

## The Salem Sampler

By Ralph T. Moore

One of the most surprising statements in a bulletin recently issued by the Department of Forestry is that timber standing today in the United States is still 80 per cent of the total standing in 1776. This is true notwithstanding the enormous lumber consumption during all these years.

It is pointed out that annual growth of timber has risen from six billion in about 1890 to 13 1/2 billion in 1942. Cutting of the virgin growth, which grew little or not at all, and substituting therefor young and fast-growing trees in the soft wood areas, accounts for the sharp increase in annual growth. A 40-acre tract of old-growth timber will have very little annual growth. The same tract in young timber will grow as much as 1800 feet per acre. It is not hard to see that the cutting of the old growth and planting of new will result in a large increment of annual growth over the entire country.

Foresters believe an annual growth of at least 17 billion can be achieved simply by keeping fire out of the cut-over lands. And if artificial planting is used in barren areas, the annual growth might be increased something more than 20 billion feet. This means that with only a reasonable amount of care our lumber production can be perpetuated. The trees will grow as fast as they are cut, in normal times.

But during the war the demand for lumber will reach about 35 billion feet. This is probably the greatest demand the lumber industry will have to meet in the life time of any one of us. Normal consumption will be around 20 billion feet and should be sustained at this or a greater figure for several years after the war because of the great damage to property in the war zones.

We of Coos county are vitally interested in the timber crop and are particularly favored with a climate conducive to rapid growth of Douglas Fir, Spruce, Hemlock and the Cedars. The foregoing statistics will give hope that the major portion of our lumber industry will be perpetuated in the county through careful administration of forest lands and their protection from fire.

Oregon's new community property law has not met with the approval of the Treasury Department in the making out of income tax returns. The Treasury Department maintains that the law is strictly for the purpose of reducing income tax payments by

certain classes of people in the state and that the taking of advantage of the law by respective income tax payers will not be permitted by Federal tax authorities.

An Oklahoma law almost identical with that of Oregon is now up before the United States Supreme Court for decision as to whether the Treasury Department shall be compelled to recognize the provisions of the community tax law. The outcome of this Oklahoma case will, of course, determine the validity of the Oregon law.

But no matter which way the Court decides, the fact remains that those states not having a community property law are discriminated against by the Treasury Department. This unequal assessment of income taxes should be cleared up once and for all by Congress. A specific Act should be passed either giving all tax payers the same rates, whether they are in community property states or not, or the advantage now enjoyed by those in community property states should be removed in the case of income tax returns. One class of citizens should not have advantage over another because of geography. We are all in the war and should all pay our just proportion of its cost.

Rather disheartening news from the rubber industry would indicate that a lack of tires for logging trucks would be added to the troubles of loggers now trying to keep up normal production in the face of lack of manpower, inability to get spare parts for machines, and poorer quality of labor. The full effect of any rubber shortage will not strike the industry until the season is well along. Presumably most of the logging trucks have enough tires to get them through at least half of the season. Curtailment will come when trucks have to be taken from the run and their tires used to keep other trucks going. It seems rather queer that no one realized that there would be such a shortage of tires until it was right upon us. But that seems to be characteristic of many of our War Agencies, an inability to plan ahead.

Those charged with procurement of lumber for the armed services have been lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that differences between supply and demand have been made up out of inventories heretofore. But now inventories are at a very low ebb and the lumber industry will have to actually cut the full amount of the lumber needed for the armed services this year. The burden on the mills is greater than

ever before and comes at a time when the mills are least able to sustain it.

Considering what has had to be contended with in the way of inclement weather, lack of man-power, difficulty of securing repair parts, delays in payments by Uncle Sam, and other annoying matters, the industry has done remarkably well. Much credit is due those loyal employees who have worked double shift to the limit of their physical ability in order to keep the wheels turning. They get no public praise but their efforts are vital to the prosecution of the war, nevertheless, and management is duly appreciative of their patriotism. A campaign is about to be launched to induce people in other lines to work short shifts in the lumber industry of the county whenever they can. It is to be hoped this campaign will be successful and that pressure be taken off the faithful few on whose tired shoulders the responsibility for steady production now rests.

Recent resignations from the several bureaus in Washington, notably the OPA, have included names of a number of college professors. The stress of war has shown that these men, while expert in theory, are not competent in practice, to administer the extremely difficult activities of the agencies controlling such things as prices and production during the war effort.

