ANTAGONISTS OF WOODEN SHIPS ACCUSED OF UNDERMINING U. S. IN CARRYING ON WAR

WOODEN VESSELS WILL WIN WAR, PAPER ASSERTS

American Lumberman Goes Without Gloves for Penny-a-Liners Who Are Open to Suspicion.

JUST KEEP ON SAWING WOOD

Regardless of "Petty Snapping," Lumber Manufacturers Turning Over Resources to Aid Nation.

Notwithstanding the facts that hundreds of mills in the south and west are engaged in the work of producing ship timbers, that millions of feet of material are moving from the mills to the shipyards, that thousands of men are engaged in the work of building wooden ships for the government, and that within a few months many of these ships will be ready to take their places in the greatest merchant fleet the world has ever seen, space writers and would be journalists continue to attack without warrant the program of wooden ship building in which the government is engaged.

Commenting on this situation the American Lumberman says:

"The fact that winning the war is going to depend largely upon the wooden ships and the further fact that the lumber industry has practically subordinated everything else to the production of ship timbers have no weight whatever with these penny-a-liners, who, together with publications that give space to their ravings, lay themselves open at least to the suspicion of subordination by powerful interests opposed to wood, and they continue to ridicule and belittle the wooden ships and question the patriotism and good judgment of those in authority responsible for the placing of contracts for these vessels. For example, this from a recent issue of Collier's:

"'Well, we have come a long way from the wooden shipbuilding project during the last few months. The wooden cheese boxes that were to have defeated the submarine campaign lie singularly neglected by publicity in many yards about our coast and in various initial stages of construction. The timber has not been forthcoming. The country may be assured that some hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent, but it is extremely doubtful if the ships themselves will ever emerge from the obscurity into which they have passed. In the meanwhile, it would be hard even in the shipping board to work up much enthusiasm today for wooden ship construction. The shipping board—and the country—have suddenly come face to face with sterner projects. They have discovered the real importance of steel ship construction. They are learning what tonnage means in terms of modern commerce. They are not saying much about it but they are doing the heaviest sort of thinking—difficult thinking, too, because it is all so unfamiliar and surprising.'

"This is only one of frequent flings of a similar character at the wooden ships that recently have appeared in various publications.

"In the meantime, regardless of this petty snapping at their heels, lumber manufacturers are turning all of their resources—in response to appeals from the government for assistance in this time of great need—to the one object of providing materials for the building of ships. While mills are operating day and night in order that the timbers may be forthcoming, a great lumber association is sending speakers into every nook and corner of the district in which its members operate to meet the workers face to face, tell them what brought on the war and why the United States has entered the struggle for world democracy and to let them know that each one of them has an opportunity to assist in bringing an early victory by doing his best to speed up the work of producing ship timbers—a great, patriotic, educational campaign that will make for better and more loyal citizenship and at the same time get practical results for the government.

"How much grander and more patriotic this program than that of other interests that are spending money in a propaganda calculated not alone to injure a great industry but also to retard the government in its program of providing ships that are vitally essential to winning the war."

SINNOTT WOULD HAVE GRAIN FARMERS PAID WITHOUT LONG DELAY

Representative Knows From First-Hand Experience How Conditions Have Been.

Representative Sinnott's proposed amendment to the food control act, which would enable farmers to receive pay for their grain promptly upon its delivery, was inspired by his observations of the operation of the law in his district, where farmers have been discouraged by having to wait for pay long after their grain was shipped, and to pay charges as high as 6 per cent for advances made upon their crops.

The amendment he offered, which has been referred to the committee on agriculture, refers to section 14 of the food control act, in which the price of wheat is fixed for this year and next, adding the following language:

"Provided, however, that while this section is in force and during the wheat delivery season for the year 1918 the United States shall maintain at the principal delivery points in each of the counties of the states of Oregon and Washington an agent, whose duty it shall be to grade and accept wheat immediately upon delivery by the producer; and the producer shall be paid for said wheat at once upon the grading and acceptance of the same."

An Italian inventor has brought out an automobile street sweeper that sprays the pavement in front of its brush to prevent the dust rising and gathers the sweepings into a reservoir.

BILLION BUSHEL CROP OF WHEAT FOR 1918 NOT LIKELY, IS VIEY

Large Increase and High Condition for Spring Wheat Crop Are Necessary to Success.

A billion bushel wheat crop for the United States for 1918 is not possible unless most favorable conditions prevail for the winter wheat plant now in the ground and a large increase and high condition are made for the spring wheat next spring and summer.

