

Washington Mirror

# Doubled Revenue From Sale Of O. & C. Timber Possible In 1952 for 18 Counties in Oregon

By A. ROBERT SMITH

Washington—Oregon's 18 western counties containing revested Oregon and California lands have a fair-sized chance of receiving this year about twice as much revenue from O & C timber sales as in any previous year.



A. Robert Smith

Marion County, according to estimates being compiled by the Bureau of Land Management, may receive up to about \$140,000 as her share in this year's receipts. Last year the county received \$59,319.70.

Polk County would receive up to about \$210,000, compared with \$90,407.03 in 1951. Linn County would be in line for about \$260,000, as against \$109,122.88 last year. Other nearby counties would receive these estimated amounts:

Clackamas—up to \$260,000; Benton—up to \$275,000; Yamhill—\$74,000.

Reason for these increased financial returns to the counties anticipated for fiscal year 1952, which ends June 30, is that the value of timber being cut this year is expected to reach an all-time high—and the counties are scheduled to share in 75 per cent of timber receipts this year, instead of 50 per cent as in past years.

**Will Divide Quite a Melon**  
Walter H. Horning, chief of the BLM forestry division, estimates that timber revenue from O & C forests will amount to about \$8 to \$10 million, which would give the counties a melon of \$6 to \$7.5 million to divide. The above estimates for each county are based on the \$7.5 million figure.

Two factors, however, make uncertain any determination of the actual amount the counties will be due this year.

First, no precise estimate can be made yet of the value of O & C timber that will be sold during the next four months, hence the range of \$2 million in Horning's estimate.

Second, it is not certain yet that the counties will actually be paid 75 per cent this year, rather than 50 per cent, because of legal questions arising from the controverted lands.

**Debt Finally Settled**

The 25 per cent in question (the difference between 50 and 75 per cent) has heretofore gone into the U.S. Treasury to settle an indebtedness incurred years ago in the O & C account. This debt was finally satisfied last year. As the O & C Act of 1937 provides, this 25 per cent thereafter was to go to the counties in addition to an original 50 per cent share, making a total of 75 per cent to the counties.

Some BLM lawyers fear, however, that there is legal room to argue that no final settlement of this account can be made until the jurisdictional dispute over the controverted O & C lands has been resolved, Horning explained.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Guy Cordon is pending in Congress to give BLM undisputed authority over the controverted lands—463,000 acres of timber land claimed by the Forest Service as part of several national forests, and claimed by BLM as part of the original O & C land grant.

**Revenue Undistributed**

Revenue from these lands has not been distributed due to the dispute, but has piled up in the Treasury under joint agreement of the two agencies until a settlement is reached. The fund now amounts to more than \$5,000,000.

Lane County Judge Day T. Bayly has instigated a lawsuit against the government to free these timber receipts, which are frozen but continue to mount. Distribution of these monies would be accomplished by enactment of Cordon's bill, thus also removing any legal doubts that the counties are entitled to 75 per cent of all O & C receipts. The bill has been approved by the Senate Interior Committee but has yet to come before either house for a vote.

Another factor lending uncertainty to the O & C picture is possible Congressional enactment of changes in the formula for distributing receipts, such as is envisioned in legislation sponsored by Cordon and Rep. Harris Ellsworth to amend the act of 1937 so as permanently to fix the counties' share at 50 per cent of gross receipts.

**Designed to Cut Criticism**

These bills are designed to lessen Congressional criticism of the fact that Oregon's O & C counties are in line for 75 per cent of timber receipts, whereas other counties throughout the country get only 25 per cent of timber receipts from National Forests. With this criticism has come a reluctance to approve appropriations for BLM management of O & C lands, as well as funds for building access roads.

BLM, however, has come up with its own proposal. It would overhaul the act of 1937 by providing that timber management costs be deducted from gross receipts before the government and the counties then shared 50-50 the net receipts.

This plan, says BLM, would give it much needed funds to carry out a more thorough timber management program, which would result in greater volume of timber being made available for sale, and a consequent increase in receipts for the counties and Uncle Sam.

