

SPRUCE BROKERAGE PLAN IS PROTESTED

Fixed Prices Demanded by Unsuccessful Bidders.

INJUSTICE IS CHARGED

Sales Board Accused of Giving Control to Second-Hand Dealers by Adopting Commission Basis.

That the spruce production corporation, even though it staged a wholesale rejection of bids, should afford northwestern timbermen and business men an opportunity to buy material at prices fixed by the corporation, and not farm the selling privileges out on a commission basis, is the contention of many local bidders.

The unsuccessful bidders protest that the widely advertised sale by bid was a farce and failure because of the lack of preparation on the part of the sales board.

Even the members of the sales board tacitly admit this charge, and are willing to agree that the original inventory was far from complete, both in items and description. In fact, the sales board is now busily engaged in compiling an inventory that will supersede the old, and that will contain thousands of items not heretofore listed.

Commission Basis Opposed.
Faced by the inadequacy of the previous inventory, say the bidders, and without detailed information of many of the items, they were compelled to bid in the dark. Much of the material was in bulk, giant piles that could only be estimated as to condition, and proof of the quantity of many of the machinery items was wholly lacking.

"I see no reason," said one timberman yesterday, "why this material should now be offered to commission brokers on a commission sales basis, thus forcing northwestern operators to treat with these men and pay them a profit. If the sales board is to fix its own prices and advise us accordingly, we would be glad to deal with them direct."

The unsuccessful bidders protest that the present attitude of the sales board leaves room for second-hand dealers to operate and point to a ruling of the federal sales department which expressly discourages any such activity. The ruling carries the following assurance:

Sales Board Policy Critic.
"The trade should distinctly understand that it is not the policy of the sales department to sell property to anyone for speculative purposes."
Major Lenthall, chairman of the sales board, up to date work, replies that the spruce production corporation is doing all within its power to straighten out the numerous muddled pieces of material at Vancouver Barracks and to prepare it for sale. The commission plan of sales, he said, is but an emergency measure which is working out admirably to the advantage of the government. While it has not been definitely decided that all the property will be sold under this plan, Major Lenthall indicated that it might be.

Several Inventories Made.
The commissary stock, groceries and clothing, already have been allotted to Frank W. Sullivan of Seattle, who is selling it out on commission. The amount of the commission allowed Mr. Sullivan, who operates under the name of the Northwest Sales company, has not been made public, but is said to be 2 per cent. Estimates of the value of the commissary stock range from \$100,000 to \$350,000, the latter being the latest figure of the sales board. Several official inventories are made at least, each with a variety of value, and the stock is now being carefully checked over to determine its worth. More commissary goods, from distant camps, are being sent to the city.

Second-Hand Dealing Alleged.
The steel rails, sold by the spruce corporation at a figure averaging \$45 a ton, were purchased on a provisional contract by A. C. Callan, local representative of the Zellincke Ironworks of St. Louis, extensive dealers in such equipment. Bidders believe that the rails were bought for the Zellincke interests and declare that they are now in the control of "second-hand" dealers, an action taken before the local operators were given full opportunity to purchase if they so desired.

Major Lenthall, of the sales board, counts the disposal of the rails to be an advantageous one, far more so than if local offers had been accepted. But the rails are not yet paid for. A \$50,000 cash advance has been handed the spruce production corporation, the balance to be paid as the rails are sold and delivered. The purchasers have until January 1, 1920, to complete payment on the lot.

Confusion Is Described.
Local operators say that they are at loss to understand the dual, as it is called, as steel rails have been noted to them. F. O. Columbus, O., at \$45 a ton. Plus freight charges, such rails could be laid down here at not more than \$51, they declare. Bids received by the spruce corporation for the rails ranged around \$10 a ton.

The disordered equipment at Vancouver barracks and the utter lack of preparation at the time of the recent sale, said one bidder, "was a josh, even with the officers, but the spruce decision themselves as I heard several of them laugh at the general chaos and make comments of their own. Why, in many instances we had to paw the stuff over until we found something that we wanted to bid on, and then make out a description of it. The sales board didn't know it was there. Under such conditions to ask anyone to make an intelligent bid was nothing more than a farce. And that is precisely what the sale was, a farce."

Bidders Present Brokerage Plan.
Bidders also say that they were assured, even when their tenders were turned down, that nothing could be done with the property until they were given another chance after a new inventory and appraisal had been made. Despite this promise, they say, the commission sales plan was put into effect without notice, and they were approached with offers from brokers, each of whom is said to have received 5 per cent for his offices.

