

Naming Of Lumber 'Czar' Urged By Industry Leader

Box Makes Plea For Action To End 'Confusion'

Appointment of a lumber czar with absolute authority over every phase of lumber production, management and labor supply was urged Monday by H. J. Cox, secretary-manager of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's association, as the one sure way to bring some order out of the confusion now existing in the critical lumber industry.

Stipulating that the "czar" should be a ranking military officer with complete power over every phase of the industry's vital job of producing lumber for war, the veteran lumberman cited the top job done in World War I by Colonel Disque, who had such power here in the west.

"We didn't have this confusion, this overlapping of authority by multiple boards, commissions, and various departments of the armed services," Cox pointed out. "Colonel Disque had the power to let management and labor what their job was, and he got results."

Unified Authority
Today, in the most critical period of the war, when lumber takes the spotlight as the most urgently needed of all military supplies, we have no one person who has any authority to get things done; no one man who knows what is needed, or who has the power to get it, if by some chance that knowledge could be brought out of the mass of conflicting bureaus, civilian, and military, which have some hand in some phase of the lumber production program.

"This lumber industry is a great industry, tough and rugged as any comes. We understand rough and it sometimes takes that kind of talk, backed with a big stick, to make all of us realize that this nation is at war, and that the principal job today and until V-day is to work, work and work until this war is won."

Lack of knowledge on critical war requirements, on industry capacity and production facilities, and lack of coordinated effort among and authority over agencies is pitiful indeed. Under the present confusing conglomeration of boards, bureaus and administrative agencies governing the lumber industry (directors of employers and employees) and performance are restricted by reason of there being no one in supreme command. How can industry meet war demands when war agencies do not know what they want, how they want it, when they want it, what comes first, or who has authority?

Get Out the Lumber!
Our armed forces do not go into battle with obsolete or insufficient material, or with incompetent, defective or insufficient officer personnel; nor is there divided authority." Cox said in emphasizing the need for an over-all lumber czar. "If lumber is the critical war material, then the lumber industry, in reality, is part of the armed services, and we (employers and employees) should be given our orders by one man who knows what is needed and who has the authority and courage to suspend all conflicting directives and get out this lumber."

"I am sure that the great bulk of lumber operators and lumber employees are loyally trying to do their job, but there are still some who are shirking; absent from work in mills and camps; trying to squeeze out extra advantage when our government needs our help right now so desperately; and that is why we need a strong, competent man at the head of all of these varied activities, with the final authority and power to wipe aside any obstacle which will impede full production of lumber for war."

Machine Licensing Opposed By Governor

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 8.—(AP)—Gov. Earl Snell will "have no part in" any proposed legislation to license slot machines by the state, he said today in response to newspaper articles and comments by legislators, which stated that the legal machines were putting the state-licensed pin-ball machines out of business.

"Action will be taken," the governor said, in insisting that law enforcement officials stop operation of the illegal machines, if it is found that such a condition exists.



H. J. COX

Numerous Agencies Have Some Control Over Timber Output

Listed below are agencies which have authority of some kind or other in regard to the lumber industry. They are the major agencies referred to by H. J. Cox, secretary-manager of the Willamette Valley Lumbermen's association, in his plea voiced Monday for a lumber industry czar. The list follows:

- War manpower commission.
- War labor board.
- Central procurement agency—lumber buying division.
- Office of price administration.
- West coast lumber commission.
- Office of defense transportation.
- Western log and lumber administration of war production board, and the WPB.
- Selective service.
- Administrator of L-335, of WPB.
- Local and state gas and tire rationing boards.
- Treasury department.
- Most of these agencies have many departments, all of them having some control over lumber production.

Reds' Budapest Lines Buckle

LONDON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—The red army siege lines west and northwest of Budapest buckled dangerously today under a pile-driver German attack that carried vanguards of a Nazi relief army within 15 miles of the beleaguered city.

Spending men and armor recklessly in an eleven-hour bid to rescue the remnants of some 80,000 axis troops holding out inside Budapest, the Germans slugged their way almost into artillery range of the capital in the face of terrific casualties and a growing threat to their left flank north of the Danube.

One Nazi column recaptured the Danube crossing town of Estergom, 19 miles northwest of Budapest and almost half-way back from Komarno, where the counteroffensive began last Monday.

