

The News-Review

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FIBER FROM LIGNIN

By Charles V. Stanton

Experiments indicating that a nylon-like fiber may be manufactured from lignin are interesting Congressman Charles O. Porter of Oregon's Fourth Congressional District, according to a report from his office in Washington.

Lignin is the substance which binds wood fibers in a tree. In the manufacture of pulp and paper this lignin must be broken down and the wood fibers separated. Following separation, lignin and other chemicals are residual. In nearly all pulp and paper operations in this country the residuals are dumped into the nearest creek or river, where they rob the water of oxygen and thereby smother aquatic life.

The chemical breakdown of lignin is under widespread experimentation. It is predicted that this most powerful of Nature's adhesives eventually will find many profitable uses. Some experimenters, in fact, say that the effluent from a pulp mill eventually will be more valuable than the fiber now recovered.

If the experiment of producing a fiber from lignin proves successful, thus providing a method for reducing stream pollution, now an objectionable feature of paper production, it will be a great boon to this section of Oregon, where the pulp industry eventually will become an important operation.

Processes Available

But, assuming that the experiment proves successful and that a usage for lignin in the manufacture of fabrics is proven possible, do we have any assurance that the process soon will be converted into operating industry?

Few people in the wood industry today are trained or experienced in fields of chemical utilization. It is certain that no small or medium operator will invest money in chemical utilization when all he knows about wood production revolves around the saw. Perhaps a few of the larger companies maintaining chemical divisions may interest themselves. On the other hand, because of tax structure, conflicting interests, pressures, etc., some of the big outfits possibly would not undertake to pioneer a new process.

Oregon State College laboratories, for example, found a method for extracting wax from fir bark. Thousands of tons of fir bark are destroyed each year by burning in our Western Oregon mills. In addition to yielding wax, Douglas fir bark can be made to supply valuable chemicals and medicines. Several companies have investigated the process. It is known that it will work. However a considerable amount of money must be spent in building a plant, experimenting with production techniques, developing markets, etc. So far no private company has found it economically feasible to install production facilities.

During the last World War the federal government established at Springfield, Oregon, a plant for the manufacture of commercial alcohol from wood waste. The process was satisfactory. Some "bugs" were found in the equipment. It would have been necessary to spend a substantial sum of money to rebuild a part of the plant.

Federal Aid Needed

Because the plant was producing commercial alcohol in competition with grain and sugar cane, efforts to get appropriations from Congress ran into opposition. The plant was put up for surplus sale. Several large concerns nibbled, but none was willing to put up the money necessary to prove the process.

The Forest Service Laboratory at Madison, Wis., has on tap a number of chemical utilization processes needing pioneering. Existing tax structures do not make it attractive for private risk capital to go into experimental ventures. They are long gambles. Long gambles should pay off, if they succeed, with long profits. But today's tax structure prevents long profits, so why should private investors gamble on unproven processes?

The federal government owns one-half the timber in Oregon. That timber is to be cut on a sustained yield pattern. Unless this pattern is broken down, the federal government will be taking profits off the public domain for hundreds of years in the future. If through better utilization, profits could be increased only a few dollars per acre of timber harvested, the federal government over a century of operation would be able to count its revenue gains in millions of dollars. It therefore can well afford to do some pioneering in connection with new processes affecting wood utilization.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK — Things a columnist might never know

if he didn't open that old mailbox:

That when a New Orleans church installed air conditioning

its attendance increased 44 per cent.

That judo, the Japanese art of

using a competitor's strength

against himself, is helpless

against an aggressor with a pas-

sive attack. ("I'll explain this

broken arm later.")

That Henry Castello, a machine

gunner in the Second World War

who now operates a popular rest-

aurant in midtown Manhattan

called "The Press Box," gives

this tip: "Cabbage juice for liver

sufferers."

That in the 1890s peanut butter

was recommended for invalids.

That the average life of a dollar

bill is from nine months to a year

... without vitamins.

That Queen Anne was the only

British lady sovereign who was so

fat she had to be lifted to her

throne.