The huge machine of spruce production, which functioned so efficiently during the war, bogged down completely when an attempt was made to dismantle it, according to operators who held contracts to produce lumber for it, and according to other operators who were visitors at the giant scrap-heap at Vancouver Barracks.

Many Claims Await Action.
Many claims are said to be awaiting action by the board of trustees of the spruce corporation, with scarcely a chance of settlement in full. The board, it is said, does not deny the justice of the claims, but cannot take action. The claims are for expenditures made at the direction of the spruce corporation, and for timber produced at wages and working conditions dictated

by General Disque. Unless relief is given, the timbermen will be forced to cast this material on a falling market, losing heavily, though it was produced during the abnormal period of war activity.

"Locally and morally, the government owns this timber. It is down in the woods or already in the water," said one operator. "It was produced at the dictation of the spruce corporation, through General Disque, with wages and hours and prices fixed for us—arbitrarily fixed. Our plants were practically commandeered. We worked loyally to make the record that was asked of us. Then came the armistice. The immediate surplus was on our hands. We have asked for a depreciation claim. The trustees do not deny the justice of the request, but they do not act to remedy our plight."

CAFETERIAS TO BE LET OUT

SCHOOL DIRECTORS DECIDE TO GO OUT OF FOOD BUSINESS.

District Makes No Objection to Bearing Its Share of Street Improvements in St. Johns.

The cafeteria as an educational institution in Portland high schools is going the way of the dodo. The struggle with the disapproval of Superintendent Groul, who says that it is a failure from the instructive standpoint, every thumb was turned downward yesterday afternoon when the school directors considered its discontinuance.

"I recommend that cafeterias be taken out of the educational department," said Superintendent Groul, "and placed on a business basis. Experience has proved that they are not educational, and that they are not educational."

Acting upon this recommendation, the directors voted to discontinue the cafeteria as an educational feature in the domestic science branch of the school. The necessary arrangements for letting the privilege, upon assurance that the charges will be nominal and the food wholesome. Domestic science teachers, it was said, have been compelled to give too much of their time to the direction of the cafeteria. The returns on student progress has not been commensurate with the cost and time taken.

A proposal from Versteeg Brothers to trade a 15-acre Irvington tract for a portion of the Atkinson school property was tabled without discussion. The proposal set forth the advantages of the Irvington property for school purposes. It lies between Brazier, Tillamook and East Thirty-third and Thirty-seventh streets.

The district is to bear its share of proposed street improvements in St. Johns, on Jersey street in front of Central school, according to action taken by the board. The matter of the buildings and grounds committee with power to act. St. Johns business men have volunteered \$1100, which is indicated that it will contribute an equal amount, and the school district will participate to the extent of \$546.

STORAGE PLANT TO BE SOLD

Mortgages Totalling \$22,000 Are Ordered Foreclosed by Court.

MARSHFIELD, Or., March 20.—(Special.)—The Coos Bay Ice & Cold Storage company will be closed out by mortgage sale unless the case is appealed to the supreme court. Judge John W. Peterson rendered a decision regarding the foreclosure proceedings by Christine Kruse for \$4000 and the Bennett Trust company for \$18000, on the property of the company.

The business at issue is a corporation and has been managed for the past 12 years by Charles E. Nicholson. The company handled dairy products, fish and allied lines. The property consists of the plant, including creamery facilities, cheese-making machinery and the ice plant and the building, besides the plot of land, including a fine water front.

CITY HOSPITAL OVERTAXED

Smallpox Patients to Be Cared For in Temporary Ward.

The quarters of the smallpox hospital conducted by the city have become too small to accommodate the smallpox patients in the city. As a result, City Commissioner Mann and City Health Officer Parrish effected an arrangement with the county commissioners for the temporary use of the Kelly Butte barracks, and yesterday the smallpox patients were removed to the new hospital.

At the present time there are 47 cases of smallpox in Portland. More than 20 of these cases have been brought into the city, the majority of them from logging camps in the northwest. Strict quarantine is being enforced by Assistant Health Officer Attele and the disease is believed to be under control. Vaccination is urged by the health officials as a preventive, especially for children, who might be exposed to the disease.

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G. Washington's Coffee is the American Beauty rose of the Coffee world.