Sen. Cordon, however, is cool to this proposal. He foresees little likelihood of Congressional action on it this year. The matter is before the Interior Committee, of which he is a member. Cordon says he will request full hearings in Oregon when the committee does take action.

**Ellsworth Opposed**  
Congressman Ellsworth says he is opposed to the BLM proposal. In short, then, the O & C picture and outlook appears to be this:

1. The counties this year are going to split up the biggest chunk of revenue yet taken from O & C timber lands.

2. Their share will probably be 75 per cent, though final determination of this will probably be up to the U.S. Comptroller General after the fiscal year has ended.

3. Cordon's controverted land bill will very likely be passed by the Senate this year, though favorable House action is less certain. If this bill is enacted, the counties will get a dividend from the more than \$5 million now frozen. Their share, as now estimated, would be: Marion—\$65,000; Linn—\$120,000; Polk—\$100,000; Clackamas—\$180,000; Benton—\$130,000; and Yamhill—\$35,000.

4. Legislation to revise the formula for payments to counties won't get anywhere in this Congress. If it gets the attention of the 83rd Congress, it probably won't be enacted until another fiscal year has passed, if then.

Therefore, the counties are probably set for two years at least—1952 and 1953—of higher than usual timber receipts based on the 75 per cent formula.

**Robber Warns To Avoid Evil**

NEW YORK (AP)—Bob Dever, 13-year-old high school student, passed his autograph book to Bank Robber Willie Sutton Tuesday through a lawyer.

In the book was a note reading: "Mr. Sutton: Do you have a message for us?"

Sutton, on trial as one of the nation's top bank bandits, autographed the book, passed it back to the attorney with this notation: "The virus of evil is contagious and destructive. Unless you avoid its contagion you will know many moments of sorrow."

It was signed "Willie (The Actor) Sutton."

**No Flags Flown By Two Countries**

LONDON (AP)—Britain's flag is not flying over her legation in the Southern Arabian kingdom of Yemen and the Yemenite flag does not fly over that country's legation here.

This is believed to be only such case in the world. The British foreign office said Yemen had requested the Union Jack be lowered to avoid anti-British incidents.

A spokesman said Yemen probably felt it would be courteous to observe the same rule it had asked Britain to obey.

