

## First Forest-Reseeding Law In Nation Enacted For Oregon

By Stewart H. Holbrook in N. Y. Herald-Tribune

Back in 1881 John Dolbeer, of Humboldt Bay, in the West Coast logging woods, moved into his tall timber an extraordinary machine he had devised. It was a donkey engine. The arrogant bullwhackers who drove the Dolbeer logging oxen snorted in amused contempt to see such a contraption in the woods. They sat around on stumps, chewing tobacco and jeering, and the oxen chewed their cud disinterestedly as John ran a cable from engine into the woods and wrapped an end around a gigantic log.

John, paying no heed to the ribald lumberjacks, returned to the engine and opened the throttle wide. The big log came in a snorting—in less time than it would have taken a yoke of oxen to turn around. From that date began the conversion of logging bulls into hamburger. It was the first great revolution in timber, that of steam power.

A second and even greater revolution came this month when the Oregon Legislature passed a forest conservation act, the first of its kind in the United States. Nub of the act is Section 3, which reads: "Any person, firm or corporation cutting live timber for commercial use from lands within the state shall, in order to effectuate the policies of this act, leave reserve trees of commercial species deemed adequate under normal conditions to maintain continuous forest growth and/or provide satisfactory restocking to insure forest growth."

Loggers' Own Idea  
The act is enough to make John Dolbeer, or even Paul Bunyan, turn over in his grave. It provides that the state shall have police power over all logging operations to see that in pine logging all trees less than sixteen inches in diameter are left for seed, and that in Douglas fir logging not less than 5 per cent of the original stand is left for the same purpose.

This law is not just another attempted crackdown by government on the lumber industry which often, and many times unjustly, has served as whipping boy for Federal Administrations since 1933. The law was written, proposed and fostered by Oregon loggers and lumbermen themselves, working closely with ranching and agricultural interests. Basically it is an attempt by thoughtful lumbermen to control the irresponsible minority of their fellows of the old-fashioned cut-out-and-get-out school. It is a practical law, based not on esthetic theory, but on long experience.

Fifty years of logging in western Oregon has shown that Douglas fir, the dominant species, will bountifully reseed cut over land if given half a chance. The new Oregon law, which doubtless will be followed by similar legislation in Washington State, is specific regarding the proper number of seed trees.

Once natural restocking is under way, the only big danger is forest fire. The raw products of most industries can be protected with ease. Not so timber. The lumbermen's raw product is out there under the sky, unvalued, unfenced, virtually the great outdoors itself. It is used and often abused by the public—hunters, fishermen, berry pickers, campers, picnickers—and abused most of all by the hordes of motorists who throw lighted cigarettes, cigars or matches from their cars. It is these people and not lumberjacks who set fire to the forest. Less than five per cent of man-caused forest fires in Oregon and Washington are set by logging operations.

### 3,200 Fires in 1940

During 1940 the forest products industries of Oregon and Washington spent a total of \$1,800,000 to protect what are laughingly called "private forests" from fires set by a public which professes to love the great outdoors and last summer showed its love by setting more than 3,200 fires in the two states.

Both states have adequate fire-protection laws, and need them. In summer, logging is regulated by the readings of hygrothermographs which record the rise and fall of relative humidity. If the graph drops to a reading of 30, logging in Douglas fir ceases. Lookouts high on mountain peaks scan the timber for smoke. Every logging camp in the two states is equipped with hose, pumps and other tools. Many camps go to work at 3 a. m. and quit at noon, just when humidity usually begins to fall.

It is the public that must be taught that one match or cigarette can de-

stroy and often has destroyed a young forest of 2,000 acres in six hours. And these are just the forests that must be protected if timber is to be a crop, harvested in cycles like grain except that the cycle between crops is nearer a century than a season.

Thoughtful lumbermen, of whom there are many, have long since learned that timber is a crop. Henceforth, sharp-eyed inspectors, all woodsmen of long experience, will observe carefully the cutting methods of Oregon loggers to see that seed trees are left on all areas. These inspectors will be directed by Governor Charles A. Sprague, of Oregon, whose pet legislation has been this new conservation act.

Oregon is the first lumber-producing state in the Union, cutting some 4,500,000,000 feet annually. Making sure that the thousands of acres of cutover land have the proper seed trees, and then of protecting the new forests, is going to be a gigantic undertaking.