It is the Queen of all Coffees.

It is served on the table of the most fastidious hostess, who wants to be sure that the very crown jewel of her dinner will not fail, that no careless cook can spoil it, and that her guests shall finish their dinner with the tang of excellence.

G. Washington's Coffee, that during the war could not be had by the public, because the Government took the entire output for the boys in the trenches, is again on sale.



G. Washington's COFFEE

Went to War—Home Again

G. WASHINGTON SALES CO., INC., NEW YORK

DAIRY COUNCIL 100 FIRMS

MEMBERSHIP LIST REQUIRED COMPLETED AT TILLAMOOK.

Filing of Incorporation Papers and Opening of Intensive Campaign of Publicity Will Follow.

The Oregon dairy council is now assured of its 100 members, according to J. E. Dunne, who went to Tillamook to interest the cheese factories in the educational and publicity work that the council will carry on. The energetic work done by Mr. Dunne and his committee in enrolling the necessary number of members this week will make possible the filing of the incorporation papers and the opening of an intensive campaign of publicity for the dairy industry of Oregon, educating the public to the food value of milk and its products.

Among the new members secured by Mr. Dunne in Tillamook were the Tillamook creamery, Maple Leaf creamery, Holstein creamery, South Prairie creamery, Fairview Dairy association, Red Clover creamery, Clover Leaf creamery, Cloverdale Cheese company, Central creamery, Long Prairie creamery, Three Rivers creamery, Oregon town creamery, and Neskinwin Dairy association.

Eugene Farmers' creamery, Eugene First National bank, Lane County creamery, Springfield creamery, Corvallis and Junction creameries and First National bank of Corvallis, are

WEDDING NEWS LEARNED

Robert McCracken and Elma McDonald Fail to Keep Secret.

Although they intended to keep it secret for several days, it became known yesterday that Robert McCracken and Elma McDonald, both of this city, were married the previous day at the Hotel Portland.

The couple were attended by Captain Hugh S. Dimond and Miss Bernice Anderson of Seattle. They left last night for San Francisco, where Mr. McCracken will affiliate himself with a business firm.

The McCracken family is one of the oldest and best known in Portland. Mr. McCracken is the youngest son of the late Colonel John McCracken, with whom he has been making his home while in this city at the Mallory hotel. He lately has been identified with Ellier's music house, both in this city and in Spokane. Mr. McCracken has spent a number of years in San Francisco.

Major to Manage Siberian Mission. SEATTLE, Wash., March 20.—Major

Arthur R. Grindell, director of the publicity department of the northwest division of the Red Cross, has received the appointment of business manager of the Siberian Commission of the Red Cross. He expects to sail for Russia some time in April.

Major Grindell formerly was connected with the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad's Seattle office. When Seattle was selected as headquarters for the northwestern division of the Red Cross Major Grindell was appointed publicity director.

Restraint Order Granted at Klammath Falls to Protect Contractors. KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 20.—(Special.)—In compliance with a recent suit filed by the J. M. Dougan company against the county court and other contractors in the courthouse issues, a restraining order to the court against the withdrawing from the special courthouse fund any sums for payment to any other than the plaintiffs which would reduce the amount in the fund below the sum of \$92,674.55, was received this morning from Judge F. M. Calkins from Medford.

The sum mentioned in the order is the total being sued for by the Dougan company for constructing the courthouse on block 35. March 28 is the date set for a hearing to decide whether the restraining order shall be continued.

Major to Manage Siberian Mission. SEATTLE, Wash., March 20.—Major

Again! We Wish to Remind You That We Are Selling CANNED GOODS at Absolutely Wholesale Prices

Take our advice; better stock up; market is very uncertain and liable to advance at any time. Friday and Saturday we offer

CANNED VEGETABLES	
Pyle's Clearbrook Brand String Beans, 24 doz.	\$1.75; each... 15c
Pyle's R-Best Brand Extra String Beans, 24 doz.	\$2.13; for... 50c
Libby's Extra Spinach, 2 1/2 doz.	\$2.40; each... 22c
Pyle's Berryessa Solid Pack Tomatoes, No. 10 cans, dozen.	\$6.50
Each	50c
Preferred Stock Solid Pack Tomatoes, 2 1/2 doz.	\$2.25; each... 15c
Clearbrook Tomatoes, 2 1/2 doz.	\$1.50; each... 15c
Pyle's Rally Brand Tomato Sauce or Puree, No. 10 cans, doz.	4.50
Each	40c
Corax Tomato Sauce per dozen	\$2.00; each... 25c
Corn, Onarga Brand, Fancy, per dozen	\$2.65; each... 25c
Van Camp's Pork and Beans, large cans, dozen	\$3.20; each... 27c

