

Eight Large Canneries in City; Output in 1928 Goes To Peak of 1,400,000 Cases

4000 Persons Employed in These Industries During Season's Height; Reid-Murdock Will be Large Operators

Starting in 1911 with one small cannery which made a total pack of 30,000 cases, the canning industry in Salem has developed to the present day to eight large canneries which handle a third of the entire fruit and vegetable pack made in Oregon. Including canneries in Marion county towns close to Salem, the number moves up to 12. The entire pack of seven big canneries in Salem in 1928 reached 1,400,000 cases, the highest in packing history here.

During the height of the strawberry, pear and prune seasons, approximately 4,000 persons were employed last year, and with each of these making from \$2.50 to \$3.50 a day for piece work. Canners paid daily to help along \$12,000. That is, averaging \$3 a day a person.

Old Plant Purchased
The latest addition to cannery row in Salem, and the one which makes eight, is the Reid, Murdock company, which has rented the old West Salem cannery and will pack 150,000 cases this year at the same time work is being carried forward to reconstruct and enlarge the plant so that it will be the first one here to work throughout the entire year. Purchase of the King Foods and Products company by Reid, Murdock has made the year-around program possible.

With the newest cannery leading in the 12-month pack, local observers believe other canneries here will be stepping in line shortly and that all will store vegetables and fruits to work on such a basis.

The enormous pack of fruit in the largest canneries would not be possible without the floating system which is in use for conveying fruits and vegetables within the cannery. Whether Salem folks or visitors know it, this system is regarded as the most up-to-date method of handling, and because it has been so thoroughly studied out and employed here, no cannery in the country has such an efficient system in this line as one of the local ones.

Canal Rates Low
With climate, land, and canneries all dovetailing to produce the biggest single-town pack in the state, another favorable thing has worked to the advantage of the industry here. That is the very reasonable shipping charge. The greatest market for local packs is the Atlantic seaboard cities, chiefly because freight charges per hundred pounds via the Panama canal are only 55 cents a hundred on dried prunes. When dockage, insurance and other expenses are added, it means that goods from Salem are laid down for three-fourths cent a pound—the same figure which Indianapolis, Ind., pays for freight charges to the Atlantic coast. European markets are being constantly opened up, with shipping rate there only 50 cents a hundred. As for fruits and vegetables

LEGION CARRIES ON LARGE TASK

Organization Not Out to "Grab" From State is Repeated Stand

By OLIVE M. DOAK
The manner in which Capitol Post No. 9, of the American Legion of Oregon went about the task of organization to put over the largest state convention yet to be held is an interesting story.

It was a post problem. To "carry on" with a convention the size of the one scheduled for 1929 meant the expenditure of a huge sum of money and the expenditure of unlimited time and labor on the part of those upon whom the responsibility for "putting it over" was to rest. How to adjust the matter of money, time and labor was a perplexing question.

The plan finally adopted by the post was that similar to the commission form of government found in many cities. This plan had the advantages of dividing work to be done and making each one given a share clearly responsible for its execution.

The group of men appointed to carry out the convention plans as termed a "commission." Carl D. Gabrielson was appointed as general chairman of the commission and H. G. "Pod" Maison was made executive secretary. Douglas McKay, post commander, acted in an advisory capacity.

The work of the commission was divided and a general chairman was placed at the head of each. J. J. Elliott, was made housing chairman; Braden C. Small, finance chairman, Lewis P. Campbell, entertainment chairman; Willis E. Vincent, registration chairman; Frank M. Moore, publicity chairman; C. B. McCullough, civic cooperation chairman, and H. E. Shade, drum corps and bands chairman.

This commission as named met for the first time February 3. The first and most crucial issue facing it was the matter of finance. After deliberative calculations the conclusion was reached that \$10,000 was the least possible figure which could safely be considered to finance the three day convention.

With \$10,000 as the actual liability it was decided by the finance committee to underwrite the whole project for \$15,000 then in case of loss the proportionate loss of each backer would be lighter.

Before anything was said to the merchants of Salem for support an opportunity was given the members of Capitol post to pledge amounts of \$100 each. Sixty-five of these \$100 pledges were given. Salem Well Canvassed
Then the canvassing of Salem

Welcome From Douglas McKay

Welcome Legionnaires:
Capitol Post No. 9 extends to all visiting legionnaires a most cordial welcome to the state capitol of Oregon.

Eleven hundred and seventy-one members of Capitol Post No. 9 are individually anxious that every minute of your stay in this city be a pleasant one. Every one of the members is pledged to do his best that every courtesy possible be extended to the visitors from the 94 legions posts in this state.

Our post has labored hard to provide entertainment which will make your visit to the city one long to be remembered: we hope you'll make whoopee but remember that we have institutions to take care of the unruly.

DUUGLAS MCKAY,
Commander Capitol Post No. 9.

business began. Since the invitation to meet in Salem was extended principally because of the insistence of the Salem business men it was logical to suppose that they would come forward with ready support. This supposition was correct. Within a very short time the full \$15,000 was pledged.

Then the amount for which the project was to be underwritten was increased and at the present time with the convention at hand \$30,000 has been pledged and still more could have been got but the amount of liability had been so divided, and the possibilities of making the convention more than

self-supporting through the many program activities seemed so plausible that no effort was made to push the amount over the \$31,000 mark which it had reached by August 3.

The entertainment committee headed by Lewis P. Campbell has an array of attractions which is quite the best presented in the 11 years that marks convention history. There are concessions; dancing; the famous Junior league baseball game the results of which might put the West on the way to win the world championship in this field; drum corps contest with from 12 to 14 corps competing on Olinger field at

night under the blaze of electric lights and gay display, and which will be followed by the most spectacular display of fireworks obtainable any place—all these speak for themselves.

Big Barbecue Planned
In addition to all this entertainment there is the barbecue and bean roast—both free and planned to serve at least 5000.

The barbecue will be the concluding celebration of the dedication of the Salem Airport, a ceremony which will be perhaps the most impressive of anything of its kind ever held on the Pacific coast with airplanes of almost every type and description from the navy, the army and from commercial concerns all performing on the field and in the air.

Two big parades have also been planned and arranged for.

The housing committee of which J. J. Elliott is chairman, has worked in conjunction with the woman's auxiliary to the Legion. They have inspected the rooms, arranged display cards for those places housing legion guests, and in all ways made the handling of the enormous crowds a smooth working matter. They are ready to care for 5000 people if necessary.

The registration committee whose chairman is Willis E. Vincent, worked out plans that will quickly and scientifically care for all the incoming visitors. Badges according to the place occupied in the convention is given each person after he has registered and

been presented with a schedule of the convention activities, a map of the city and a roster of places where legion people are welcome in the city. Transportation has been arranged so that no one need be embarrassed by long distance rooms and no way to reach them.

Much Publicity Out
While all the rest of the committee were getting plans worked out for convention activities, the publicity committee under Frank M. Moore, was sending out regular publicity sheets beginning with April. Mimeographed stories of what was going on were sent to the 200 leading newspapers of Oregon. These were kept up as regular chronicals of convention (Turn to Page 7, please.)

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