

The News-Review

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TIMBER POLICY

By Charles V. Stanton

It isn't often that I comment on a letter written to some other newspaper.

However, Thornton T. Munger recently said something in *The Oregonian* that I've been trying to get into this column for years. I've said it in different ways. Munger lays it on the line and minces no words. In my opinion, the facts need repeating, particularly now that the U.S. Forest Service is under such extreme pressure from some mill operators and their representatives.

The Forest Service, according to news reports, is being charged with failure to sell up to the allowable cut, failure to sell certain timber, failure to sell in small lots, etc.

The Forest Service gave figures to show it is selling up to allowable cut and denied many charges.

Personally, I fail to see where we are getting by any argument to sell more logs. Our recession was caused by the fact that we overproduced lumber. The more logs offered for sale, the quicker we will again be overproducing and be back in depression. There is no industry I know of that has been up and down as often as has the lumber industry.

Reasons Evident

We might as well face the facts. What the small mill wants is a log at as low a price as possible, so a profit is available. Consequently, the mill operator and his representatives want more logs. More logs mean less competition and lower price. I don't blame the small mill for wanting.

The small mill also wants smaller sales. The Forest Service has had to hold big enough sales to cover the cost of road building. The operator has had to build the road. In some cases the sales have been at considerable distance from one another, so that road would be built in front of tracts to be offered later. Only big operators have money with which to build roads. Congress has not given the Forest Service money with which to build, condemn nor maintain access roads. A news item recently said the Forest Service would use its powers of condemnation, but that power definitely is limited.

Munger recites in his letter that Oregon's lumber capacity is far ahead of growth capacity and that some mills must fold. That's a hard thing to say, but it is true, much as we hate to admit it. He said that condemnation of the Forest Service comes largely from "cut-out and get-out" operators who have exhausted their own timber. Conversely, says he, a few years ago lumbermen were begging the Forest Service not to sell timber because federal timber would compete with private timber on a saturated market.

The Forest Service, says Munger, has increased its stumpage sales from 129 million board feet in 1930 to more than 2 1/4 billion feet in 1958.

To charges that disease, blowdown and other factors are "wasting" timber, he raises the argument that price increases offset all losses. He also points out that while critics claim Forest Service stumpage prices are threatening financial disaster, all sales are made on competitive bid. If someone couldn't make a profit, there wouldn't be a bid that high.

Munger closes his letter with a statement that we already are cutting our virgin timber too rapidly and that the Forest Service is acting wisely in refusing to up its rate of cut.

Limit Is Needed

Munger, I believe, has a lot of truth in what he writes. Maybe he goes to extremes, in some cases, but, for the most part, I agree with what he has written.

There is no question that we are overproducing. That is reflected in demand and price. We are overproducing because we have too much installed capacity. We also are cutting more logs into timber, boards and plywood than the market can absorb forever.

I believe the Forest Service should make available all the logs a sustained yield program will permit. I believe the sustained yield and allowable cut, should be matched to modern usage, prevalence of disease, amount of salvage, age, rate of growth, and other such factors.

Look at the trucks coming in and you'll see logs that shouldn't have been cut for the next 50 years!

The small mills are hurting. It is a cruel thing to say, but the big mill, normally, makes better use of a log and, so, can afford to pay more. It has been industry history that many small mills have been forced out of business. More and more the industry is passing into the hands of a few operators and big corporations. It isn't nice to contemplate, but it's a fact.

The Forest Service, in my opinion, should not be stampeded into something that is contrary to the public good over the years.

It was said in this column many years ago that the time would come when heavy pressure would be put on the Forest Service to sell federal timber faster than it should be sold. We're already feeling that pressure. It will get stronger.

Whether the federal agencies will have the strength to resist remains to be seen.

—Bruce Blossat—

The behavior of French Premier Charles de Gaulle during the complex interplay between East and West over the Middle Eastern situation is perhaps not quite so mystifying as it may appear.
Throughout this period De Gaulle has consistently opposed a summit meeting under U.N. auspices in New York. He was similarly against a special session of the U.N. General Assembly in which the top East-West leaders might attend.
In all instances De Gaulle has maintained that the purposes of a high level conference would not be well served in the super-

charged atmosphere and the publicity glare with which New York would bathe such a gathering.
This may actually be a pretty solid point. But when De Gaulle makes it, he is not spelling it out the whole way.
The likely truth is that in such a setting as New York, where Khrushchev could be making his first American appearance, De Gaulle himself would be thrown far into the background, especially if he were just invited to take part.
De Gaulle has many reasons not to want that semi-oblivion. Some are deep-seated. De Gaulle

The Foot-in-the-Door Salesman



NEA Service, Inc.