Oregon has 322 machine, wood-working and sheet-metal shops suitable for conversion into defense industries the Oregon Economic Council told Governor Sprague this week. These shops now employ 4206 men and would need 11,670 skilled workers for capacity production, the report pointed out. A total of 15,845 skilled workers were listed in the report as available for defense production jobs in this state.

O. D. Adams, state director for vocational education, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence from his state job in Oregon to serve Uncle Sam. Adams, who has been away from Salem for the past six months on a temporary leave, is a lieutenant commander in the naval reserve and is in charge of the educational program for both civilian employees and enlisted men at the Bremerton navy yard. Oscar Paulson, assistant director, is pinch hitting for Adams during his absence.

A third act of the recent legislative session was made the target for attack this week when the Association Against Public Taxes for Private Schools started circulating petitions in an effort to place the free text book bill on the ballot. The act under fire extends the use of free text books to pupils enrolled in parochial and private schools as well as those in public schools who are already enjoying this privilege. Sponsors of the referendum which is understood to have the backing of the Oregon Parent-Teachers association, must secure 15,866 verified signatures of registered voters by June 13 in order to prevent the act from becoming effective.

The prediction of Speaker Robert S. Farrell, Jr. that the legislature will be called into special session if this nation becomes embroiled in the world war, is not taken seriously by state officials generally. Governor Sprague's only reaction to the prediction was to call attention to the fact that the state has just gotten rid of a legislative session and nothing now on the political horizon would appear to point to the need for another gathering of the lawmakers before January, 1943.

The action of five Portland hospitals in increasing their charges for the care of injured workmen whose bills are paid by the industrial accident commission has revived discussion of a proposed state hospital to handle these cases. The suggestion has been advanced by responsible state officials that such an institution could care for hospitalized persons on the relief rolls as well as injured workmen who are protected by the workmen's compensation act.

Although the Board of Control has awarded the contract for drafting plans for the new treatment hospital at the state hospital in Salem it is not expected that actual construction work on the new building will get under way until next fall. Dr. John

C. Evans, superintendent of the institution, expects to leave soon for a tour of midwest and eastern states where he will visit other institutions of this kind in order to gather new ideas to be incorporated into the Oregon institution.

A total of 413 Oregon motorists were arrested by state police for drunken driving during 1940 according to the annual report of Chas. P. Pray, superintendent. Violation of the basic rule resulted in 502 arrests and 319 motorists were arrested for reckless driving.

The changes in the assessment and taxpaying dates voted by the last legislature do not become effective until next year. Even then the transition will be so gradual as to be scarcely noticeable. Tax levies will be made next November as usual except that they will be reduced to 50 per cent of the normal levies. This means that when the property owners goes to pay his taxes next March, if he pays cash in order to take the discount he will be called on to pay only 50 per cent of his normal tax. If, however, he is of the class that takes advantage of the installment payments his March installment will be up to the usual average but there will be only two installments to pay instead of the customary four.

Then in July, 1942, the various tax levying bodies—school district, city, county, state, etc.—will make another levy. This one will be for a full year the first instalment of which will become due in November, 1942, with subsequent installments due

every three months thereafter.

Oregon now has approximately 18,700 men in Uncle Sam's armed forces according to records of state selective service headquarters. This number includes 16,493 officers and men commissioned or enlisted through regular army, navy and marine corps channels, and more than 2200 who have been inducted for a year of training under the selective service act. By the end of June, according to Lt. Col. Elmer V. Wooten, state director of selective service, there will be more than 20,000 Oregon men in the armed forces of the nation. Of the 16,493 Oregon men commissioned or enlisted through regular channels 6,004 are in the regular army and organized reserves, 5715 are in the Oregon national guard now in active service, 3,964 are in the navy and naval reserve and 810 are in the marine corps.

The cash balance in the state treasury hit a new all-time high this week with a total of \$19,278,350 to its credit, it was reported by Leslie M. Scott, state treasurer. Heavy income tax payments account for the high total at this time.

The Board of Control has agreed to sell a ten-acre tract on the state hospital farm southeast of Salem to the city for use as a garbage dump. The tract includes a deep ravine which the city wants for this purpose.

Gasoline taxes totalling \$2,955,688.50 for the first three months of 1941 showed an increase of \$404,804.53

over the same period in 1940, according to a report by Secretary of State Snell. Gasoline tax collections for each of the three months in the quarter showed an increase over the comparable month a year ago.

proposed new office building.

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