That it says right here a 10-

second kiss transfers twice as

many germs as a two-second kiss

... to really poison a girl takes

time!

That a professional entertainer

whose act is built around his abil-

ity to walk a rope is called a

funambulist.

That practically everyone is

aware of the fact that Demos-

thenes, the great orator of ancient

Reader Opinions

GOC Observer Calls Attention To Duties

I wish to speak of a news item which should have received more attention. The Oakland, Calif., Tribune and Portland Journal each gave it front page space.

I am referring to the Civil Defense "Readiness Alert" which we had last Friday forenoon, June 7.

The Readiness Alert was next to a real attack, and the entire United States was alerted. Hundreds of Air Force pilots throughout Canada and the U.S. were on an alert status for over an hour because a radar picked up a large number of unidentified planes over northern Canada. The alert was called off after the planes were identified as friendly. We were not informed of the nationality of the planes.

Our own part in this alert was to call some 24 observation posts throughout Douglas County, which was accomplished within half an hour's time. If there are some who doubt that statement, they don't know of our cooperative, efficient, long distance telephone operator who has our sequence list and calls go through on the double — no delays.

If we hadn't had an observation post, we would have been in a bad spot as it could have been a real attack, with no one throughout the county having any warning.

Perhaps many think people shouldn't be frightened. Let me observe in passing, our citizens, and especially those who belittle the post duties, should be jolted out of their complacency.

I've had it said to me that the post is just to make children and old ladies think they are helping. They will find that there are lots of young men and women, middle aged and older, who go regularly, some once a month, others once or twice each week, some have small children and work also, but they go.

There are also some people who would go to the post but just are not able. We also have a number of businessmen and women who do their bit by taking time out during business hours or any time, day or night, to furnish transportation to an observer who required.

You hear people who say an observer should be paid. The government spends so much money needlessly — which is true to a certain extent. But until it is on a paid basis, it is certainly a duty and a privilege to put in a few hours each month to help even in a small way to protect our American way of life.

We have people who come as far as ten or twelve miles to put in two or four hours sky watching. Scout troop 31 from Sutherlin and Oakland take a twenty-four hour shift each month. This month they are taking the three day shift.

I presume it seems rather prosaic to some to do sky watching — not enough personal mention about what they are doing — but there is excitement at times; for instance, when a plane is unaccounted for.

In closing, I'd like to say we can always use new recruits, especially the midnight to 4 a.m. shifts and 4 to 8 a.m. shifts. Recently, a man who works a swing shift went directly from his work to the post and was on duty from midnight until 4 a.m. We have a grand bunch of sky watchers — watching or getting word that we hope never to see or hear — an enemy plane.

My telephone number is OR 3-7388 in case you wish to call me. I will be glad to answer any questions you may wish to ask.

Mrs. Cora Meyers
Chief Observer,
Roseburg Observation Post

Ellis Cab Controversy

News Coverage Praised

I personally think the Truman Ellis story has been very well covered by The News-Review.

In a country like the United States we all have the right to express our own opinions. Mr. Ellis evidently felt that he had an opinion to express.

So, more power to him for standing up for what he considers his rights!

I am sure other residents of Roseburg and surrounding areas have been wondering what the City Council does with its time. Now, at last, we have an idea, thanks to Mr. J. Knudson.

Mrs. Sally Hughes
Box 540
Glide, Ore.

\$25,000 Damage Sought In Suit

Nearly \$25,000 damages are being sought in a lawsuit as a result of a 1956 auto collision on Highway 101 in Reedsport.

Charging negligence on the part of two drivers is Jacomina Mack, who is suing Leo Walker and Fred Kuiper. The plaintiff's complaint states that as a passenger in the vehicle driven by Walker the plaintiff suffered whiplash injuries to the spine.

The plaintiff charges that Kuiper's car hit Walker's and that Kuiper was driving at excessive speed and suddenly changed traffic lanes. Walker is sued for changing lanes without seeing if it could be safely done.

The suit asks for \$25,000 general damages and \$424.80 special damages.

