

Midland Empire Fair to Stress Display of War Equipment

The Midland Empire war exhibit and fair, a new version of the Midland Empire fair, with emphasis placed on a comprehensive display of mechanized war equipment, will be held at the fairgrounds in Billings for a week, beginning August 14, Rockwood Brown, president of the fair board, announced Wednesday.

Full indorsement was given the plan by Governor Sam C. Ford, at a conference with Brown and A. T. Hibberd, chairman of the Montana war finance committee, last week in Helena.

The display of war equipment would include examples of that used by our armed forces, and battle equipment captured from the Japs and nazis.

The office of the chief of ordnance department in San Francisco has definitely assured the fair board that such materiel, supplemented by army personnel, will be available "unless a drastic change occurs in the war situation," Brown said.

In giving his indorsement to the Great Falls and Midland Empire war exhibits and fairs, Governor Ford said:

"These fairs have become so notable for their excellence as a picture of the state's resources that the attendance approximates 200,000, which is almost one-half of the state's wartime population.

"The residents of Montana yearn

for some concrete exhibition of these war efforts whereby they may have a more definite knowledge of what our country is doing in the way of war materiel. While the demonstration such as the one proposed would have a great educational value, it is undoubtedly true that it would stimulate purchase of war bonds and give renewed impetus to every effort our people might be called upon to exert in behalf of our battle for survival."

The military equipment will be housed in tents on the fairgrounds against a background of production of war materiel now being turned out by the Pacific Car and Foundry company, which several months ago took over virtually all of the exhibit buildings to be used as production units after the fair board had made available to the government the use of the grounds and buildings for military purposes. These buildings, however, will be closed to the public throughout the progress of the fair, Brown said.

While the foundry company has appropriated many of the buildings and grounds space, the midway, the race track, grandstand, cattle and horse barns and ample parking space will be available for the fair and exhibit.

The Great Falls and Midland Empire fair boards, who for years have been members of the same circuit, will cooperate closely in conducting similar war exhibits and fairs.

They have contracted with a night show, which is a New York production, and with Cavalcade of Amusements, said to be the best array of midway attractions available in the United States.

Supplementing the Midland Empire war exhibit and fair will be a racing program and rodeo, with agricultural and home economics exhibits confined to 4-H and Future Farmers of America entries only.

Exhibits of dairy cattle and light horses are also being considered. At the request of some local breeders, the dairy cattle exhibit will be for Yellowstone county entries only.

Decision of the Great Falls fair board to conduct a fair and exhibit this year, made it almost imperative for the Midland Empire fair board to "follow suit," Brown pointed out.

In reviewing events that led to (Continued on Page 8, Column 7.)

Japs Increase India Pressure

New Delhi, April 5.—(AP)—Increasing their pressure along the entire 200-mile India invasion front, Japanese forces have seized a 15-mile stretch of the Imphal-Kohima highway and are thrusting through the wild Naga hills above Kohima within 80 miles of Dimapur on the Bengal-Assam railway, American army-operated life line into upper Burma.

Japanese units previously were reported to have cut the 60-mile road between Imphal, capital of Manipur state, and Kohima to the north, but Wednesday's advices gave the first indication they had firmly con-

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