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WHY MOLASSES?

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Discussing forest utilization problems in this column, we have frequently mentioned new and so far unused chemical processes. It is our opinion that the field of chemical utilization offers the best opportunity to dispose of our wood waste through conversion into useful products because we would thereby avoid competition in existing markets. If we concentrate on specialized manufacture as now practiced we add to the possibility of overstocking outlets. But the chemical field remains wide open. And in the chemical field we lean toward the molasses process rather than the related alcohol-from-wood-waste project.

One reason the Springfield alcohol plant has not fared well at the hands of Congress is found in resistance from agriculture, the petroleum industry and distillers, who want no additional competition. Wheat producers fear that alcohol from wood waste, obtainable at less cost than from grain, would cut off one of their important outlets. Distillers, having invested large sums of money in plants and equipment, obviously do not look with favor upon a plant capable of operating at less cost and thus able to undersell them on a competitive market. Alcohol from wood waste could be used as a fuel extender and thus reduce gasoline consumption. Because of the competitive position of alcohol from wood waste, political pressure has been brought upon Congress, influencing congressional resistance to completion and operation of the Springfield plant, constructed as a war emergency project.

Facilities to convert wood into molasses, however, can be constructed at much less cost than alcohol plants. Furthermore, the product could be utilized exclusively in the Pacific Northwest. We would be manufacturing, from material now going up in smoke, a product we could feed to our livestock and poultry, thus adding dollars to both timber and agricultural incomes without subtracting one whit from the natural resource. The molasses process is less apt to arouse resistance from the strongly entrenched industrial East than any other chemical utilization plan.

People may wonder why private industry is not more interested in chemical utilization.

The reasons are many. Chemical utilization is a new and largely unproven field. Relatively few men are sufficiently familiar with processes to install and manage plants. A considerable amount of experimentation would be necessary. Our state and national tax structures, present wage levels, restrictions on profits, etc., do not encourage investment of risk capital in industrial pioneering.

Some of the big companies are working toward full utilization. Weyerhaeuser, Long-Bell and others, with ample assets to support large scale experimentation, are constantly bringing out new processes. But the smaller operator lacks capital and know-how to promote utilization methods. Experimental laboratories throughout the country have long lists of proven processes but private capital is not available for actual pioneering.

The foregoing reasons why private capital cannot be expected to sponsor utilization explain why we have urged federal participation. We do not want nationalization or socialization of our timber industry. We do not want utilization plants as a part of a welfare state. But we feel that when one-half of our timber is in the public domain, and, when approximately 75 percent of a resource belonging to the people is being wasted, it is the responsibility of Congress to more dutifully exercise its responsibility of stewardship by at least furnishing the processes through which waste can be partially halted.

We would propose that the federal government furnish the Madison, Wisconsin, Forest Laboratories and Experiment Station with a revolving fund to be used in pioneering chemical utilization of wood waste through construction and operation of producing plants.

The act should provide, we believe, that as a plant was built by this federal agency an accurate cost inventory be maintained and private industry would have the right at any time to step in and take over the facilities or the operation by paying the sum of money invested by the federal government. The purchasing company, however, should be required to show financial responsibility and a plan to continue operation—a protection which could be obtained by including a recovery clause in the act, making it possible for the federal government to take back the plant should the purchaser, within a specified number of years, cease operation. Recovery should be optional but would be a device to prevent taking a utilization plant out of operation because of its competitive position.

If we can once get national leadership to realize that the public domain should be managed as a PARTNERSHIP with industry, rather than toyed with as a political football, it will be possible to create thousands upon thousands of new jobs, millions of dollars of new income, fuller utilization of natural resources, and stabilization of an industry which now has a history of economic highs and lows unequalled by almost any other industrial operation.

Gift Parcel Racker Is Discovered In Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 14.—(AP)—American officials reported Tuesday they have uncovered a gift parcel racket involving the shipment of huge quantities of goods from the United States to phony charitable groups in Germany.

military government agencies and German customs officials have launched a drive to crack the racket. U. S. customs officials said coffee, cigars, cocoa, chocolate, nylons, drugs and cloth are being shipped to the U. S. occupation zone as gift parcels and then resold on the black market. Regulations permit charitable groups to import bulk shipments duty-free.



Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

By Viahnett S. Martin

There were so many things to do that morning. But the rest of the day would go better for a half hour taken in clearing away some mental cobwebs acquired during a sleepless night. What I needed would be there at the top of the upward way, as I call the trail climbing steeply to the west line. Oh the times I wished, in city-life days, that I might walk in the woods.

Sometimes the "round trip" seems too much; then a walk along the lower level by the creek must do. But it is a joy to go up while the mist still is rising, and look across the canyon—it does something for one! Then to follow the zig-zag path, cleared for me by EJ and a visiting young sailor last year, down to the lower trail and back to the kitchen tasks again with a freshened outlook upon things.

(Last year a handsome black and white setter accompanied me for several months on those walks. Even today I see him in memory, bounding lightly along, pausing at the turnoffs until I would point up, or down, and

then tearing off again in another burst of speed, repeating the run two or three times as if a steep hill meant nothing to him! It was a joy to watch Victory's beautiful flowing leaps.)

I had no idea on this particular morning that treasure would be there on the trail, something I had wished so many times I might see! On a brittle, broken branch was fastened a tiny "cup" fashioned of moss, flaked with lichen, lined with a white cottony lining that was perhaps milkweed? You would have known instantly, as I did, that it was the nest made by those precious "winged jewels" with their long bills—hummingbirds! Oh, if only they finished with the nest before the twig fell! It was an exquisite bit of work. I shall be so glad to share it with the school children this fall!

It seemed no time after that before I stood at the top of the trail . . . and in a half hour I was back in the kitchen, accomplishing the day's task with a happy heart, the richer for the investment of time in the woods at the beginning of the day.

Congress Sidelights

By Harris Ellsworth
Congressman, 4th District of Oregon

No more than two weeks should be needed to complete the major items of legislative work necessary before adjournment. The Senate should act on the Atlantic treaty. Congress should finish the appropriation bills, several of which have not yet had Senate action, and then we should adjourn.

I suppose, however, the Administration and administration leaders in Congress will insist on keeping the session going several weeks more hoping that something might be done to prop up the sad record of this 81st Congress. If they do it will be a futile and costly effort.

In its first six months this Congress has passed only two laws which could be considered of outstanding importance. One was the bill to give the President powers for reorganization of the Executive departments. The other was the Housing bill.

The previous (80th) Congress did an amazing amount of good and constructive work. I said so in these letters at the time. I said it every time I could during the campaign last fall. Unfortunately, however, the most important voices than mine were maligning the 80th Congress. Now we have a chance, on the factual record, to compare the job we did in the first six months with what our defamers have done in the same period. The New York Times, in an editorial printed July 8th, gives the best summary I have seen, as follows:

"That Eightieth, in fact, now looks like something of a champion. By this time in 1947, and at the end of its own first 6 months of work, it had adopted the Greek-Turkish aid program; ratified peace treaties with Italy and the Axis satellites; approved a constitutional amendment limiting the Presidency to two terms; created the Hoover Commission on reorganization of the Government; passed the Taft-Hartley Act and the portal-to-portal pay law; and enacted a new tax law. Yes, this was a Republican Con-

gress, facing the difficulty of co-operating successfully with a Democratic President."

The good old days when Western members of the House of Representatives could make prompt reply by telegraph to urgent inquiries or requests from constituents ended July 1—unless we pay most of the telegraph bill out of our own pockets. Formerly all telegrams sent by Members on official business were paid for out of the legislative appropriation. There was no limit except that messages be confined to official business. It seemed like a reasonable arrangement to me. We always had to pay for our own telephone calls and that was fair enough since with mailing and telegraphing furnished we should be able to pay for our own official phone conversations.

What happened was that a bill was brought to the floor and passed one dull afternoon when most members were in committee or attending to office work. This bill provided for long distance telephone calls as well as telegrams—but limited the total amount to \$500 per year. The result, so far as Pacific Coast members are concerned, was to limit our telegrams to three or four PER WEEK—and that's all! Our telegrams, due to the distance, average about \$3 each.

The government will save no money by this arrangement. Few Eastern members were using \$500 worth of telegrams per year—but having the privilege of telephoning now, they will certainly use the full amount. The scheme was merely a redistribution of the communications cost with near by members gaining and members from a distance taking it on the chin. The irony of the whole thing reached a climax when Time Magazine with its usual sarcasm toward Congress reported that the House of Representatives had with "open handed generosity" voted itself an ADDITIONAL \$500 for telephone calls!