It has been the practice of the Administration to use prominent men from institutions of higher learning when it came to filling public seats in the many commissions. The theory was that men who administer our educational institutions were more apt to have the unbiased viewpoint of neutrals in passing on vexing questions of public policy. This has been true in specific instances. But it must be conceded that on the average the so-called public representatives lean toward the left in their decisions thus proving the contention that our colleges have a pinkish tinge in their education on political questions.

This in no way reflects on the character and integrity of the gentlemen in question. They are simply voting their convictions. But it does raise a serious question as to whether they truly represent the viewpoint of the general public. Certainly they have not done so well in the administration of the war effort and are being replaced by men of practical experience.

The president has gained somewhat in the esteem of the business world by his recent and courageous

stand against inefficiency and favoritism formerly rampant in the war effort. He has shown that those who prove themselves unfit for the task at hand will be replaced by those of proven competence. The effect on the morale of the business world by this evidence of the president's determination to fight the war efficiently and resolutely has been good and should result in greatly strengthening the American Arms. It no doubt accounts for much of the president's increased popularity in recent months. Even the most rabid republican rejoices to find the president determined to be boss, come what may.

Of interest to the hard pressed tax payer is the announcement that Congress will insist on greater efficiency in the Civil Service ranks and that the first step will be the release of about 100,000 civilian workers in the army's war organization. This is a step in the right direction and will not only help the tax payer but will furnish badly needed labor in the industrial world.

The tendency in all government activities is to over-staff. This probably has been due to political pressure and to the strange system of paying the executives in proportion to the number of people working under them.

There is much room for improvement in efficiency in all government activities. From my own observations I would guess that the same work could be done by about half of the people. This is not true in every case, of course, but is certainly the normal situation. Pressure for man-power at this time is furnishing a strong incentive to cut off excess baggage. The eye of the public is on all government activities and cost of civilian government should be much less from now on. It certainly will be if public opinion asserts itself.

One of the most astonishing bits of news that have come out of Washington in the newspapers recently is the statement that Mr. James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilizer, told a committee of Congress that he could not answer a certain question until he had consulted his attorney, Mr. Ben Cohen of the now defunct firm of Corcoran & Cohen, who were so active in the NRA days.

Ordinarily one would think nothing of this statement if it were not for the fact that Mr. Byrnes, up until recently, was a member of the United States Supreme Court. Could this be taken as a criterion of the calibre of Justices recently appointed to that highest judicial body, that one of them should have to consult an attorney before being able to answer a legal question before a committee of Congress? Somehow, one rather expects a little more from a Justice of the Supreme Court than that.

One of the columnists writing in the big dailies, gave Mr. John L. Lewis a rather severe blasting. The columnist went so far as to say, in his opinion, American Service Men abroad were angry enough at Mr. Lewis to have him court martialed and shot as a traitor. This is rather an extreme view and yet the men in the Service have great provocation because of the effect on war production of large scale strikes.

It is still being debated whether Mr. Lewis or President Roosevelt won in the battle of coal wages. Presuming that the miners will be given portal pay, and assuming that this pay will average an increase of \$2.25 per day per worker, it would seem as if Mr. Lewis defeated the President. Certainly it is not a pretty sight for Americans to see their President having to go hat in hand to a labor czar to secure production for war. It bodes ill both for the country at large and for organized labor, to have the administration yield to such pressure. It will mean internal trouble ahead and almost certain drastic and crippling legal reprisals against organized labor in general.

As pointed out by the columnist, there will be a day of reckoning when the boys come home again and those who have hindered the war effort will be brought severely to task.

The sudden move by Mr. Lewis to pave the way for a return to A. F. of L. indicates the complete mastery of diplomatic strategy as well as his native ability as an opportunist. He no doubt feels he can dominate the A. F. of L. in time and save his face under the present storm of public disapproval. It is to be pitied that Mr. Lewis has not turned his talents to fields of value to the country at large rather than merely to the maintenance of his feudal lordship over a large labor group.

Those Victory Gardens which have been treated so lightly by humorists and cartoonists are apt to become of vital importance in the national economy because of the disastrous floods in the big river valleys of the mid-west.

Anyone who has traveled through

that part of the country has seen the tremendous capacity of those rich bottom lands to produce food crops for the nation. Any disaster to plantings in that area is bound to have grave effect on our food supply.

Therefore let everyone who can, diligently plant and care for his or her Victory Garden no matter how small it may seem. The combined effort of many thousands will go a long way toward averting a food crisis next fall.

