AUTO ACCDENTS ARE REDUCED 35 PER CENT

There were 1,381 traffic accidents reported in Maryland during the month of September, with 39 persons killed and 731 injured. Baltimore City reported 949 accidents with 13 deaths and 428 injured, and the Counties 432 accidents with 26 deaths and 303 injured.

In the State there was a reduction in traffic fatalities of 35% for September as against the same month one year ago. The year's total for fatalities is now 345 as compared to 435 for the same period last year—a reduction of 20.7 percent.

Eleven counties experienced a fatality free month—Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester. Calvert County was the only county to experience a perfect accident month—no collisions, no deaths, no injuries.

Governor O'Conor and the Maryland Traffic Safety Commission has appealed to the public using the streets and highways to reduce their speeds to the VICTORY SPEED of 35 miles per hour and under, and to exercise every caution in an effort to prevent accidents. However, in the face of this there has been an increase of 21.9 percent in the number of persons killed for September as compared to August of this year, the majority of this increase being taken up in non-collision accidents, indicating that there is still a group of motorists who are driving at fast speeds on faulty rubber, and failing to prove t hat they are 100% AMERICANS by driving at 35 miles per hour and under. We again request every Maryland driver to adhere to this new VICTORY SPEED, and help us, a United Nation, to further the WAR effort by doing his or her part in the conservaLINE.

The Nation at War

Continued from Page 2)

Acting at the suggestion of the President and the request of the War Department, the House passed and sent to the Senate legislation to reduce the minimum draft age from 20 to 18. The bill provides that those who are in high school or college may finish the present school year, but after next July educational deferments would be forbidden. The bill would also make mandatory the policy of calling all single men in a State before calling married men, and then calling all childless married men before men with children.

Secretary of War Stimson announced there are approximately 4,250,000 men in the Army at present and this total will be increased to 7,500,000 by the end of 1943—distributed as follows: 3,300,000 in ground forces, 2,200,000 in the air force, 1,000,000 in training and 1,000,000 in supply services. Mr. Stimson said 18 and 19-year-olds are more responsive to leadership, are not as easily fatigued and make better soldiers than older men. He said there is danger at present that the Army might get too old. In March of this year the average age of divisions being activated was 26 years and 2 months, but in August the figure had risen to 28 years and 2 months.

If the draft age is lowered to 18, a 7,500,000-man Army can be built up in 1943 without calling married men with children, Selective Service Director Hershey reported. Induction of married men with wives only will begin immediately to fill the Army's call for 1,100,000 by January 1, he said.

THE WAR FRONT

Secretary Stimson announced that ground units of the Army are now aiding the Marines in the defense of Guadalcanal in the Solomons, and Army air and ground troops are now stationed in New Zealand, New Caledonia, the New Hebrides and Fiji Islands. "The Japanese are continuing to bomb our airfield and shore positions on Guadalcanal Island and it is believed that enemy troops and equipmen are being disposed for a strong assault against our airfield," the Navy reported October 18. During the early morning of October 17, about 14 enemy bombers, escorted by 8 fighters, attacked the Guadalcanal airfield and shore positions, the communique said, but U. S. fighters and antiaircraft batteries shot down all the bombers and 2 of the fighters. These latest raids brought the toll of Japanese aircraft since the Solomons fighting began last August to 307 of all types destroyed.

"Although large numbers of Japanese troops are known to be on Guadalcanal Island, there has been, as yet, no full scale land fighting," the Navy said. "Our losses in the current fighting, to date, (October 18) have been minor, but in a battle of this nature losses must be expected. . . . . All information on the fighting in the Solomons which is not of value to the enemy is being announced as soon as possible after being received." Gen. MacArthur 's hdqs reported October 19 that Allied bombers attacking Japanese shipping concentrations off Buin in the northern Solomons scored probable hits on three enemy cruisers, a large seaplane tender, seven flying boats and several cargo vessels. In the Aleutians, U. S. ground forces took a third island in the Andreanof group, and Army medium bombers bombed two more enemy destroyers near Kiska.

