

The News-Review

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LUMBER COMPETITION

Charles V. Stanton

Many observers throughout the country are predicting that 1954 will probably establish new records for home construction in the United States. Applications for veterans' loans reportedly are up 80 per cent over last year. Lower FHA down payments, provided in legislation becoming effective in July, will produce another shot in the arm to the private building program, it is believed.

The prospect of a big building boom obviously is of great interest locally. Almost every new residence requires at least some lumber. Production of lumber is the economic support for this community. Thus, if the market will need more lumber than normally required, we should, it would seem, be in a position to improve employment and profits.

Unfortunately things aren't working according to previous pattern. There is no assurance that an increased demand for lumber will improve prices. Better demand should keep the market firm, but observers contend there is not apt to be much improvement in price.

Canadian Competition Hurts

The reason for this change from the normal condition is found in competition coming from Canada.

Until the last two or three years the bulk of Canada's lumber went into export trade other than with the United States. A drop in foreign demand, however, shunted more Canadian lumber into the New York market. British Columbia alone, it is reported, shipped 172 million board feet of lumber to Atlantic Coast markets during the first four months of this year. In the same period, lumber shipments from the Pacific Northwest to the Atlantic Coast totaled 192 million board feet.

Canada has a considerable edge over the Pacific Northwest in the matter of competition for eastern markets.

The wage scale in British Columbia is lower than in the Pacific Northwest. Material costs also are lower. A major advantage is found in transportation costs. By shipping in vessels of their own or foreign registry, Canadians using the water route to the East Coast save several dollars per thousand feet over Pacific Northwest mills using United States cargo carriers, where the wage scale is considerably higher than on foreign ships. The dollar exchange also is in Canada's favor. Thus our Northwest mills are facing tough competition which, it is feared, precludes any material advance in prices, although increased lumber usage should firm demand.

Tariff Wall Opposed

Some Northwest operators have been pleading with the national administration for tariffs designed to balance Canadian and Northwest lumber prices on eastern markets. But, because of reciprocal agreements involving a large number of products, coupled with the need for preserving Canadian friendship and cooperation as a military ally, there is much reluctance in Washington to erect tariff barriers.

Atlantic Coast wholesalers and retailers are, of course, exploiting the situation to their own advantage.

The current strike threat against Northwest mills also is a factor. Under normal conditions it would be expected that a shutdown would result in depletion of retail markets and thus boost prices. Operators, under those conditions, could even welcome a strike.

Faced with the danger of losing their markets to Canadian competition, however, operators are concerned about a shutdown, as they can foresee little or no price improvement resulting. Yet they claim they cannot raise wages and come out with a profit.

Unions, on the other hand, contend that the building boom assures a strong market, and that improvement in man-hour production justifies a wage boost.

Hal Boyle

By HAL BOYLE

BERLIN (AP)—There are cigarette butts on the streets of Berlin, the city with the split personality.

There are thousands of window flower boxes blooming in bright color.

To me these are more significant testimonials to the post-war recovery of the German capital, still the fulcrum of the East-West tug-of-war, than the sight of workmen raising tall scaffolding to repair damaged buildings.

In 1946 if a visitor flicked away a half-smoked cigarette, he would have found a pile of native hands grabbing for it before it hit the pavement. The collection of cigarette butts was a leading industry, as tobacco, coffee and sugar often took the place of money as a medium of exchange and a measure of value.

Even bankers tilted backyard gardens because food was so scarce, and few found time or energy to raise flowers. The window boxes were barren of bloom. The third most important sign of recovery is the disappearance of the look of fear and tawing from the eyes of the people who live here. In 1946 the typical Berlin look was that of a castaway animal, a homeless expression of cautious pleading that seeks friendship from a stranger. That look is gone altogether.

These signals of human recovery and a return to human dignity and self-confidence are far more impressive than Berlin's property recovery, the almost miraculous speed with which it is restoring its battered physical structure.

No city is in history ever took a more fearsome battering. Allied airplanes rained 75,000 tons of bombs on it. Russian artillery methodically shelled it for weeks in a calculated effort to reduce it to complete ruin.

As a result the city lost 500,000 lives, 38 per cent of the buildings in its 340-square-mile area were destroyed, and an additional 38 per cent were damaged. Although the debris has been piled up, engineers recently estimated 100 million tons of rubble still remained.

