

SHIPS DELIVERED TO OPERATING DIVISION

Two of Wood Steamer Coterie Are Turned Over.

TIES WILL BE TRANSPORTED

Total of Vessels From Fitting Out Department During May Will Be Nine.

Two of the wood steamer coterie have already been delivered this week to the division of operation by the fitting out department of the emergency fleet corporation, and three others are scheduled to be turned over by Saturday.

It is said the total for May will be nine vessels. All of which will assist to a marked degree in the assignment of carriers to operating companies to move ties from the Columbia river to the east coast and Europe.

The steamer Bushong, completed by the G. M. Standifer Construction corporation, was delivered Monday and was followed yesterday by the Fort Hill, which the Grant Smith-Porter Ship company built.

The active fleet of the Birchleaf proceeded from the Peninsula mill to St. Helens yesterday. She will be cleared for New York, where her cargo of ties is to be discharged, and she will then be delivered to her new owners, as she is one of five of the Supple-Ballin ships disposed of a few weeks ago in company with other wood carriers.

The first of the wood plants in the Columbia river district to finish the government program and return to private work is the St. Helens Shipbuilding company, which has completed plans for a large steam schooner, the number capacity of which is to be between 1,500,000 and 1,600,000 feet. She will probably sail under the flag of the McCormick line and will carry a half again as much lumber as the other steam schooners of the same fleet, and will be operated much of the time in the coastwise trade.

Terminal Contracts Let.

ASTORIA, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—A contract for an extension at the south end of the warehouse on pier No. 1, at the port dock, was awarded today to the J. A. McEachern company, its bid being \$44,170. The contract for the electric wiring in the structure was awarded to the West Coast Engineering company of Portland for \$123.

Dean of Pacific Pursers Dies.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 20.—Harry A. Jerome, said to be the oldest man to have been the dean of trans-Pacific pursers, died yesterday at Honolulu according to private cablegrams received here. Jerome, who was 74 years of age, had sailed out of San Francisco since 1885, and was said to have crossed the Pacific ocean more times than any other person.

Marine Notes.

The Willamette river is to rise slowly today and tomorrow and more rapidly Friday, says the weather bureau forecast. The stage yesterday was 10.8 feet above zero and little change has been exhibited for several days.

A new lighted navigation aid, designated as Taylor Smith light and located between Astoria and Knappa, was illuminated last night for the first time. Robert Warrack, superintendent of the light, says another will be finished today in York's bay.

Pacific Coast Shipping Notes.

ASTORIA, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—The steam whaler Westport, of the Grays Harbor fleet that has been hunting for the Oregon coast put into port today for fuel.

The emergency fleet steamer Fort-Snell returned at 4:40 o'clock this afternoon from her 24-hour trial run at sea, and proceeded to Portland.

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FLAT-PRICE SYSTEM FOR SHIPS ADVANCED

Great Industry Must Return to Normal Basis.

WEAKER PLANTS TO PASS

American Operators Face Problems of Meeting Foreign Competition in Vessel Production.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Revision of the shipbuilding program to a peace time basis was put before the representatives of Atlantic Gulf and Lake yards by the shipping board at a series of conferences concluding today.

The builders were asked if they were prepared to accept flat prices, in lieu of the old cost-plus system involving a lower margin of profit and no guarantee against increases in the prices of labor and materials.

Another meeting soon will be held after the owners have had a chance to study the situation and formulate their answers. Pacific coast builders will meet with the board Thursday to consider the same problem.

Chairman Hurley told the yard representatives that the industry developed by the war emergency was not a normal basis now, that peace time costs may be made to enable American ships to compete with the foreign products.

Where keels have not been laid, however, the board expects generous cooperation from the yards in putting down the high cost justified during the war emergency and which are being delivered, in substituting a new flat price contract and types of fleet.

Until flat prices can be quoted on tonnage still to be built, the board does not expect to ask congress for appropriation. Nearly \$700,000,000 will be needed to carry out contracts which the board already has authorized to make.

