MINES OF BAKER WILL AGAIN YIELD CROP OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN METAL

PRODUCTION OF METAL IS ABOUT SAME AS IN 1916

Owing to Installing Machinery in Two Properties the Output May Show Some Decrease.

BIG YEAR AHEAD IS OUTLOOK

Development of Several Big Properties Under Promotion Expected; Chrome Big Factor.

Baker, Or., Jan. 5.—The metal production for Baker county during 1916 totaled a little in excess of $3,000,000, according to the report of Charles G. Yale, director of the federal bureau of mines, and the 1917 production will come close to that figure, although it probably will fall a little short. It is impossible to estimate the total accurately at this time as the corporations in the county engaged in mining have not yet made their reports and much of the bullion which used to be handled through Baker and gave a basis of estimate, is now shipped directly to the mints. Possibly in the final count the total will equal the 1916 production, but mining men believe there will be a slight decrease.

The reason for a decrease, if there is one, is because the Ben Harrison mine as well as the two big Cornucopia properties were closed for several months while new reduction plants and other new equipment was being installed. On the other hand the Irondyke has shipped more ore than ever before in its history and during the year developed a wonderful body of copper, which bids fair to become, under development, one of the largest in the country.

Smaller properties are producing about the same as last year, but quite a number have been on the active list during 1917 that were idle a year ago.

Taking the Baker district as a whole, which includes Grant county properties, the total production for the year will without doubt show a big gain over 1916. The principal cause for this is the immense shipments of chrome ore made during the year from Grant county deposits, some being hauled by auto truck as far as 30 miles to Prairie City for shipment. Used in the process of tempering metal, chrome of the first quality is now bringing $37.50 per ton on the cars and from that on down to $12. Previous to the war the price was insufficient to pay for mining, but for the past 12 months or more, the chrome industry has brought a large revenue to owners of deposits and many new bodies have been opened by prospectors, who for some months were busy as bees all over the county. There are some chrome deposits in Baker county, but the best grade and by far the larger amount is shipped from Grant county.

The coming year is full of promise in a mining way for Baker county, the development of several big properties being under promotion. One big deal in the Sumpter country, the details of which cannot be mentioned at this time, but will be completed within a few days or weeks at the outside, will be, if consummated, the most important mining transaction in the country since the sale of the Rainbow to the U. S. Smelting & Refining company. Numerous other properties are equipping with reduction plants and will be in active operation soon. The advent of new capital and successful mining men into the district is also stimulating interest. Among the most prominent to take hold of local properties the past year are Edward H. Dewey of Nampa, Idaho, and associates, who have purchased the Ben Harrison and are putting in equipment of the very best and most modern. With unlimited capital, they have their eyes on other nearby properties which are under option and likely to be added to their holdings. D. C. Eccles of Ogden, son of the late David Eccles, the Salt Lake millionaire, president of the Oregon Lumber company, is also going into the mining game and has acquired control of the Bi-Metallic mine in the Greenhorn section, which is undergoing development and is to have new machinery and mill.

Others are interesting themselves and new producers especially in the Susanville section are bound to come to the front. This will be made possible by the extension of the Sumpter Valley railway from Austin to Susanville, affording transportation long denied these mines, which have fine shipping ore but unprofitable by necessity of the long haul heretofore necessary by team or truck to the railroad. The road has been completed eight miles from Austin to Caribou on the middle fork of the John Day river and will be finished to Susanville in the spring, tapping the rich timber belt there recently acquired by the Oregon Lumber company, as well as giving the mines an outlet.

Gresham Factory Is Rapidly Expanding

The Beaver Manufacturing company, of Gresham, is one of the Oregon concerns which is proving its worth and necessity for such a plant. Originally intending to build automobiles and trucks, the concern has branched out into other lines, among its products being the splendid drag saw handled by the Portland Machinery company, 62 First street, a device which cuts 40 cords of cordwood a day. It is turning out these machines at the rate of nearly a dozen a day, and they are being sold as fast as manufactured. The plant is now equipped with a fine foundry, and its wood working department has had its equipment more than doubled in the last three months. Manager Coombs expects to have his buildings cover half an acre before the close of the present year.

Paper Company Builds Road

The Crown-Willamette Pulp & Paper company is constructing a railroad about five miles in length to tap the tract of spruce timber which the company recently purchased from M. J. Kinney in the Green mountain district. The road will connect with McGregor-Malone road and the logs will be brought to tidewater over the latter line.

OIL DEVELOPMENT IN DOUGLAS COUNTY IS TO BEGIN AT CAMAS

Standard Outfit on Way to District That Is Expected to Yield Commercially.

Oil well development in Douglas county now seems about to begin, says the Roseburg Review. A big, standard well drilling plant was unloaded here and immediately started to Camas Valley to be put into operation.

