

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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BILLION FEET LUMBER LOST ANNUALLY EXPORT TRADE

The information department of the West Coast Lumbermen's association states that West Coast has lost annually in export trade one billion feet of lumber since 1929.

What does the annual billion feet that West Coast lumber has lost since 1929 mean to the thousands of Western Washington and Oregon lumber workers, who have become the industry's missing men? Unemployment. Relief rolls or nonproductive government jobs.

What does the loss of a billion feet of export lumber mean to the longshoremen of west coast ports?

Vanishing ships. "On the basis of an average cargo of 1,500,000 feet per ship, a billion feet of lumber breaks down into 667 vessels." Again, unemployment or WPA.

"The lost million means an annual loss to the region of more than 12 million dollars in lumber wages alone. In the west coast industry, production breaks down to an average of 500 feet per man per eight hours. The average wage in the industry at present is 77 cents per hour. One billion feet of lumber represents 2,000,000 days, or 16,000,000 hours, of work, or \$12,320,000 in wages to lumber workers."

Add to this sum losses of longshoremen (one billion feet of lumber, about one million longshore hours) and maritime workers. Add losses of the unemployed from other industries and businesses interlocked with lumber exports. Add losses in business earnings, port charges, taxes. Add the increased cost to government of swollen relief rolls. "The sum is economic grief and human misery."

A billion feet of export lumber represents a huge volume of regional business in one channel. When it is flowing, the benefits are dispersed through many laterals into all fields of west coast business and employment. In the end, its essential contribution was in the homes and to the families of the lumber workers, longshoremen, and those who manned the vanished ships. Its loss has hit them as hard as droughts have hit the farmers of the plains.

In fact it is safe to say that lumber export losses take toll from every Washington and Oregon home.

This is a man-made calamity due to the present tariff setup!

According to the Information Department of the West Coast Lumbermen's association here is how the present west coast foreign trade situation lines out:

"1. Since 1930 a gradually increased system of preferential tariffs has almost excluded West Coast lumber from British Empire markets. These cannot be considered as related to American protective tariffs. The British Empire countries concerned are independent politically and economic units are separate nations in fact. The tariffs these countries have set up against west coast lumber are in each case frankly to give 'preference' to a west coast competitor, not to give 'protection' to industries of the tariff-making country."

"2. Since January 1, 1936, Canadian lumber competitive with western Oregon and Washington lumber has been admitted to the United States on a 250,000,000 feet annual quota, for an entry charge reduced to \$2 per thousand feet. No foreign market of importance has meanwhile been opened to American Douglas fir and west coast hemlock. On a comparative basis of Western Oregon and Washington sawmill capacity, timber and mill investments, number of lumber workers with the Douglas fir region of Canada, real reciprocity that worked both ways would have restored foreign markets for a large part of the billion feet of west coast lumber. Half of it would mean reemployment for 4,500 men."

"3. Negotiations for new trade agreements between the U. S. and Great Britain and the U. S. and Canada have been opened. The case for West Coast lumber has been presented in two hearings at Washington. The industry has asked for tariff parity with Canadian lumber in the United Kingdom, or for restoration of duties on foreign lumber provided by the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. This is simply asking for equal treatment for West Coast lumber in world

lumber trade through one or the other of two possible channels. The former measure would yet leave the advantage with Canadian lumber because of its lower production and shipping costs — the same advantage that allows Canadian lumber to pay a \$2 duty and yet undersell American lumber in the American market. The latter would allow West Coast lumber to flow freely to meet domestic demand, without being impeded by the dumping of foreign lumber.

"4. The West Coast lumber industry has presented its case in Washington, but the 50,000 missing men from shut-down sawmill shifts and closed logging camps have not been heard there. The Pacific Northwest is a small sphere of political and economic influence, in a national sense. The people of the region must unite to speak as one voice to make their will carry from the Pacific to the Potomac. Tariffs are complex subjects embodied in statistical tables and graphs. But everyone in western Washington and Oregon does know that too many men have been out of work since 1929, and particularly since 1931. Most of us know that west coast lumber is shut out of England, while Canadian lumber is coming into our country. We all know that shipping means a lot to us, and that lumber exports are the main business of Pacific northwest shipping. We have our own personal elected representatives in Washington. Let's tell them what we know about 'the grief' in West Coast lumber exports and how we feel about it."