Reduction of building cost will save millions to the government. It is believed the readjustments will reach \$150,000,000. Experts in the bureau do not hesitate to say there are more yards now than the country needs and regard the passing of the weaker is to be expected, their function ended with the close of hostilities.

Owners of all yards built as war measures are being compensated as other industries are, it was stated.

SHIP-TIMBER BIDS OPENED

PROPOSALS TELEGRAPHED EAST FOR APPROVAL.

Total of 15,154,591 Feet Offered for Sale by Emergency Fleet Corporation.

In connection with proposals opened yesterday for the sale of 15,154,591 feet of shipbuilding timber remaining at plants in California, Oregon and Washington from the program of the emergency fleet corporation, none was for the entire amount.

The proposals were tabulated yesterday and telegraphed to Philadelphia for approval of the division of cancellations and adjustments as to awards recommended.

On material left at Portland the Loop Lumber company bid \$1,500,000 for 725 feet at the plant of the Coast Shipbuilding company and \$500,000 for 499,311 feet at the Kierman and Kern plant.

The McCormick interests offered \$11 a thousand feet for 701,541 feet at the Kierman and Kern plant, and bid the same on parcels elsewhere along the coast, covering a total of 10,797,415 feet.

The Grays Harbor Motorship company at Aberdeen bid \$5 on worked plitches and \$12 on squares covering 691,767 feet at the Grant Smith-Porter yard, Aberdeen. The Winslow Marine Railway and Shipbuilding company offered \$9.50, f. o. b., or \$10.75 at ship's tackle, or \$11 raffed on two lots at Aberdeen, one of 1,014,615 feet at the Patterson and McDonald yard and another of 1,065,565 feet at the Allen Shipbuilding company.

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W. L. KEARNS IS LAID TO REST

Veteran Newspaper Man Honored by Many Friends.

Friends in shipping circles that have to do with the deep water steamboat men, government officials and newspapermen, were among those who paid last respects yesterday afternoon to W. L. Kearns, better known as "Dad" Kearns, who died Saturday at his home in Astoria.

CRITICISMS ARE INVESTIGATED

Representative of Emergency Fleet Corporation in Portland.

Criticisms emanating from Samuel C. Lancaster, former plant engineer for the emergency fleet corporation in the Oregon district, who has been on leave for the past month, are being investigated in the administration of the district form subjects under the investigation before J. W. Wentworth, district manager, and J. W. Hall, assistant manager. Mr. Lancaster referred his criticisms to the Philadelphia office of the emergency fleet corporation and a representative of the head office is attending the investigation, which is expected to be completed today.

Mr. Lancaster, who laid out the Columbia river highway, has not been under the orders of the district manager here, reporting direct to Admiral Rousseau of the plant division of the emergency fleet corporation. He had to do with the conditions relative to launching vessels and the like, and objections were made at times by builders to his orders in such matters. J. W. Ferguson, assistant plant manager of the California district, has succeeded Mr. Lancaster here, and the latter now represents of the district headquarters would make any statement as to the case.

West Segovia is the name of the 31st steel hull, ready at the Northwest Steel company's yard, will be given when she is launched today. The vessel was originally designated on the official list of the shipping board as the West Chester, but the new name was substituted. Miss Helen Washburn is to be sponsor.

The floating of the new ship will give the Northwest force credit for having put overboard in excess of 272,000 tons of carriers. There will remain five hulls to be launched to complete the existing contracts with the shipping board. There are four building berths at the plant, so when the next hull is in the water there will be only one full "turn over" to be made, unless cancelled contracts are restored or more ships are provided for otherwise.

DAILY CITY STATISTICS

Table with columns for Marriage Licenses, State Appointment Received, and General Holbrook to Go to France.

FORECASTS

Portland and vicinity—Fair; gentle northerly winds. Oregon and Washington—Fair; gentle northerly winds.

SALEM, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—J. W. Ferguson of Portland has been appointed by Governor Olson as a member of the state board of accountancy to succeed Arthur Berridge, also of Portland, who has resigned. The new member formerly was state insurance commissioner.