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

FLYING DISCS EXPLAINED

(Medford Mail Tribune)

A keen-eyed ex-navy lieutenant commander and some 150 townspeople of Longview, Wash., are ready to take oath they saw three flying discs swirl across the skies there last Sunday morning.

Moulton Taylor, he of the keen eyes, estimated height of the discs at 30,000 feet and their speed at 300 miles an hour. They had metal surfaces that gave off a reflection as they oscillated, he claimed.

According to news dispatches from Longview those who saw the flying objects were sure that they were not meteorological balloons, stars or planes.

And that caused us to dig up a memorandum recently received from "Borderland Sciences Research Associates," of San Diego, Calif., which makes the whole flying disc problem as clear as a mud puddle in the Big Sticky.

Contrary to popular belief, contends the B. S. R. A. memo, the flying objects are of very great importance; data in regard thereto would already fill a fair-sized volume. No official or scientific explanation worth attention has so far been offered, and since misunderstanding of them may have serious consequences, the memo is submitted to the public interest, say its authors.

First off the B. S. R. A. sets our minds at rest as to where the discs do not come from. "They do not come from worlds inhabited by 'dead' humans; they do not come from any level of the astral plane. But the region they come from is open (for many persons) to astral observation."

"They are not the invention or property of any foreign power, nor of the United States. They do not come from any other planet and there is no evidence that the sky visitors have any hostile intent."

Having reassured us to that extent, Borderland Sciences Research Associates gets down to the real business of explaining the flying saucers with the blunt revelation that they come from "Etheria."

Etheria, it is explained, is a place, a world, a material world, with objects and people and a great civilization—and it lies all about us, though invisible and unobtainable.

There is a spectrum of color, from red to violet, which might be called visible color, and it is pointed out, "there is also the infra-red and the ultra-violet, which we do not normally see and which might be called invisible colors. If any object has invisible colors we cannot see it. Then there is the spectrum of sound—a range of air vibrations which we can hear, and then other vibrations far above and below these, which are not audible at all."

By analogy, reasoning along this same line, there should be a spectrum of touch, also of tangibility, says the memorandum. This, it is admitted, is harder to understand. "We do not detect the presence of air or gases by touch, though they consist of material particles. Also, they pass through many forms of dense matter, just as do rays and radiations and lines of force."

Senate Committee Okays Appropriations For Record Program Of Reclamation

WASHINGTON, July 14.—(AP)—The biggest reclamation program yet has been approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee for the year which started July 1.

But the committee—which reported a \$590,685,911 Interior Department money bill to the senate—announced that it printed several controversial public power projects from the Reclamation bureau plans.

Gone from the bill as it was passed by the house were funds for the Central Valley "west side" transmission lines and steam plant, the Kerr-Anaconda Power Line in Montana, two power lines on the Colorado-Big Thompson project in Colorado, a power line and switchyards on the Anderson ranch dam project in Idaho, and several proposals of the Southwest Power Administration.

Cutting deep into the power program advanced by the Interior Department through several of its agencies, the committee indicated that, if private utilities will promise to do the job of delivering government power to preferred customers of the government, it is willing to give them the chance.

In each instance, the committee directed the Interior Department to report to the House and Senate by Jan. 1, 1950, on progress made on negotiating contracts with the private utilities for "wheeling" government power.

Most of the interior department-marketed public power is produced at reclamation dams. But for reclamation generally, the committee was liberal in its recommendations.

It voted to raise project construction funds to \$331,734,739 from the \$296,530,537 voted by the House.

Following are the amounts voted by the committee for Pacific Northwest reclamation projects. House figures are shown in parenthesis.

Columbia Basin, Wash., \$70,034,390 (\$59,075,000); Anderson ranch, Idaho, \$1,300,014 (\$1,642,200); Boise Payette division, Idaho, \$2,725,000 (\$2,316,250); Lewiston Orchards, Idaho, \$270,000 (\$229,500); Minidoka project, surveys for preconstruction, \$725,000 (same); Palisades, Idaho, \$205,000 (\$174,250); Deschutes, Ore., \$176,700 (\$153,000); Deschutes Arnold Irrigation district, Ore., \$38,000 (\$32,300); Deschutes Ochoco dam, Ore., \$1,150,000 (\$977,500); Deschutes - Grants Pass, \$100,000 (House allowed nothing); Klamath, Ore.-Calif., \$803,460 (\$850,000); Yakima, Roza division, Wash., \$413,205 (\$382,462).

