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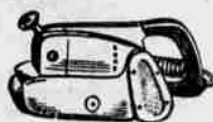
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Beetles Infest Spruce Forests Of Two States

VICTORIA, B. C. (AP) — Beetles have attacked spruce forests of Western Montana and Northern Idaho in such large numbers that the situation was described Thursday by an experienced forester as being of epidemic proportions.

E. C. Rettig, of Lewiston, timber manager of Potlatch Forests Inc., in an address to the 43rd annual meeting of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, declared stopping the outbreak constituted "a stupendous task."

The tree-killing culprit, he said, was the Englemann spruce bark beetle.

He said recent surveys indicated the potential timber kill might reach four billion board feet.

Only known effective way to combat bark beetles, he said, is to log infested trees while the broods are developing inside the bark.

This is being done on an unprecedented scale in the infested forests, threatening to upset timber harvesting and lumber marketing all over the Inland Empire.

"Normally spruce production in our region is less than 50,000,000 board feet a year," he explained. "Faced with the need for logging 100,000,000 feet this year, twice as much in 1953 and four times as much in 1954, our industry is at grips with a vast problem."

Tank Production To Be Cut Back

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army said Wednesday it plans to cut back production of medium tanks about 25 per cent from the original goal set for the spring of 1954.

An Army spokesman said the move to level off production means "no reduction in the total amount of equipment being purchased" but rather a rescheduling of deliveries.

The cutback also will affect manufacture of 2 1/2 ton trucks and bring a 22 per cent reduction in output of light tanks.

The spokesman said the new schedule of production will go into effect at the start of the next fiscal year—July 1, 1953.

Secretary of Defense Lovett had indicated last September that he thought the time was approaching when the production of some hard goods, including tanks, might be leveled off to what he described as a "sustaining rate."

Lovett said it was obvious if production were maintained at the rate then prevailing, the Defense Department would have to stabilize production at a sustaining rate because it will have accumulated enough tanks needed for U. S. armed forces and for the military assistance program before June 30, 1954.

From that point on, he said, the procurement program would be for two purposes:

1. Replacement of worn out or destroyed equipment.
2. Maintaining tank arsenals and similar war goods factories with enough orders to enable them to operate.

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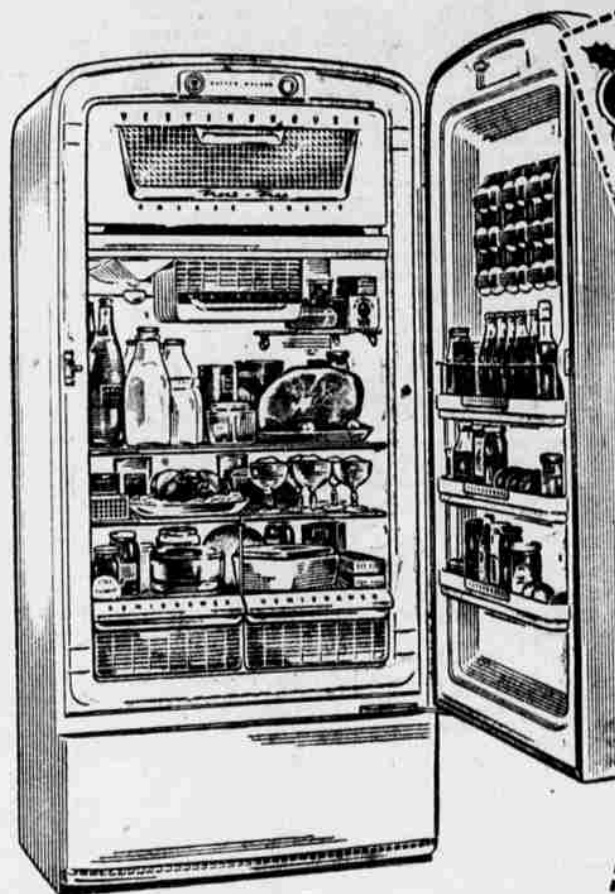


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