General Holbrook to Go to France.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Major General W. A. Holbrook was relieved of command at Camp Grant, Illinois, today and ordered to report to general headquarters at Paris, France, where he will be relieved by Major General George Bell Jr.

Lou Kennedy and O. P. Bissell, of the Portland Telegram; J. L. Walling of the Journal, and W. E. Mahoney, of the Oregonian. There were many floral tributes, but the greatest tribute was from the men with whom "Dad" Kearns had labored and associated. To his newspaper colleagues his demise means the passing of one invariably jovial, but who first regard was for his work; while on the waterfront his absence is felt by men who knew him for 15 years, met him daily as he trudged the "beat," called him "Dad" without knowing why, and always welcomed him as an expected and pleasing visitor in the daily routine.

DAILY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Table with columns for Stations, Minimum Temperature, Maximum Temperature, Wind, and Weather.

Portland, Or., May 20.—Maximum temperature, 77 degrees; minimum temperature, 51 degrees. River reading, 8 A. M., 10.8 feet; change in last 24 hours, 0.1-foot rise. Total rainfall (5 P. M. to 5 P. M.), none; total rainfall since September 1, 2018, 39.02 inches; normal rainfall since September 1, 41.47 inches; deficiency of rainfall since September 1, 2.45 inches.

Portland, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—Laden with a cargo valued at \$800,000, the Blue Puntel line, arrived in Seattle from Paris in the far east. The total cargo on this vessel, valued at \$1,400,000, had 265 stowage and six cabin passengers for ports in the far east.

Here to inspect local shipyards and the northwest headquarters of the American bureau of shipping, Captain G. L. Stout, chief surveyor of the bureau, with headquarters in New York City, arrived in Seattle yesterday. Stout is on his way to Seattle plants. From here he will go to Portland and thence to San Francisco.

With 1,000,000 feet of lumber for the United Kingdom, the new auxiliary powered schooner, Snedden, first product of the J. H. Price shipbuilding company, shifted from Port Blakeley to Seattle today to take on fuel oil for her maiden voyage.

GRAY'S HARBOR, Wash., May 20.—(Special.)—The steamer Hartwood sailed this afternoon for San Francisco, with cargo loaded at the Hulbert mill.

PORTLAND, May 20.—Sailed at 11 A. M.—Steamer Gloria, for Honolulu via Puget Sound. Sailed at midnight—Steamer Col. E. L. Drake, for San Pedro.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 20.—Sailed—Steamer Multnomah, from Portland, for San Pedro. Arrived at 7 A. M.—Steamer Oleum, from Portland. Sailed at 2 P. M.—Schooner Edward R. West, for Columbia river, to town of Tollef.

SAN PEDRO, May 19.—Arrived—Steamer Stanwood, from Portland.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 20.—Arrived—Steamer Westlight, from sea, in district; Yocemite, Argy, from Seattle; San Francisco, Latoche, from southwest Alaska; President, from San Pedro.

Sailed—Steamer Kongoson, Mar, to Yokohama; Admiral Dewey, to San Diego; J. A. Moffett, to San Francisco.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 20.—Arrived—Steamer Senator, from Manila.

TACOMA, Wash., May 20.—Arrived—Steamer Providence, from Seattle; Alert, from Rosalia; Chilliwalk (Br.), from Alert Bay.

Sailed—Steamer Edgemoor, to Norfolk; Providence (Mex.), to Oak Bay; steam schooner Mayfair, to Port Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 20.—Arrived—Steamer Bupa, from Japan; San Juan, from Honolulu; Rainier, Santa Rita, from Seattle; Colona, from Calcutta.

Sailed—Steamer Edward R. West, to Portland; Santa Barbara, from Seattle; Alvarado, to Honolulu; Enterprise, to Hilo; Alvarado, to Tuyma Maru, for Savannah.

HONGKONG, May 15.—Arrived—Steamer Shinzo Maru, from San Francisco.