At the same time, a second armored spearhead farther to the south carried a six-day, 22-mile advance to the outskirts of Bieske, 15 miles west of the capital, and began storming that Russian stronghold.

Meanwhile, a grave threat to the Germans' left flank was developing in the north, where powerful units of the 2nd Ukrainian army broke out of their narrow bridgehead on the west bank of the Hron river and advanced 12 miles to take Madar, 11 miles northeast of Komarno. Capture of Komarno would lop off one of the main supply and communications centers of the Nazi relief army moving on Budapest.

Yank Carrier Force Strikes Blow At Luzon

By Associated Press
Excited Japanese broadcasts Monday reported more than 450 U. S. transports "streaming north" in the Philippines headed for an invasion of Manila bay or Lingayen gulf in the wake of a deafening two-day naval and air bombardment of the gulf, 150 miles north of Manila.

American commanders ignored the Tokyo broadcasts. Instead they reported devastating strikes along a 3000 mile arc of enemy-held islands from Paramushiro to Manila, and a secondary invasion. Simultaneously Chinese sources disclosed Japanese recently made another amphibious landing on the China coast near Foochow, opposite Formosa, to meet an eventual Yank strength of the continent.

Jap Strength Boasted
All enemy broadcasts boasted of the strength of Japanese land defenses in the Philippines. None of them mentioned the Japanese fleet or attempted to explain why it did not come out to fight.

Japanese front-line dispatches said an armada of 70 U. S. war-craft, led by battleships, shelled Nipponese forts Saturday and Sunday while carrier planes from Vice Adm. John S. McCain's fast carrier force "incessantly blast our positions."

Only confirmation of any of the enemy reports was a communique from Adm. Chester W. Nimitz that McCain's carrier forces had shifted from blasting Formosa to striking Luzon island in support of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's forces. The two commanders reported destruction of 50 Japanese planes and damaging of 27 others, with carrier reports still incomplete.

MacArthur announced his leap-frogging amphibious troops on Mindoro island, south of Luzon, moved 15 miles closer to Manila. They captured Paluan on the northwest coast of Mindoro against light resistance in an advance made half by water and half overland.

Invasion Announced
Nimitz belatedly announced the seizure of tiny Fais island in the western Carolines, 170 miles east of Yap, in a miniature invasion. Eight Japanese were killed, six surrendered. Three Americans lost their lives and six were wounded.

A war flotilla shelled Paramushiro in the Kurile Islands Saturday in the greatest spread of simultaneous task force operations ever reported. This was the day Tokyo said the bombardment of Lingayen gulf started, 3000 miles to the south. Midway between, another force was bombarding Haha and Chichi islands in the Bonins.

New allied advances in Burma swept Chinese into Manawing, 160 miles northeast of Mandalay, and threw the British 14th army into a severe battle with entrenched Nipponese 70 miles northwest of Mandalay.

Buzz Bomb Attack On East Coast Seen
AN EAST COAST PORT, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Adm. Jonas H. Ingram, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, said today that it was "possible and probable that New York City or Washington will be hit by buzz bombs within the next 30 or 60 days."

Ingram said he would take charge of coastal defenses of New York and Washington and that he had moved "plenty forces" to take every possible precaution against the attack.

He said the bombs could come one of three ways: by surface ship, submarine or long range planes.

Weather
U. S. Weather Bureau Forecast: Oregon—Cloudy with intermittent rains northwest portion and on coast, spreading over state tonight and Tuesday; snow over mountains; slightly warmer tonight.



LOY W. ROWLING, above, was installed as president of the Eugene Kiwanis club Monday noon when a new set of officers took over for a new year's work. (Kennell-Ellis photo—Wiltshire engraving.)

Loy Rowling Installed As Kiwanis Head

Annual installation of officers for Eugene Kiwanis club was held Monday noon at the group's weekly luncheon at the Osburn hotel. Rev. L. O. Griffith, a past lieutenant governor in the organization, was installing officer. Those taking over their duties for 1945 include the following:

Loy W. Rowling, president; Harry L. Chase, vice-president; W. J. Mishler, secretary; Hal Houser, treasurer; R. R. Boals, L. Clifton Culp, Glenn A. Harnden, E. A. Danielson, George Hopkins, W. P. Riddlebarger as elective directors. Roy A. Elliott, member of the board by virtue of being immediate past president. A seventh director is yet to be named to succeed Chase, who becomes vice-president.

