

# FIR TIMBER IS GOLD

Great Are the Resources of the State of Oregon.

## FOREMOST AMONG OTHERS

Some Interesting Facts and Figures Regarding Our Wealth of Timber, and the Probable Length of Time It Will Endure.

Just at this time when the value of the timber resources of the territory immediately surrounding Cottage Grove are being discussed at length, it may be interesting to the average reader of The Sentinel that more than three billion dollars has been added to the market rating of Oregon's wealth in this resource alone during the past seven years. Forests did not grow new trees representing this stupendous addition to the state's wealth, but the existing stand of timber enhanced in value more than \$3,000,000,000. In another ten years from this date the enhancement in selling value of Oregon's products will be \$3,000,000,000 more. This will not represent new growth, either. It is only development of natural, inevitable, amazing demand for a resource Oregon possesses. There is nothing to compare with this wealth accretion in any other state of the Union, says the Evening Telegram, after a study of the subject. The most populous will not touch it. The United States is estimated by economists to increase National wealth at the rate of only \$5,000,000,000 a year. Oregon is taking unto herself an enormous proportion of this increment. This state is heaped with an asset that will realize more gold than the official production of all the gold mines of the two Americas. This asset is timber. Unassuming, once despised forests have in a half decade become golden. In the next decade they will nearly double the weight of gold that must be paid for them. Five years ago Oregon forests could be bought for a song—magnificent trees, the like of which earth has given no other region than the Pacific Northwest. In five short years, without any intelligent, thoughtful or even conscious effort, citizens of Oregon have fallen heir to a fortune that is most conservatively placed at \$3,000,000,000. In the next ten years, with barely more thought, no expense, no farsighted business policies, the citizens of Oregon will see this fortune doubled in value.

Timber is a potential of such magnitude that it is not fully appreciated by its beneficiaries. It will be the source of a living industry. Not in 100 years of cutting at the rate 4,000,000,000 feet a year would the present stand be exhausted. With any decent system for reforestation in vogue, the present stand of fir and pine could be duplicated in yield in less than a 100-year period. These three billion dollars added to Oregon's wealth in the last five years, and the like sum that will be added in the next decade, will establish and maintain a big manufacturing industry for 100 years at least, and in perpetuity, if the people have any sane regard for the future.

### DOES TIMBER BENEFIT?

Does the enormous increase in market values of Oregon timber benefit all citizens of the state? Is this three-billion dollar increment a state-wide bequest? inquires The Telegram. And on this particular point Cottage Grove is directly interested, for adjacent to it is the largest body of standing timber in the world. Answering the inquiry The Telegram says: Truly as ever natural resources and their products enriches any people. Every farmer of Oregon got a share of the stupendous sum added to his state's wealth in the five years closed, and will get more. Every man owning property in the state gained his share. Every firm doing business in the state is in line for its allotment, and every one coming in the next ten years and thereafter will share fully in the harvest.

Forests mean a lumber industry. Manufacture of lumber requires many strong hands, which must be paid good wages. The men who work in forests or mills must eat and be clothed, will invest, build homes and rear families. Oregon's forests cannot be taken to some other place for manufacture. The payroll, inevitable in reaping this timber harvest, must be here in the state. Standing where it grew, the state's timber is today worth from \$500,000,000 to \$700,000,000 only. But it is worth nothing less cut and delivered to sawmills. This same stand of timber, when felled and delivered at the sawmills, is worth to the state and to the world \$2,000,000,000 to \$3,000,000,000 more than when standing in the forest. Labor, supplies and logging equipment represent the items making the total increase up to this stage of manufacture, and practically all of the money expended for these must go to resident Oregonians. By the time the sawmill has turned the logs into finished lumber the Oregon forests is worth to the state and the world nearly \$2,000,000,000 more, which is also made up almost entirely of labor, supplies and manufacturing equipment.

No matter how shaped or schemed, Oregon's timber wealth cannot depart the state without leaving in its stead approximately \$4,800,000,000 gold, if current lumber prices prevail. But lumber is going up in value. Prices in the Northwest will be much greater in another ten years.

The measure of gold given Oregon before another decade passes, for her forest resources, will mean that the state gets in return for the total present stand something like \$7,000,000,000.



One of the big logs brought to a Cottage Grove Sawmill.

000 more, which is also made up almost entirely of labor, supplies and manufacturing equipment.

