

Operations of Alcohol Plant Said Good Waste Utilizers

By RUBY FRAZIER
Successful operation of the Springfield alcohol plant will offer one of the largest opportunities for development of forest wastes for industrial use yet discovered, in the opinion of H. J. Cox, secretary-manager of the

Willamette Valley Lumbermen's Assn.
An attempt underway to subscribe enough stock to set the now idle plant machinery in motion again may result in ironing out technical difficulties to insure profitable operation.

Built in 1944

The new company has formed as Industrial Alcohol, Inc. The plant, started as a wartime experiment to extract alcohol from wood wastes, was constructed in 1944.

At that time the possibility of bolstering the nation's food economy by making industrial alcohol out of wood was foreseen.

"Demobilized"
At the end of the war the plant was "demobilized," along with other government plants in the country, and the War Production

Board turned the plant over to the Secretary of Agriculture, with Reconstruction Finance Corp. backing, and appropriated \$450,000 to finish the plant which finally started production in the spring of 1946.

The Willamette Valley Wood Chemical Co., made up of Willamette Valley lumbermen, leased the plant and provided operational expenses, but technical difficulties forced the company to terminate its lease. Cost of redesigning to eliminate the trouble was estimated at that time at about \$150,000.

Transfers
The plant then went to the War Assets Administration, since the RFC was doomed by Congress in 1946 and will go out of existence July 1 this year. The WAA was given the responsibility of selling or leasing the plant.

Once the bugs have been taken out of the operation by engineers, the plant will be able to resume operation.

Objectives
Cox said that in the judgment of competent engineers the following objectives are within the scope of easier attainment than when the enterprise was first initiated:

1. Contribution to industry economy through increased utilization of forest waste; 2. development of a forest byproducts industry, contributing to the permanence of local communities and

3. Investment of individual capital affording an opportunity for individual profit.

Other Products
In addition to 190-proof alcohol, which can compete with alcohol manufactured from grain, the plant is capable of manufacturing many byproducts.

Among these are yeast proteins for livestock and poultry feed. Currently this food must be shipped from the East at great expense. Local manufacture would probably increase herds of livestock many-fold, Cox believes. The material could be purchased at a much more reasonable price.

Chemicals
Carbon dioxide for the manufacture of dry ice, menthol alcohol, and lignin products may also be produced. Lignin, which has been used as fuel, is being developed by chemists to use in plastics and can be combined with chemicals as an insecticide and plant fertilizer.

The government originally called for bids as of 10 a.m. June 28, but James F. Morrell, Oswego, temporary president of the new venture, said Saturday that he arranged with WAA in May to extend the time on bids to Aug. 15 this year, in order to allow Alcohol Industries, Inc., to raise the necessary capital.

Purple Heart Order Elects Commander

PORTLAND —(P)— Ted Hopkins of Rogue River has been re-elected commander of the Oregon section of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The organization closed a three day convention here Sunday after approving universal military training and national defense

Two Killed On Santiam

SALEM —(P)—Two men were killed and two persons seriously injured Saturday night when their auto plunged over a 300-foot cliff three miles west of Detroit on the North Santiam Highway, state police here reported.

The dead were identified as Donald Douglas Heritage, 23, Milwaukie, Ore., and Jacob W. Weikum, 25, Oregon City.

In Salem hospitals with serious injuries were Mrs. Violet Holden, Oregon City, and Harold Basney, Portland.

State police said the accident occurred when the car driven by Heritage left the narrow road near Blowout Camp near the Detroit dam site and plunged over a precipice, literally demolishing as it hit the railroad tracks below.

measures. The 60 delegates also voted to support demands for a state bonus advanced by recognized veterans' organizations.

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