

Flax and Linen Industry In Full Stride Here as New Mill Starts

Two Mills Will Utilize Large Quantity of Spinning Tow Raised on Willamette Valley Farms—Larger Opportunity Foreseen, That of Supplying Large Share of Nation's Demand For Flax Which Now Is Supplied by Foreign Nations—40,000 Acres Would Be Necessary To Do This—Good Quality Necessary To Success In Growing Flax—Recognition of Pioneer Development of Industry Here Is Given By State Official—Six Counties Now Interested In Growing Raw Material—State Plant Lent Encouragement and Led To Building of Mills Here

Unlimited Possibilities Of New Industry Seen

Manufacturing Not Dependent on Local Production of Raw Material, But Vast Field For Flax Growing Here Is Pointed Out by Experts—State Plant on Firm Basis

No more fitting occasion for a resume of the flax industry in the Salem vicinity, than the dawning of the year 1927 could be imagined; for today marks the opening of the year in from which that industry will measure the vast expansion which is to come.

To be sure, the Willamette valley has been growing flax for some years, and Salem has been the center of the industry; but now the final rounding out of the industry to its full scope—but by no means to its final extent—is at hand, with the beginning of operation of the Oregon Linen Mills, Inc.

A little over a year ago the manufacturers of linen was begun here, with the opening of the Mills Linen company mill; but that plant, now an established success, produced only twines of various kinds; the new mill of the Oregon Linen Mills, Inc., will turn out all kinds of linen goods, including the finest made.

Now, according to Col. Bartum, field superintendent for the Oregon Linen Mills, Inc., and for

the state flax plant, these two mills will handle only about 600 tons of fiber and tow, an amount which can be raised on about 3500 acres, when they are both running two shifts. At the present time, over 2000 acres of flax are being grown here each year, so that the industry need not be quite doubled to supply the flax for the Salem mills.

But there is another side to the story, another vision which Salem and Willamette valley residents should keep before them.

Big Field Is Opened
In the United States last year, just about enough flax to keep the Salem mills running was grown—no more. But the United States imported in the same period 6843 tons of line fiber and tow—over 11 times the amount grown at home.

This is possible because of the extremely low tariff on rough line fiber entering this country. But this fiber could, as well as not, be raised in the United States; and since the places where quality fiber can be raised are few, the Willamette valley has the opportunity of becoming that place.

If the Willamette valley supplied the present need of factories in the United States which are importing their raw material from other countries, it would have to

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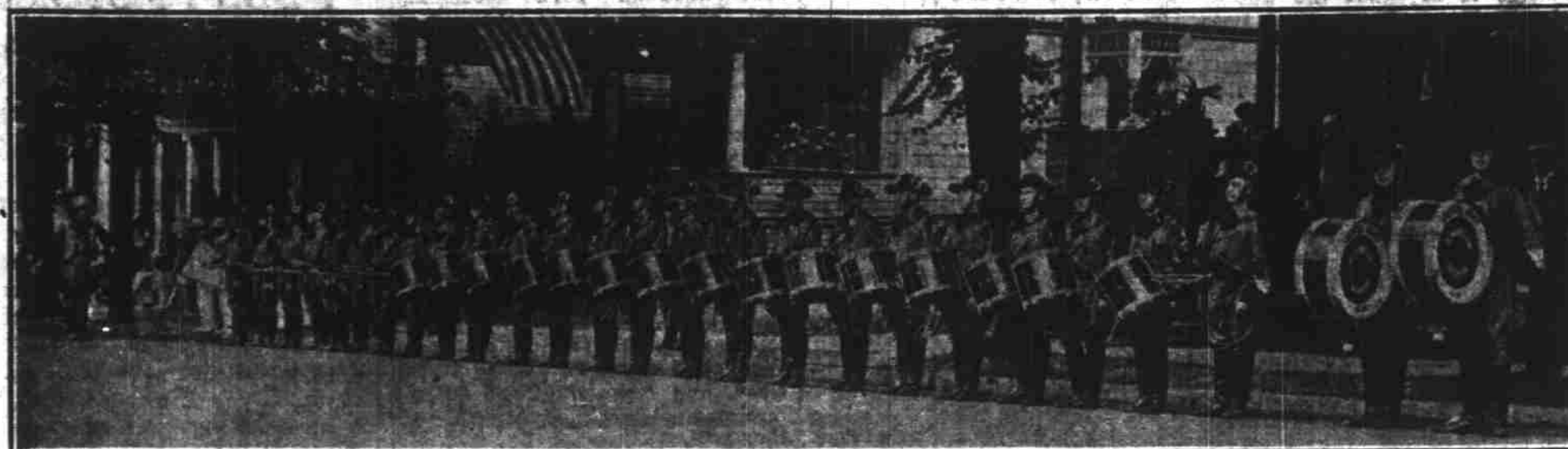


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DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS OF CAPITAL POST NO. 9, AMERICAN LEGION



No organization which counts Salem as its home, so fully holds the good will and pride of Salem's people as the bugle and drum corps sponsored by the local American Legion post.

