

SPRUCE WORK HALTED BY FEDERAL ORDERS

Logging Operations and Mills Affected by Ruling.

RECENT PRODUCTION LARGE

No Intimation Is Given as to Disposition of 30,000 Enlisted Men Employed in Industry.

Finis was written yesterday to the part that spruce and fir forests of the Pacific Northwest have played in the war, when orders were issued by the spruce production division to cease at once practically all activities in aircraft work among the camps and mills.

All shipments of spruce and fir cants to the huge cut-up plant at Vancouver, Wash., were halted by the order, while no more airplane material shipments are to be made.

Thousands Deprived of Work. Orders were issued by Colonel Stearns, chief of staff of the spruce production division, in the absence of Brigadier-General Felix P. Disque, commander of the division, who is now in conference at Washington, D. C.

Recent Production Huge. Spruce and fir production were rapidly approaching the zenith when the countermanding orders were received. Pledged to a goal of 1,000,000 feet per day, the spruce production division would have realized this goal next month, it is said.

Many operators hastened to Portland yesterday and plied headquarters with questions relative to the discontinuance order. They declare that a serious condition confronts them in the quantity of airplane stock and the volume of property they have on hand and invested in the industry.

When the call was raised for production of airplane stock on a vast scale for the winning of the war, the output of spruce had never passed the mark of 2,500,000 feet a month. The needs of the United States and its allies were imperative, and precedents were smashed in the rapid construction of the producing organization.

Investments Heavy. Labor troubles through the medium of the I. W. W. agitators, which threatened the effectiveness of the work, were nipped in the bud at an early hour. Organization of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen strangled the incipient dissension and brought men and employers closely together in the common cause.

It is estimated that the value of the investment in spruce production approximates \$10,000,000. Discussion is already afoot concerning the possibility that much of this perfected organization and equipment may be applied to the airplane industry which is predicted to endure after the war.

Pacific Operators to Meet. To consider the problems presented by the curtailment of deliveries, a meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's Association has been called to meet in Portland on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, at the Multnomah Hotel.

ALL WASHINGTON IS SILENT. Government Refuses to Give Explanation of Spruce Curtailment. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Nov. 13.—General Disque declined to discuss the spruce situation, but the spruce production division said

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