

LUMBER PRICES MAY GO HIGHER

DEALERS BELIEVED OVER PROSPECTS OF RECEIVING MORE REMUNERATIVE PROFITS FOR TIMBER PRODUCTS—RUSSO-JAP WAR CUTS OFF ORIENTAL TRADE.

Several of the local lumber dealers and manufacturers are feeling encouraged over the probability of more remunerative prices for timber products. Nearly all the mills in Oregon and the northwest are running on regular day time, and despite the ruling low prices, assert that there is no difficulty in disposing of the product. While there has been no advance in prices, there is an appreciable slight increase in the demand, and inquiries from the east are becoming the rule. A recent published report from Astoria states that in the past few days orders have been coming in from eastern points at prices much higher than any previous time for months. The report also states as the result of the better conditions, prices have risen, and the demand is now so great that the local mills will soon be compelled to run overtime. Millmen point out, however, that the bulk of the statement that the country is now too big to be extensively affected in any line, and that slumps can at most be temporary.

For the past two or three years there has been a boom in the price of lumber, and the sanguine ones prophesied that Oregon and Washington timber products would never again reach a low price, but there was a slump a few months ago. When the logs reached a selling rate of \$1.50 and \$1.50 per thousand, the small farmer gathered up the knotty timber on lands that had been logged off two or three times in the past, and the logs that were convenient to tide water, sold readily. New mills and expansion of old ones were placed in the desirable timber districts, and labor, logs and lumber advanced to boom prices.

It is certain, however, that lulls in the greatest revenue-producing industry of Oregon and Washington will be of only temporary duration. The causes that produced the recent slump in the lumber market are various. There was a great overproduction in the Sound country, and the market in California became partially demoralized owing to existing conditions. The Japan-Russia war put an end to a considerable part of the oriental trade, thus cutting down the export output to an appreciable extent. Last year the exports to Siberia, Fort Arthur, Japan and other Asiatic ports were so important that the lumber trade of Portland. The North Pacific Lumber company of Portland last year shipped large cargoes to Port Arthur, Vladivostok, and Tien Tain but no orders are being received from that section this season.

The South American trade holds up to its usual standard, and the North Pacific company sent a mixed cargo of over 1,100,000 feet to Peru last week. It is expected that the northwest will do a large export trade with South America, as soon as labor conditions are settled. It is out of the question to get work out of the South African natives to complete the projected improvements, and the move has begun to import 200,000 Chinese laborers. It is reported that the first shipment of 10,000 has already reached its destination.

Mr. Gerlinger, of the Oregon Fir Lumber company, whose mills are located near Barton in Clackamas county, reports that the investment in expensive equipment that is added to the cost of logs secured back from the streams. On the whole, the outlook for improved conditions in the lumber and timber trade as far from being discouraging, and it is confidently believed that the present apparent increased demand, is certain to stiffen prices.

Another cause for the prevailing low prices in timber products is laid to the fact that the big lumber firms have not worked together to keep up rates, and that there has been more or less cutting on cargo rail and water shipments.

LUMBER NOTES

S. Benson, president of the Benson Lumber & Lumbering company, is spending a few days at the Wind river hot-springs in Washington for the benefit of his health.

L. D. Shank of Canby, who has a contract of getting out several hundred piles for the Erington-Wiggins company, was in the city today.

J. B. Yeon of Ranier, who is owner and manager of one of the largest logging camps in that section, is in the city. The camp is running in full blast with improved equipments, and a ready sale of the product is found with Portland mills.

Low Excursion Rates

To St. Louis and Chicago and return, account world's fair, via Great Northern railway, June 7, 16, 17, 18. H. Dickson, C. P. & T. A., 122 Third St., Portland.

MAINE MUSIC FESTIVAL

(Journal Special Service.) Bangor, Me., June 3.—Many music lovers from out of town are in Bangor for the opening tonight of the eighth Maine musical festival. The program this year provides for five concerts in which a number of noted soloists in addition to the large festival chorus and orchestra will take part.

Skin Diseases

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Grid of clothing categories and prices: Suits, Hats, Workingmen's Garments, Overshirts, Shirts, Pants, Neckwear, Bar Coats, Vests, Underwear, Cravenettes, Motormen's and Conductors' Suits, Tobacco, Shoes, Caps, Hosiery, Sweaters, Handkerchiefs, Collars and Cuffs.

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POWER COMPANY BETTERS PROPERTY

OREGON WATER POWER COMPANY WILL SPEND HALF A MILLION DOLLARS IN IMPROVING STREET CAR SYSTEM—NEW RESERVOIR TO BE BUILT.

Improvements by the Oregon Water Power company for bettering its street car system that are nearing completion, or that are under contemplation, carry an aggregate cost of between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Making Long Fills

Most important of the road building improvements is the fill on the Spring Water line, known by the company as its Sellwood fill. This fill is across the flat, along the river, between East Portland and Sellwood. It is a mile and a half in length, and has an average depth of 22 feet.

FREE ST. LOUIS BOOK

Those readers of The Journal who are planning a trip to the St. Louis exposition should not fail to secure a copy of the beautiful 86 page book just issued by the Union Pacific railroad.

BY LEMLY'S GOING DIEHL STEPS UP

Washington, June 3.—As a reward for the capable manner in which he represented the United States with the gunboat Marietta at La Guayra while the warships of England, Germany and Italy were blockading and bombarding the Venezuelan coast in December, 1902, Commander S. W. B. Diehl becomes judge-advocate-general of the navy in succession to Captain S. C. Lemly, whose term in that important position expired today.

TO DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

(Journal Special Service.) Columbus, O., June 3.—The first of the half-dozen occupants of the annex of the Ohio penitentiary paid the death penalty this morning, when Carl Berg, a Swedish youth of 19 years, was electrocuted. Berg's crime was the murder of John Shihard, a fellow tramp, at Wauson, last fall.

OREGON DAY AT THE FAIR

June 7 has been named as selling date for World's Fair tickets to St. Louis and Chicago, account dedication of the Oregon building at the exposition. Get tickets at the O. R. & N. office, Third and Washington streets.