Workers Seeking Jobs On Dams Cause Problems

Workers coming to Utah for jobs on the planned Flaming George and Glen Canyon dams are causing a welfare and housing problem for the communities of Vernal and Kanab, Utah.

Construction is not under way on these projects yet. Job openings from those projects will be listed with the State Employment Service office in Roseburg as the need arises. The only demand now is for professional engineers, according to C. E. Riley, manager of the employment office.

Alcohol Figures Cited As Problem In Oregon

We heartily commend The News-Review for recent publication of factual information relative to our national rating with regard to liquor consumption, as stated by L. F. Reizenstein and the resume of Dr. R. G. St. Pierre's "Startling Figures Listed On Consumption of Alcohol in U.S."

Mr. Reizenstein observed that "Wages in Oregon have dropped below the national average but concurrent liquor consumption in Oregon showed the highest individual average in proportion to population of any state in the Union."

Dr. R. G. St. Pierre stated that "Sixty-five million people (in the U.S.) over the age of fifteen, consume liquor in some quantities — and 'the rate of drinking continues to rise alarmingly.' Now, let us face up to facts. What are we going to do about it? We can do something, you know, before it is too late, if we make a concerted effort. Now is the time! There are those who say, 'Alcoholism is a disease.' Very well, if it is a disease, instead of just nursing the victims, why do we not take the steps necessary to eradicate the disease? If it is a disease, why do we sell the privilege of promoting the disease as a commercial enterprise, with profit to the promoter who uses every device of advertising and propaganda to increase the spread of the disease?"

Isn't enough to "Keep Oregon Clean" let us get busy and "Keep Oregon Clean!" Our institutions are bulging with the by-products of liquor traffic. Our taxpayers are crying out that the burden of maintenance is unupportable, and our own beautiful Oregon bearing the stigma of the most liquor-soaked state of the 48, becoming increasingly so daily.

If any of these matters concern you, then the alcohol problem is a concern of yours. We invite you to come, work shoulder to shoulder with us. We are those who dare to stand up and be counted. We will be heard! We shall achieve!

Ruth Marie Michelle
Coordinating Secretary
Women's Christian
Temperance Union
430 S.E. Leland
Roseburg, Ore.

Private Power Called Unattractive To Industry

To The Editor — I read your editorial in favor of the Idaho Power Co. erecting three small dams. You are in favor of the tax write-off, indicating it would get the dams in operation in a short time, attracting factories to this area, giving employment to many workers.

Now, Mr. Editor, you know the high rates a private power company would charge would not attract anybody. They would go to Tacoma or Seattle where they have public ownership of utilities. Do you think the voters in Washington and Oregon are foolish? Why did they elect Magnusson, Jackson, Morse and Neuberger? Congressmen Russell Mack (R) from Washington, made this statement: "We want public ownership of utilities. We will not have private ownership on the partnership plan."

We will not have cheap power with the Idaho Power company. The consumers will pay the high taxes and give them the dam. The majority of the voters in Douglas County are for public power and we believe in Senators Morse and Neuberger. Also Rep. Charles O. Porter.

Mr. Editor, you call us public power people Socialists. Is the U.S. postal service operated by Socialists? Would you be in favor of giving our postal service to the Wall Street Bankers? In your way of thinking our public school system is socialist. Would you turn our schools over to private enterprise? Do you believe we should do away with social security payments for elderly people, also civil service pensions? These are socialist.

I am asking you to publish this letter. Are you in favor of doing away with everything socialist? Do you believe private enterprise should take over the post office department and the schools? The U.S. Army and the Navy? Should they all be turned over to the Wall Street bankers?

Warren L. Webb
1030 NW Garden V. Blvd.
Roseburg, Ore.

\$50,000 Damages Asked For Accident Injuries

Hefty damages are sought in a circuit court lawsuit filed this week by Elbert S. Lane, names Vern and Esther Stewart as defendants. He alleges that on Sept. 6, 1956, he was driving a truck — trailer south on Highway 101 approximately 15 miles north of Florence. As he was approaching a left hand turn, he claims, the defendants pulled around him and passed, then skidded in front of his truck, and zigzagged from side to side. Lane states he was forced to veer his truck sharply to the left and overturned.