It is a complete, steam power outfit, and required four six horse teams to transport it from here to Camas Valley. D. C. Jones of Camas was in charge of the machinery, but who is backing the movement was not given out. Mr. Jones has leased lands in addition to his own farm on which to conduct operations. They are prepared to drill to a depth of 3000 feet in case oil is not reached sooner.

Mr. Jones stated that they expect to thoroughly test that district for oil in paying quantities and are ready to spend $10,000 to $100,000 in development work.

It is believed that if oil is found in paying quantities in Camas valley that the Flournoy district will also yield a plentiful supply of oil, and will also be fully tested the coming year.

Clark Works Hard For Manufacturers

A. G. Clark of the Home Industry league of the Chamber of Commerce is one of the most diligent workers of the city. He is "on the job" about 16 hours a day, and is so versatile that he apparently leaves no stone unturned to further the interests of the manufacturing industries of Portland. And he does not discriminate. Even those which decline to contribute to the expenses of the league are not overlooked. For example, one of the big concerns of the city—an institution which could easily treble its business by the expenditure of a little money for publicity—gave feeble support to the league for two or three months and then crawled back into its shell and locked its pocketbook. It produces an article largely used by women, and notwithstanding its action Mr. Clark, in his frequent addresses before women's clubs, never ceases to urge the ladies to buy the products of this factory, and has taken steps, within the last few days, looking to the closing of this market to eastern manufacturers of the same class of merchandise. There is nothing "little" about Mr. Clark.

Camp for Spruce Rivers

The Western Cooperage company is constructing a camp for housing 300 soldiers at its spruce tract in the Klaskanine river district. It will employ that many troops in riving airplane material.

TWO MEN CANNOT REACH IT

Lyle E. Lewis.

Nothing could better illustrate size to which trees grow in Oregon.

Revival of Traffic On Rivers Expected

St. Paul and the Northwest looks to the coming summer with hope that it will see a pronounced revival of river traffic. The mobilization of all of the forces of the government, made imperative because of the war, gave the opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of transporting coal and other bulky commodities by barge, and the next season is expected to show greatly augumented use of the Mississippi river for similar barges.

Tanners Asking for Shark Skin Supply

The United States bureau of fisheries is in receipt of inquiries from tanners as to where they can obtain supplies of shark skins for tanning into leather. This matter has been brought to the attention of fishermen and others on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and of various persons in Southeast Alaska and along the Pacific coast states, to the end that supplies of these skins be provided.

FARM LOAN DELAYS ATTRIBUTED TO THE LIBERTY LOAN SALE

Friends of Institution Resent Implication That System Is Near Breakdown.

Washington, Jan. 5. — (WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.) —Implications that the federal farm loan system is near a "breakdown," because it has sought temporary aid from the government to carry the loans already approved, are resented by friends of the system as being entirely outside the facts.

War conditions have thrown the bond market out of joint, and federal farm loan bonds, which were considered a satisfactory investment one year ago, are no longer readily salable. The second Liberty loan gathered in most of the loose change of people who buy bonds and farm loan bonds took a back seat. This remains true, although the rate of interest to the borrower has been advanced from 5 to 5½ per cent.

Unless the bonds find a market, loans already promised cannot be made and further loans extended. In this predicament, the farm loan board placed before congress an appeal for aid, and the senate has already passed a bill which authorizes the secretary of the treasury to purchase $100,000,000 of farm loan bonds within the present fiscal year.

On November 30, at about the time the sale of farm loan bonds stopped, the 12 farm loan banks had approved loans pending in the sum of $70,000,000, besides $65,000,000 represented in applications not yet approved. It was felt that a failure to complete promptly the loans on the $70,000,000 already approved, at the least, would amount to bad faith, as farmers in many instances have made arrangements based upon getting the money from this source.

The bill failed of passage in the house of representatives before the holiday recess because of amendments which were adopted in the senate on the afternoon congress adjourned, making it impossible to have the changes explained and worked out in time to secure action by the house.

As reported by the committees of both houses, the relief bill authorized the purchase of $100,000,000 of farm loan bonds the present year, and $100,000,000 the next fiscal year. Senator Hollis, in charge of the measure in the senate, explained that the board does not apprehend it will need any such sum. He said it was believed a market would be found for the bonds outside of the federal treasury if bond buyers know that the government is in position to buy if others do not.

Tests made in England of radium as an aid to plant growth have shown that it is most effective when used in the proportion of one seven hundredth of a gram to a ton of soil.

Grayfish Canning Is Started on Coast

Two canneries on the Pacific Coast have begun packing grayfish in cans under the direction of the United States bureau of fisheries. The cans will bear this label:

"Grayfish, a new food fish packed at the especial request of the United States bureau of fisheries and prepared under methods approved by it."

