

A WORLD'S RECORD!

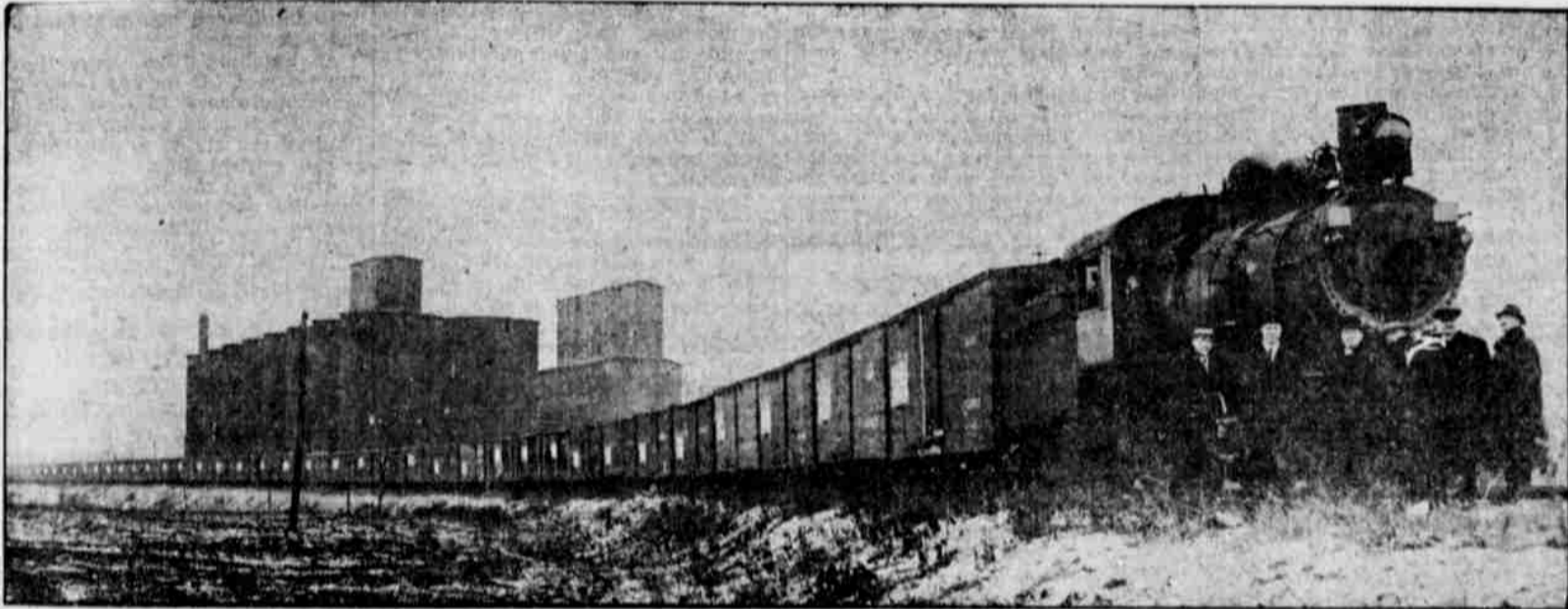
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Government Examining Depression in Lumber

AUSTIN CARY, of the Forest Service, who for the past few months has been directing the gathering of facts in Oregon and Washington that should assist in answering the question, "What is the matter with the lumber industry?" has returned to Washington to confer with others who are working along similar lines in other lumbering regions of the United States. He is enthusiastic over the hearty co-operation that is being given by the lumbermen of this region.

In a hasty survey of the study District Forecaster Cecil said:

"The Secretary of Agriculture and

the Secretary of Commerce have undertaken jointly a constructive study of existing conditions in the lumber industry, the object being to ascertain the essential facts underlying the production and marketing of forest products in the United States and to set these facts before the public with conviction and authority.

"If any public measures are indicated as necessary and advisable to better existing conditions it would seem that their advocacy would follow as a logical result of the investigation. The bringing of these facts together by a disinterested agent cannot be otherwise than helpful to the industry, because the presentation of the whole field by an impartial public agency should result, to say the least, in a better relationship than now exists between the industry

and the public. While it is not the function of the Federal Government to solve the special problems of any individual business, nevertheless, many factors connected with the lumber industry are of wide or universal application and in many cases have already been studied carefully in a number of the bureaus.

"I wish to point out particularly that this inquiry on the part of the Government is not undertaken with any inquisitorial attitude, but in a constructive spirit, to bring forward for the benefit of the public and of the industry just what the present conditions are and what are the causes of the depression.

"There is no use denying the fact that the lumber industry is depressed, or that it is harmful to the public to have a great industry like this de-

pressed. You, of the Pacific Northwest, where the prosperity of the whole region depends to a great extent upon the prosperity of the lumber industry, can readily understand this.

"Before there can be any permanent improvement a remedy must be found. I am frank to say I do not know what it will be. Some men may come forward and say one thing is a cure-all, and others may suggest other things. The war has hurt the lumber business, just as it has hurt other lines of industry, but it must be remembered that the lumber industry was depressed before the war. While the Forest Service is following up a number of ideas, I do not think that any one can say what will be an effective remedy until all the facts are obtained.