A BIG BARGAIN	
Libby's Brand Brand Sliced Yellow Cling Peaches, 2 1/2 doz.	30c
Libby's Silverdale Brand Yellow Free Peaches, 2 1/2 doz.	\$2.75
Each	25c
Helmet Brand Apricots, 2 doz.	\$2.75

ANOTHER BIG SPECIAL	
Wesson Oil, large	\$1.65
Wesson Oil, gallon	2.40
Maxola Oil, 1/2 gallon	1.40
Maxola Oil, 1-gallon cans	1.50

EXTRA SPECIAL	
Campbell's Beef Soup, per dozen	\$1.20; each... 11c
Roll-Oats Cream, 24	70c
Corn Meal, White or Yellow, 50-lb. sack	\$2.50; 10-lb. sack... 50c
Potato Flour, per lb.	12c
Rice Flour, per lb.	13c
Spratt's Dog Biscuits, per dozen	\$4.50; each... 35c
Tomato Catsup, Preferred Stock, dozen	\$3.25; bottle... 28c

Groceries at wholesale prices to private families

MILK		VERY IMPORTANT!	
Libby's Milk, 48 large cans	\$6.00	Flour has advanced all over the United States but not yet in Portland. Certain to advance soon. Stock up immediately.	
Libby's Milk, 12 cans	1.50		
HERSHEY'S HIGHEST-GRADE COCOA			
BEST THAT MONEY CAN BUY AT ONE-HALF PRICE			
That You Are Accustomed to Paying for This High Grade of Cocoa			
Hershey's high-grade Cocoa is pure Cocoa of the choicest quality. No starch. No sugar.			
Hershey's Cocoa, 1-lb. to 4-lb., per lb.	35c	White Rose Flour, 49-lb. sack—per barrel	\$10.75
Hershey's Cocoa, 5-lb. or over, per lb.	32c	49-lb. sack	2.75
Hershey's Cocoa, 100-lb. tin cans, per lb.	30c	White Rose Flour, 55-lb. sack—per barrel	\$10.50
Hershey's Almond Bark, cakes in box, per box	\$1.35	55-lb. sack	5.40
Hershey's Chocolate Bar, 24 cakes in box, per box	1.35	Superior Graham Flour, 49-lb. sack, each	2.75
		10-lb. sacks, each	65c
		Superior Farina, 49-lb. sacks, each	3.00
		Superior Farina, 10-lb. sacks, each	50c
		Superior Fancy Patent Flour	
		Per \$11.50	49-lb. \$2.90

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We will deliver Free of Charge to your nearest shipping point or by parcel post. Just Coffee at 35c PER POUND with the guarantee that it is

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Special Mail Order Service—Write for Monthly Price List.
Wholesalers to Private Families, Hotels and Restaurants.

Government Wool Supply Large. WASHINGTON, March 20.—Statistics made public by the war department today showed the government has on hand or contracted for 487,190,540 pounds of wool remaining to be disposed of. Wool purchased or contracted for amounted to 722,450,168 pounds, valued at more than \$500,000,000. It included 10,000,000 pounds of domestic clip yet to be delivered, 4,000,000 pounds to come from South America and 947,000,000 pounds contracted for with the British government.

Foreign Orders Wanted. WASHINGTON, March 20.—The shipping war was asked today by the executive council of the newly organized national merchant marine association to remove the prohibition against American shipyards accepting orders for foreign account. The association announced that Senator Ransdall of Louisiana had been elected permanent president.

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If you have been accustomed to drink coffee and find it causes headache, nervousness, sleeplessness or heart or stomach annoyance, why not try—
INSTANT POSTUM
A table drink absolutely free from caffeine, the drug in coffee, but of rich coffee-like flavor.
At Grocers Everywhere.
"There's a Reason."

In 1, 2, 2 1/2, 3 and 5 pound cans. Never in bulk.

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With Soups
—and broths. You will find Snow Flakes satisfying in every particular. You will enjoy immensely their delicious salty crispness and rich texture.
Don't ask for crackers, say Snow Flakes.
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