

ENFORCED SANITATION TO PREVENT DISEASE

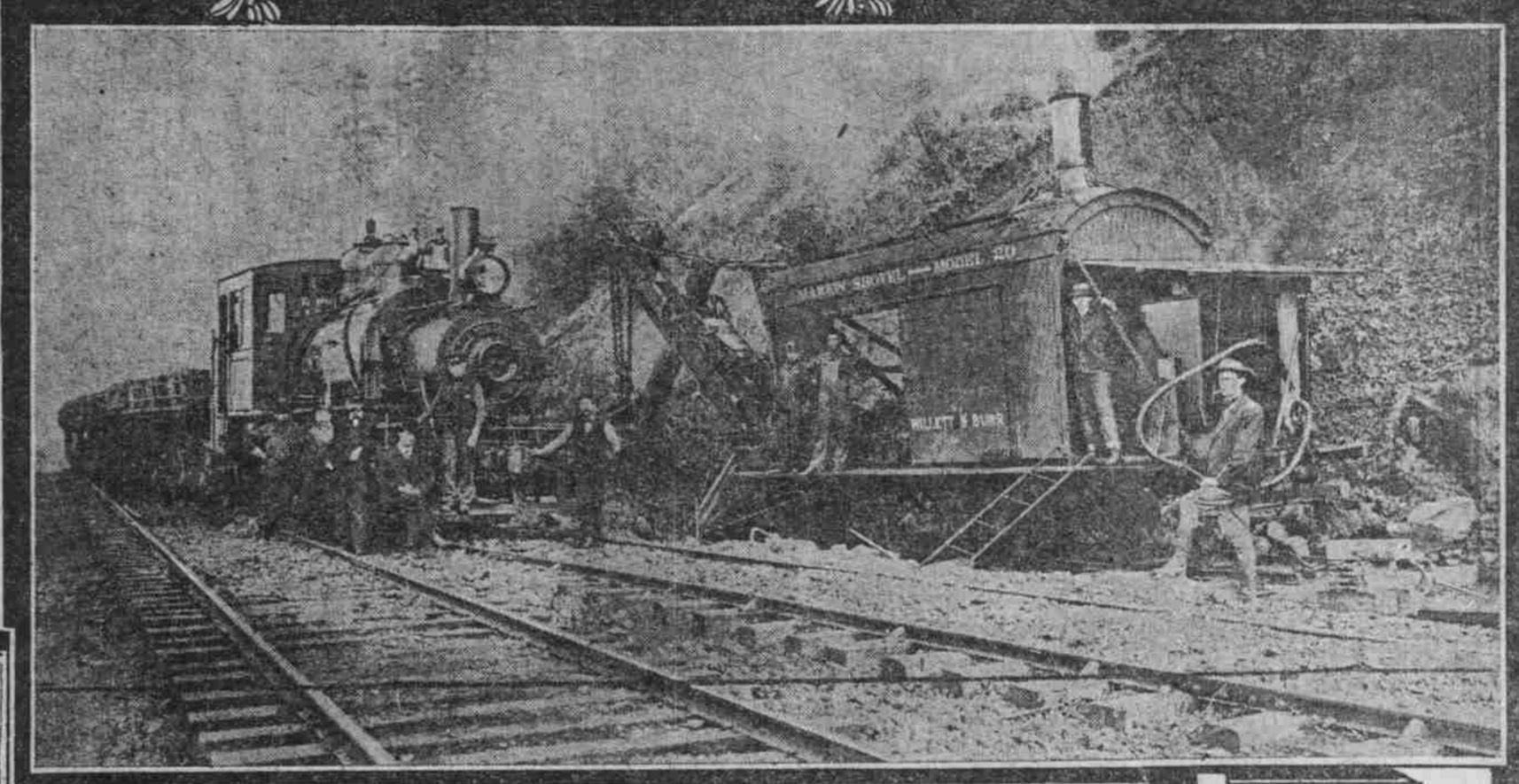
Construction Camps On the Line of the O. R. & N. Governed by Regulations Established in Japanese War Camps



KITCHEN OF HEADQUARTERS CAMP OF R. C. C. CO AT LATOURELLE



TEAM CAMP OF THE R. C. C. CO ABOVE BRIDAL VEIL



STEAM SHOVEL AND DIRT TRAIN ABOUT THREE MILES ABOVE BRIDAL VEIL

"SANITATION pays" is the conclusion, based not on humanity, but coldly on dollars and cents, of the Pacific Coast Construction Company that is running eight grading camps along the line of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company between Bonneville and Troutdale.

