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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF OUR HOME STATE

PROTECTING OUR FORESTS.

Oregon's Four Hundred Billion Feet of Timber Worth Saving.

By G. W. Peavy, Professor of Forestry, O. A. C.

By the passage of a carefully prepared forestry law, backed by an adequate appropriation, the last legislature of Oregon took the first effective step for the preservation of one of the state's largest natural resources. According to the old saw, "It is the wise man who locks the stable before the horses are stolen." It is quite evident from the great losses of the past few years that Oregon cannot claim credit for having acted to the fullest degree the part of the wise man in the matter of guarding her timber, yet there is still some stock in the stable which is well worth protecting.

A conservative estimate places the timber resources of Oregon at 400 billion feet board measure of merchantable timber. About one-third of this amount is within the national forests. The remaining two-thirds is in private holdings. The state holds practically no stumpage, having sold nearly all of its grant lands. Figured on the basis of \$1.50 per thousand feet board measure the stumpage of the state represents a property valued at \$600,000,000. Estimated on the basis of a manufactured value of \$12 per thousand feet, the timber in the state has a value equal to \$4,800,000,000.

When it is understood that the timber supply of other parts of the country is being rapidly exhausted and that as a result there will soon be vastly greater demands made upon the timber supply of the Northwest it is very certain that the figures quoted above do not fully represent the economic importance of the forest crop to the state.

To any one who has seen a forest fire in action it is very clear that the individual is powerless against it. Organized effort is necessary in order to combat it successfully. This organization should be in the hands of the state. It is true that many organizations for preventing and fighting forest fires exist among the counties and the timber owners of the state, but at the same time a central organization is necessary to give a head to the whole system. That is just what the forestry law passed by the last legislature does. It binds together all agencies within the state for effectively preventing and fighting forest fires. It makes it certain that the small timber owner and the rancher will each receive the same consideration from the state as does the larger timber holder.

Under the provisions of the forestry law the state forester is empowered to require timber owners to burn slash or debris whenever, in his judgment it is a menace to adjoining property. Fire wardens will be appointed who will be peace officers, with power to arrest for any violation of the forest laws.

The period between June 1st and October 1st is declared to be a closed season, during which it is unlawful to set out fire in any slashing, woodand, or brush land without written permission from a fire warden. This provision of the law does not apply to burning brush heaps, log piles or stumps in small quantities and under close supervision. However, if fire should get away when burning of this character is done without permission, and damage results, the one setting the fire is regarded as guilty under this act, and is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or to imprisonment for a term not to exceed three months.

The same penalty applies to those who build camp fires without clearing the ground properly or who leave camp fires burning or unwatched and who permit camp fires to spread. During the closed season all engines of whatever character, which are operated in the vicinity of forests, must be equipped with effective spark arresters.

These are some of the general provisions of the law. The complete act can be had by writing to the state forester at Salem. The whole intent of the law is to protect a resource which is of immense value to all the people of the state.

County Fair Arranged.

Oregon City—Arrangements are being made for the coming county fair and from all indications this year's fair will be one of the most successful ever held by the Clackamas county association. There will be a prize of \$10 for the best exhibit. Clairmont, Gladstone, Barlow, Maple Lane grange and Warner grange have already applied for space in the big auditorium. One of the advantages of this fair will be the installation of electric lights.

Albany Egg Biggest Yet.

Albany—An Albany hen has broken all the records for big eggs boasted of in various parts of Oregon and Washington in the last two weeks. A hen belonging to A. S. Hart, of this city, has laid an egg which measures 10 inches around one way and is eight inches in circumference. It weighs seven ounces. The egg has a soft shell with an unusually large hard-shelled egg inside of it.

Halibut Caught at Astoria.

Astoria—A peculiar feature of this season's fishing was that a 50-pound halibut was caught in a gill-net that was drifting in the main channel opposite the city front. These fish seldom enter the Columbia river, but as the tides are high and there is no freshet, the water in the bay is brackish and this attracts the deep-sea fish inside.