It is further shown that in 1937 the consumption of Douglas fir and west coast hemlock lumber in markets foreign to both America and Canada, took from the former only 37 per cent of its 1928 volume, while Canada's business with the same species in those markets was 250 per cent of its 1929 volume.

"Canada can sell Douglas fir and West Coast hemlock lumber in any world market, including the U. S. market under the 1935 agreement, with distinct competitive advantages over American lumber of the same species. The comparative figures of 37 per cent and 250 per cent form a simple combination of evidence."

"They also show why West Coast lumber workers have been getting their bread and butter from the government throughout seven years of famine in West Coast lumber exports, while above the border saws and planers in the mills, and ship whistles from the waterways, have united to make real for busy lumber workers and longshoremen to song of 'Happy Days Are Here Again.'"

True conservation of the Pacific northwest's greatest natural resource, forest wealth, and true conservation of the region's human resources, fifty thousand now unemployed lumber workers and their families, may be realized only in the recovery of world trade for West Coast lumber, fundamentally an export industry, by a re-adjustment of the tariff setup.

The Sentinel believes that a great deal of good can be accomplished by Secretary Hull's Good Neighbor policy, but when the application of that policy puts thousands of Americans out of work and causes such an important industry as West Coast lumber to actually fight for its life, it is time to modify that policy so that it will be of equal benefit to both neighbors. No one is expected to carry his good neighborliness to an extreme that finally impoverishes him and his family.

STATE CAPITOL NEWS LETTER

Salem, Ore.—Apparently reversing a previous oral opinion Attorney General Van Winkle this week advised the Capitol Reconstruction commission that it is clothed with ample authority to finance construction of a new heating plant on any site owned by the state. The attorney general had previously indicated that expenditures of funds under control of this commission must be confined to the enlarged capitol site.

In the same opinion the attorney general advised the Board of Control that an act passed by the 1936 legislature authorized the purchase of a site on which to build a heating plant and that the present situation constituted an emergency under which the State Emergency Board might provide the money necessary to finance the purchase.

Negotiations are already under way with the Pwa to transfer a portion of the federal grant from the new library building to the proposed heating plant.

Central Switchboard for Capitol. Installation of a central switchboard through which all telephone calls to and from state departments housed in the capitol group will be cleared, is practically completed. The installation is being made by the telephone company without cost to the state. The board will have a capacity of 300 telephones and will be connected

with the telephone exchange by 29 trunk lines. No considerable saving in telephone costs is anticipated by reason of the centralized exchange which is designed primarily to expedite handling of telephone calls to and from state departments.

Only \$1,830,000 Each Week.

Every qualified elector in Oregon over the age of 50 years would be entitled to a weekly pension of from \$10 to \$25 under the terms of a proposed initiative measure sponsored by Eugene Burr of Portland and Ellis Bennett of Salem. The only requirement to participation in benefits under the Burr-Bennett proposal would be the cessation of all remunerative employment by the pensioner. Benefit payments would be limited to \$10 a week for the first six months after the measure becomes operative, ranging up to a maximum of \$25 a week beginning with the second year of operation. The pensions would not be paid in cash but in "retirement compensation warrants" or scrip to be issued by the state and retired through a series of "warrant redemption stamps" one to be affixed to the warrant each week by the firm or individual holding the warrant on Wednesday. With an estimated 183,000 men and women in Oregon who have passed their 50th birthday it would require the issuance of \$1,830,000 of the proposed "warrants" each week at the outset of the proposed program.

Tourist Spending Predicted.

Harold B. Say, head of the highway department's travel bureau, predicts that tourists will spend more than \$40,000,000 in Oregon this year. More than 18,000 inquiries have already been received by the department from prospective visitors in every state in the union and 30 foreign countries.