The board of directors will meet Monday evening, 7:30 o'clock, home of the new president.

Eugene Flier Killed As Plane Crashes
Lt. Max R. Smith, 21, son and only child of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Smith, 1061 Eighth avenue west, was killed in the crash of a training plane from the Redmond airfield Saturday. Word that he was missing from the flight reached his parents Sunday, and they drove to Redmond. His body had been recovered, when they arrived.

Scene of the crash was in rugged terrain, 10 miles south-east of Bend. A search party reached the wreckage late Sunday, after sighting it from the air. Capt. Alph A. Thiesens of Hamburg, Ia., also was killed in the accident.

Lieutenant Smith was born in Grants Pass, Feb. 2, 1923, and came to Eugene with his parents in 1928. He was a graduate of Eugene high school, where he was prominent in athletics, and had attended the Salinas Junior college in California. He entered the service in June, 1942, and was commissioned at Williams Field, Ariz., in the spring of 1943. He was an instructor on bomber planes at the Portland air base until recently, when he transferred to fighter training. He was taking advanced training in fighter planes, preparatory to going overseas, at the Redmond base.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, parents of the flier, were expected home Monday from Redmond. They are proprietors of the Rose Cleaners in Eugene.

Bright Meteor Seen; Eugene Misses Out

Eugene apparently missed out on seeing the brilliant meteor reported by many persons in Oregon and southwest Washington. J. Hugh Pruett, University of Oregon extension astronomer, said he had received a call from Portland regarding the meteor late Sunday night, but he said it was too cloudy for local persons to have seen the meteor which was reported about 9 p. m. Sunday.

Pruett, from preliminary reports, states the meteor probably streaked over southern Oregon or northern California and may have landed far at sea. A great glow of light was sent up when the meteor struck, witnesses said. Residents of Albany, Salem, Portland, and Vancouver, Wash., reported on the meteor.

Pruett is expecting to get reports from those areas and later will compile the information obtained to trace the trail of the meteor. All persons having seen it are being asked to forward information to the Eugene astronomer.

Essential Job List Likely To Be Pared Down

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—To find a way of grinding the job-control and manpower screws tighter, the government is reviewing the entire list of essential activities.

And this may be the result, it appeared today, although no decision has been reached yet:

1. Some activities, now classified as essential, will be dropped from the list.
2. Most activities, now classified as essential, will remain that way.
3. Some activities—such as those munitions industries which badly need manpower—will be listed not only as essential but critical.

The whole purpose of this would be to force draft-age men into essential work but particularly into the critical industries. It would be another step in nailing down the government's intensified effort to stop job-shifting and labor turnover.

The latest step in that direction came from selective service which told draft boards:

1. To draft men up to 38 if they change jobs without board permission. Lower than usual physical standards will be set for such "job-skippers." How much lower was not divulged.
2. To tighten up on the deferments already granted.

Selective service said in its memorandum to the boards: "In applying the tests for occupational deferment for registrants ages 26 through 37, greater consideration will be given to registrants now engaged, or who become engaged, in war production or in support of the war effort, than to those engaged in activities not supporting the immediate prosecution of the war."

The review of the essential job list was started several days ago by the government's essential activities committee, composed of representatives of the army, navy, selective service, war manpower commission, war production board and the war food administration.

Demands were voiced in congress meanwhile that the administration make greater use of its existing powers in meeting the war manpower problem while the legislators work out new measures.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Congress appeared today to be ready to follow white house leadership for drafting 4-F's and nurses but balked for the time being on the idea of complete national service legislation.

In response to President Roosevelt's request for "total mobilization of all human resources for the prosecution of the war," congressional leaders were prepared to put the tightening of manpower controls at the top of the legislative calendar.

A sampling of congressional reaction, however, indicated a desire to try so-called stop-gap measures, such as the 4-F draft and a check on job-jumping by occupationally-deferred men, before embarking on more drastic courses of action. Organized labor expressed strong hostility to a labor draft.

