

# GEN. DISQUE TAKES EXCEPTION TO PART OF HUGHES REPORT

Submits Figures to Show That Statements Regarding Cut-Up Plant Are Far From Correct.

## BANQUET GIVEN COMMANDER

Disposition of Big Plant and Equipment to Be Made at Market Value, Says Disque.

Two features of the Hughes report on airplane production that deal with the production of airplane lumber in the Northwest were proven incorrect by figures which were offered by Brigadier General Bruce P. Disque, commander of the spruce production division, at the banquet given in his honor by prominent Oregon business men at the Multnomah hotel Thursday evening.

"The Hughes report states," said General Disque, "that up to June 30 we had spent \$1,487,000 on the cut-up plant at Vancouver, Wash. As a matter of fact our expenditures on the cut-up plant at that date were \$390,000. On December 6, after we had doubled the capacity of the planing mill, had constructed 24 units of a dry kiln and about two miles of siding, our expenditures on the cut-up plant were still less than \$700,000."

**Facts Are Misrepresented**

"Another section of the report states that on June 30 our purchases of lumber aggregated \$2,327,000 and that the government had resold \$3,679,000 worth of the lumber.

"This is misrepresentation in the sense that it is an incomplete statement which does not convey the fact. Our accounts were not in condition to make a comparative report of sales and purchases in June 30, but on August 31 we had purchased \$14,648,000 worth of lumber and had resold \$15,160,000 worth. The figures for June 30 were in the same proportion but, of course, less."

**Cost Figures Unfair**

General Disque stated that from November 1, 1917, to October 31, 1918, the spruce production division produced 144,120,000 feet of airplane lumber which cost without amortization \$174.37 a thousand feet. With the amortization of capital expenditures, eliminating some \$10,000,000 spent in preparation for future work against which no part of the actual production could be charged, the cost was \$195 a thousand feet, according to figures compiled on Thursday. The division should get back a considerable percentage of its investment, said General Disque, and the cost of production in the end will probably not exceed \$50 a thousand feet.

**Would Protect Market**

"We do not propose to sell the property of the spruce production corporation except at the market value. Such few sales as we have made have returned to us what we had paid out. We are considering a thorough listing of the corporation's assets and letting them be liquidated by trustees and receivers, but in no case in such a way as to let the market be broken."

H. L. Corbett, president of the happy affair in honor of General Disque and his staff. The banquet had reproduced with rather startling fidelity the first-sheltered environment of a lumber camp and musical features were supplied by spruce production soldiers. General Disque, H. W. Corbett and E. B. Piper were the only speakers.

**PRESIDENT HAS VISIT WITH KING**

(Continued From Page One)

fort in some quarters to bring up political questions.

The delegates who will sit with the president at the round table are taking steps to make it plain that Mr. Wilson is going to the round table with an open mind on general matters and will stand out only for a program to which he is already bound by promises.

President Wilson is being counseled by some of his advisers to reply to criticism of his peace principles uttered in debate in the American senate.

On the big international questions involved in the settlement of the war the president has taken the stand of recognizing nations as a whole without taking cognizance of the various political groups within them.

The program for the immediate future has been made as informally as possible so that it can be changed as events warrant.

It is understood now that England, France and Italy will be represented at the formal conference with five delegates, just as the United States will be. The other nations being represented at the parley will have smaller delegations.

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Criticism over the failure of Premier Lloyd George to arrive earlier from London is entirely unwarranted, it was pointed out here today. He was compelled to remain in London to complete the organization of the British parliament from a majority which hinged on the outcome of the recent election in the British Isles.

**Stands With President**

In the absence of the English peace representatives and the presence here of King Victor Emmanuel and the Italian premier, attention to Italy's peace claims is being emphasized.

Premier Orlando assured President Wilson that Italy has but modest claims to make, and that she is to adhere to the famous 14 principles in the settlement. Obstacles are foreseen, but the Italian premier believes that there is none that cannot be overcome in the preliminary discussions.

"We deprecate violence against ourselves and shall not use it against others," declared Premier Orlando.

"I believe that the allies will approach a settlement with the clear intention to agree to a world peace."

**Early Settlement Urged**

The Italian envoys express the belief that a settlement should be brought about at the earliest possible moment, on account of the economic and internal situation which, in the interests of the people, should be cleared up as quickly as possible.

The Italians and the French are plainly anxious to fix a program as soon as possible and are disappointed that to complete the delay in the coming of the British delegates. The informal preliminary conferences cannot be held, of course, until the British envoys arrive here.

**May Change Program**

There is some confusion over the program of the president's visit to England, but it is now believed that he will journey to London here the first of the year. President Wilson must return to Washington before March 4, when the present congressional session will expire.

Things a constitutional necessity. In view of the newly developing situation the American executive may postpone his visit to Rome, going to that city on his way home. If this program is adopted, Mr. Wilson may sail from an Italian port instead of a French or British port.

**However, the presidential plans for departure home have not been definitely fixed.**

There has been much speculation as to the part that Russia may play in the peace negotiations. Many British politicians favor joint action by the allied nations in settling the difficult problems presented by this country. In this connection it is understood that Colonel E. M. House has been asked to define President Wilson's attitude on Russia, but replied that he was unable to do so.

**The increasing outrages reported from Russia are understood to be the basis of President Wilson's opinion on a joint program.**

Wilson Silent on Russia

Officials in close touch with the president believe that he is in favor of such a step, although, in the absence of any expression, it is not known just how the president views Russia and her problems.

**President Wilson today returned the formal call made upon him Thursday by King Victor Emmanuel of Italy. The**

**Italian monarch was the first kind that the president had met since his arrival in Europe.**

During their conversation, in which King Victor Emmanuel showed that he had an excellent command of the English language, the peace aims of Italy were briefly outlined. The meeting was marked by its cordiality. President Wilson met the king at the threshold.

**Basuch Called to Paris**

Washington, Dec. 20.—(U. P.)—Answering the summons of President Wilson, Bernard M. Baruch, head of the war industries board, and Vance McCormick, head of the war trade board, will leave soon for Paris.

The state department announced today that they will act as experts in an advisory capacity at the peace conference, Baruch on the subject of raw material and McCormick on trade agreement matters.

**Will Be Entertained at Palace**

London, Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—American and British soldiers and sailors will participate in the welcoming demonstration which is being arranged in anticipation of President Wilson's visit to England.

King George will meet the American executive at the railway station and will accompany him through the decorated streets of the city to Buckingham palace, where President and Mrs. Wilson will be entertained.

**Uniform Dock Charges Planned**

Portland's marine interests at the conference at San Francisco, on a plan to obtain uniform dock charges for Pacific Coast ports, was represented by Frank Randall, secretary of the public dock commission. Mr. Randall will return to Portland Monday. According to Engineer Hegardt of the dock commission, the plan of a uniform system of dock charges for the coast, while desirable, might be difficult to obtain, owing to the fact that the approval of the public service commission must be had. The absorption of \$1 a ton by the railroads is an important step in the direction of meeting the needs of the maritime commerce, it is explained.

**To Return to Headquarters**

Forest Supervisor S. C. Bartram of the Umpqua National forest will return to his headquarters at Roseburg this evening. Mr. Bartram has been attending the sports convention in Portland.

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