

## Newsmen Hear Labor Scarcity, Restrictions Plaguing Cannery

(Story also on page 1)  
By Wendell Webb  
Managing Editor, The Statesman

EUGENE, Ore., March 7.—The scarcity of labor is the greatest single problem confronting the fruit and vegetable growing and processing industry, E. A. McCormack, director of the Eugene Fruit Growers' association, told visiting newsmen today.

"Patriotism (on the part of school children, particularly) did a lot in helping us through the war, both in the plants and in the field," McCormack said, "but even last season as the war ebbed there was a marked change and we don't know what the future holds. He said workers lacked the financial urge."

## What's Doing In Japan . . .

Owen Lattimore's copyrighted story "Report on Japan," based on the noted author's long experience in the Far East and on his recent assignment there by the state department, will start in The Oregon Statesman on Saturday, March 9.

The series of seven vital stories will deal with MacArthur's rule, Japanese industry "starvation," resurgence of the "sold gang" and other keenly important subjects.

Exclusive in this area in YOUR HOME NEWSPAPER, the progressive daily of the valley, starting Saturday.

The Oregon Statesman  
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## Jordith Stenson Given Bridal Shower at Brooks

BROOKS, March 7.—(Special) On Wednesday at the Bill Zenger home a miscellaneous bridal shower was given Miss Jordith Stenson, Mrs. Walt Brunka, Mrs. Roy Westing and Mrs. Bill Zenger were hostesses.

Those present were Jordith Stenson, Dolores Westing, Lona McCoy, Wanda Merrill, Virginia Bartholomew, Eva Pearsall, Beverly Boehm, Wanda Gum, Anne Russell, Rose Jean Boehm, Doris Rantz, Donna Jefferson and Mary Zenger.

Civil War balloons were employed at times as elevated stations from which signals were transmitted to distant points.

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McCormack also took occasion upon questioning, to assail governmental controls, declaring "the OPA needs intelligence" and insisting that "any action of government which delays production is inflationary," but he opposed complete removal of price restrictions. He said controls "should be adjusted."

The fruit growers plant was visited by six newsmen now on a statewide tour under the sponsorship of Columbia Empire Industries and the National Association of Manufacturers.

At a luncheon given by the Eugene Chamber of Commerce, the newsmen more or less constituted a sounding board for criticism of the OPA. There was no kind word for OPA's operation, but neither was it unanimous that all price controls should be removed immediately.

Comments varied from bitter re-primation, both of OPA and the federal administration generally, to suggestions that at least some restrictions were essential. There was talk, too, that if all controls were removed a "buyers' strike" would eliminate danger of runaway inflated prices.

Most outspoken critic of the OPA was Herb Cox, secretary of the West Coast Lumberman's association in this area, who also played Sen. Wayne Morse for "not living up to his election promises" regarding labor.

During a brief side-trip, Clark C. Van Fleet, manager of the Willamette Valley Wood Chemical company at nearby Springfield, told the newsmen the \$3,000,000 plant there was the largest of its kind in the world (manufacturing ethyl or grain—but not wood—alcohol from waste such as sawdust and hog fuel), and that it would be ready for operation by July 1, employing 75 persons.

The plant will use 200 units of material and produce between 12,000 and 14,000 gallons of alcohol each day. About one-third of material used will become lignin, for use either as fuel or in plastic manufacturing — or possibly fertilizer. Other by-products will include gypsum (to sweeten acid soil), methyl alcohol (used in the chemical industry, primarily in making aldehydes), and furfural (for plastic and used in refining oil).

The Springfield plant is being built by Willamette Valley lumbermen, with federal financial assistance. It was begun two years ago when greatly-increased alcohol supplies were essential to the American war machine. Sponsors remain confident that its output, including by-products, still will find a ready market.

The "man with the hoe" is being replaced on some southern cotton farms by an adaptation of the wartime flame thrower, which can burn weeds in cotton fields at far less cost.

## Peoples Quits Accident Post, Hurls Charges

"Wasted efforts" in the administration of state industrial safety regulations were charged by Ralph W. Peoples, route 1, Silvertown, in his letter of resignation as field operative for the state accident prevention division Thursday. The resignation coincided with Peoples' filing Thursday as a democratic candidate for state labor commissioner at the May 17 primary election.

Writing his resignation to the state industrial accident commission, Peoples stated:

"There are certain basic faults that prompt me to take this action. I refer particularly to the overlapping jurisdiction under Oregon laws with respect to administration of the safety regulations by both the bureau of labor and the state industrial accident commission. This has resulted in wasteful duplication of effort and unequal enforcement of the safety laws. In fact, in some parts of Oregon industry, the law has had little if any application."

**Intolerable**  
"This situation is intolerable. Public interest demands that the overlapping jurisdiction be eliminated and that the safety laws be uniformly applied throughout all of Oregon industry. To date neither the governor, the industrial accident commission nor the commissioner of labor has exhibited any leadership toward a correction of this situation."  
**Would Eliminate Duplication**  
The candidate said that, if elected, he would work for elimination of the present wasteful duplication of service by the two agencies and would seek to apply the same high standards of accident prevention to firms rejecting the protection of the workers compensation law as are maintained by the accident prevention division in firms subject to the law.

**COSTLY CELEBRATION**  
LEWISTON, Idaho, Mar. 7.—(AP) George A. Williams, 70, celebrated his retirement as railroad engine inspector by tossing his stop jacket into an engine inspector by tossing his stop jacket into an engine inspector by tossing his stop jacket into an engine firebox. Too late he remembered that in the jacket's pocket was his last pay check.

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