Tuition For Outside Students Approved

Payment of partial tuition for this school year of non-high school district pupils attending high schools in other districts was authorized at a meeting of the county non-high school board in the office of L. C. Moffitt, county school superintendent, Saturday evening.

The board authorized the payment of a total of \$43,000 to four different districts. Eugene district gets \$33,000, Oakridge and Springfield \$4,000 each and Junction City \$2,000.

Board members present at the meeting were Loren Smith, Glenwood, chairman; Arthur Beebe, River Road; Thurman Chase, Willamette; and Jesse Harper, Riverview. Leonard Brooks, Alpha, was unable to attend.

At a meeting of the county boundary board at the courthouse Monday morning a petition to annex 135 acres of the Glenwood school district to the Eugene district was read and a hearing on the petition will be held Jan. 18 at 10 a. m.

The tract proposed to be annexed lies on Riverview avenue southeast of Hendricks park. This adjoins the Spencer Butte school district, and people living in that district announce that if the annexation plan carries they will vote upon the question of annexing Spencer Butte to Eugene district.

LOW TAX CLAIMED
MEDFORD, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Medford's tax levy for city operations—14.765 mills—is the lowest for 1945 of any Oregon city with a population of 5000 or more, Supt. Frank H. Rogers claimed today.

State Legislature Opens In Harmonious Session

Belton Made Senate President, Marsh Speaker Of House, Without Opposition

SALEM, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Oregon's 43rd legislature opened today after completing its organization last night at caucuses smoothly and quickly.

Sen. Howard C. Belton, Canby farmer, was elected president of the senate, and Rep. Eugene E. Marsh, McMinnville attorney, was chosen speaker of the house, both without opposition.

Snell Urges Expert Survey Of State Taxes

By ERIC W. ALLEN, Jr.
STATEHOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Jan. 8.—(AP)—Praising the war record so far made by the soldiers, industries and workers of Oregon, Gov. Earl Snell today told the opening joint session of the Oregon legislature that now is "no time to rest on laurels or records" and outlined 12 specific recommendations for legislation.

Speaking on the contentious subject of taxes early in his 6000-word message, the governor recommended that the legislature provide for the engaging of a firm of tax experts for a complete "survey, examination and analysis of all phases of our tax structure," leaving further action to the discretion of the legislature.

Gov. Snell reiterated a section of his message of two years ago, stating his feeling that "\$40 per month is little enough to provide sustenance and reasonable comfort" for those receiving old age assistance.

Reviewing the work of the committee on post-war readjustment and development during the biennium, the governor said he foresaw a great future for Oregon, with its many natural resources, and that it was on the eve of successful development, "destined to become a rather important industrial state."

On the highly controversial proposal that all milk products in the state be required to be pasteurized, Gov. Snell recommended that the legislature enact statutes which would safeguard the safety and well-being of the citizens, after giving "full consideration to all phases of this subject," and obtaining "full and complete scientific and practical data and information."

In discussing the state's greatest industry, lumbering, he recommended expansion of the forest land acquisition program to \$100,000, and the forest research and forest products laboratory program at the state college to \$50,000.

He also outlined seven steps toward scientific forestry and "sustained yield" which he had presented to the conference of governors last July.

Wheeler And Gibson Get Important Posts

State Senator H. C. Wheeler, Lane county, and State Senator Angus Gibson, in the joint session from Lane and Linn counties, were given important committee appointments in the list released Monday afternoon by Sen. Howard Belton, Clackamas county, president of the senate.

Gibson was named chairman of forestry; vice-chairman for county affairs; vice-chairman for ways and means; member of banking, municipal affairs, roads and highways committees. (He chaired the ways and means committee in the 43rd session.)

Wheeler again is chairman for education; is vice-chairman for livestock; member of assessment and taxation, elections, engrossed and enrolled bills committees.

Sen. Deann H. Walker, Independence (former Eugene resident), was named head of the important senate ways and means committee. He held the same post in the 1939 session.

Other important committee chairmen in the senate include: Agriculture, W. E. Burke, Sherwood; assessment and taxation, Earl Newberry, Ashland; industries, Lew Wallace, Portland; judiciary, Irving Rand, Portland; military affairs, Lee Patterson, Portland; roads and highways, Marshall E. Cornett, Klamath Falls.