Time was, and is, when grading camps were under practically no sanitary control whatever. The drinking water was taken from where ever it happened to be the most convenient, the food was tested not at all, except perhaps by a passing whiff from the cook house, and refuse matter was allowed to pile up and decay in disease breeding heaps any and everywhere. Such is the condition of the average grading or construction camp.

But in the eight camps run by the Pacific Coast Construction Company, with headquarters at Latourelle, things are different. The company management recognized that perhaps better surroundings might result in enough better work from that force to more than pay for the cost of keeping things clean and healthy. So a doctor was given full power, aided by a man in each camp, to clean up and keep things clean. Incidentally any man who disobeyed the rules in regard to sanitation was promptly discharged. Next to "soldiering" the worst thing a man can do in a Pacific Coast Construction camp is to violate one of the company rules about sanitation.

One Man Supreme in Command.

The whole matter is under the personal charge of Dr. W. C. Belt, one of the capable physicians on the Pacific Coast. Under him is a man in each camp who does nothing but what in the army is called "policing." The doctor sees that all drinking water comes piped from some pure cold spring, free from all chances of contamination. He tests the water thoroughly, not only before it is chosen to supply a camp, but also from time to time. The result is only one case of typhoid fever among an average of 1000 men for over 14 months, and that was brought in from the outside. In some other camps typhoid has almost broken up a camp, it being a disease due almost entirely to a tainted water supply.

All water used for other than drinking purposes, such as dish-washing, is treated with sulphate of copper, which insures that no germs live in it. The men are encouraged to bathe in the Columbia River as often as they will. This, however, the company can only encourage, not enforce, for some men have a natural dislike for water on their bare skins the year round, and the company is helpless.

Disinfection Without End.

All bunkhouses are disinfected regularly and frequently with germ-killing fumes, and are perfectly free from vermin of all kinds. If a man is so troubled personally he is discharged or made to free himself, with the doctor's aid, at once.

All refuse matter from the kitchens is either burned or buried daily. No empty tin cans, old bones, potato peelings and other matter is allowed to stay above

ground. The horse and mule stables are cleaned from once to three times a day, and crude oil and carbolized water is freely used to kill, not only disease germs, but also all fly eggs and to keep down, as far as is practical, all disagreeable odors.

Incidentally the doctor has a can of crude coal oil handy when inspecting all the food supplies; and tainted or suspicious stuff, either meat or vegetable, is promptly treated to a liberal dose of crude oil. Contractors find it poor business to send bad raw food supplies to any of the Pacific Coast construction camps.

The closets, which the men are strictly required to use, are supplied with a liberal pile of unslaked lime. And their location is frequently changed. All brush is cut and around the camp site, pools of water drained, ditches dug to carry off rainwater, and no old clothing, shoes and such matter is allowed to remain unburied or unburned. All meat is kept in screened cages with a free circulation of air where it is cool and where germs cannot multiply on it. No better meat is served in any Portland hotel than is eaten daily on the scrubbed tables of the Pacific Construction Company.

