

## SPRUCE PARTS TO BE MADE UP HERE

Former Governor West, Home From Washington, Declares Assurance Is Given.

Oregon planning mills soon will be given the opportunity of turning out spruce parts for government airplanes. In the opinion of former Governor Oswald West, who returned last night from Washington, where, with Senators Chamberlain and McNary he presented the matter before the aircraft production board.

Colonel Deeds, head of the board, gave us assurances that the board would take immediate steps looking into this. Mr. West said, "and that it would depend upon the ability of the Oregon mills to turn out the work."

"Under the present procedure the spruce is being shipped east in the rough for finishing in eastern airplane factories, and less than one-fifth of it is used. This is, therefore, a useless burden on transportation. Colonel Deeds readily agreed that it was a poor system from a strict business standpoint, and said if the Oregon mills are capable of producing the work there is no reason why they shouldn't be given the opportunity."

"Owing to the war, building operations have decreased, and the work of the planning mills has naturally slackened. The Oregon mills are in a good position to do the work of finishing up the spruce and feel that they should get a share of the business, since the product is produced here. I am confident they will get it."

**Data Is Essential**

All information and data on spruce timber and logs available for lumber for airplane construction is being sought by the United States signal corps. It is imperative for the government to obtain a general inventory of spruce and spruce logs immediately, and reports from owners and others on the spruce and logs already in the water and how long they have been there it wanted.

## Commissioner of Boy Scouts in Portland

H. D. Ross, national field scout commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, is in Portland conferring with the local scout board concerning a definite future program for the organization to pursue.

Mr. Ross has made a trip along the entire Pacific coast and states that although the boys have made splendid progress, war conditions have brought about a crisis in their work that calls for a more intensive program for the development of scouting.

W. W. Cotton, president of the local board, and C. H. Davis Jr., chairman of the executive committee, are meeting with Mr. Ross to decide the definite activities for the Portland Scouts in future work.

## Faculty Member, German, a Suicide

Palo Alto, Cal., Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—Professor Ernest W. Ponce, professor of mathematics at Stanford university, was found dead in the kitchen of his home today with a big gunshot wound in his breast. A shotgun, with which the wound was evidently inflicted, lay nearby.

The police believe Ponce committed suicide, although there were no notes or other indications of such an intention.

Professor Ponce was of German birth and before America entered the war, was a strong defender of Germany's cause. In recent months, however, he had been silent, moody and apparently despondent. Police believe this prompted the suicide.

## INQUIRY ADDS TO SUGAR SHORTAGE

Ralph Says Investigation Helps Delay Work of Food Administration in the East.

Washington, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—The sugar shortage on the Atlantic coast is being increased by the investigation now under way before a sub-committee of the senate manufacturers' committee, George M. Rolph, head of the sugar division of the food administration, charged on the stand today.

"The work of the international sugar committee is being held up by this investigation and has been entirely suspended for more than a week," declared Rolph.

"I expected that ultimately congress would be blamed," answered Senator James Reed, chairman.

There then followed a general discussion among the members of the committee with Senator Reed maintaining that the members of the food administration were not required to leave their work to attend the hearings.

Rolph was taken from the stand temporarily in order that James A. Sommerville of St. Louis might testify. Sommerville declared he was a member of the car service committee of the American Railway association. He testified that an official of the food administration approached him in November in an attempt to get cars to move sugar from Colorado. He declared he had told the official of the food administration that there was 1,250,000 pounds of sugar in Michigan which could be moved more easily.

Sommerville did not know whether the Michigan crop had been moved. In answer to a question from Senator Jones, he declared that the car supply for beet sugar manufacturers in Michigan has been as good this year as ever.

## Members of Legion Of Death Enter U. S.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—"What is your age and occupation?" an immigration inspector asked of a frail looking Russian girl who had just arrived on a Dutch steamer from the orient.

"A soldier—a soldier of Russia," was the startlingly quick response. "My age is 15—old enough to fight for Russia."

She was Riva Kopkin of the Russian Legion of Death and today, with Miss Eva Leicost, her comrade in arms, was admitted to the United States. They bring stories of bloody scenes which precede the Bolshevik overthrow of Kerensky.

## Congressman Will Speak Here Sunday

Congressman Albert Johnson, who will give an address in the Auditorium the evening of January 1, has a wealth of first hand information about war conditions on the western front, according to a letter received this morning by the chamber of commerce from Byron W. Shimp, head of the speaking division of the committee of public information for four-minute men.

Congressman Johnson was a member of the congressional delegation that visited the front, and while in the trenches narrowly escaped being struck by a shell. He is touring the country under the auspices of the committee of public information. Congressman Johnson's home state is Washington. He is a resident of Hoquiam, where he was engaged in the newspaper business before going to Washington to represent his district.

## Delaware Company Will Operate Here

Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—The Mountain States Power company, a Delaware corporation with a capital stock of \$3,000,000, Thursday filed its declaration of purpose to engage in business in this state. The company is a partnership of all Chicago people. Richard Shore Smith of Eugene is named as the agent for the company in Oregon. Articles of incorporation were filed by the Sanders-Hofford company of North Powder, Union county. It has a capital stock of \$5000. The incorporators are: E. M. Sanders, J. F. Sanders and H. W. Swatford.

## Today Is Shortest Of All the Year

Today is the shortest day in the year. Saturday the daylight hours will begin to lengthen and Dame Nature will begin to cut down the lighting expenses for the housewives.