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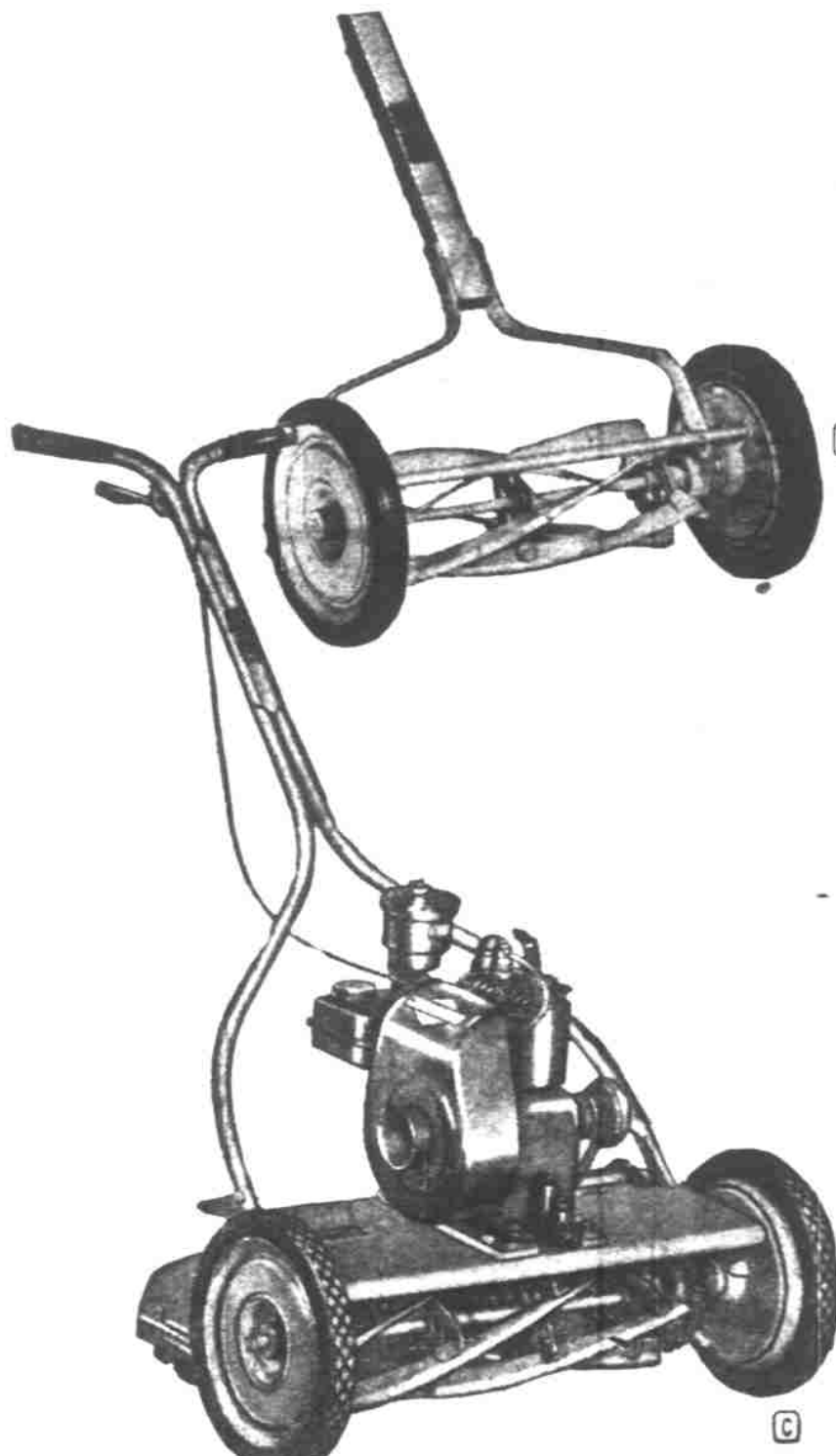
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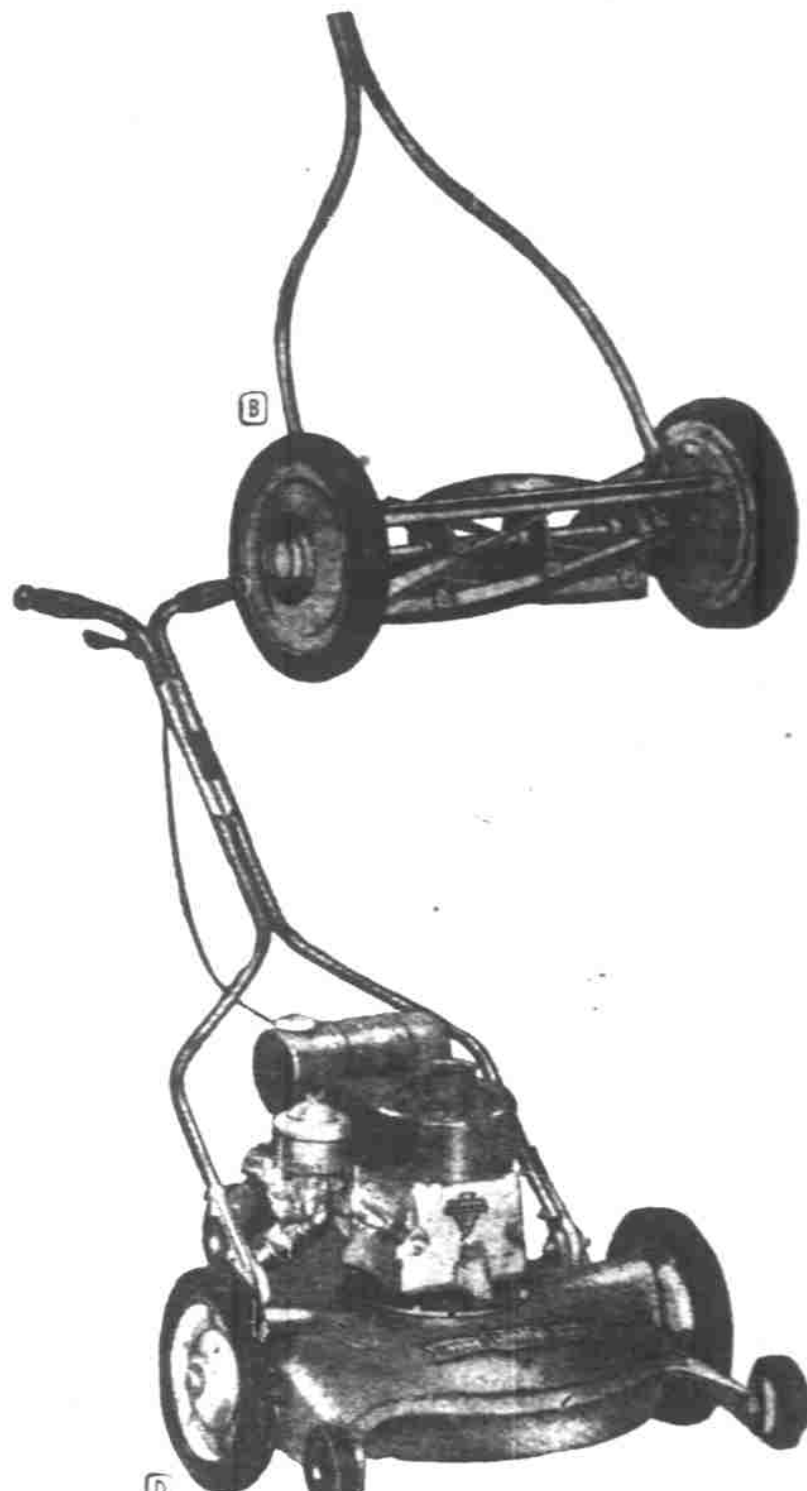
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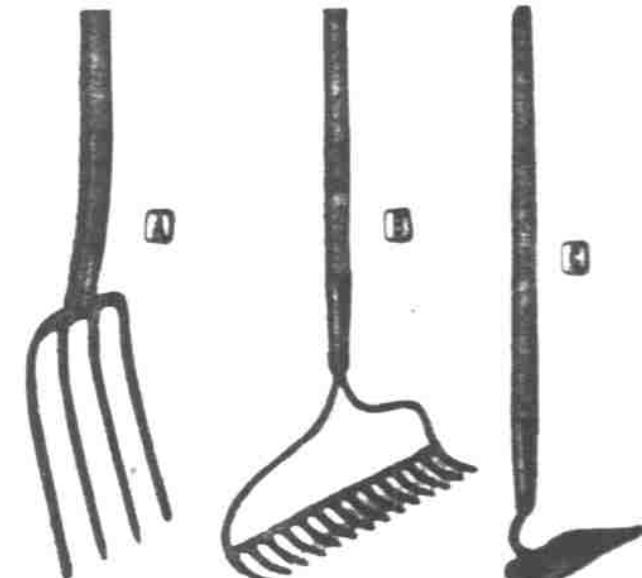
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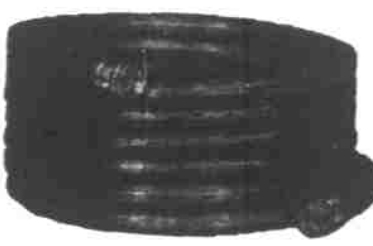
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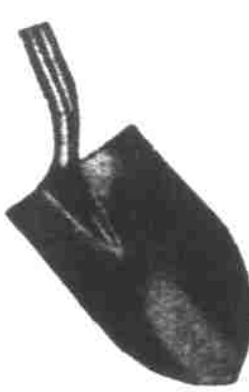
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Each arm sprays 3 separate streams in 40-ft. diameter. Arms of rust-proof brass tubing revolve on brass bearing.



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