two are missing and unaccounted for; and fifteen have been captured, not including the large number who were taken prisoner and put in internment camps and prisons in Germany, Italy and Japan until they were exchanged and sent home.

OIL

The oil rationing is going to stay ~~pretty much~~ as it is. - ~~no relaxation.~~ This was stated today by Economics Stabilization Director Byrnes. "There is no hope for any lessening of the restrictions upon the use of gasoline and fuel oil," said he. He added that any change would consist of an improvement of rationing methods.

This statement ~~by Stabilization Director Byrnes~~ followed the lifting of the ban on sales of gasoline to private automobile drivers in seventeen eastern states and the District of Columbia. You get ^{now} gas on ^{your} A, B and C coupons, ~~again,~~ but not as much as before on ^{the} B and Cs. The value of these ~~coupons~~ is reduced from four to three gallons. A coupons stay at three gallons. And T coupons, used only by commercial vehicles, retain their former value of five gallons.

~~Oil Coordinator Ickes today issued an order~~

DIVORCE

The Supreme Court today upheld the legality of Reno divorces. This came about in a decision handed down by the high Justices in a North Carolina case.

~~A North Carolina~~⁹ man and woman went out to the metropolis ~~of divorce,~~^{Each} ~~and each~~^{of whom} had a spouse back in North Carolina. They got Reno divorces, and proceeded to marry each other in Nevada. Then they went back to North Carolina, where they were presently charged with bigamy, tried, and convicted.

They appealed to the state Supreme Court, which upheld the conviction. They carried the case on up to the Supreme Court of the United States, and today the highest tribunal gave its verdict. The conviction is set aside, the Justices voting six to two to reverse the conviction for bigamy. ^{And} this amounts to a Supreme Court verdict upholding Reno divorces.

Legal opinion around Washington is that today's

decision is of far reaching importance, and that the courts of any state, no matter what the divorce laws of that state may be, hereafter will have to uphold the validity of divorces granted in Nevada or in any other state.

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood stars are temperamental, as we all know. But you'd think that even screen celebrities would be a little more consistent than is revealed today.

Each year the members of the Hollywood Women's Press Club take a vote to pick the most cooperative actor and actress of the year -- the most popular. Their vote, as announced today, picks Rosalind Russell as the most cooperative actress.

Nothing so surprising about that, but a paradox is discovered when we learn what actress was voted to be the most non-cooperative. The prize for unpopularity goes to Ginger Rogers. Why is that astonishing? Because last year it was the other way around. Ginger was then voted to be the most cooperative, the most popular.

A similar upside down reversal of things is to be discovered in the vote for the most cooperative actor. Cary Grant is named. He is acclaimed as the

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most popular this year. He has changed a lot since last. Because a year ago Cary Grant was at the foot of the class, was handed the boobey prize for non-cooperative unpopularity.

So apparently the stars change a lot in Hollywood. One year ^{they} a scowl and growl, ^{and} the next year they are all smiles and gentle friendliness. Which now calls, not for scowls and ~~no~~ growls, but for smiles and gentle friendliness, from Hugh James.

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