Indications are for a winter wheat crop of 540,000,000 bushels, as estimated by the department of agriculture for the next harvest. Should this quantity be harvested it would be the third largest crop on record, being exceeded only by the harvests of 1914 and 1915, the former year setting the record with a crop of 684,990,000 bushels, and the latter having the second largest, 673,000,000 bushels.

The harvest this year was 418,000,000 bushels winter wheat, although the promise a year ago was for 604,000,000 bushels. Acreage for the 1918 harvest is 42,170,000, an increase of 1,686,000, or 4 per cent over that seeded last year, and the largest known, the next highest being 42,012,000 for the harvest of 1915.

Under existing conditions large crops are necessary for feeding the people in the United States and the allies, but under the adverse influences the acreage is satisfactory. Should the yield be 15 bushels per acre there would be a crop of 630,000,000 bushels.

Condition of 79.3 is the lowest on record for December 1, the previous low being 81.4 in 1895. Condition last year was 85.7 and the 10 year average is 89.3. In figuring the estimated yield the average per acre of 14.4 bushels was used, which suggests 12.8 bushels, making 540,000,000 bushels, where 672,000,000 bushels were expected.

Steps have been taken for a large increase in the spring wheat acreage. A movement is on by the Council of National Defense and the agricultural department to insure an adequate labor supply for seeding operations, ample supplies of seed wheat and help for harvest. The record spring wheat crop was 351,854,000 bushels in 1915, when 19,161,000 acres were harvested. This year's crop was only 232,758,000 acres.

Technical Courses Opened by Women

Large industrial establishments of Philadelphia have brought to the attention of Dr. John P. Garger, superintendent of schools, an anticipated demand for women educated in technical courses to replace men soon to be called for military service, and have asked that increased facilities be provided for training women in such courses. As a result arrangements are being made to care for greatly increased training classes beginning on January 2.

The lines for which women will be most needed are mechanical and architectural drawing.

OREGON'S PRICELESS CROP

Courtesy Southern Pacific Co.

One of Oregon's most thriving industries is the raising of healthy children. The ones depicted are a fair sample of what Washington county is doing.

ALL ABLE-BODIED MEN SHOULD WORK SO AS TO MEET WAR NEEDS

Employment of School Children in Harvest Time Is Urged as One Solution of Problem.

In his address before the dairymen of the state at Sequim in Clallam county, after saying that every able bodied man should be made to work, conscripted if necessary by the government, E. F. Benson, state commissioner of agriculture, said that the farmers of the United States were largely responsible for the "hobo" by putting a premium upon him. He said in part:

"We put a premium on the hobo by giving him work for 30 days in the wheat fields, requiring him to bring his own blankets, sleep out of doors and then move on when our particular job is finished."

Commissioner Benson pointed out that California and other states are experimenting with the plan of getting men to buy small tracts upon a central tract which the state partially improves. Austrialia is working on this problem. He said that on his own farms he is going to try and work out the plan of setting aside an acre or two for the worker of the farm in the hopes of holding a desirable family for each tract.

He advocates the use of the labor of school children in harvest time for the lighter work, and declares that no able bodied man should remain idle. He declares the government should see that all work, but points out that if men are to be made to work on farms that the government must also see that certain wages are paid, hours observed and living conditions are decent.

The material on which safety matches are ignited is placed on one end of a new box instead of on one side of the cover, enabling the cover to be used as a wind shield when a match is lighted.

AMENDMENTS SOUGHT TO FARM LOAN ACT TO INCREASE ITS SCOPE

Removal of Bank Limitations, Increased Interest Maximum and Greater Power Asked.

The federal farm loan board advocates amendments to the farm loan act under which many private farm mortgage bankers may enter the government system, as joint stock land banks. At the same time the board also gave warning that it expects interests seeking to break down the system to file a suit soon to test the constitutionality of the act.

Amendments to the existing laws specifically recommended to congress in the board's annual report are:

To remove the present restriction permitting a joint stock land bank to do business only in the state where it is situated and one contiguous state.

To permit a bank to issue bonds to the amount of 20 times its capital stock, which must be $250,000 or more, instead of 15 times, as under existing law; and

To raise from 6 to 6½ per cent the maximum interest rate which joint stock land banks may charge on loans to farmers.

All these amendments have been sought by the Farm Mortgage Bankers' association, whose leaders predicted that a large proportion of the members would seek government charters, and operate under supervision of the farm loan board if the modifications were made.