Willamette Rises Above Zero Mark

For the first time since May 1, the gauge on the Willamette river at Eugene, Sunday, read above zero, .2 of a foot; and Monday, at 7 a. m., was up to 3.30 feet. The last time the river was above the zero stage was May 1 when it read .29 of a foot.

The river has been unusually low all the past summer and fall—likewise, the rainfall was short, too, Eugene being more than 14 inches deficient in its year's precipitation to Jan. 1. Recent rains, however, have brought up the river and for the present, at least, Eugeneans do not have to apologize for "the mighty Willamette."

Just two years ago now the river had subsided from one of its worst rampages on record, on New Year's day, 1943, having gone over for one of the worst floods in more than a half a century.

Americans Hurl Nazis Back In Ardennes Area

PARIS, Jan. 8.—(UP)—American forces drove through a swirling snowstorm a mile to a mile and a half deeper into the crumbling north flank of the Ardennes salient on a 15-mile front today, and the Germans began pulling out of its blunted nose.

The tide of battle also swung in favor of the American 7th army in northeastern France, where Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's troops seized the initiative in several sectors, compressed a German bridgehead north of Strasbourg to ease a threat to that city, and drove the nazis back two miles from the high water mark of their Blitch bulge.

Situation Encouraging
Supreme Headquarters and front reports sketched one of the most encouraging overall situations on the western front since the German offensive began on Dec. 16.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' 1st army headquarters reported general gains along the north rim of Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt's shrinking salient in Belgium.

With the main east-west road on the north side of the bulge cut and that on the south side under fire, British troops at the westernmost sector of the Belgian front were advancing against negligible resistance in some sectors, while at others they found no sign of the defense front which faded back with a German withdrawal.

Hodges' 2nd and 3rd armored divisions pushed their way south through the Belgian forests toward Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's north-bound forces, whittling down the waistline of the bulge to less than a dozen miles.

The 82nd airborne division captured Thierdumont ridge, two miles southwest of Vielsalm, a choke point not only on the cut German escape route along the north side of the bulge but also a round-about way angling up the Houffalize area.

Units of the 2nd armored division stormed into Dochem, five miles northwest of the key transport center of La Roche. The towns of Jouvinal and Hebronal on the La Roche-St. Vith highway fell to the 3rd armored after a German delaying action was overwhelmed.

Nurse Procurement Work Pushed Here

The nurse shortage is becoming most acute, both for army and navy service, and for home duty, reports the Lane county chapter of the American Red Cross which is joining chapters throughout the country to secure more nurses. One of the official obligations of the American Red Cross is recruitment of nurses for the army and navy, and along with this need is another to lure more workers for home nursing work.

Miss Mary Gray, nursing field representative of the national Red Cross, has been here the past few days assisting the national recruitment committee for Lane county to reorganize and prepare for a new year of increased activity.

Officers for the group here for the new year include: Miss Lucille Vale, county health nurse, and Mrs. Bess Harnden, president of the Navy Mothers club, co-chairmen; Miss Frances Coxy, district nurse association, secretary; and lay members, Mrs. Ethelyn Bowman and Mrs. Jay Augustus.

It is the responsibility of the recruitment committee to contact the nurses declared available for war service and offer them any

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Cannery Workers' Convention Near End

The three-day convention of the Pacific coast council of cannery and process workers drew toward a close here Monday with business sessions being held in the Eugene Hotel.

George Googe, AFL organizer in the southern states, was among prominent speakers at Sunday's session. Others were W. E. Kimsey, Oregon state labor commissioner; R. J. Martens, secretary-treasurer of the joint protective board of the Brotherhood of Railroad Carmen of America; Charles Elrey, branch manager of the wages and hours office of Portland, and Joe D. Wilson, supervisor of rural industry.

Ward Firm Accused By Federal Attorney

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—(AP)—The government accused Montgomery Ward and company today of carrying on a "campaign" against wartime labor dispute settlement procedures, thereby threatening to break down that whole machinery and to "endanger the national economy."

In asking Federal Judge Philip L. Sullivan to restrain Ward's from alleged interference with army operations of 16 company properties in seven cities, Hugh B. Cox, assistant solicitor general, said a situation existed which "threatens the outcome of the war."