Lovers who are accustomed to spoon in the dark and gladsome hours will find their sphere of activities waning when two minutes are subtracted from the nocturnal hours Saturday.

According to the weather prognosticator the sun rises today at 7:50 and will set at 4:28.

Spend the winter and the run of tourists from the East is greater than ever before. All transcontinental lines report a record tourist traffic.

## VETERAN OF SOMME, WOUNDED, TO TEACH UNIVERSITY TACTICS

Colonel Leader, Long Expected, Telegraphs Word of Arrival at an Atlantic Port.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Or., Dec. 21.—Colonel John Leader of the British army, who was secured last summer by the University of Oregon to act as military instructor at the university, has landed in New York and will arrive in Eugene on December 23, according to a telegram which President P. L. Campbell has received from him.

The word that he has at last arrived in the country comes as a relief to the university authorities, who have received telegrams from him for the past three months saying that he hoped to sail soon. He experienced much difficulty in getting his release from the British army and was further delayed when he tried to get transportation across the Atlantic because of the scarcity of passenger vessels. It is expected he will visit the war department at Washington and also make an inspection trip to Harvard university, where a great deal of military instruction is given, before starting work here.

President P. L. Campbell, who left last night for Washington, expects to meet Colonel Leader in Kansas City.

Colonel Leader has had 21 years experience in the army and in the present conflict he took the Sixteenth Royal Irish rifles through the Somme campaign, in which he was wounded, being then invalided home to England. He will arrive on the campus in time to take charge of the university military drill for the second semester.

## CLOTHING IS LACKING FOR NEW TROOPS

(Continued From Page One)

Sharpe replied, "Prior to that time we didn't have coats for all the men."

**Overcoats Are Too Small**

Major L. Hardeman of the quartermaster's department, testifying for General Sharpe, said there were sufficient overcoats but the sizes were wrong.

"How did that come?" he was asked.

"Because in most draft cantonments the men are larger physically than those in the regular army and in the guard," said Hardeman.

"Has ever man in the army an overcoat today?" Senator McKellar asked.

"As far as requisitions have been made," Hardeman replied.

**Big Order Authorized**

Sharpe read a long memorandum detailing how, at the time the army and the national guard were mobilized for Mexican border service, his department had bought clothing, practically exhausting its funds.

"When demobilization of the national guard was halted, Sharpe said he got Secretary Baker's approval to an order for clothing for 500,000 additional men, that was approximately the number of the national guard and the army at war strength. In April, this year, he was authorized by Baker to order for 500,

000 more men and in June for a third 500,000.

"What did these orders include for each man?" asked Senator Weeks.

**English Plan Advocated**

"They were equipment C, or clothing and tents to last three months," replied General Sharpe.

"You know you now haven't enough clothing for your men, don't you?" asked Senator McKellar.

"Yes," said Sharpe, "that's due to the way the men have been called out."

"It's because of the methods of purchasing through the council of national defense, isn't it?" demanded McKellar.

"No," said Sharpe. "We've got to have some system like that. If we did switch to the English plan we would be even better off. They have a purveyor general of supplies, through whom orders for ordnance, food and clothing come from the heads of the three divisions."

**Draft Delay Is Desired**

"How much clothing in England?" asked Senator Hitchcock.

"I don't know," said Sharpe. "He asked permission to buy and did not state the amount."

Sharpe said that the British embargo on Australian wool has been removed as far as the clothing is concerned and that American manufacturers are now working Australian wool into cloth for uniforms.

Sharpe said he hoped there would not be another draft until the new enlistments in the regular army which had upset its program, and that they would be ready for a new call sometime in January.

**Shoes Do Double Duty**

Asking if there had not been some trouble as to shoes, Senator Wadsworth said he had heard that at Camp Custer half of an infantry detachment was marched out to target practice and then returned, giving their shoes to the other half so these men could practice. Sharpe admitted such a condition exists.

Senator Weeks declared that a Massachusetts shoe manufacturer who examined the shoes issued to 20,000 men reported that about 80 per cent of the men were wearing shoes too short for them.

"This condition has been brought to the attention of Secretary Baker and of the medical department," said Weeks. "The medical department concurs in the view of the shoe man that the wearing of these short shoes would endanger the foot-health of the men."

## Red Tape Is Criticized

General Sharpe said that as a result of the report to Baker, the system of fitting shoes has been changed and added:

"General Pershing has asked us to omit some narrower widths because his men are wearing heavy woolen socks."

Sharpe placed the blame for improper fitting of shoes on company commanders and medical officers.

He criticized the department red tape that sends telegrams, contracts and authorization for action through a half dozen officials before action is had. He advocated adoption of "business methods."

**Overalls Used for Uniforms**

"Did you ever suggest a change?" asked Senator Weeks.

"Yes, to the secretary of war."

"Who is responsible?"

"Well, this has been a matter of considerable controversy ever since the Civil war," said Sharpe.

Senator Wadsworth asked why blue overalls were issued to men in cantonment. Sharpe said the overalls were given to protect uniforms from dirt in trench digging.

"That one division commander bought the overalls because he had no regula-

tion uniforms and later got your approval."

"I was informed General Glenn at Chickadee did that," said Sharpe.

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- Boys' Military Sweaters, \$5, \$6.
- Boys' Bath Robes \$1.50 to \$5.
- Boys' Norfolk Suits \$5 to \$20
- Boys' Overcoats, \$6.50 to \$15
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