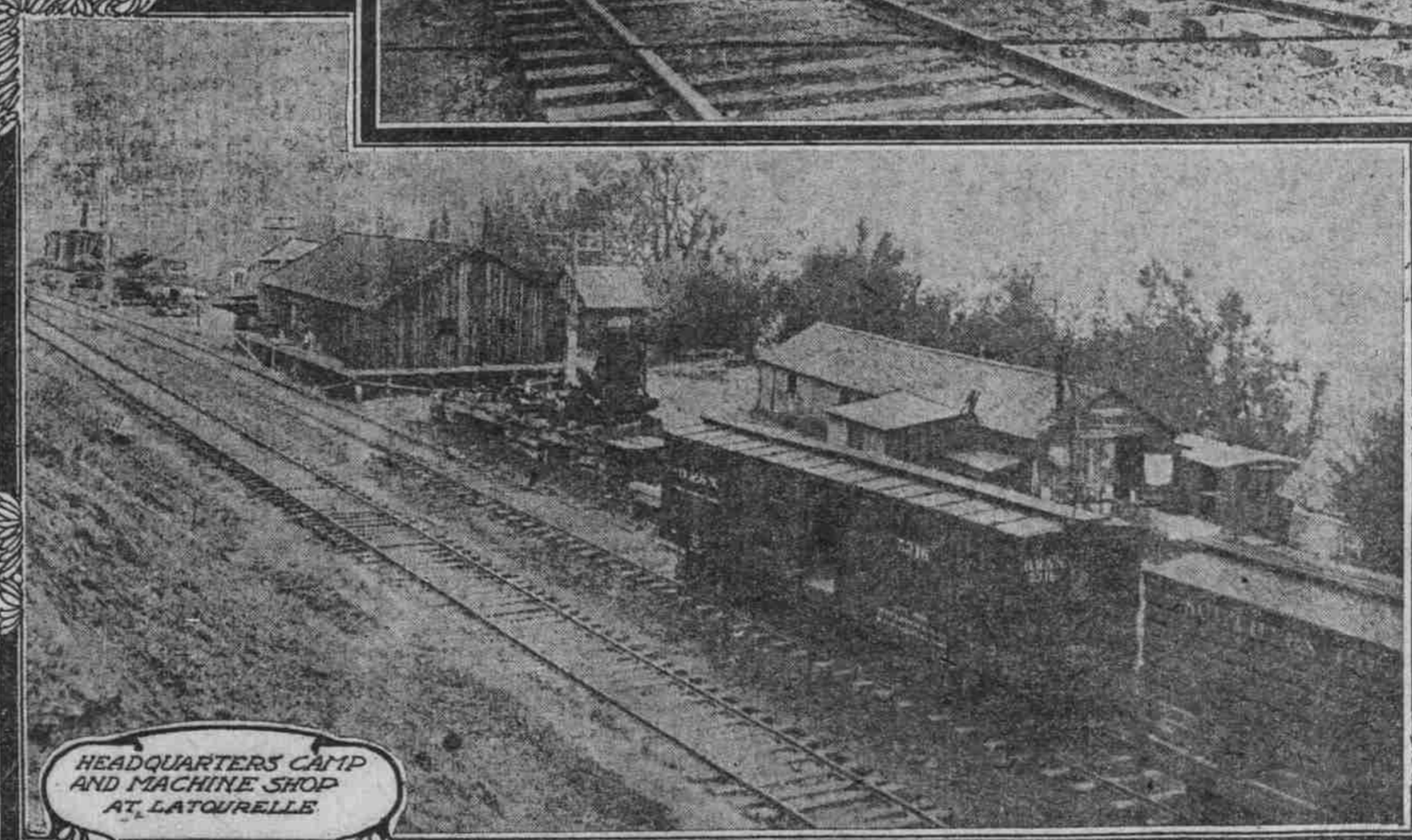
While the men are at work, the bunkhouses and tents are kept open to air. Straw in the bunks is changed very frequently, the old being at once burned with the stable refuse. At certain times the bunks are washed or sprayed with carbolized water or other disinfectants.

Very Low Death Rate.

Now, how does all this compare in actual results with the army, for instance? In the army are only picked men, yet the death rate is from 12 to 15 per 1000, and over 25 per 1000 in the average grading camp. The Pacific Construction Company has had five deaths, three from disease and two from accident, among an average of 1000 men in over 14 months. And the men they have to deal with are far from a picked lot. The boss merely looks his man over and hires him or fires him after a keen but hurried superficial inspection. The men are of all kinds, nationalities, and even races.