Organized three years ago next month, this corps has won both of the contests conducted so far between organizations of its type, by the American Legion, Department of Oregon; the first at Prineville in 1925, and the second at Marshfield in the past year. This corps also took first place at the contest conducted by

the Portland Rose Festival in 1925.

Much of the credit for the Salem corps' excellence in marching and playing is due to Rudy Schultz of Portland, director; Gus Erickson, assistant director; and Carl Hinges, drum major.

Other officers include Barney Wright, secretary; Dorsey Reeves, treasurer; George Cherrington, quartermaster; Ralph Mason, assistant quartermaster; and Dave Shade, manager. The personnel of the corps includes:

Drummers—Frank Wittemore, Frank Jirak, R. Patterson, Tom

Hill, Frosty Olson, S. Hitchcock, C. R. Mudd, A. M. Johnson, O. Olson, H. D. McMillan, Francis Young, Ralph Mason, R. L. Stanton, D. B. Smith, John Fink, Dave Shade.

Drum and cymbal players—Chalmer George, Loyal Henderson, W. W. Looney, M. E. Reeves, Barney Wright, Dorsey Reeves, Rufe White, George Cherrington, Gus Erickson, W. E. Vincent, Leo Huddleson, F. M. Strausbaugh, Lloyd Lee, Dick Christopher, R. E. McGuire, E. F. Bonesteel, H. Bond, J. W. McAllister, Bill

Watkins, Roy Stewart, Lloyd Demarest, Sam Robertson, Faye Rice.

Color bearers—Raymond Boise and Ray Bassett.

The corps, not content with two state championships, is hoping to bring home the first prize from the Legion convention at La Grande this year. At present one practice session a week is being held, but before long this will be increased, so that the corps which hopes to defeat that of Capital Post No. 9, will have to be considerably better than it was last year.

to \$800 worth a day include flax seed for the linseed oil mills and for the drug trade; long line fiber, spinning tow, upholstery tow, bolts for stock feed and shives for fuel.

History Is Long One

This list of products suggests the variety of uses to which the flax plant is put, and the reason for the stability of this crop, the beginnings of which go so far back into the history of man's culture that there is no record of them, because flax was used before any form of writing which is now decipherable, had been invented. It is the oldest known vegetable fiber used in the making of clothing. Finer linens, in weaves which modern machinery cannot duplicate, were found in the tombs of the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt—dynasties which date back 8000 years—were buried. Samples of these linens, still in an excellent state of preservation, are now on display in the British museum. There is mention of linen in the oldest books of the Bible, but these are of recent origin compared to the actual samples which are still in existence.

The linen industry is a permanent one because of these varied uses—linseed oil for paint, because it is the only "drying oil"

produced in commercial quantities; linseed oil for medicines and polishes; line fiber for spinning or upholstery tow; the water from the retting tanks for fertilizer and the shives, now used for fuel but capable of more valuable utilization in making paper string.

MILL SERVES FARMERS

Cherry City Company Conducts Laboratory Department

To keep in close touch with the individual needs of every farmer is the policy of the Cherry City Milling Co. in connection with its production of dairy and poultry feeds. To that end, it is soon to install a molasses mixing plant, because of the big demand for molasses feeds.

It is the only feed manufacturing concern in Oregon outside of Portland which conducts a complete chemical laboratory for use in determining the exact chemical analysis of feeds. If the standard product does not suit the purchaser, a special feed is produced for him.

P. E. Geiser is president of the company, Ernest Palmer is vice president and Ross C. Bidwell secretary and general manager.



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Stock of Imported Perfumes Well Received Here

That Salem people like the best in perfume as well as other commodities, has been the discovery of J. H. Willett, manager of the Capital Drug store in the past year. The store has been handling the highest grades of imported perfumes, and finds that the public prefers them in spite of the higher cost.

Since taking over this store two years ago, Willett has completely remodeled it so as to make possible the handling of a greatly increased patronage. The prescription department and toilet goods are the store's specialties.

FINISH, STORE BUILDING

F. N. Woodry Now Able To Handle Larger Consignments

Completion of his store building on North Summer street has been effected during the past year by F. N. Woodry, auctioneer who has been Salem's leader in this field for 11 years. The completion of the store makes possible the handling of larger consignments of goods.

Auction sales are held every Wednesday evening, and private sales every day, Woodry handling new furniture of all kinds as well as articles put up for auction.

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