

SPAULDING BOX FACTORY ASSET

Assists Canneries Materially by Manufacturing Crates and Cases for Shipping Containers—Plant Management Highly Efficient—All Waste Utilized—Output Has Been Rapidly Increasing to Keep Pace with Larger Demands

The Chas. K. Spaulding Logging company mill is one of the oldest business institutions in Salem; though not under its present name which began in 1905. The old mill was operated by the Capital Lumber company, from which Mr. Spaulding bought it 18 years ago.

It doesn't look much like the same old place, though the main mill is largely as it was; the yards and the departments have been so greatly extended, that not much is recognizable as of the old plant. Because of the great and grow-

ing demand for lumber, this year the company has just recently started in on a two-shift schedule; this brings the number of employees up to about 325 in the Salem plant. This is only a part of the Spaulding activities, however; they have another big mill at Newberg, that employs about 200 men, and their logging camps on the Grande Ronde employ 100 more. The Salem mill under the present two-shift system will cut about 250,000 feet daily.

The log supply comes by rail from the Grande Ronde camps, in the Coast Range west of Newberg. The logs are dumped into the Willamette at Winona, three miles south and west of Salem, and are towed over to the mill by the company's tugs. One of these tugs was built here in Salem, last year; it is a craft 40 feet long, and is rated as an exceptionally capable boat. The company also owns the larger river steamer Grey Eagle, recently rebuilt here at Salem after a service on the river of almost 30 years.

The installation of grates for burning only "hog" fuel in the Spaulding mills, marks the last step in the complete utilization of the log products. Not so very long ago, the disposition of the sawdust from the big mills was a serious, sometimes almost a desperate problem. Sawdust piles become a constant fire menace. But now it is all fed into the boilers, and all the bark-wood, the waste, the irregular pieces that were formerly sold under the classification of slabs, or waste, is run through the macerator or "hog" machine, which chips it all into coarse sawdust that with the sawdust from the mills is all usable for mill fuel. It stops the dangerous accumulation of sawdust, and utilizes the very last speck of wood. The slab and waste trimmings that are now marketed, are clear, clean wood. The waste of the sawdust and trimmings has been a matter for concern ever since conservationists began to develop; now they see nothing wasted, and everybody is happy.

The magnitude of the box industry might surprise many Statesman readers. There is perhaps but one larger box factory in Oregon, than the Spaulding mill. The latter was recently enlarged so as to have a storage capacity of 50 cars of shooks; now

the mill can run the whole winter through and store up a good supply for the fruit season, when all the factories run behind with their orders.

Last year, the daily average of the lumber used in the box factory was 33,832 feet; a total of about 8,000,000 feet of lumber was turned into boxes of every kind. As many as 45 men have been employed at a time; the yearly average is more than 20 men, and with the new machinery and the greatly increased storage a larger force can be used as needed.

There are three "standard" sizes for canned goods cases, that can be built with the certainty that the market needs them; the 2's, 2 1/2's, and the 10's made for six cans to the box. There are many other kinds of more or less standard boxes, such as cases for condensed milk, of which the Spaulding company has made countless thousands; last year they made 75,000 apple boxes, and one order alone for 20,000 field crates for picking loganberries. The Japanese gardeners of Marion county, out in the Lake Labish section, bought 25,000 celery crates; the broccoli growers bought 35,000 crates. The smelt fisheries at Kelso, up on the Cowitz river where the terrible bridge disaster occurred a few weeks ago, bought 51,000 boxes, each to hold 50 pounds of smelts for shipping. These are but a few of the interesting market sources for Salem-made boxes.

All the box stock is of course Oregon grown timber. Much hemlock is used, and some white fir; the hemlock makes a superior box, light and tough. Spruce, however, is the box wood for many purposes, especially for butter, eggs and other food products that call for an odorless wood that will not taint the contents. All the butter boxes for the standard "cubes" that are quoted in the market, are of spruce; 30-pound and 50-pound sizes are standard.

The Spaulding sash and door department has grown to be another great industry, ranking with other separate factories in magnitude. The company has worked steadily to develop this higher class of manufactures, realizing that every dollar that can be spent for turning raw material into finished product, is so much permanent gain for the community

FLOUR MILL PROSPERS

Cherry City Plant Prospers During Year Just Passed

The year 1922 has been one of the best in the history of the milling industry of the Willamette valley. The grain crops were not of exceptional, or perhaps of even average quantity; but the business of milling has grown almost daily in magnitude.

This explains the reason for the Cherry City Milling company's doubling its grinding plant, and for building a large warehouse that is to be erected as soon as possible. The mill has been fairly swamped with orders; sometimes it has taken a week or ten days to fill car orders that should be filled within a day.

The company is making a specialty of stock foods, mixed scientifically, so as to meet specific stock needs. One of the secrets of profitable stock raising, especially dairying and poultry raising, is the selection of proper foods. An expert field man is maintained by the Cherry City mills to study and to demonstrate these stock foods. While it is not claimed that proper food selection will meet every need of the stock grower and relieve from the responsibility for proper breeding and care, the food selection is vitally important. Some truly astonishing results have been achieved, under the same care, by the substitution of specialized stock foods for a less scientific system of feeding.

All the wheat raised in the valley is soft wheat; it is used mostly for the pastry flours, and the residue goes into the various stock foods. Hard wheat is shipped in from Montana, Idaho, eastern Ore-

gon, for the higher grade table flours; much more of this wheat than is used of the local grain for flour purposes. Occasionally a car of flour is exported to the Orient or elsewhere by water; though most of the Salem flour product is sold within the state of Oregon. The Cherry City mills have re-

cently adopted a carton service for all their specialty table products—farina, pancake flour, Graham and a long line of cereals. These used to be put out in sacks; which are easy to fill, but are far less sanitary, and less desirable to handle either in the store or in the home. The cartons will be filled from the mill, increasing

the local payroll partly because of the certain larger demand for the improved packages. About 15 employees are on the Cherry City mill payroll all through the year; sometimes the number is considerably larger. The company does a business of more than half a million dollars a year.



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