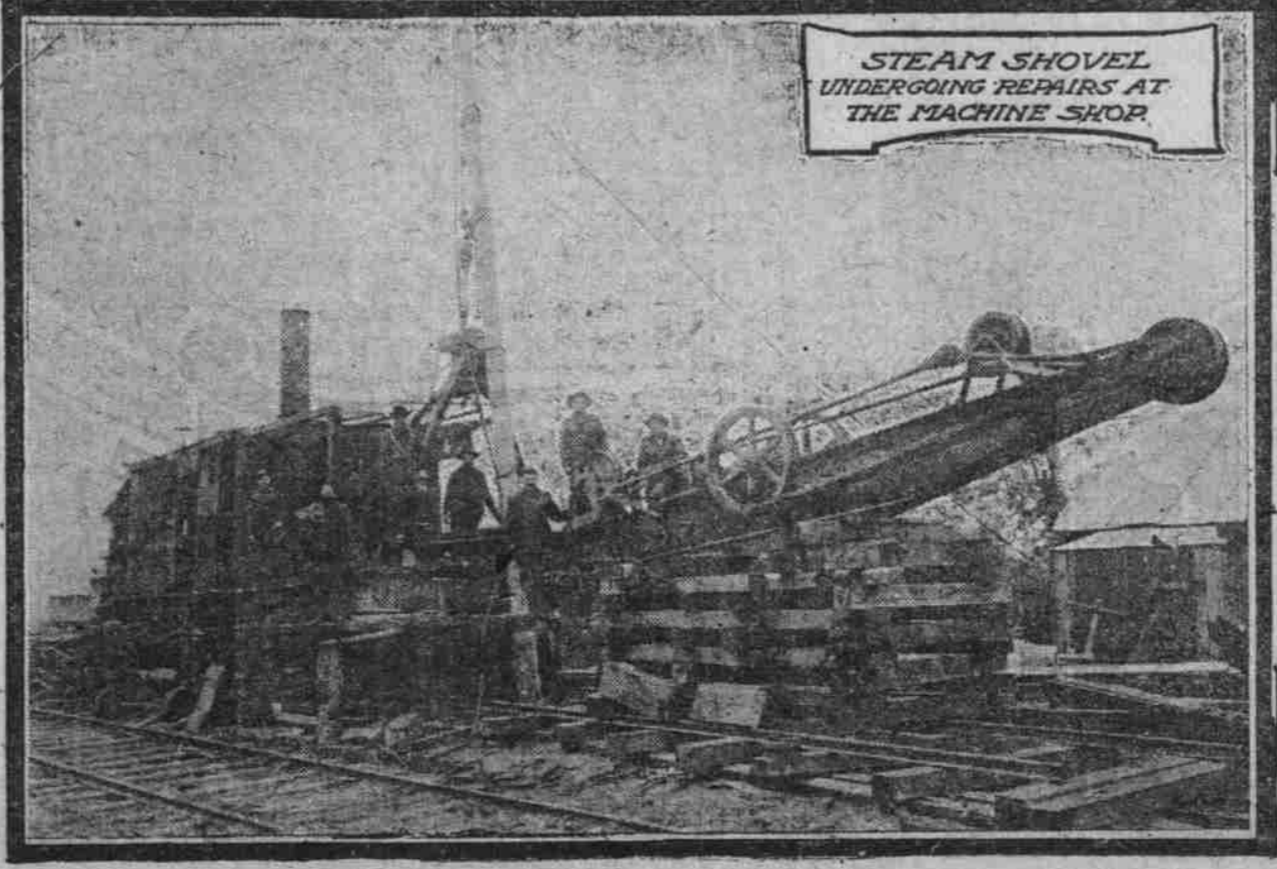
The average man lasts but eight days. Then he moves on down the track with his blankets, most of them for their usual drunk. When their money is gone they sometimes come back and repeat the performance. Over a period of 14 months the company has had to do with over 14,000 men. The company has over 2000 men a month to deal with to maintain a working force varying from 500 to 1000 men from time to time as the work requires. The average pay is \$2.30 a day, and men are hard to get at that price. The profit to the company per man averages 50 cents a day. The average profit per mile is somewhat more.

So hard is labor, cheap manual labor, to get at this time and for a long time past, that the company has taken a hint from the Japanese army system of sanitation to make their camps the best in America. And it pays. The men themselves say that they would on the whole rather work in these camps for 50 cents per day less than in other camps where death and disease lurk in food, drink and bed.



HEADQUARTERS CAMP AND MACHINE SHOP AT LATOURELLE

STEAM SHOVEL UNDERGOING REPAIRS AT THE MACHINE SHOP



TO GET RID OF RATS

General Instructions of Special Value to Portland at This Time.

WHEN it comes to undesirable citizens there is an astonishing lot to be said about the rat. It is a plain fact that the rat causes losses in this country amounting to many millions of dollars annually. According to Government reports the rat does more damage to property than all the other injurious mammals combined.

There are three kinds of house rats—the black, the roof and the brown rat, and not one of them is a native of this country. Like the rest of us they came in as aliens and, also like the rest of us, they have stayed and thrived. The brown rat has taken the lead over its less robust relatives.

It is a truly remarkable beast. If it were not such a plague one would be forced to hold its extraordinary powers and performances in admiration.

In spite of the fact that it has been and is pursued in constant warfare it has steadily increased in numbers. It will eat anything, live anywhere and, if

female, contribute from 25 to 50 or even more recruits annually to the census returns.