Disapproved by the committee were \$50,000 for the proposed extension of power lines to Orcas Island in Washington, and a request for funds to construct the Canby substation in Oregon.

The committee said it had not approved \$297,000 in cash and \$85,000 in contract authority for the Ice Harbor power works provided in the house bill.

Bid On Federal Timber Exceeds Appraised Value

SALEM, July 14.—(AP)—Oral bidding on a tract of Federal Land Bureau timber in Benton County resulted Monday in a price 40 per cent higher than the agency's appraisal.

Rex Clemens, Philomath lumber operator, bid \$85,190 on the 5,420,000 feet offered. A. P. Collins, district forester, said the appraised value was \$60,808.

The oral sale here was a departure from the previous sales conducted by bureau officials. The only other bidder on the tract was the Yew Creek Logging Co., Corvallis. The two firms upped their offers 17 times before Clemens' final bid. His offer was based on \$17.50 per thousand feet for Douglas fir and \$5.35 for hemlock.

Drops Dead On Wishing He Would "If Guilty"

NUERNBERG, Germany, July 14.—(AP)—Friedrich Geyer, charged with being a major Nazi offender, said in his appeal before the denazification court Monday: "May I drop dead if that charge is true."

A few minutes later he fell dead in the courtroom. Doctors said he died of a stroke.

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In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

world's troubles will keep on multiplying instead of diminishing.

THE Philippines, South Korea and what is left of Nationalist China are proposing a Pacific front against Communism—to be brought about by means of a political and economic (but NOT military) alliance of the anti-Communist countries.

Let's put it this way: Suppose Chiang (who undoubtedly has great ability) could hold the island of Formosa and a part of the mainland of South China. Suppose he made this area an island of freedom and individual opportunity in Asia.

In the course of time, word of what was happening would seep out. It would be a powerful psychological influence. People all over Asia would say: "That must be a good place to live. I want to go there."

THE trouble with Nationalist China seems to be that there has been too little of that sort of thing. Over the years, the common Chinaman (in Nationalist China) got the idea that he might be better off under Communism than under government as provided by the Nationalist Kuomintang party.

That, more than anything else, explains the collapse of the Nationalist government and the successes of the Chinese Communists.

OVER here, by way of fixing O things up so that everything will be hotsy-totsy and nobody will ever have any more problems, we're talking about a new farm program under which consumers will get lower prices and farmers will get more money.

The program, a Washington dispatch explains, "proposes that many crops sell at what the market will pay and then payments (to the farmer) would be made in cash FROM THE TREASURY amounting to the difference between the average market price of a crop and the government's established support price."

In other words, let the farmer sell for what he can get and let the government make up the difference between that and what he OUGHT to GET.

BOY, how I'd like to run a hamburger stand on that basis! I'd sell hamburgers so cheap that everybody would buy from me, and all I'd have to do would be to send Uncle Sam a bill covering my losses and my expected profits.

ble ourselves in many ways, and are in many ways our superiors. The Etherians have learned how to increase the density of etheric matter so that the patterns may be thought of as being filled in by atoms of our plane.

Practically all the discs and other craft seen in our skies are experimental variants made by the Etheric people, who are never tired of trying out new ideas or improving the old ones.

B. S. R. A. modestly disclaims the ability to prove any of its contentions concerning the phenomenon, nor will it give any information thereon.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Windy Sure "Stopped The Show"

The other night a bunch of us were over at Judge Cunningham's watching a swell vaudeville program on his new television set. It came in fine, but just once, the screen got a little streaky.

Before the Judge could touch the knob to bring it into focus, old Windy Taylor starts fooling around with the antenna connection. "I can fix that!" he says.

"Windy fixed it all right. He 'stopped the show' for us, and Buzz Ellis had to come over and do a \$20 repair job. I understand

Windy feels so bad, that he's paying the bill and has apologized to the Judge for setting so smart.

From where I sit, it pays to practice a little restraint whenever we get the urge to meddle. Whether it's television or a person's right to enjoy a temperate glass of sparkling beer now and then—let's get a good clear "picture" of the real situation before we cause more harm than good.

Joe Marsh