

TROUBLE GROWING OUT OF CAR SHORTAGE IS ALL BOTHERS LUMBER INTERESTS

LUMBER IS PILING UP IN YARDS AT MILLION FEET DAY

Appeal to Government Has So Far Been Without Result; Financial Conditions Unsatisfactory.

PLENTY OF ORDERS IN SIGHT

Mills Are Getting Only About 25 Per Cent Enough Transportation to Transact Business.

Car shortage is responsible for the present predicament in the lumber industry. Due to the shortage of cars, lumber is piling up in west coast yards at the rate of 1,000,000 feet a day. Financial conditions are unsatisfactory. Bankers are slow to finance the side cut, because it is not known when the entire industry is impeded. There are plenty of orders in sight, but the mills are only getting about 25 per cent enough cars to transact business. There is a gleam of hope in the present developments in Europe because they emphasize the need of ships and aeroplanes as nothing else could. Yet lumber manufacturers cannot speed up production, as the amount of side cut is so great that all storage room is filled. Many empty cars reaching the coast are used for grain loading and

in view of the short supply of wheat. It is difficult to see how they can be spared for lumber loading. It is a difficult situation but, as production of government lumber must not be allowed to decrease, relief will have to come from some source. The demand for Douglas fir, both yard stock and special cutting bills, is keen enough, but the manufacturers are not booking all of the business offered. So far, no record shows it has not been increased, nor has it been greatly decreased, by the eight hour day.

In the red cedar shingle manufacturing districts a number of mills have closed down on account of the car shortage. As no relief is in sight, and as even when cars are obtained and loaded, there is no assurance that the railroads will be able to move them, manufacturers are considering changing shingle mills into box factories.

In western pines the market is very keen, but the car shortage is acute also. In Montana is was never known to be worse, while the mills in Eastern Oregon complain bitterly, and with cause. Some of the mills have been forced to close. The Oregon mills have received some slight relief, but it is far from adequate. In California and Southern Oregon the cutting season is beginning. While there has been no concerted action in California on hours of work, it is significant that many of the sawmills that have started up are on an eight hour day basis with the same pay previously received for the 10 hour day. As even these mills are short of help, it seems certain that few if any of the pine sawmills will be able to operate on the 10 hour day basis. Western pines are being substituted promptly for stocks already broken at the mills, and as there is plenty of room for stacking lumber, the car shortage will not be felt so seriously as in other manufacturing sections, and the sawmills can go on cutting with assurance of an active market for all of the lumber produced.

Transportation officials of the north coast line are trying to work out a more direct route for shipping lumber, based on a statement of mileage submitted by the transcontinental lines.

Economic operating conditions, such as the direct as against part common user tracks, are being taken into consideration in arriving at the results desired. So far the committee has accomplished little. The lumber tariffs specify routings, and unless Regional Director R. H. Ainsworth of Chicago can recommend that all such routings be expunged from the tariff, the anti-pooling laws will remain in effect and prevent any headway through committee work. Mr. Ainsworth has been asked to provide a way out. Railway operating and traffic officials have little hope, however, that anything can be accomplished. They point out that, because freight rates has risen the only commodity that has not risen in price in 15 years, all the best brains and economic measures that could be devised have already been applied in the effort to bring up the earnings and reduce expenses under private ownership.

Canada Will Furnish Wheat and Oat Seed

Owing to the scarcity of good seed in the eastern provinces of Canada, the agricultural department of the province of New Brunswick is offering to the farmers of the province 50,000 bushels of oats and 18,000 bushels of wheat. The oats will be sold for \$1.43 per bushel, in bulk or car lots, or \$1.38 in bags in car lots laid down. Wheat will be furnished for \$3 per bushel in bags, car lots, or f.o.b. distributing points for small orders. Local freight to be paid by purchaser.

Big Contract Placed Bedding Equipment

At a cost of \$81,350 the Timber Products Manufacturers have placed contracts for blankets, sheets, pillow cases and towels for fully equipping the bunkhouses of the woodmen in the lumber camps of the different companies affiliated with the organization.