In consideration of the right to use this label the packers are putting up an article which can be retailed at two cans for 25 cents. The grayfish is greatly esteemed in Europe, but heretofore has been little used in this country.

FLAX GROWING SOON WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN FIFE, SCOTLAND

Proposed to Put Approximately 500 Acres in Cultivation During Current Year.

The scheme for flax growing in Fife, Scotland, is now taking definite shape. A recently published report of the county food production committee indicates the lines on which it is proposed to carry out the experiment. According to this report the factors necessary to success are: (1) The obtaining of the assistance of cooperation of farmers and others who either have a knowledge of flax growing or are likely to become interested in the movement; (2) the making available of suitable land for flax growing; and (3) the obtaining of suitable buildings and water supply for scutching and retting.

It is proposed to put approximately 500 acres under flax in Fife in 1918. This means, on an average, 125 acres in each district committee area. The most suitable soils for flax growing appear to be loam and light loam, and the crop is thought to do best when it follows old lea or stubble. It is proposed to supply growers with seed and to take the crop off the farmers' hands after harvesting.

Catch of Fish in November Valuable

The fishing fleet landing fishery products at Seattle, Wash., during November, 1917, landed at that port 27 trips aggregating 451,473 pounds of fish, having a value to the fishermen of $69,255. These products included halibut, 343,403 pounds, valued at $62,910; sablefish, 96,880 pounds valued at $6095; "lingcod," 90 pounds, valued at $2; and red rockfish, 11,100 pounds valued at $248. In addition to this catch, collecting vessels landed 1,068,001 pounds of salmon, smelt, and other specias valued at $73,514.

SILVER FOX FARM IS NEW INDUSTRY FOR UMATILLA COUNTY

Dr. C. C. McNabb Guards Valuable Animals by Sleeping Within Enclosure.

Pendleton has a new industry of which few people are aware, but which is now pretty well established, says the East Oregonian. Dr. McNabb has started a fox farm in the eastern end of the city for the purpose of raising foxes on a commercial basis. He has four pair of silver gray foxes and one female red fox as a nucleus for developing a profitable fur bearing business.

Dr. McNabb has 10 lots just above St. Anthony's hospital fenced with heavy wire and equipped with kennels and all facilities for raising the animals. Silver foxes cost from $1000 to $5000 a pair, and their fur sells proportionately high. Dr. McNabb purchased his foxes from a Canadian fox farm.

The females whelp once a year and the litters range from one to eight. Dr. McNabb's females are all young but full grown, and he expects them to produce him about a dozen pups next spring.

It has been Dr. McNabb's ambition to start a fox farm for the past 10 years, but has been handicapped by lack of capital.

So valueable are the animals that Dr. McNabb is taking no chances on losing them by theft. He has built a tent house next to his fox pens and sleeps there every night with an automatic by his side. He has an alarm system which makes it impossible for anyone to enter the pen without waking him, and a switch by his bedside will flood the pens with light in a minute.

What Has Made the Big Factories Big

The production of reputable products is essential to the growth of manufacturing establishments. But a man may coin gold dollars to sell for 50 cents and he'll do a mightly small business if his lips are his only organ of publicity. Those residing within a little circle surrounding his plant will know he is in the world, but others a dozen miles distant will be ignorant of his existence.

To make a small factory big it is necessary, as stated, to produce an article of merit, and then to publish the fact to the world.

There must be life, energy and ability to peer into the future at the helm. The timorous sloth is not possessed of these qualifications. The small but worthy factory which remains small, has a small calibred pilot at the wheel. He doesn't know how to steer his craft.

DISCOUNT STAMP SCHEME PROPOSEE TO ENCOURAGE PURCHASE OF HOME MADE GOODS

I. LESSER SUGGESTS PUBLISHED LISTS OF ARTICLES BE MADE

Make Is Easier for Women to Find What Merchants Here Have to Sell, He Urges.

For many years I. Lesser was the owner of a large jewelry store on Washington street, opposite the Perkins hotel. When the new building on that corner was erected, Mr. Lesser considered the rentals too high and, being well to do financially, concluded to retire from active business and devote the balance of his days to enjoying the comforts his foresight and business acumen had made possible.

But Mr. Lesser is not a member of the Down and Out or Left Over association. He is continually up and doing, and his interest in the welfare of Portland never has been permitted to lag.

Mr. Lesser is a reader, and on his library table may be found the scientific, geographical and others of the leading magazines. He has noted with interest the efforts of The Journal in behalf of local industries, and its appeals to the people to supply their household and bodily wants, so far as possible, with the products of Portland and Oregon factories.