RAINBOW MINE PURCHASED.

Big Eastern Company Pays \$750,000 for Property.

Baker—By the terms of a transaction announced here one of the biggest mining deals in recent years in Oregon goes on record. The United States Smelting company has purchased the Rainbow mine, in the Mormon Basin district, from the Commercial mining company, for a consideration of \$750,000. The initial payment was \$200,000. The closing of this deal is the greatest boost the Eastern Oregon mines have ever received. The coming of the United States company means the greatest activity in the mining industry the state has ever seen.

The Rainbow property was discovered about nine years ago and was developed from a prospect mainly through the efforts of W. E. King, of Hood River. The other principal mines in the district are the Humboldt and Cleveland, but there are also many properties in the immediate neighborhood that are in greater or less stages of development. The transaction means more than anything else to the mining industry of Eastern Oregon. A. P. Anderson and H. S. Lee, the engineers of the United States Smelting & Refining company, are now in charge. They have begun their arrangements for men and added equipment and state that they will begin operations on a large scale as soon as possible.

CHANCE GIVEN CONVICTS.

Governor West Plans Employment in State Institutions.

Salem—Another new prison policy is announced by Governor West. Convicts are being sent gradually to the various state institutions to act as employees. In this capacity they will be unguarded and will have virtually the same privileges that are extended to the other employees. They will probably be paid 25 cents a day as spending money or to be placed to their credit against the time of their release.

"If 100 men at the prison can be placed at some employment which will be of value to the state, a great saving can be made," said the governor. "Estimating the labor of these men as valued at \$2 a day, it would mean a saving of nearly \$200,000 annually. "I am now working on plans whereby I hope to accomplish just this thing and place at least 100 men at work. A new contract with the Lowenberg & Going company will make such a move possible and I believe it can be accomplished.

"In the meantime as many men as I can possibly find room for will be placed at the institutions and have decent labor to perform. I am satisfied under the conditions they will need no guard and will be on a quicker road to reform than under the former system."

Rain Helps Hopgrowers.

Forest Grove.—Hopgrowers in this section are hailing the occasional showers with delight. While the rain has interfered with the work in the yards the growers believe that the showers came at an opportune time to give the growing plants the moisture necessary for growth. Throughout this section much work has been in progress in the yards, in the way of "suckering" and training the vines. Hopyards in the Gaston and Banks neighborhoods look exceptionally well.

Coos to Cruise All Timber.

Marshfield—The commissioners of Coos county have appointed Dennis McCarthy head cruiser for the county. Assistants will be named later. The purpose is to cruise all of the timber in the county with a view to making a more equitable assessment. Mr. McCarthy was employed for the past year in this work, but there is a large amount of timber in the county and half a dozen men with McCarthy as general director will be put to work.

Hood River Berries Aided.

Hood River—The warm spring rain has been a great boon to the berry farmers. The warm showers will hasten the maturity of the crop. H. P. Coburn, a rancher who lives about two miles from the city, said that he probably would have to begin the first picking of his two and one-half acres by May 10. He and his neighbors count on a big yield.

Rain Helps Wheat Crop.

Pendleton—More timely showers fell on Umatilla county wheat fields this week, adding many thousands of dollars to the value of the developing crop. Farmers say the weather which has prevailed has been ideal for the wheat and worth as much as the showers. Heavier rains have fallen on the mountain ranges, where it was needed even more than on the wheat.

Athena's Dry Spell Broken.

Athena—The long dry spell has been broken by heavy showers and the ground is wet down several inches. The rain came at a very opportune time for the wheat needed water badly, although the ground had plenty of moisture to keep the grain growing.

Drilling for Water.

Vale—Ranchers in the Cow Valley neighborhood are sinking a number of wells with heavy drilling outfits. In most cases plenty of good water has been tapped.

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