COMMUNITIES MUST HELP SOLVE FARM LABOR QUESTIONS

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Has Issued Statement on Women's Work.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Clarence Ousley has made public a statement on women's labor on the farm in response to many requests from women all over the country who wish to do farm work.

While women can do much in the solution of the complex and rather pressing farm labor problem it should be understood that the man power of the country is not yet exhausted and that except for certain lighter tasks men are better adapted than women for farm labor.

While much is being done by the Departments of Agriculture and Labor to mobilize man power for farming operations much yet remains to be done if we are to get the most out of the crops which are now being planted. The primary responsibility must be assumed by the regions and communities most vitally affected, because no agency of government can create labor or compel men to pursue any particular vocation. In all towns and cities adjacent to agricultural regions there are many men of farm experience who can be spared for a day at a time or a week at a time, as the case may be, to help the farmers with their most pressing needs.

GUN DIVISION HAS MADE MOST AMAZING GROWTH OF PERIOD

Ordnance Bureau, One of Smallest at Start of War, Is Now Extensive.

A summary of the work of the gun division, bureau of ordnance, prepared for the secretary of war, shows that it has been necessary to equip 16 large plants for the manufacture of mobile artillery cannon, and the total program of the gun division calls for an expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000,000.

At the outbreak of the war the gun division was composed of three offices and seven civilians. At the end of the year 1917 it had approximately 500 officers and 3500 civilians, and by June, 1918, it is estimated there will be 1500 officers and more than 10,000 civilians in this division.

The gun division, says a memorandum on the progress of its program, has arranged for the production of many thousands of cannon and the erection and complete equipment of 16 plants for their manufacture. These plants are well under way and a number are practically complete. Forges are already being produced and the machining plants are in excellent state of progress. It was necessary to build these plants from the ground up, as no adequate facilities existed for this program, which covers practically all calibers of guns.

Swiss May Ban the Raising of Tobacco

Switzerland produces a small quantity of tobacco, but the authorities have raised the question of suppressing its cultivation at this time on account of the great demand for the more necessary products that could be raised.

The planters of Evreux, the center of the tobacco growing industry, have protested against this measure, even if the government gives them indemnity for the suppression of the planting of tobacco.

The canton of Vaud produces most of the tobacco grown in Switzerland, the average crop in this canton for a period of five years being 523,000 pounds, sold at an average price of about seven cents per pound.

Evaporated Apples Ordered by British

The Australian prime minister has announced that the British government has agreed to purchase 1800 tons of Australian evaporated apples, for shipment to the United Kingdom from March to August of the current year. The price named is 7d (15 cents) a pound. So far as is known Tasmania is the only state of the commonwealth possessing evaporating plants.

Company Is Pleased With Eight-Hour Day

The Deer Park Lumber company of Deer Park, Wash., one of the youngest and most progressive manufacturers of western pines in the Inland Empire, is well pleased with the results obtained from operating on an eight-hour day basis.

R. L. Wilson, secretary of the company, in writing, said: "We find the eight-hour day to be very satisfactory. We have always been of the opinion that a man to work every day, and do his best, finds eight hours long enough to do his work. Our operating cost has increased inversely as 8 to 10 for we are not able to cut any more in the eight-hour day than we were able to cut in the ten-hour day (per hour), but the short day has resulted in more satisfaction and a better attitude among our employes, which is a very desirable situation."

According to a teacher of vocal music who has measured more than 12,000 persons' heads, the reinforcement of tones produced by the vocal organs depends on the size and depth of the resonance cavities in the skull.

ENGLAND ENTERS ON PLANS FOR HOUSING WORKINGMEN BETTER

Realized That One of Vital Problems Is Bringing Comfort to Masses.

The preparation of housing and town-planning schemes to be put in operation after the war is receiving the earnest attention of the government and local authorities throughout Great Britain. The provision of an adequate supply of houses for the working classes is recognized as one of the most important social problems to be solved.

Estimates as to the housing requirements of the country in order to overcome the deficit building during the past decade vary from 100,000 to 500,000 dwellings; the trade-union organizations have gone so far as to declare that the deficiency is at least 1,000,000. It is generally agreed that the standard of the past, as regards accommodation, quality of work and conveniences, can no longer be tolerated. It is recognized that when the soldiers return to civil life they will not be likely to be contented with the overcrowded, insanitary dwellings in which they previously were obliged to live, and that buildings which are a menace to the health of the people will have to be either destroyed or brought up to a fit standard of habitation.