FARM PRICES AND PRODUCTION

President Roosevelt, in a radio address, said "we are learning to ration materials; and we must now learn to ration manpower. . . . Perhaps the most difficult phase of the manpower problem is the scarcity of farm labor . . . . Every farmer in the land must realize fully that his production is part of war production, and that he is regarded by the Nation as essential to victory." Agriculture Secretary Kickard, as Chairman of the WPB Food Requirements Committee, reduced production goals for such crops as cantaloupes, cucumbers, watermelons, and celery, and said "first consideration" would be given to winter vegetables which require the least labor in relation to their nutritional value. Mr. Wickard also called for a 10 percent increase in 1943 spring hog production over the 1942 record crop, asking for about 68 milion head as compared to the 1942 crop of 62 million head. He estimated 1943 requirements of dressed pork for the U. S. armed forces and Lend-Lease will exceed 1942 requirements by more than one billion pounds.

The Department of Agricutlure reported farm wage rates on October 1 were 220 percent of the 1910-14 period and the highest since 1920. The average rate perday without board, $2.76, was up 31 cents since July and up 72 cents since the previous October. The Department said its total September purchases of dairy products, fish, fruit and otherd commodities amounted to $115 million, compared with the August total of $83 million. The Deparement is now buying 17 key foodstuffs every week and 11 others every two weeks.

RATIONING

The Office of Price Administration ruled after after next January 31, all motorists holding A mileage rationing books must have their times inspected every four months and those receiving books allowing them supplemental mileage must have their tires inspected every two months. Original inspections of tires on all passenger cars must be made between December 1 and January 31, while commercial vehicle tires—which must be inspected every two months or every 5,000 mies, whichever comes first—may be checked any time after November 15.

Price Administrator Henderson set November 9 as registration day for gasoline rationing in the States where rationing is not already in effect, while motorists in the present rationing area must file a tire inspection certificate with their local rationing boards by November 22. Car owners in the latter area must list the serial numbers of all their tires, and if there are more than five percar, the owner will be denied gasoline ration books until he has disposed of the extra tires. Mr. Henderson said the Government tlready has started to purchase from car owners all new or used tires in excess of five per automobile. The Defense Supplies Corporation, which has advanced $150,000,000 for the program, has designated 160 warehouses throughout the country as delivery points, and the 23,000 offices of the Railway Express Agency will collect the tires and bring them to the warehouses.

The OPA said war ration sugar stamp No. 9 will be good for the purchase of three pounds of sugar between November 1 and December 15. The sugar allotments for institutional and industrial users for November and December were set at 60 and 70 percent. respectively, of the sugar base established by them.

MAXIMUM PRICES

A specific price ceiling for women's rayon hose will be issued soon, the OPA said, and in the meantime, buyers should carefully compare prices with those of last March to make certain they are not being overcharged. "There is no excuse for any increase in prices of rayon hosiery," the Office said. The OPA placed dried eggs under price control at the highest levels at which distributors did business during the September 28-October 2 base period. The Office also set up a method for retail dealers to determine their ceiling prices for fresh grapefruit.

STABILIZATION OF WAGES

Director Byrnes of the Office of Economic Stabilization said the War Labor Board will regulate all salaries under $3,000 and those up to $5,000 which are covered in wage agreements. He said the Treasury Department is preparing regulations for salaries of more than $3,000 other than those handled by the Board as part of wage regulations. The WLB ruled individual wage adjustments may now be made by employers without prior Board approval providing they are "incident to the application of the terms of an established wage agreement or to established wage rate schedules covering the work assignments of employees" and are made as the result of certain established practices.

Cutting Flowers

Don't cut flowers on windy days, for stems are likely to be low in moisture content which affects their keeping qualities.

Vitamin C Test

Two Cornell university scientists recently revealed a "15 minutes" test for measuring how much vitamin C is essential for national health and stamina.

According to the best authorities, the minimum daily A, D and B Complex Vitamin requirements of the average person are: **A 4,000 USP Units, D 400 USP Units, B1 333 USP Units, B2 2,000 Micrograms, and approximately 10,000 Micrograms Nicotinamide.** The required amounts for other B Complex Vitamins have not yet been established.

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