Continuing the subject The Telegram says lumber has in the past often been a transient industry. Like mining, it pioneered civilization, became a dazzle of profit and faded. It will be otherwise in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon alone now has nearly 30,000,000 acres of forest land. Much of this will yield higher returns when held as a forest reserve for its timber, and grazed by livestock during the summer, than in any other use. On the western side of the state, where there are more than 15,000,000 acre of permanent forest land, it is found that fir will reproduce when fostered properly at the rate of about \$7 an acre a year. So rapid is the growth of Douglas fir in this region that a stand is had in 50 years that will often cut nearly as much lumber as the primary growth, due to the greater density of the forest and the uniform thrifty condition of each tree, thus compensating for the difference in size between the new crop and the trees that are from 300 to 450 years old. Careful measurements made of young growth at periods of from 40 to 75 years of age indicate that Western Oregon fir forest land will add about \$7 an acre to its value annually during these ages. The 15,000,000 acres of forest land west of the Cascades would be able to yield, under intelligent forestry, \$105,000,000 a year, with stumpage prices the same as now. The other 15,000,000 acres of forest land in the state should add nearly \$20,000,000 to the total for fir, giving an average annual yield from new growth of about \$120,000,000 a year. With reproduction going on at this pace, Oregon's annual lumber harvest should be at least this figure, giving only stumpage valuations for the marketable product. As the manufacture price of lumber is much greater than this basic figure, it follows that the state will be able to maintain its annual lumber yield at more than \$120,000,000 a year, even after the present stand of timber, worth from \$4,000,000,000 to \$7,000,000,000, has been cut and marketed. This is not the earmark of a transient industry.

**A GREAT INDUSTRY.**

Timber alone will make Oregon one of the greatest and richest states of the American Union. It is the leading industry here, and will continue so far at least many years. The annual cut of lumber has run from 1,000,000,000 to 2,500,000,000 feet since 1903, worth to the state from \$12,000,000 to \$30,000,000. There are about 640 mills in the state, capable of cutting 4,000,000,000 feet of lumber a year. Early estimates of the stand of timber put it 300,000,000,000 feet, but all the later cruising, surveying and computation gives Douglas fir alone credit for that heavy demand stand, with at least 100,000,000,000 feet of other classes of timber.

### WINTER COURSES.

At Oregon Agricultural College January 4 to February 18.

Practical work, lectures and demonstrations will be given in such vital subjects as General Farming, Fruit Culture, Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultrykeeping, the Business Side of Farming, Forestry, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Mechanical Drawing, Cooking, Sewing, Dressmaking, Home Management, etc.

All regular courses begin January 4th and end February 11th. Farmers' Week February 14th to 18th.

A cordial invitation is extended to all interested.

Good accommodations may be secured at reasonable rates. No age limit above 16 years. No entrance requirements. Prominent lecturers have been secured for special topics. The instructional force of the College number 100. Excellent equipment.

A special feature is the Farmers' Week which comes this year Feb. 14th to 18th. Lecturers, discussions, and a general reunion.

For further information address Registrar, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon.

### PROTESTS AGAINST IRRIGATION.

Coast Fork Grange, No. 262, met in regular session at London on the 18th instant, and passed a resolution, after considerable discussion, protesting against the irrigation scheme planned for the Willamette valley. A. H. Nowell made some pertinent remarks, followed by Frank Peeley with a song and Mrs. Thorndberg with a reading. Messrs. J. G. Powell, W. M. Hotes. It was decided to hold an open meeting on December 4, at 10 o'clock a. m. There will be an interesting program. The Grange at this place has a membership of forty, and is doing a good work.

### TRANSFERS IN BOHEMIA.

The following transfers of mining claims in the Bohemia district have recently been recorded at the county seat:

Sherman Clark to Combination Mines Co. Topekak Quartz Mining Claim; \$1.00.

R. H. Clark to Combination Mining Co., Kokoms Mining Claim, Bohemia Mining Dist.; \$1.00.

R. H. Clark to Combination Mining Co., Delphas Mining Claim, Bohemia Mining Dist.; \$1.00.

### POULTRY PREMIUM LIST.

A meeting of the Calapooia Poultry Association was held recently to give final action to the premium list, which is now in the hands of the printer. There is much interest manifest in the coming show, and the outlook for a large exhibit is bright. The different raisers of high grade poultry are enthusiastic about the meeting and have signified their willingness to do all in their power to make it a success.