Proposal Is Feasible

Giving serious consideration to the question of enlargement of the output of local manufacturing concerns, Mr. Lesser, as do all others who have given the matter attention, has arrived at the conclusion that Portland and Oregon made goods are not sold to home consumers for the reason that their quality and prices have not been made known by the manufacturers. As a remedy for his condition, Mr. Lesser proposes that books, cataloging the varieties and names of local products, be supplied every housewife in the city, and continues:

"Let them be similar to those of the trading stamp companies. Let the books be provided at the expense of the business men contributing to a fund for that purpose. Though not in business myself, and it would be impossible for me directly to profit by the scheme, I am yet willing to contribute $200 or $300 a year to such a fund. Catalogue every article or thing manufactured here in alphabetical order, paste $10 worth of stamps in the book as a starter, and then have one with an explanatory letter delivered to every Portland housewife. Let the merchant discount prices half, three quarters or a cent, according to the article sold, and the manufacturer a like sum, the definite amount to be decided on by a competent committee from the stores and factories, and then have an additional discount provided for by a public subscription fund. You would be surprised how easy it would be to raise money for this purpose. Let the business be conducted on an immaculately upright and honorable basis, and believe me, the women of Portland would soon become acquainted with the names, value and prices of the products of our home manufacturing plants.

Only for Home Factories

"These stamps would not, of course, be given for purchases other than of the products of our factories in actual operation here. They would not assist the sale of Jerry's lard or Thompson's hair oil, made in Chicago, but on the other hand would not be long in doubling disposal of Portland-made breakfast foods, macaroni, the superior outputs of our local cracker factories and confectionaries, noodles, soaps, coffees, teas, women's apparel, men's garments, baking powders, peppers, rice, shoes, stockings, socks, knitted underwear and sweaters, millinery, soft drinks, jewelery, hats, caps and hundreds of other things manufactured almost in our front yards yet to which 95 per cent of our people have never been introduced and of whose existence they have no knowledge.

"It is not the fault of Portland buyers, especially Portland housewives, that local factory products are not in greater demand. Eastern made merchandise has been so lavishly advertised in newspapers of the country that it has become familiar to everybody, almost. Women know the names of that which they need, and what to call for when they enter a store, but are entirely unacquainted with the merchandise provided by Portland factories. Provide them with a classified and alphabetical list of things our industries produce, so that if Mrs. Jones wants a broom she will turn to B, to H for a hat or hose, to G for gloves or S for skirt, then add the trading stamp and the sale of home made goods will be solved."

City Needs Publicity

Many other splendid ideas were advanced by Mr. Lesser, of which the foregoing gives an idea, and if the manufacturers and merchants will only get together on some such basis each will doubtless be greatly profited from a dollars- and-cents business standpoint.

Mr. Lesser says the name of a Washington state city is continually before him in the magazines which reach his home, but never a mention of Portland. "I am sometimes heartsick," he says, "when I find this repeated over and over. We all know that Portland is the most desirable home town in the world, but we ought not to be content with this. It ought to be the best known town, also—and the liveliest manufacturing and trading city on the Pacific coast."

Is there a merchant or manufacturer who will start the ball a-rolling in the direction indicated by Mr. Lesser?

No Increase in Rates for Grazing

In announcing that grazing fees for the use of national forest lands will not be further increased "for the present," Secretary Houston of the department of agriculture has informed the stockmen that he cannot say whether this will hold good to the end of the war. Future economic developments will decide.

Early last year the department announced a new scale of charges for the use of forest lands, under which a progressive increase was to be made. Part of this program has gone into effect. The new order has the effect of suspending further changes, halting the increases at the point they have now reached.

This is done, the secretary says, to afford encouragement to the growers of livestock in overcoming difficulties in the production of beef, mutton, wool and hides. The department holds the belief that the charges are still below the level of the real value of the forage.

Issuance of five and 10 year permits which would not be subject to reduction in acreage is held to be inadvisable at this time, and the matter will be held in abeyance. Such permits, the secretary says, would interfere with readjustments which it may be necessary to make in allotments to secure maximum use.

Oregon Pine Costs Less Than Southern

Washington, Jan. 5.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—Charles A. Brown, general purchasing agent of the emergency fleet corporation, testified in the senate investigation Friday that Douglas fir ship timbers cost about $15 a thousand less, with freight added, at eastern shipyards, than southern pine of equal grade.

Orders have been placed for 60,000 feet for shipment east. About eight million feet have been shipped. The government pays for these selected timbers an average of $30 or $40.

Two Fatal Industrial Accidents in Oregon

Salem, Or., Jan. 5.—During the past week 341 accidents were reported to the state industrial accident commission. Of this number two were fatal, as follows: E. I. Crockett, Noti, logger; Gertrude Newport, Astoria, cook.

Of the total number reported, 295 were subject to the provisions of the compensation law, 18 were public utility corporations not subject to the provisions of the compensation law, and 28 were from firms and corporations which have rejected the provisions of the compensation law.

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