But the streets are thronged, new shops stocked with food, clothing or luxury goods open up regularly, and the squabbling gatherings of black market operators are gone.

The Allied-occupied Western sectors are peculiarly different. The Russians dramatically symbolized Berlin's property revival with a concentrated show window reconstruction of Stalin Allee. Big yellow-tiled apartment buildings and street shops, Russian in design and as impersonal as sardines in a can, line that thoroughfare for miles. But step one block away and you are back in uncleaned debris.

The problem of unemployment is greater in the Allied sector, of course, the chief reason being that 335,737 refugees poured across from the East in 1953, some 37,419 more in the first four months of this year.

Whether they come in quest of food or the political and spiritual nourishment of a freer world, they do come. Despite this flood of ref-

Editorial Comment

HIGH COST OF RUNNING FOR OFFICE

Salem Capital Journal

We note with surprise that the recent Republican gubernatorial campaign, which so many profess to have been bored by, proved to be quite a costly show.

Governor Patterson's state committee reports spending \$40,169, a sum that "ain't hay" even in these inflated days, while Earl Newberry's committee reports spending \$22,494 in its unsuccessful campaign against Patterson. Even Senator Cordon's committee, supporting a man who had no opposition in the primary, spent \$705. County committees for the gubernatorial candidates spent additional sums. Newberry's committee in his home county of Jackson spent \$1955.

For instance, several thousand more dollars must have been spent for each man throughout the state by local committees.

We do not comment on these amounts because they are unusually large by previous Oregon standards, for they are not. Twice as much and more has been spent before. What does surprise us is that so much was spent in what all observers agreed was a quiet campaign that caused little stir among the voters. If it cost so much to put on this sort of limited effort, \$100,000 or more would be required for campaigns of the intensity of many we have witnessed in this state in earlier days when you could do so much more with so much less.

Most people will agree that the Patterson-Newberry efforts were well within proper limits, and no more if as much as needed to reach Oregon's far-flung voting populace. There was newspaper, billboard, radio and television advertising in modest amounts, all clearly required to publicize a candidate, and a limited amount of traveling expense for candidates and active workers. But not enough to cause a very big stir.

Clearly political candidates are costly and likely to discourage many who might otherwise aspire. Only the very rich can finance their own and there are few such available. Nor do we want to decide so limited. Then the candidate must depend on his friends, which is fine if he has them and up to a point.

Beyond this he is dependent upon those who expect to benefit by his election. This also is fine—up to a point, the point where the benefit is a general benefit. But if our candidates must shape their commitments to get large bloc support, whether from business, industrial, labor or other groups with special interests of their own to promote the effect will be very bad.

The high cost of running for major office is a serious problem for which we have no present solution, but one the public cannot afford to ignore.

Interpreter Red Faced In Translating Speech

GENEVA (AP)—The face of the English-language interpreter at a North Korean press conference turned as red as his country's policies Saturday.

Relating what Nam Il, the North Korean foreign minister, said at the Palais Des Nations, the interpreter gave this version:

"Nam Il expressed full support for Soviet Foreign Minister V.M. Molotov's five points, including guarantees for Korea's reconstruction by the nations most interested in war in the Far East."

He paused, in apparent horror at what he'd said and then quickly added, "I mean those nations who are interested in peace in the Far East."

Reader Opinions

Urges Schools' Friends To Vote 'Yes' On Budget

ROSEBURG — Are there any people left who believe in the old saying, "If you can't say anything good — don't say anything at all"? I am a taxpayer but I am also one of the people on the inside looking out, and I feel that a recent letter (June 9) should, in my opinion not go unanswered. I quote from this letter, "There is only one good thing about the school set-up, in my opinion, and that is that it makes jobs for someone." I am wondering if people realize that teachers do not teach because of "the job" but rather because of "the children."

The writer of this letter, and others who think as he does should come to the school and ask to visit the rooms where "foolishness" is the theme. I am sure these people would have their eyes opened. The three "R's" are as much a part of the program today as they were years ago. We do add a few things to the curriculum to create and maintain interest.

I know nothing of "marble halls" to study in. I am one of those teachers "for whom a job was created" and I taught in the barracks building, comfortable and pleasant. In fact we had no balls at all. Our pupils went outside and along a wooden porch to rest rooms and fountain. The stairs leading up from the street were wooden and rotted and several evenings I stood on the steps and guided first graders across them to the bus; then the custodian would carefully mend the steps so that they would be safe for the while longer. Are these the travesties of the past mentioned in the letter?