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OREGON MADE GOODS NOT YET WELL ENOUGH KNOWN TO BUYERS

Public Made Familiar With Eastern Goods in Pages of Popular Magazines.

By H. S. Harecourt

It is not in the interests of newspapers or magazines that attention of manufacturers is again directed to the importance of establishing familiarity with their productions now that there is an advisory embargo, as it were, on the shipments of eastern manufactures to the West. Secretary of Commerce, known, strongly counsels consumers to buy for their consumption, so far as consistent with their ability to do so, the products of their home industry. All patriots will acquiesce in this request. In order that rail transportation may be saved, but in conversing with consumers that is the sum of the matter. Our home products never have been advertised, and we do not know what the products of eastern factories are like. The products of eastern factories are known to nearly all broadly circulated mediums, and the names of many are familiar to every reader, but our own people absolutely, they are not. Even the smallest exploitation of the things they manufacture.

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DESIRABILITY IS SEEN IN MODERN BUILDING FOR HOME INDUSTRY

Local Manufacturers Would Gladly Secure Suitable Space in Such Structure.

A finely lighted four to eight story building, 100x100, or double this size, provided with superb elevator service and an attractive bulletin board outside containing a directory of the occupants, located at some convenient place on Front or some other prominent street, having a railroad track, and to be advertised and known far and wide as the Manufacturers' Building, is strongly advocated by A. G. Clark, manager of the Home Industry League of the Chamber of Commerce. It should be erected by some enterprising individual owning suitable ground, and rented to one tenant at a fair return on the investment, he to sublet to as many manufacturers as the premises would accommodate. The structure would need to be supplied with electric power, served by both electric companies, to insure power at all times. It should be provided with all modern conveniences for the accommodation and comfort of workers therein, so as to make it a coveted place in which to toil, and encourage contentment and steadfastness on the part of employees of the occupants.

An Ideal Location An ideal location for such a structure may be found at the northeast corner of Front and Madison streets. An old, ramshackle brick building, half a century old and with a Methuselah appearance, occupies this ground now. The upper part is a lumber yard, and the house and the ground floor as the most unsightly junk shop in Oregon. Its appearance would be a disgrace to the laissez-faire policy of the present, and it should be that it yields an income at all commensurate with the taxable value of the ground.

Such a building would be served on the one side by the electric railway with tracks on Front street, and on the other by water transportation of the Willamette river. It would be convenient to the lumber trade, and easily reached by deliveries of iron and steel. Perfect accessibility to trucks and automobiles would add to its desirability, and it would be a treat at all to fill the edifice with a high class of tenants.

Abundance of Tenants Constantly moving around among the factories discloses the fact that numerous manufacturers are in quest of a better location. Some are hampered for room and other desire better lighted quarters. The writer has at this time in mind at least half a dozen concerns, and it is believed that a suitable building would afford to acquire well lighted, heated and comfortably appointed premises in which to house their factories. In fact it is believed that every foot of an eight story factory building could be rented before a dollar had been invested in material for its construction, were the fact known that such a building would be erected at a reasonable location, convenient to means of transportation. It would need to be as nearly fireproof, of course, as possible, but as its walls would be primarily of glass its cost would be moderate.

There are buildings of this character in other cities, and why not in Portland? It is a question of the will of private individual takes hold of the enterprise. It is what a great many Portlanders are looking for—a lead pipe clincher! It doesn't afford a chance to lose.

In Italy electricity used for lighting is taxed and that used for heating is not, and to prevent persons using heavy current for lights there has been invented apparatus to periodically interrupt the current.

Butte Oil Company Licensed by State

Corporation Commissioner H. J. Schulerman has licensed the Butte Oil company to sell shares for the purpose of raising money to bore for oil in the Huerfano valley. J. C. Turney, manager of the corporation, claims to be versed in oil land signs, and thinks the indications there are good. However, it is largely guess work at best. Mr. Turney says, and investors should be prepared to lose the money they pay for stock, unless the venture pans out.

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