In a statement explaining the financial condition of the Federal Land banks, the farm loan board said:

"We are advised that the next move of those who are seeking to break down the system, will be to institute a suit contesting the constitutionality of the farm loan act. The purpose of this suit will be to alarm investors who have already bought bonds, and to dissuade others from buying them.

"There is not the slightest reason to fear it, however. The system is so strong that attacks on it are bound to fail."

Recent charges that the Federal Land banks are not self supporting were met by an explanation that for the six months since their organization the banks have paid out money continuously, with hardly a dollar of receipts, as the first payments on loans made to farmers are only now beginning to trickle in. The interest accrued, but not due, is not credited on the books.

Great Britain May Get Oregon Apples

Some hope for action in the direction of admitting American apples to Great Britain when free cargo space is found available is given Congressman Sinnott by Trade Adviser Letcher of the state department, who is familiar with the negotiations which have been going forward on this subject.

The American ambassador in London and the consul general there are reported to be following the subject actively, with a view to securing modifications of the embargo which will not interfere with shipping the things most needed for war purposes, but will admit of additional light cargo where all the ship space is not taken.

May Be Effort to Repeal Grazing Law

Inquiries have reached Congressman Sinnott concerning reports that a strong effort would be made at this session to repeal the 640-acre grazing homestead law. One of the most recent inquiries was from George F. Pearce, vice president of the Commercial club of Madras, Oregon.

Mr. Sinnott has made inquiries without being able to find traces of any such movement. Last session a bill to suspend the operation of the grazing homestead law until the end of the war found some advocates, but this sentiment has apparently been weakening because of progress now being made with classification of the lands.

BUREAU OF LABOR AT WASHINGTON NOTICES OREGON LEGISLATION

Summary Lays Stress on Action of Court in 10-Hour Law; Minimum Wage.

Summarizing the advance made during the year in court decisions affecting labor, the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor gives prominent place to the action of the supreme court in sustaining the Oregon 10-hour law and the minimum wage law of that state.

After referring to the Adamson law and the workmen's compensation laws, the bureau makes this comment:

Right Is Recognized

"Another important decision by this highest court was that sustaining the Oregon 10-hour day for factory employes without regard to sex or age, a marked reversal of position from the action of the same court in 1905 in holding the 10-hour law of New York applicable to bakeries unconstitutional. The power of the state to enact laws limiting the hours of service of adult males in private employment, as well as the hours of females and of children, is now recognized.

"The fixing of wages for women and minors under 18 is also a valid exercise of the police power, according to another decision of this court, the Oregon minimum wage law being left undisturbed in its position of constitutionality as determined by the supreme court of that state; on this point the federal supreme bench was equally divided, one justice not voting."

Commenting on the decisions affecting workmen's compensation acts, it is pointed out that the farthest reach of this legislation has been upheld, including the compulsory features, but in the 37 states which now have laws of this character, there is contrast and conflict between the grant of remedy by compensation and by suit for damages.

Investigation Is Essential

"It is frequently a practical impossibility to determine whether relief should be sought under the one law or under the other until the evidence has been submitted to a jury and the verdict rendered," says the labor bureau.

"While therefore a compilation of decisions, selected for their particular interest as illustrating the various legal phases of the labor question, possesses an attraction for every student of labor, it is of especial value as indicating those points in our legislative system which require attention, to the end that more certain and prompt adjustments may be made of the rights of the respective parties to labor contracts.

"At the same time, certain boundaries are indicated which cannot be passed without an alteration of constitutions, or at least of views of constitutional interpretation. Evidence is not lacking of changes in both these respects."

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO INCREASE SALE OF APPLES IN HONGKONG

Problem Is to Get Higher Class of Chinese Buyers Interested in Fruit.

George E. Anderson, United States consul general at Hongkong, reports that efforts are being made both by American shippers and by various importers in Hongkong to increase the sale of American apples in the Hongkong field. There has been a falling off in the European population in South China since the outbreak of the war, and freight rates (and consequently prices) for American apples have risen materially, with the result that the demand for the finer grades is hardly up to the ordinary standard.

On the other hand, certain classes of Chinese consumers are commencing to use imported apples more freely, and there is something of an increase in the demand for ordinary and cheaper grades. The problem of the market is to get the general run of higher-class Chinese buyers interested in the fruit. Most Chinese do not know good apples, and prices for good apples in this market have always been unduly high.

The ordinary retail price for American apples of the Hood River "seconds" grade is 25 cents local currency a pound. At present exchange this means about 17 cents gold. Recently the price for high grade apples has advanced to 35 cents local currency, or nearly 25 cents gold, a pound. Naturally there has been a slump in consumption.