A pay-as-you-go tax plan has finally emerged, battered and worn, from the conference committee of Congress. Knowing the propensity of our chief Legislative Body to always do things the most difficult and complicated way possible, we are not surprised that a rather complicated and involved tax plan has finally come forth.

It would have been so much simpler to have adopted the Ruml plan en toto because everyone could have understood what was to be done. But Mr. Ruml did not "belong" so his plan was given the gate, even though the public strongly supported it.

None of the explanations of the final plan have been clear enough to cover all the details. Probably it will be some time before all of its multiplied kinks and provisions can be set forth for the perusal of a long-suffering public. But we can take comfort in this one fact, that a pay-as-you-go plan has been adopted, and that, after all, is the main point in question. Of course, it has yet to pass both Houses of Congress and be signed by the President. But it seems likely that there will be little trouble on that score after the conference committee has finally agreed. It will be a headache for all employers, who will have to keep a ledger account for each employee, listing the number of children their ages, and other pertinent facts. But with all of its shortcomings and inconveniences it still is the correct way to collect income taxes from the great mass of people.

The Office of War Information is circulating forms to secure basic information from the smaller manufacturing plants of the nation. The campaign is in response to needling by Congress that something be done to alleviate the plight that many small business concerns have found themselves in after the outbreak of the war. The form attempts to develop facts as to what the plants can do, their capacity, their location, and the general nature of their business. The purpose is to try to line them up somewhere in the production for war so that the combined capacity will not be lost to the national economy.

But unfortunately, like practically all bureaucratic data, or requests for data, these forms are very complicated and very difficult to fill out. Furthermore, they require a highly efficient and technical system of bookkeeping which one seldom finds in the smaller manufacturing plants. Bureaucratic Washington does not seem to comprehend the fact that small businesses cannot afford the huge overhead necessary to keep their bookkeeping on the same basis as that of the large corporations. Therefore it is not likely that the circular now being sent out will meet with very great response. This is unfortunate because there is great need for helping these smaller businesses to maintain their rightful place in industry. We shall suffer for it if there is any large number of failures among such firms.

Those interested in this campaign could write to Colonel Robert W. Johnson, A. U. S., Chairman of the War Plants Corp., of the War Production Board, in Washington, D. C. The campaign is well-meant but in my opinion will have to be simplified considerably if it reaches the number of small concerns that it should.

The OPA is considering a sharp reduction in ceiling on stumpage rates for standing timber in the lumber industry. The reason for this is the fact that operators have been squeezed between advancing stumpage and labor costs on the one hand and a rigid price ceiling on the other. There has been some forced curtailment of production because of this and the OPA is fearful that greater reductions in production will result if this pressure is not relieved.

A rather amusing feature of the stumpage matter is that the chief raiser of stumpage rates is none other than Secretary Ickes of the Department of the Interior who has just about trebled his rates since 1940. Honest Harold will not like to have OPA treading on his toes by forcing him to lower his rates but he will have to take this and like it because the "Big Chief" says he must.

It does seem rather unfair to private stumpage owners, however, to deprive them of opportunity to realize something on an investment that many of them have held for a great many years. The pyramiding tax and financing charges has pushed up the book value of the stumpage to a point approximating present rates, therefore any reduction in rates will

## Bishop's Tea A Beautiful Affair

The Bishop's Tea, held Tuesday afternoon by the ladies of the Guild at their hall, was a lovely affair and a success in every way. A nice sum was netted in the way of a silver offering to turn over to the building fund. Something unusual as a feature during receiving hours, which were from three to five, was the background music throughout the afternoon. This was furnished by a quartette of young violinists, accompanied on the piano by Miss Muriel Dae. The quartette was made up of young people studying under Miss Dae: Jane Oerding, Maurice and Ronald Williams and Ben Howe.

The tea table was attractive with profuse use of spring flowers, coral and white Sweet William arranged in a handsome antique silver vase, with silver candlesticks making the centerpiece. Silver trays filled with open-face sandwiches had eye appeal along with more silver trays of homemade cookies.

Pouring were Mrs. Luckey Bonney and Mrs. Julius Rubie. Assisting with serving were the following young girls wearing formal: Sally Bonney, Judy Slack, Laura Emily Rubie, Marion Moore and Betsy Stelle.

Mrs. Robt. Greene was chairman of decorations and Mrs. J. A. Lamb of arrangements. Mrs. Lamb and Mrs. J. A. Moore, president of the Guild, received the guests.

