DEMAND DULL FOR LUMBER

Demand for lumber, by the building industry and manufacturing consumers, continues to be restricted by the backwardness of spring weather. The record of building permits, however, shows the fundamental strength of the market, says the American Lumberman, Chicago. During the first three months of 1924 there were more permits taken out, and for a larger amount, than for the corresponding first quarter of any previous year in the history of the United States.

The large producing regions show no excess of production, so that absence of accumulated stocks is a factor in the market's strength. For the first three months of 1924, 149 identical Southern Pine Association mills showed shipments amounting to 98.69 per cent of production; West Coast Lumbermen's Association mill shipments of 1,615 million feet for the first sixteen weeks of the year showed a comfortable excess over the production of 1,593 million feet. Total national loadings of forest products for the week ended April 12 amounted to 76,319 cars, 704 cars under the total for the week ended April 5—the decrease was slight, amounting to only about 1 per cent. Orders booked during the week ended April 12 by all the 383 mills reporting to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association were 87 per cent of actual production; bookings by Southern Pine Association mills were 92 per cent, and by West Coast Lumbermen's Association mills, 56 per cent, of output.

Recently there have been scattered reports of concessions in prices, but undoubtedly these do not indicate a general weakening in the market. When progress in building was retarded by bad weather, retail yards, very fully stocked, ceased buying, and cars in transit had to find sale at a sacrifice; transits now are fewer. Southern pine mills have found in exports an offset to slow domestic demand; March overseas shipments showed an increase of 46.2 per cent over those of February. West Coast mills are meeting the present lull by curtailment, for they take the stand that production at lower prices is impossible.

Coast producers find present export trade slow, though prospects for the immediatae future are exceptionally good. The dullness of the southern California market is balanced by increased consumption in the northern part of the State, but the quarantine established against California is affecting the movement of lumber through its ports to Arizona and other inland markets. As Coast mills continue to refuse low price business and are determined against accumulating surpluses, curtailment of output is general. Loggers are unwilling to produce at a loss and, to meet the general weakness of the log market, Puget Sound loggers will close down their camps definitely on May 1, and will probably be followed by British Columbia mills.

The outstanding feature of the hardwood market is the revival of foreign demand, which comes opportunely, and offsets the decrease in takings by the automobile and furniture industries. The American Overseas Forwarding Co. has bookings totaling about eighteen hundred cars the largest amount ever had on its books while prospects are for a further expansion in foreign takings. Prices are rather weak and reductions have been made in items for the domestic market. Construction industries continue to take large amounts, the flooring factories being still behind on their orders. Hardwood men are firm in their belief that improved weather will bring a decided strengthening of the market.

When a man says that, after all, the first business of a college is to impart knowledge, he means that his favorite eleven got licked.

STABILITY OF POLAND CAUSED BY INTEGRITY

GENEVA (AP) — Poland, like Austria and Hungary, is struggling with the problem of financial reconstruction and, according to Antoine Wieniawski, the Polish member of the permanent economic advisory committee of the League of Nations, is slowly winning through the united and patriotic efforts of the people and government.

Mr. Wieniawski emphasized first of all that bolshevism has no chance in his country. The danger period of 1919-20, when bolshevik propaganda was at its height, had definitely passed, in his opinion. At the end of last year it took 6,000,000 Polish marks to buy a dollar and the entire economic life of the nation was threatened. A big deficit appeared in the budget. Applying drastic remedies, the government decided to fix the payment of all taxes in gold francs. This system was inaugurated on the first of the year and is working well, he said. Moreover, a tax on fortunes is expected to yield 400,000,000 gold francs by the end of 1926. Another step to be taken soon will be the creation of a bank of issue based on the same principle as the Austrian bank arranged by the League of Nations.

Mr. Wieniawski went on: "We have roughly stabilized the Polish mark at 9,000,000 to the dollar. It is estimated that the Polish people, through fear of the further depreciation of the local currency have put aside gold to the value of $120,000,000, but their confidence being restored, they are now beginning to sell their dollars and have actually offered the state $12,000,000 gold which the state has purchased at the prevailing rate of exchange. Our economic life is slowly but surely adjusting itself in a healthful manner."

To Rename Norway's Capital

CHRISTIANIA, (AP) — The Constitutional Committee of the Storthing will report favorably on changing the name of the Norwegian capital from Christiania to "Oslo," says the newspaper Nationen.

CREEK WATERS RUNNING HIGH

UNION, Ore. (Special) — Catherine creek is very high as a result of the recent warm days. There was very little snow on the mountains during the winter but several feet fell in March and nearly seven feet is reported on some of the mountains which feed Catherine.

The junior high school play "Rocky Ford," was repeated at the gym Saturday night, which added several dollars to the fund that is being raised to provide the banquet for the seniors this year. The senior class being large and the juniors few in number, they are having to put forth an extra effort to secure enough money for the feed.