Representatives of American exporters intimate that an attempt will be made the current season to introduce the better grade of fruit to Chinese consumers. The market at all times is a delicate one to handle. It may easily be overstocked and has practically no cold storage to care for excess supplies.

Plan to Can Whale

According to information received by the bureau of fisheries, department of commerce, a whaling company on the Pacific Coast is planning to erect two canneries to be operated next season, each with a capacity of 30,000 cases. The same company will also operate a cold storage plant for supplying fresh and frozen whale meat.

FACTORIES IN OREGON MAY BE CALLED UPON NOW TO SUPPLY LOCAL DEMANDS

MANUFACTURERS' DIRECTORY

Following is an alphabetical directory of all advertisers on these two pages. All are manufacturers of the articles mentioned, and not merely dealers in and sellers of the goods and wares. Their productions will be found the equal of any to be had, and should have the attention of Portland and Oregon buyers:

Armstrong Machinery Co., 548 Thurman st., manufacturers of ice machinery and refrigerating plants.

Applegath, C. G. (G. P. Rummelin & Son), manufacturer of fur garments, 2d and Wash.

Auto Top Co., manufacturer of auto tops, rebuilder of autos, high class garage, 11th and Burnside sts.

American Bronze & Brass Works, workers in copper, brass, aluminum, etc., 659 Upshur st.

Bratton & Gisle (Portland Machinery Co.), makers of drag saws, 62 1st st.

Ball Manufacturing Co., makers of women's high class waists, N. E. cor. 4th and Couch.

Crescent Chemical Co., janitors' supplies, 526 Washington st.

Cooper, Chas., military and civil tailor, Royal bldg., Morrison and Broadway.

Crystal Springs Finishing Works, wool batts, mattresses, 135 10th st.

Connel Lumber Co., Sam, ready cut houses, 354 Ankeny st.

Columbian Carbon Paper Co., manufacturers of carbon paper, E. 33d and Broadway.

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Oregon Paper Box Factory, paper boxes, cartons, 245½ Stark st.

Oregon Brass Works, copper, brass and aluminum, 2d and Everett sts.

Oregon Door Co., doors, sash, etc., foot Spokane ave.

Oregon Chair Co., chairs, 1190 Macadam rd.

Pacific Stone Works, pottery stoneware, flower pots, 687-693 Sherlock ave.

Portland Furniture Mfg. Co., furniture, upholstering, 1249-59 Macadam road.

Peninsula Iron Works, foundrymen and machinists, Alta and Bradford sts.

Puritan Mfg. Co., all manner of soft drinks, East 8th and Oak sts.

Pendleton Woolen Mills, woolen cloth, Indian blankets, Pendleton, Or.

Portland Stove Works, ranges, cooking and heating stoves, Derby st. and Columbia blvd.

Phoenix Iron Works, foundrymen, machinery, 263 Hawthorne ave.

Portland Basket & Handle Works, baskets, handles, 1321 Macadam road.

Pettit Feather & Bedding Co., feather bedding, mattresses, springs, 213 12th st. N.

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(Continued on Next Page)

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WILL HOME CONCERNS BE ABLE TO MEASURE UP TO OPPORTUNITY?

Government Likely to Compel Merchants to Buy Home Goods to Save Cars.

By H. S. Harcourt

Now that control of the railroads has passed into the hands of the government, it may occur at any time that local dealers will be ordered to discontinue the purchase of eastern made products and, so far as possible, stock up with the things which are made nearest to their places of business. If this should happen, what would be the result?

Portland factories in particular never have adequately advertised their productions, and, therefore, are little known. Because of this demands upon their resources have been small, and in consequence their equipments are limited. On account of war conditions those capable of manufacturing for government requirements have been running to capacity, but this, as stated, is not what it would have been had there been, in the past, live wires at the helms—men who could grasp the necessities of the selling as well as the manufacturing end of their businesses. Should the government, therefore, command local jobbers and dealers to buy their goods in their home markets, the prosperity forced upon our factory people would, in most cases, find them wholly unprepared to accept the conditions and take care of the added orders.

Have Never Awakened

There are those still living in Oregon who came here with ox teams, and who can well remember the significance of "steamboat day"—the day on which a steamship would arrive from San Francisco or "around the horn" from New York. This would happen once or twice a month, perhaps, and would be an event of supreme importance to this sparsely settled region. Between times many of these people would settle back into a semi-comatose condition and thus remain until the arrival of the next vessel from the "outside."