There are many other issues I should like to talk about. Come and talk to your school people, visit your schools and then form an honest opinion.

Parent and friends of the school let's vote "yes" on the budget June 21.

M. WISHART
811 Fleeter Street
Roseburg, Ore.

Strikes Remembered During New Deal Days

GLENDALE — In a recent issue of the News-Review there appeared the statement that all through good old days of the New Deal and the Fair Deal all our labor troubles were settled without strikes. Now I wonder if I am getting old and forgetful or imaginative? It seems to me that I remember all through the twenty years of Democratic rule that there were many strikes.

It seems that the idea that this writer was putting across was that the operators of the lumber industry should concede to the demands of the labor leaders and wage across with the increase in wages and other things so as to save the Republican Party from immediate, complete and permanent defeat. He seems to think that there is not a doubt in anybody's mind that this dispute is directly caused by the policies of the present administration.

We all know that this country has been living on a stimulant for the last more than twenty years. And I wonder if anybody thinks that it can prosper on a red budget forever? Does anybody doubt that Mr. Truman saw the handwriting on the wall?

All through the growing period of the inflation it was easy for labor to win a raise in wages, as

for barring him from secret work when they were far wider and more active, how are they now?

The answer is simply that the board is operating under new and more rigid security regulations than existed earlier.

Clearly the board felt the weight of these restrictions in all its very careful deliberations. It seems to have been influenced, too, by what it said was a lack of candor on Oppenheimer's part, and a notion that the scientist was somewhat arrogant in deciding with whom he could safely associate.

The AEC must now determine whether a man is a security risk who insists on clinging to certain possibly dubious associations and yet, on this board's own declaration, is the very model of discretion in keeping his nation's secrets. If there is any contradiction, it would appear to be here.

As for the board's statement that the H-bomb project might have been more rapidly advanced if Oppenheimer, who opposed it, had shown more "enthusiasm" for it, the outsider can only be mystified.

The board seems to be condemning Oppenheimer because he later proved to be wrong. But when the government hires scientists to advise it, surely it does not expect them all to agree on the wisdom or feasibility of particular projects. And if they should disagree with a project later approved and found effective, why should they be expected to show enthusiasm?

Obviously, in the board's own view, such a lack of enthusiasm proves nothing about a man's loyalty. Just how does it affect his security status?

Oppenheimer is an adviser to the government. If the government thought his advice bad, why not just drop him? Trying to measure the quality of his advice in security terms is pretty tricky.

All these matters the AEC must now review, in a case that is a test not only of Oppenheimer but of the whole security system which attempts to gauge the suitability of such men for vital government work.

Defends Public Schools From 'Insinuations'

ROSEBURG — Might I be favored by the use of your columns to answer the insinuations of J. Miller, I call them insinuations because they are not based on fact and reflect the writer's ignorance of things as they actually exist.

I have no children of my own, but I did spend over two years in the South Pacific in support of the principles of American living. Among these, the public schools rate high in my estimation, as the training area for worthwhile American citizenship.

I have spent 12 years as custodian and maintenance carpenter in the public schools of a southern Oregon city. As a result of this experience, I am familiar with the problems facing modern schools. Naturally, like any homeowner and taxpayer, I am alert to waste and have personally inquired relative to the Roseburg school system.

Do you know that the Roseburg school system contains 32 buildings on 14 sites, and that it extends from Wilbur on the north, to Green School on the south, from Melrose and Garden Valley to the west to the Glide school district on the east? Also, that these buildings contain 446,331 sq. ft., or 10.23 acres of floor space requiring cleaning and maintenance? That they are covered by 32,446 sq. ft. of roof and have a total valuation of \$5,334,494.97? Also, do you know that the average square foot cost of all new buildings in this district is consistently lower than the national average for like buildings? I cannot detect from Mr. Miller's letter, whether his epistle is a plea for economy or an appeal to laziness and class discussion.

There is only one good thing about the school set-up in my opinion and that is it makes jobs for someone. I am glad to note that is "his" opinion, as I am sure it does not reflect the thinking of the majority of Roseburg people. He is entitled to his opinion, and as a veteran and homeowner I am entitled to mine. Mine is that so long as we maintain the best possible facilities for public education, we still have faith in our country and do not believe, as he believes, that we have passed the zenith of our civilization.