SHANGHAI, May 15.—Arrived—Steamer Harold Dolber, from Vancouver, B. C.

MANILA, May 17.—Arrived—Steamer Cyclops, from Seattle.

KOBE, May 15.—Arrived—Steamer Meiko Maru, from Seattle.

YOKOHAMA, May 12.—Arrived—Steamer Empress of Asia, from Vancouver.

HONGKONG, May 13.—Sailed—Steamer Windhor, for Seattle.

U. S. Naval Radio Reports.

(All positions reported at 8 P. M. yesterday unless otherwise indicated.)

ADMIRAL DEWEY, Seattle for San Francisco, 104 miles from Seattle.

CABLESHIP BURNSIDE, Seattle for Sika, 294 miles from Seattle.

ATLANTA, Richmond, Seattle, towing barge 93 to Columbia river, 445 miles from Richmond.

CITY OF TOPEKA, Portland for San Francisco, off Cape Blanco.

345 miles north of San Francisco for Seattle.

ROSE CITY, San Francisco for Portland, 236 miles from San Francisco.

BENJ. BREWSTER, Vancouver for San Francisco, 298 miles north of San Francisco at noon.

J. A. CHANLOR, Port Costa for Linton, 140 miles north of San Francisco.

GIVENCHIEV, mine steamer, 41 degrees 50 minutes N., 126 degrees 15 minutes W., wind north, 45 miles per hour.

BUCK, 303 miles north of San Francisco.

L. J. MOPPITT, Seattle for San Francisco, 270 miles from Seattle.

LYMAN STEWART, Seattle for San Luis, 95 miles from San Luis.

SAN JUAN, Balboa for San Francisco, 22 miles south of San Francisco.

RICHMOND, Seattle for San Francisco for Seattle, 645 miles from Seattle.

TIEKA, Bellingham for San Francisco, off Duxbury.

GOVERNOR, San Francisco for Wilmington, 6 miles south of Point Leno, and W. F. HERRIN and barge Monterey, Linton for Avon, off San Francisco bay.

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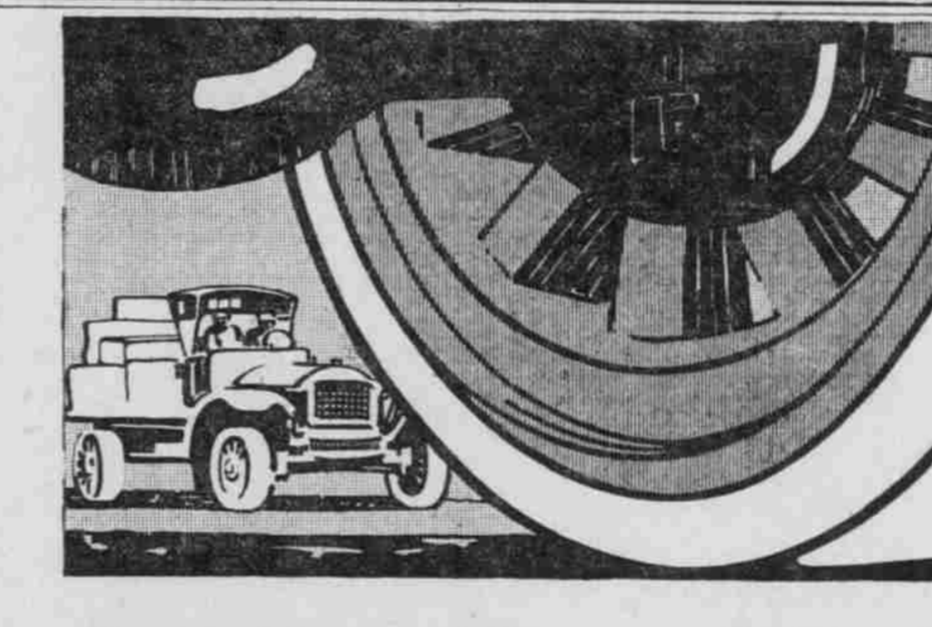
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