And unfortunately it so happened that the children and children's children of these happy-go-lucky pioneers became inoculated with the spirits of their fathers, and the blood of the slumberer still courses in their veins.

Our early settlers were most estimable characters. They were honest, truthful, frugal people, but among those engaged in manufacturing not only their capital but their business capacities were limited. In pursuit of their vocations they have "made a living"—and have been satisfied. It has not occurred to them that if their net profits were $500 monthly it would be possible, by energy and business activity, to increase the sum to $750 or $1000. Nor have they awakened to the fact that this would be impossible without publicity.

Danger Approaching

At the conclusion of the war hundreds of eastern manufacturing concerns, greatly enlarged to take care of war orders, will have idle machinery and skilled workers. These will be reaching out their tentacles in all directions for new business, and unless Pacific coast manufacturers embrace the present opportunity afforded by a dearth of eastern made products and difficulties experienced in shipping, they will find themselves landed high and dry on manufacturing shoals of their own construction.

There is no time to be lost in cogitation on this matter. The end of this struggle of the nations may come at any time. The flood of the eastern factories may reach the Pacific coast long before it is expected, and our local institutions should be prepared to meet it. And they should be likewise prepared to cope with it, no matter its vigor or strength. This can only be accomplished by rearing their forts and digging their trenches of competition before the storm breaks and the armies of the enemy is upon them.

They have been warned. Will they heed the signal?

OREGON FACTORIES LOSE MUCH THROUGH FAILING TO ADVERTISE

Editor of Spotlight Says People Skeptical; Are Not Acquainted With Home Products.

Timely criticism of, and advice to, Portland and Oregon manufacturers, is contained in an article written by Fred L. Kelly, editor of the Spotlight, the official publication of the Portland Ad club. Ordinarily factory managers would accuse the publisher of such criticism of having a selfish purpose in view, the creation of additional business, for the publication he represents, but this will not be alleged against Mr. Kelly. The sole purpose of the Spotlight is the advancement of the interests of the community, and members of the club pay the cost of its publication out of their own pockets.

The Spotlight article says:

"A great deal of good is undoubtedly being accomplished by the Home Industry league under the direction of A. G. Clark, its secretary. This organization is doing its utmost to increase the local consumption and use of Oregon products.

Real Danger Exists

"Without having any information from Mr. Clark on the subject, it is safe to say that many of the Oregon manufacturers feel that this work is all that is necessary—that the work of the Home Industry league takes away the necessity of each individual firm doing plenty of advertising. There is real danger to Oregon industries if this attitude prevails. Instead, in cooperation with the work of the league, it behooves the manufacturers to push their products as never before.

"To be specific, one or two instances that are timely may be mentioned. For years Portland has had a stove manufacturing plant. The dealers say that the stoves made here are the equal of those made in the east. The factory, a fair sized one for Portland, is a very small one compared to eastern competitors. Enough business has been secured in the past to keep the factory comfortably busy. In spite of this, however, dealers have always found it difficult to sell Oregon stoves. The women have never seen them advertised and are afraid to buy them. Recently, a large eastern stove factory, making a well advertised line of stoves and ranges, has opened a branch in this city. This will no doubt result in a further decrease in proportion of the sale of Oregon stoves and an increase in the eastern firm's sales. Would it not have been much better for the local manufacturer, in times past, to have advertised his line, so as to dominate the situation—to have created a demand that would have justified a factory several times larger than the present one—to say nothing of the benefit to the community of a larger payroll which would have been made?

Why People Are Skeptical

"At a recent luncheon, attention was called to the advertising of 'Neolin,' a brand of eastern made waterproof soles for shoes. This product was featured in Portland in an effective manner. Page advertisements were run in the daily papers listing the shops that would put these soles on shoes. A copy of one of these ads was pasted in the window of each shoe repair shop in the list with an arrow pointing to the name of the shop displaying the ad. We are informed that a local firm makes a similar product, of equal merit. If so, the local firm cannot expect the people of the state to buy it unless it takes the trouble to advertise as its eastern competitors are doing.

"Local manufacturers of macaroni and similar products have been running to capacity with orders. The tendency as a result has been to discontinue advertising instead of taking the opposite course of increasing the business. At the same time, an article in Printers Ink states that the capitalization of the Skinner Macaroni company, a Nebraska firm, is being increased about $1,000,000. Skinner's Macaroni is a nationally advertised product that is selling well in Oregon, and the local manufacturers should look well to their advertising if they expect to hold their own in this field."

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