Did you know that even with the graduation of 238 seniors from high school, there will be 639 first graders next year, which will make a net increase of 401 in the total enrollment? This information was taken from the school census of last November, which shows the pupils already here. I appreciate the possibility of "movements" from the area which would reduce the incoming first graders.

Do you have advance information on this? If Mr. Miller's letter is an appeal for economy, he indicates a definite fallacy in reasoning and shows a lack of facts. The first six grades of the Roseburg schools are self-contained classrooms, wherein the teacher teaches all subjects. Beginning in the seventh grade, a portion of the program is departmentalized. This teaches the student to be responsible and punctual in class attendance. Beginning with the eighth grade, through high school, this departmentalized program is carried out.

This makes for economy and better education in that specialists in the various fields are employed. Is it not more economical to equip the required rooms for typing, science, music, bookkeeping and all the various types of subjects taught, rather than trying to equip all rooms with the needs of all types of courses?

I resent Mr. Miller's implication that as a taxpayer I am a "sucker." At least I did investigate and the same information is open to all who would investigate. The flag that was raised over

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

the price of cocoa beans exported from his country keep going up and up he replied:
"Because we want more money."

That reminds me of a tale they used to tell on George Baldwin, an early Southern Oregon hardware merchant. A woman came to town one day to buy a broom and went first to George's competitor across the street, who priced the broom she wanted at a dollar. Being thrifty, she crossed over to George's establishment to shop around. He wanted \$1.25.

"But, Mr. Baldwin," the customer asked, "why do you want \$1.25 for the identical broom your competitor is selling for a dollar?"

George was as frank as the African prince. He answered:
"Hell, woman, I want to make more money than he does."

Speaking of money, there's a puzzled woman down in Santa Monica. She's a riveter at an aircraft plant and she gets \$1.83 an hour — and has no side income. The other day she got a government check for \$4181 as a refund on her income tax. She thinks there's a screw loose, because according to her figures the refund is about \$4,000 TGO MUCH.

She wants to return the check, but the income tax office is open only during the hours she is at work and she's afraid that if she just drops it in the box it will get lost in the mails and then she would be in a pickle.

So she lies awake at night and worries about it.

Wouldn't she have been surprised if the mails had got tangled and she had got a BILLION DOLLAR check for the money the government found it had too much of in the foreign aid bill a while back?

What's the matter?
Is our government run by numbskulls whose fingers are all thumbs?

No, it isn't that. The federal government of the United States is just getting TOO BIG for mortal man to handle.

What's the answer?
Here's one answer:
Turn more government BACK to the statehouses, the courthouses and the city halls.

Two Jims was put there by students of an earlier generation. It is my hope such a sacrifice will not again be necessary, but if it is, I want a physically strong, mentally trained and alert generation to maintain freedom at that time.

L. W. ROBINSON,
P.O. Box 962
Roseburg, Oregon.

Scout Council Camp Will Open Sunday

FLORENCE (AP)—Boy Scouts of the six counties composing the Oregon Trail Council will open a seven-week summer camping season at their new Camp Tsiticos next Sunday.

The camp, located on a 125-acre peninsula which extends nearly a mile into Siletco Lake five miles south of here, is expected to attract some 1,200 boys from more than 60 Scout troops during its first season of operation.

A staff of 17 will administer the camp. The complete camp development will cost an estimated \$200,000. A capital funds campaign has realized a total of \$130,000 so far.

The camp includes central dining facilities, 10 developed troop sites and a variety of recreational facilities including a swimming dock and rifle range.

Gray Ladies to Meet
All Gray Ladies in the local area have been asked to attend a meeting Friday, June 18, at 2 p.m. in the Red Cross office of the Armory, Roseburg.

Mrs. Cecil Smith, chairman, said the meeting would be important, and urged attendance of all the ladies involved.

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industry could lack a raise onto the price of its product to make it up, but now it seems that time is about past. I wonder if it is desired to let the lumber industry go the path that was trod by the coal industry?

C. E. YOUNG
Glendale, Oregon

Dear Editor:

... the letters start. Then from all over the free world come such comments as these from readers of THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, an international daily newspaper:

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