This resulted in extensive injuries, he charges, and asks \$50,000 general damages and \$4,361 special damages.

Commercial Halibut Season To End June 17

SEATTLE — The International Pacific Halibut Commission has ordered Pacific waters between Heceta Head, Ore., and Cape Spencer, Alaska, closed June 17.

Director H. A. Dunlop said the commission expects that fishing fleets of the United States, Canada and Alaska will have taken the total quota of 26,900,000 pounds of halibut by the deadline.

Waters to be closed are in Area 2, offshore between Willapa Bay, Washington, north to Cape Spencer, and south to Area 12, from Willapa Bay to Heceta Head.

Kefauver Charges Agencies Suppressing Information

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) —

Sen. Kefauver (D-Tenn.) said Saturday that "nonsensitive" agencies of government are suppressing public information to save themselves "possible embarrassment."

In a speech prepared for a bar convention, Kefauver said the State Department has been guilty of such tactics in recent dealing in the Middle East.

"Some of you may recall the controversy growing out of the shipment of American tanks to Saudi Arabia, and the complete blank that Congress drew when it attempted to learn some details of the Eisenhower doctrine," he said.

"This habit has invaded the domestic affairs of our country as well. Any day in Washington you can find officials 'protecting' the people from information which might upset them."

"One of these issues is public power. I have seen the stamp of secrecy under many different forms — executive privilege, secret trades, restricted reports. We went all through that in Dixon-Yates. We are going through it again in Hells Canyon."

Kefauver, a public power supporter, has been critical of the administration for granting a fast tax writeoff to the Idaho Power Co.

This firm is building three dams on the Snake River in Hells Canyon. Kefauver favors a federal dam there.

He also fought the now-cancelled Dixon-Yates contract under which a private utility group would have built a steam plant at West Memphis, Ark., to feed power into the Tennessee Valley Authority system.

Kefauver criticized Secretary of State Dulles for refusing to allow the stationing of American newsmen in Communist China. Dulles has indicated he would approve a "one-shot" visit of newsmen but contends there is no legal way to grant visas for any lengthy stay of reporters in that country.

"This is the very opposite of a properly informed policy," Kefauver said.

"These American reporters will not be there as agents of this or any other government. They would be there simply to report to you and to me what is going on in China. We have a right to know."

"The Chinese have said they may enter. We have said they may not. We need not be afraid to know the truth. We need to know only not to know the truth."

Japanese Socialists Make Issue Of Girard Case

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Socialists declared Saturday the Girard case is an example of why American troops should leave Japan.

About 3,000 Socialists attended an outdoor rally in a downtown park and framed "instructions" for Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi to follow on his coming visit to the United States. The Socialists are the chief opposition of Kishi's conservative government.

Later a seven-man Socialist delegation delivered copies of the resolutions to the U.S. Embassy. The rally was orderly. But about 300 students, who the Socialists said attached themselves to a column leaving the rally, tried to force entrance to the Japanese Defense Board building as the Socialists marched past. There was a brief scuffle before police drove off the students.

The Socialists demanded the scrapping of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and withdrawal of all American servicemen from Japanese soil.

They said the death of Mrs. Naka Sakai, 46, on a military firing range last January was an example of incidents caused by the stationing of American troops in Japan and one reason why Kishi should work for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops.

American soldier William S. Girard, of Ottawa, Ill., is accused in an indictment before a Japanese court of causing the death of Mrs. Sakai by hitting her with an empty cartridge case fired from a grenade launcher.

Attorneys acting for Girard are trying by legal action in the United States to block his trial. They contend that Mrs. Sakai was gathering scrap metal on the range, was trespassing on U.S. property and Girard shot her accidentally.

Ullman Proposes Recreation Areas In New Projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Ullman (D-Ore.) has asked Congress to authorize development of recreational facilities in all future flood control and reclamation projects.