It will destroy grain no matter when, where or how it finds it—freshly planted, actually growing or at any stage, from the field to the mill, elevator, ship's hold and even in a feed trough under another animal's very nose. It invades stores and warehouses and eats fur or feathers, silk, wool or cotton, leather or lace and groceries of any description, pure or adulterated.

It gnaws lead pipes, flooding houses; it gnaws matches, burning them; it undermines foundations, causing them to sag. It carries diseases from house to house, from city to city, from continent to continent. In short, as a comprehensive pest it is absolutely without a rival.

No wonder therefore that the Department of Agriculture has seen fit to issue a special bulletin on the various methods of getting rid of the beast. It declares that a mere statement of all the methods practiced in historic times would fill a volume, but it is content to recommend five as most efficacious now. They are

poisons, traps, ferrets, fumigation and ratproof construction of buildings.

The poison most highly recommended for dealing with mice in ordinary houses is borium carbonate. It is cheap, has no taste or smell and in the small quantities used for poisoning rats and mice is harmless to larger animals.

Its action on rodents is said to be slow, but reasonably sure, and it has one decided advantage, the animals before dying leave the building in search of water.

The poison may be fed in the form of dough made of one-fifth barytes and four-fifths meal, but a more convenient bait is ordinary oat meal, with about one-eighth of its bulk of barytes, mixed with water into a stiff dough; or the barytes may be spread upon bread and butter or on pieces of moistened toast.

The prepared bait should be placed in rat runs, a small quantity at a place. If a single application of the poison fails to drive all rats from the premises it should be repeated with a change of bait.

Strychnine is a more virulent poison, but its action is so rapid that the animals often die upon the premises.

The two poisons most commonly used for rats and mice are arsenic and phosphorus, nearly all commercial preparations containing one or the other as a basis. While experiments prove that rats have great powers of resistance to arsenic, it may sometimes be used advantageously as an alternative poison. Preparations of phosphorus sold by druggists are often too weak to be effective; and home-made mixtures, when of sufficient strength, are dangerous, as rats may carry the bats into walls or crannies and thus cause fires.

Trapping if persistently followed is one of the most effective methods of destroying rats. The improved modern traps with a wire fall released by a baited trigger

and driven by a coiled spring have marked advantages over the old forms, and many of them may be used at the same time. These should be baited with small pieces of Vienna sausage or bacon.

In illustration of the effectiveness of traps, it may be related that a year or two ago a large department store in Washington experienced heavy losses of gloves, lace curtains and other merchandise from rat depredations. For several months the damages were from \$10 to \$20 nightly.

After many unsuccessful attempts to abate the nuisance the managers were advised to try the improved traps. As a result 126 rats were killed during the first 20 nights, when the losses practically ceased, and the method has been continued in the store ever since.

Ferrets are useful for driving rats out of hiding so that the dogs can kill them.

Rats may be destroyed in their burrows in the fields and still more important, in levees and rice field dikes by the use of carbon bisulphide as a fumigant.

The best way of excluding rats from buildings, whether in the city or country, is by the use of cement in construction.

Raking in the Money.

Life.

In order to become rich it is necessary merely to follow the perfectly simple procedure of any kind of finance. Thus: Borrow all the money you can upon the property you already own.

With the money buy more property.

Combine the two properties, float a loan upon them and with the money buy a third property.

Merge the three properties, use the merger as security for a loan and with the money buy another large property.

Consolidate this with the others, select a board of directors and authorize yourself to float twice as much stock as there is.

Sell this stock and with the money buy five or six more properties.

Organize a holding company which will carry the stocks of all the properties.

You are now so wealthy and so influential that you do not need to make any more loans.

Increase the stock of your properties and sell bonds upon them.

Authorize yourself to buy everything in sight with this money.

Now you will have control of everything; also you will have the say-so in any number of subsidiary companies and a controlling voice in eight or nine insurance companies and National banks.

After this there doesn't seem to be much for you to do except to get the dyspepsia, get bald and prattle gently about the excellence of moral proverbs.

Cold Air and the Equator.

Professor Hergesell, of Strasburg University, announced during a congress of German scientists in Dresden, that the atmosphere at high altitudes is coldest over the equator and warmest over the poles. He declared balloons at a distance of 12 miles from earth on the equatorial zone had found a temperature 14 degrees below zero. At a similar height in central Europe the temperature recorded was 70 to 25 below zero.