Thumbs Down on Tide Land Sale.

The State Land Board has gone on record as opposed to further sales of tidelands along Oregon streams or ocean beaches. The board adopted this policy after rejecting two bids for the purchase of 44 acres of tidelands on Quinn's island in the Columbia river, said to be valuable for fishing purposes. The board will lease the land instead, charging poundage fees which will go to enrich the common school fund.

They Want Another Term.

Sixty-seven of the 76 members of the last legislature whose terms are expiring are candidates in the primary campaign. Forty-two of the 60 members of the House of Representatives are seeking reelection. Of these 16 are republicans and 26 democrats. Five house members, two republicans and three democrats, seek promotion to the state senate. Two former representatives are candidates for congress. Two House democrats would like to be state labor commissioners. One House member is out after the democratic nomination for governor.

Eight republican and five democratic members of the state senate are candidates for reelection. One senator is a candidate for the Multnomah county district attorneyship.

White Refuses to Dictate.

Oregon's own Agricultural Adjustment Act is back on the statute books but it is hardly probable that it will ever be put into effect. The state supreme court reversed the decree of the circuit court holding the act to be unconstitutional but in doing so the higher tribunal refused to accept responsibility for passing upon the status of the law. In sidestepping this question the court took refuge behind the argument that inasmuch as there was no bona fide controversy between the parties to the suit no relief could be had under the declaratory judgment act. Deciding hypothetical questions, the court held, is not a judicial function. Two members of the court, however, took issue with the majority members on this point. Justice Rossman, in a dissenting opinion, declared that the "very purpose of the declaratory judgments act is to enable the courts to step in before damage is inflicted." Justice Rand went even farther to declare that the act is unconstitutional for the same reasons as were set forth in the previous case in which the original state AAA was held to be unconstitutional. Solon T. White, director of agriculture, refused to comment upon the court's opinion but indicated that he has no present intention of attempting to enforce the act which constitutes him a virtual dictator over the agricultural industry with power to regulate prices, production and distribution of agricultural products.

Unemployment Checks.

Only one-third of the checks being written by the Unemployment Compensation commission are for the maximum amount of \$15 a week. Forty per cent of the checks going out to unemployed workers are for sums under \$12 a week.

Camps Recommended.

Governor Martin's special committee on probation, parole and

sentencing of prisoners, meeting here this week, recommended that work camps be established for the employment of trustees and parolees in forestry, conservation and other public works projects. Men employed in these camps would be paid a small compensation "to enable them to make a start when released into society."

Peoples' Utility District up in Linn

Residents of Linn county who go to the polls at the primary election will also have an opportunity to vote on the question of organizing a peoples' utility district. The Hydro-electric commission has called a utility district election for May 20. At a previous election in November, 1936, the proposal was rejected.

97 to Take Bar Examination.

Ninety-seven law school graduates have signed up for the bar examination to be held in Salem July 12, according to Arthur S. Benson, clerk of the supreme court.