He accompanied his overall request for future projects with a similar bill to authorize basic recreational features in the Owyhee reservoir area of Oregon.

In a statement Friday accompanying introduction of his two bills, Ullman said the development of recreational and fish and wildlife potentials of flood control projects are a part of a "true multi-purpose resource development."

Referring specifically to the Owyhee project, the Oregon Congressman said that area "presents one of the greatest potentials for recreational developments in the Pacific Northwest."

Under his proposal, the Owyhee facilities would be built by the federal government but operated and maintained by the state.

The nursery is financed through the Soil Bank Act program and is designed primarily to provide tree planting stock under the conservation reserve provisions of the act. Any surplus stock can go into regular field planting. The first 2-year-old seedlings will be available during the planting season of 1958-59.

Grange Opposes Aid Program For Beef Industry

BEND (AP) — The Oregon State Grange voiced its opposition to a federal aid program for the beef industry Wednesday and picked Eugene for its 1958 session.

The grangers, in the midst of their annual five-day session, followed traditional policy on the resolution which would have brought Grange backing for a program of federal help to cattlemen. The Grange opposes, in general, federal subsidies.

In selection of Eugene for the meeting next June, the Grange bypasses invitation from Baker, La Grande and Grants Pass.

Voting on the resolutions the Grange.

Rejected a proposal to enforce erosion control in the John Day area proposed by the Grant County Grange.

Decided to ask the State Fair Board and directors of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition to allocate funds for county exhibits at those shows;

Recommended a pooling arrangement for better equipment use in forest fires;

Favored establishment of a branch state agricultural station in the northern Willamette Valley; and

Proposed that loggers be required to post performance bonds to assure that soil erosion and stream pollution will be reduced.

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

(Continued From Page One)

financial affairs have been so well managed that she has a treasury surplus in her cash drawer instead of a deficit. The Canadian dollar commands a premium over the American dollar, which is the standard unit of monetary value throughout the world.

And so on.

And yet—

At their election the other day—Canada's voters threw the Liberal party out on its ear and gave to the opposing Conservative party a plurality of the seats in the Canadian parliament.

How come?

Maybe, you will be tempted to say, the Canadians are getting tired of liberal government and find themselves leaning back toward conservatism.

That theory has a plausible sound, but it doesn't wholly fit the facts of the situation. Canada's Liberal party hasn't been too liberal with other people's money (meaning money taken out of the taxpayers' pockets)—which is a cynical but not altogether inaccurate definition of "liberalism" in modern politics.

Canada's finances have been rather conservatively administered by the Liberals during their 22-year tenure of power.

And—

In their recent political campaign—Canada's Conservatives wobbled quite a bit from the traditional

conservative line. Among other things, they spoke in the same breath of CUTTING taxes and INCREASING social benefits such as old age pensions.

So we can't be too sure that the voting in Canada indicated a drift back toward traditional conservatism.

Then—

Of course—

There is the historic case of Aristides, called "The Just." He had been in office for a long time. He had done a good job. But the mercenary Greeks worried of him and held an election in which they voted him out—"ostracism," they called it.

Aristides, strolling the streets while the balloting was going on, came upon a citizen who had just emerged from what passed in ancient Greece for the polling place.

"How did you vote?" he asked. "Oh," the citizen replied, "I voted against this Aristides."

"Why did you do that?" Aristides queried. "Is he an evil man?" "Oh, no," the citizen answered. "He's a good enough man. I'm just sick and tired of hearing him called 'The Just.'"

Voting, you see, is a strange thing. You can't always tell why people vote as they vote. Maybe they don't always know themselves. For that reason, analysis of election results can never be an exact science.

I suspect, however, that in this case the Canadians were influenced in their balloting by the fact that the Liberals had been in power for 22 years. That is a long time.

No lesson of history is clearer than this:

TOO MUCH POWER HELD IN TOO FEW HANDS TOO LONG IS BAD BUSINESS.

I have an idea the Canadians just felt in their bones that it was time for a change.

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