Dr. O'Connor who suffered a slight paralytic stroke last week, was reported some better though still confined to his bed.

Excavation and cement work have started on the new filling station just north of the Presbyterian church on Main street. Merton Davis will be the man in charge of the concern.

Bert Knight went to Portland the last of the week to take down a load of stock for delivery at the Portland Stock yards.

Members of the Episcopal church are planning to have the building painted and otherwise repaired and varnished inside.

Ralph Morgan, former teacher in the Union school, was here Saturday to attend the track meet.

CONVICTS PLAN BREAK

SALEM, Ore.—What probably was planned as a wholesale delivery of convicts from the state penitentiary here was frustrated by guards at the institution today, according to Warden A. M. Dalrymple.

The convicts had selected the prison flume as their avenue of escape. It was discovered by the guards that the inside bars on the flume where it enters the wall enclosing the prison yard had been bent and in some instances cut instances completely severed. The bars on the outside of the wall had not been disturbed, the warden said.

The water was drained from the flume today and the severed bars were repaired. The identity of the convicts who tampered with the bars is not known definitely to the prison officials.

National Park Surrounds Active Volcano of Lassen

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — There will be four main entrances for government roadways into Lassen Volcanic National Park in northern California, it is announced here by George E. Goodwin, chief civil engineer of the National Park Service.

Surveys for the park roads and trails have been virtually completed, said Goodwin. They will open up one of the most picturesque and scenic districts in America, Lassen peak being the only active volcano in the United States. Objects of interest for the first roads constructed will be the lake region in the southeastern corner of the park, the Cinder cone and its lava fields, the devasted area swept by the eruption of May, 1915, and the magnificent but little known Kings Creek Canyon with its geniike falls in the heart of the park.

MAXVILLE TO TRY TENNIS

MAXVILLE (Special)—A tennis club is being organized at Maxville. A court is now under construction and it is expected it will be ready in about two weeks. Many young people are interested in the game.

A number of young people of Maxville attended the dance at Wallowa Friday evening.

J. McMullen, assistant manager of the Bowman-Hicks Lumber company, who has spent the past two weeks in La Grande and Spokane, Wash., returned to Maxville recently.

Mrs. Laird and Mrs. McRoe gave a dance at the Log Cabin Thursday evening. Everyone had a good time.

Mrs. N. Wilkes and daughter, Miss Hazel Stone, who have been seriously ill for several weeks are able to be out again.

The Bradshaw, Lewis and Goodby families went on a straw ride to Wildcat canyon, about six miles from Maxville, and had an all day picnic Sunday. They returned home late in the evening.

William Poundy and family, of Wallowa, spent the day in Maxville visiting relatives and friends recently.

Mrs. Jewel Thor gave a dance at her home Saturday evening. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Dr. Tenbrook spent Saturday at Wallowa.

S. H. Houston, of La Grande, is in Maxville for a few days.

Mrs. Clem Nautz, who has been very seriously ill for a week or more is now improving slowly.

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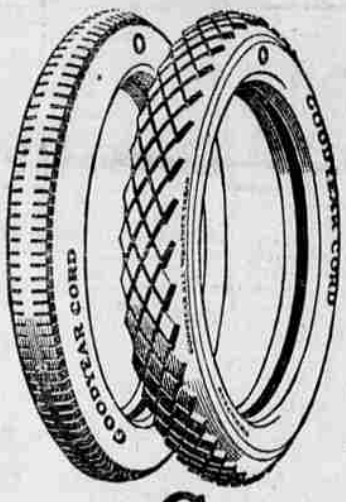

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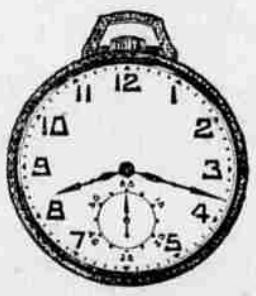

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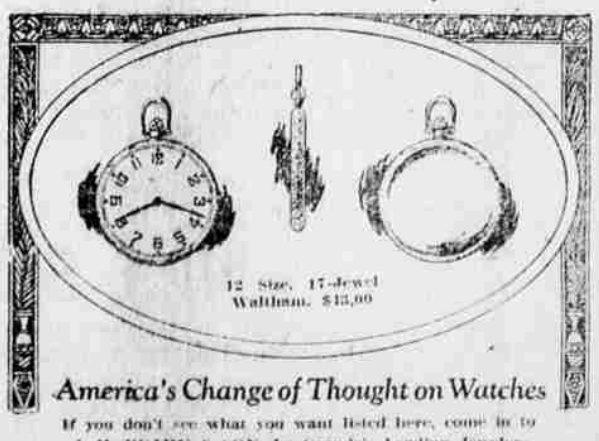

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