### COFFEY IS A CANDIDATE.

John B. Coffey, state senator from Multnomah county, has announced that he will be a candidate before the republican assembly for the nomination for secretary of state. Mr. Coffey is the first aspirant for any public office to be filled at the general election next November who has flatly declared he will go before the assembly for its endorsement.

### BLAKE HELD FOR TRIAL.

Blake, the robber whom Marshal Snodgrass recently captured after a desperate struggle, has been held to trial by the Federal grand jury at Portland. The man was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2500, but being unable to secure bondsmen, now languishes in jail.

"My wife is a happy woman now," said Bill, with a broad smile, and his listener's mouths just watered to hear him tell of that nice bread she made of Waldo Hill flour. And he said, "Spray & Co. and all grocers handle it and it costs no more than any other valley flour."

### BASKETBALL TONIGHT.

Nesmith Team to Again Try to Win From Harrisburg.

The Harrisburg basketball team will meet the Nesmith sphere manipulators at the Armory tonight and an interesting contest is anticipated. In a recent match at Harrisburg the Cottage Grove team was defeated in a hotly contested game by a score of 19 to 16. Hastings, playing center, was disabled during the first five minutes of play and was forced to retire. He will not be in the game tonight, but will have a strong substitute.

The Roseburg ball tossers will come to Cottage Grove on December 16, for a return game, and Nesmith will make a desperate effort to even up matters with them for the defeat recently suffered at that place.

### CRESWELL FORGES AHEAD.

The Chronicle makes a comparison of Creswell's progress for two years, which shows conclusively that the town is rapidly forging ahead. Its population has increased 125 since 1908; eight new industries have been secured; \$41,625 were expended in civic improvements this year as against \$8,500 in 1908; postal receipts have increased from \$950 to \$1,350; land sales in Creswell and vicinity for 1909 aggregated \$235,000, against \$59,000 in 1908. The citizens of Creswell have raised a publicity fund of \$2,500.

### WILL DO MORE WORK.

Mr. J. J. Craig has been in Cottage Grove for several days, coming down from the Bohemia district, where he is interested in the Hiawatha group. It is the purpose of the owners to soon commence development work on a larger scale. While the showings thus far made are fairly good, running from \$7 to \$10 per ton, they are not what maybe expected by further operations.

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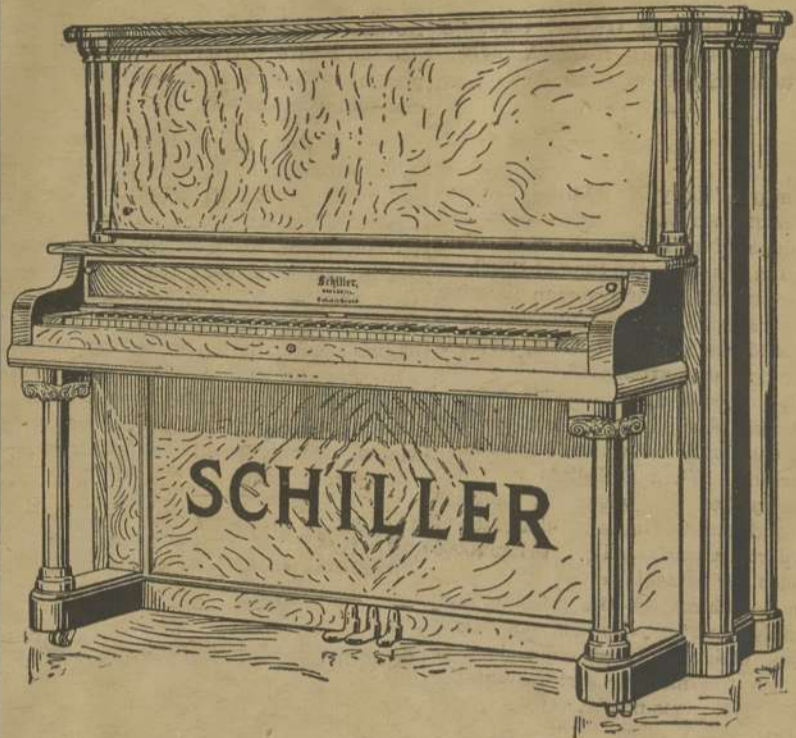
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