

OREGON PLAN FOR PROTECTING NEW FORESTS ADOPTED

Salem, Aug. 27.—Plans whereby fires will be kept out of logged-off and burned-over areas and nature given a chance to repair the damage done by man to the forests of this state, will be set on foot by the state board of forestry at its meeting in Portland next month, according to F. A. Elliott, state forester.

These plans, Elliott explains, have been under process of formulation by a committee consisting of representatives of the state forestry department, the Western Pine Manufacturers' association and the Columbia River Loggers' association. Under this plan, it is anticipated it will be necessary to increase the state's budget for forest fire fighting purposes to not less than \$50,000 per year, which will, in turn, be matched by the federal government under the terms of the Weeks bill pending in congress, should this bill, which carries with it an appropriation of \$1,000,000, be enacted into law.

Lands on which the timber has been either logged off or burned over will be reclassified and that not suitable for cultivation will be set aside for reforestation. The plan is one which has been advocated by State Forester Elliott for several years and which the national forestry department has adopted since the advent of Colonel W. E. Greeley, national forester, to the head of the department.

Unless the county court of Wasco county acts promptly in an effort to eliminate the toll charges, said to be levied by Malcolm Moody for the use of a privately owned bridge across the Deschutes river, the state highway commission will institute condemnation proceedings to secure the necessary right of way to connect up the Moody road with the state bridge across the river a mile away. J. M. Devers, attorney for the state highway department, has instructed the Wasco county commissioners to this effect and declares that prompt action is necessary as Moody is reported to be reaping a rich harvest through the collection of tolls from travelers compelled to patronize his bridge.

There is no serious labor shortage in Oregon, according to A. C. Gram, state labor commissioner, who has returned from an official tour of the state. Neither is there any over-plus of labor, according to Gram, who declares the labor situation is pretty well balanced in this state just now.

Effective September 1, or one day after the carriers file their tariffs covering the matter, the minimum load on shipments of grain products in Oregon will be reduced from 60,000 pounds to 45,000 pounds, according to an order issued by the public service commission. The minimum on grain shipments will be retained at 60,000 pounds, there being no particular objection on the part of shippers to this arrangement. Objection to the 60,000 pound minimum on grain products was based on the claim that merchants were unable to handle such large quantities.

There is plenty of gas of 56 degrees specific gravity to be had by automobile drivers in Eastern Oregon, according to W. A. Dahlke, who has returned from a trip to that section of the state. The emergency is all but forgotten in all sections of the state by this time, Dahlke says.

The timber interests of Oregon are strong for the plan advocated by Governor Elliott for the preservation of forests along the public highways of the state, it is said.

According to a letter received by the governor Thursday from William Pierce Johnson of San Francisco, president of the Crown-Willamette Paper company, the "it" that enters into any consideration involving the sparing of the scenic beauties embodied in the forests of Oregon would take the shape of adequate compensation by the state for such portions of timber lands bordering on public highways as it might be desirable to preserve to future generations. "It is essential for the purpose of our industry, that we remove practically all—certainly a very large percentage—of the timber which we own and it would probably mean a considerable monetary loss to us to reserve any portion thereof, which loss should justly be borne by the state if any of said forests are reserved adjoining the highways," Johnson states in his letter to the governor. Johnson expresses his interest in the problem of reforestation, but declares that experiments have shown that this

is a matter for solution by the state and federal governments and not for individuals or corporate owners.

Many expressions of approval are being received by Governor Elliott since his plan for the preservation of the tree-lined highways of the state was first broadcast Sunday. One from Colonel E. Hofer calls attention to a similar move launched some years ago in California, which, he says, met with ultimate success.

A refilling covering the appropriation of 47 second feet of water from Thomas creek for power development was entered with the state engineer's office here Wednesday by the city of Seaside. This action was necessitated through a change in the location of the proposed dam. The development contemplates the construction of a rubble masonry dam and flume at an estimated cost of \$38,000.

Other fillings for water rights have been made as follows:

By Ross C. Simmers of Keno, water from Klamath river for the irrigation of a small tract in Klamath county.

By Peter Goshel of Wallowa, water from Bear creek for the irrigation of a small tract in Wallowa county.

By Ray Duncan of Cove, water from Bear Creek for irrigation of a tract in Union county.

By H. W. Laughlin of North Powder, storage of water in the Anthony Lake reservoir for irrigation purposes.

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