Enamored Duck's Love Affair May End Up In Court

By ANDREW BOROWIEC For HAL BOYLE

HASSI MESSAOUD, Algeria — Some 3,000 men live and work in the heart of the Sahara without suffering many of the hazards and discomforts of desert life.

Their major problem is lack of women.

The men are employees of French oil companies building what they hope is a future French oil empire amid sun-baked sand dunes.

They live in air-conditioned huts with running water, showers, and plugs for electric razors. They are served five-course meals, in air-conditioned dining rooms. Their bars offer a variety of French and foreign drinks—at a fraction of the way down the street. His darling, her three little ceramic ducklings long since toppled over by Charlie's amorous advances, kept her glazed eyes front.

Then along came Miss Helen Mameo who said Charlie had escaped from her. She threatened a custody battle in court.

Dr. David C. Todor, a poultry pathology expert at Rutgers University, said Charlie may have an adoption complex and found an outlet in the clay duck.

Dr. James Westman, head of the Rutgers wildlife conservation department, said Charlie either has a complex "or he's a very stupid duck."

Not so, said Miss Mameo. "Charlie's not nuts, he's just lonely."

Howard Mason, 14, broke up the one-way romance Tuesday when he claimed Charlie was his and had broken loose over the weekend. He snatched Charlie away, the bird quacking loudly all the way down the street. His darling, her three little ceramic ducklings long since toppled over by Charlie's amorous advances, kept her glazed eyes front.

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—Hal Boyle—

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Oregon's Congress Members Recorded On Measure Voting

WASHINGTON (AP)—How Oregon members of Congress were recorded on recent roll call votes:

Senate

On passage, 72-18, of compromise bill extending Reciprocity Trade Act for four years: Morse (D) and Neuberger (D), for.
On Byrd (D-Va.) amendment, rejected 39-51, to eliminate from excise tax laws provision permit-

ting bonded storage of whisky for 20 years before payment of \$10.30 a gallon federal tax, and to substitute therefor an 8-year limitation: Morse, for amendment; Neuberger, against.

On Williams (R-De.) amendment, rejected 26-63, to reduce tax depletion allowance for oil and gas producers from 27 1/2 to 15 per cent: Morse and Neuberger, for.

On Proxmire (D-Wis.) amendment, rejected 31-58, to reduce oil and gas tax depletion allowance on a graduated scale: Morse and Neuberger, for.

On Malone (R-Nev.) amendment, rejected 39-51, to reduce tax on cabaret patrons from 20 to 10 per cent: Morse and Neuberger, for.

On passage over President's

Wide Variation Possible In Old Age Assistance

WASHINGTON (AP)—Persons on old age assistance rolls could receive benefits increasing, varying from 77 cents a month in California to \$1.46 a month in Oklahoma under the Social Security bill now before President Eisenhower.

The additional federal money provided by the bill would permit the increases, varying by states, provided the states and local communities maintain their contributions to the federal-state program at their 1958-59 levels.

The Social Security Administration Wednesday made availability tables showing the changes which the new bill would make in payments to each beneficiary of the programs for old-age assistance, and aid to the blind, totally disabled and dependent children.

Based on continuation of state-local contributions at 1958-59 levels, the bill includes these increases (unless otherwise noted) in the monthly benefit per recipient:

United States—Old-age \$4.73; Dependent Children \$1.17; Blind \$4.56; Disabled \$5.01. California—.77—08—.99—. Washington—\$3.58—17—\$1.08—\$1.53. Oregon—\$6.20—.57—\$4.60—.

New Members Elected To Oregon's Bar Board

PORTLAND (AP)—Four new members have been elected to the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors by Oregon lawyers, voting by congressional districts.
They are: Ray LaRue, Salem, assistant attorney general; Harold Banta, Baker; Dean F. Bryson, Portland, former state senator; and Charles G. Howard, Eugene, former dean of the University of Oregon Law school.
They will take office at the bar's annual meeting at Gearhart, Sept. 24.

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CORD PANTS Colored, size 8 to 16 boys, 29-32 mens, were \$6.45 \$3.98

BOY'S SHIRTS Short and long sleeves. Values to 3.49 \$1.49

—SPORTSWEAR—

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