Twelve tables were filled with bridge players at the card party held Wednesday evening by the ladies of St. James' Guild. Everyone seemed to have a good time and the evening closed with an hour over refreshments of sandwiches, cookies and coffee.

Prizes were won for score by Mrs. R. E. Boober, first; Mrs. Edna Hartson, 2nd, and Mrs. Zentner, low. Jeannie Griggs and Patricia Yarbrough served. The committee in charge was as follows: Mesdames Ida Owen, Annie Robinson, F. M. Shaw, Chas. Selbig and Robt. Greene.

Mrs. Lufe Compton received the door prize.

## Picnic For Anne Harbison

Marion Moore gave a lawn picnic on Tuesday evening at her home in honor of Anne Harbison, who arrived in Coquille Monday morning for a short visit, leaving again for her home in Portland Wednesday afternoon. She accompanied her father, Robt. Harbison, here while on a business trip. Guests at the picnic were Carol Gray, Betsy Stelle, Joan Savage, Sally Bonney, the honor guests, Anne Harbison, and hostess, Marion Moore.

## Hostesses To R. N. A. Officials

Mrs. Mary E. Logan, state supervisor of Royal Neighbors Lodge of Portland; Mrs. Anne Montgomery, district deputy from Marshfield, and Ruby Johnson, oracle of the Myrtle convention held on Wednesday in Coquille, were all guests at dinner Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Jean Burch, on the Marshfield highway. Mrs. Burch is oracle of the Coquille lodge.

Mrs. Ruby Johnson, oracle of Wednesday's Royal Neighbors' convention, entertained at noon luncheon on Wednesday at her home in Gould Addition. The luncheon was in honor of Mrs. May E. Logan, state supervisor of Royal Neighbors lodge; Anne Montgomery, district deputy from Marshfield; Jane Burch, local oracle; Ruth Barklow, of Myrtle Point, and Mrs. Sarah Jane Wylie, member of the North Bend lodge, and mother of Anne Montgomery.

## Croft Lake Worth A Million

The Croft Lake site of many Coquille beach homes was visited last Saturday morning by a detail of three Army boys to whom had evidently been reported that a bonfire was burning there. They went in to investigate but found the R. L. Medley family already there.

After looking at the set-up—the cabins, lake, green trees and hills—one of the Pennsylvania boys asked of the New Yorker, "Did you ever see anything like this in York state?"

The other replied that it was there but that he had not seen it and all three agreed that back there such a wonder spot would be worth a million dollars.

injure them. This is but another indication of the trend of thought in the Administration hostile to private enterprise. No thought is given to fair play for investors nor for the reasonable protection of a private citizen's rights in the financial world. Nevertheless conditions probably justified this move and adjustments for the protection of the private investor will have to wait until peace comes.

# 6 Big Publications All for One Year -- 112 issues in all



HERE'S WHAT YOU GET

- Woman's Home Companion - 1 yr.
- Better Homes and Gardens - 1 yr.
- True Story - 1 yr.
- Farm Journal & Farmer's Wife - 1 yr.
- American Poultry Journal - 1 yr.
- Coquille Valley Sentinel - 1 yr.

ALL SIX For One Year \$3.50

Regular Value \$6.50—YOU SAVE \$3.00

YOU WILL GET ALL SIX publications for ONE FULL YEAR, and if you are already a subscriber to ANY of these SIX publications, your present subscription will be extended one full year. Mail or bring the coupon below to our office AT ONCE, and you will receive THE FIVE BIG MAGAZINES BY MAIL each month, and THIS NEWSPAPER each week—that's 60 magazines and 52 newspapers—112 issues in all for only \$3.50. ORDER AT ONCE because we may soon have to withdraw this offer, or advance the price. Sign the coupon NOW and SAVE \$3.00.

USE THIS COUPON AND SAVE \$3.00

COQUILLE VALLEY SENTINEL

Coquille, Oregon

Date

Yes, indeed, I want to accept your magazine offer before it is withdrawn. Enclosed is \$3.50 in FULL PAYMENT for a full year's subscription, new or renewal, to your newspaper and the following FIVE magazines:

- Coquille Valley Sentinel ..... 1 year
- Better Homes and Gardens ..... 1 year
- Woman's Home Companion ..... 1 year
- True Story ..... 1 year
- Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife ..... 1 year
- American Poultry Journal ..... 1 year

Ny name is

Address

Town

State