HEADLINES

Alf Landon called upon "an articulate citizenry" April 22 to make it clear to Congress that this "huge appropriation" proposed in the President's new recovery program must be met by adequate tax provisions. . . . Congressional "experts" preparing "stop-gap" legislation to aid ailing railroad industry, considered a proposal for putting furloughed railroad workers back to work at government expense. . . . Car overturns at 70 miles, driver cremated. . . . 7857 enrolled in Oregon's state institutions of learning, a new high record. . . . A judicial investigation into Dr. Allen R. Defoe's supervision of the Dionne quintuplets, and also into his and his fellow guardians' management of their financial affairs has been demanded. . . . England repeats protest against the Mexican government's expropriation of British owned oil holdings. . . . Japan prepares revenge thrust, many new troops on way to Chinese front. . . . Eugene unionist, alleged bomb thrower, sentenced to serve year and four months. . . . China will need goods, repair of ruined Shanghai portends big market for West Coast lumber. . . . President's invitation to Ford seen as an olive branch, business courted on eve of spending spree. . . . Ickes approves Oregon projects, \$3,690,168 available if and when Congress acts. . . . Gold to be fed nation's banks at rate of \$50,000,000 a week for a total of \$1,400,000,000. . . . The Interstate Commerce commission authorized Southern Pacific company to borrow \$14,000,000 for reconstruction finance corporation. . . . Roosevelt wins fight for profits tax, rate cut but levy remains, but operation limited to the years 1938 and 1939 income. . . . Third party move seen in mid-west, Wisconsin's governor calls meeting of liberals. . . . Wage-hour measure given house provides 40-40 ratio in three years. . . . Hard pressed Japan yields war-on soil in Hopeh province area to throw more troops into central China. . . . Erect Pershing watches son take marriage vows in New York. . . . Veteran patients at Roseburg hospitals earn \$1275 making auxiliary poppies. . . . Dr. Defoe says outsiders after quintuplets and their wealth. . . . Five young killers age 18 to 27 were sentenced to death in electric chair at Sing Sing prison New York. . . . Ford wins British engineering award, the medal is awarded every 2nd year to commemorate birth of James

FOOLISH QUESTION NO. 41144



Watt, inventor of the steam engine, in 1736. . . . Cattle thieves arrested, father, son admit raids in Lane and Linn counties, Harold Wells and son Lester former Linn county residents are reported as admitting they had stolen at least 30 head of cattle and admitted using trucks. . . . At Tacoma, Wash. the two boy kidnapers William Archie Miller 16, and Maynard James Lange 17, were convicted of violating the Lindbergh kidnaping law. Miller was sentenced to 27 years and Lange to 17. The boys blamed their plight on smoking marijuana cigarettes. . . . Senator Reaves hospitalized, pneumonia feared. . . . China opens big defense campaign, an army of 300,000 to 500,000 men began counter offensive along a 60 mile front in southern Shantung province. . . . United States refuses to sign naval pact, Britain and France told plan to limit size of battleships depends on Japan. . . . Army plane sets new air record of 10 hours 45 minutes non-stop from Pacific coast to the Atlantic. . . . Henry Ford predicts lower commodity prices. . . . One glass company turned out 273,000 square feet of glass in 1937. . . . War department approves sales of airplanes to Great Britain. . . . Railroads prepare to ask for another 5 per cent boost in freight rates. . . . RFC prepares to lend money to utilities so that they can build new plants. . . . America's public debt in 1932 was \$20,937,350,964; its war peak was \$25,479,000,000; it is now \$37,498,062,000. . . . Nearly 2,000,000 workers lost 28,000,000 days of work in 4,600 strikes last year. Two thirds of the strikes were for union recognition, one third for pay and hour benefits. . . . There are about 1,000,000 storekeepers, large and small, in the U. S. with annual business volume of 40 billion dollars, some 3,500,000 workers and annual payrolls of between 3 and 4 billion. . . . Retail business is third largest industry. . . . Last year there were 4,752,801 ounces of gold mined in America, putting \$168,348,035 into pockets of mining companies. . . . Announced that Treasury will begin to retire \$50,000,000 of its maturing bills each week with the proceeds of gold de-stabilization means the Federal debt will be reduced by this amount each week. . . . Soviet seeking pact with Japan. . . . Hitler to warn Premier Mussolini not to join any Italo-British-French alignment that might appear to be a new combine against Germany. . . . Veterans of Foreign Wars file huge peace petition with congress signed by 3,640,890 citizens. . . . Japan pays \$2,214,007 in full payment of the indemnity asked by the United States for a Japanese air attack on the gunboat Panay and three Standard Oil ships. . . . Twelve year old bride torn from grieving husband of 37 and is now in Wilmington, Del. detention home. . . . Fishermen oppose catch reduction as trade for hatcheries money.

SPECIAL
Every Wednesday
Pimento Cheese

Bread

1-lb. Loaf - - 12c

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