

### Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

It was stated in recent press dispatches that lumber had achieved the doubtful honor of first place in critical war materials now needed by the armed services. The size of the war demand is indicated by the fact that lumber production in the Pacific North west has barely managed to keep pace with requirements in spite of the heaviest mid-winter production in years. There seems to be no satisfying the growing demand for vast quantities of boards and dimensions for shelter and munitions use. Much of this demand will continue even after cessation of hostilities because of the large forces of occupation needed to police the post-war world until stable governments can be established.

A short recession in demand, after completion of the many Army and Navy cantonments and before the active campaigns against Jap and German, led many in the industry to believe that the peak of war demand was over. No one, not even the most optimistic, anticipated the huge requirements occasioned by the advance of our troops against the enemy.

Those operators who took alarm at the temporary slump and failed to take full advantage of opportunities to build up log inventories were sorry later. This year the industry is faced with an even greater demand than in 1943, and must try to fill it with less man-power.

Letters from Coos county boys in active service frequently mention seeing lumber from some one of our sawmills in use at the front. Repeated statements have been made concerning the importance of lumber in modern warfare as a flexible material for quick building of bridges, in making repairs to war damaged structures, for shelters, road materials, crating and a thousand other uses. Those now active in our lumber industry can take pride in being factors in providing this vital material.

The industry faces a grave crisis in man-power shortage in 1944 owing to draft of fathers. The bottom of the barrel was reached in 1943 and further draft of skilled help in mills and woods will have an immediate effect on lumber production. If sufficient lumber is to be produced in 1944 to meet indicated requirements enough man-power must be left to do the job. The decision is up to War Production Board and Selective Service System as to which must yield.

There is some evidence of soldiering on the job and of deliberate absenteeism among men whose heads are turned by present high wages. This sort of thing tends to aggravate the man-power problem by creating a false shortage. It cannot be condemned too strongly. United effort by employees, unions, draft boards and general public will stamp out this evil. Every workman is expected to put forth maximum effort in support of our boys at the front. Anything less than that borders on down-right treason, and a stab in the back for our gallant soldier and sailor lads. Let all unite in making plain that such immorality and neglect of duty will not be tolerated. There will be no place for slackers in the lumber business in 1944.

The Fourth War Loan drive brings to light a curious situation. It has been discovered that very considerable sums are still held in savings account in the form of cash. In our county these savings accounts would fill our quota of E bonds if invested in such securities.

There is no valid reason why depositors should keep their funds in the form of savings cash. The banks would be glad to rid themselves of such deposits which have become an actual liability. The E bonds would be as liquid as the cash if needed after sixty days from the date of purchase. The U. S. Treasury problem of war finance would be made easier if such deposits were forthwith converted into bonds. One can only conclude that there is a feeling of distrust and uncertainty that prompts retention of cash credits in large amounts rather than in securities as gilt-edged as E bonds.

This is merely another weather vane pointing to the confusion in domestic affairs and to the lack of real leaderships that would weld conflicting elements into united and loyal support of the war effort.

During the past decade, conflicts between government and business, labor and management, industry and agriculture, the salaried people and the wage earners have been actually encouraged under the theory that such contentions would equalize rights and privileges and lead to a more abundant life.

These conflicts have been subtly engineered by imposition of plans for a controlled economy calling for regimentation and standardization of practically everything and everybody in the nation. Checks imposed on such reforms by laws and constitution were overcome by the device of directives radiating from emergency leg-

islation passed by a subservient Congress giving dictatorial powers to the Chief Executive.

The war has enormously accelerated the cumulative effect of such a controlled economy on the people. Instead of a gradual transition from private enterprise to state socialism, a change which the sponsors fondly hoped would be in easy stages, we are plunged into full government control almost at once. The people have seen the whole film instead of merely the first scene. There is evidence that they don't like the picture and want their money back.

Slowly at first, but later with increasing volume, the tide has turned back towards government by law instead of government by personal opinion. Whatever the outcome of the 1944 presidential election, the dignity and power of the free citizen will be reassured. The theory of the submergence of individual rights in a sea of controlled economy will be rejected. Self-reliance will point the way to national security and progress.

This encouraging change in the domestic atmosphere is being wrought by a union of majority elements in both major political parties. The president, himself, has recognized the approach of the inevitable and is currently trying to shake off political encumbrances, once ornamental but now embarrassing.

To restore order to the domestic scene which is now in such contrast with our military successes, a steady firm hand is needed at the helm. The steersman must be unmoved by pressure groups or personal prejudice. He must steer a straight course toward restoration of states rights, individual initiative, equal opportunity, and encouragement of private enterprise. No cross-winds of class consciousness and particular advantage should be allowed to swerve the ship of state off its course.

We do not have that leadership now. We should insist upon it as the vital qualification for candidates at the coming elections.

We cannot expect to assume our rightful place at the peace-table unless and until our home is in order. What our representatives do and say at the peace conference must be backed by the great power of a united nation if our will is to have weighted influence. Therefore, the primary characteristics of the successful presidential candidate should be ability to calm the troubled domestic waters, to be able to delegate and yet control authority, to induce the best minds of the nation to accept high government office, and to firmly resolve political conflict into a common march towards peace and prosperity.

### Last Of Her County Meetings

Mrs. George Moorhead's three-day work in Coos county will close with a county meeting at the city hall in North Bend. Representatives and other interested people will be present to present problems which they feel should be considered by the workers under the E. C. Brown Trust in arranging the program for study groups which are to be organized.

Instead of constantly blaming parents because of the mis-conduct of their children, guidance should be given in helping them to do a better job. The proposed study groups should afford much help to home-makers who are sincere in their efforts toward success.

It appears strange that preparation is required for nearly everything other than the setting up of a home and the rearing of children.

### School Contest For Bond Buying At Valley View School

The Valley View school has been carrying on a bond buying contest. The leaders of the two divisions are Doris Willard and Wilbur Owen. The room displays a large double "V" forming a ladder and each side attempts to reach the top of the ladder ahead of the other. Wilbur is now leading but Doris says she has a secret weapon to use before the drive is over. The Valley View school is also collecting papers and has nearly a ton at this time.

### Gas Consumption In Oregon Down 13 Per Cent In 1943

Motor vehicle travel in Oregon during the year 1943, as revealed in gasoline consumption for that year, dropped 13 per cent below the figure for 1942, according to Secretary of State Bob Farrell, who announces gas consumption figures for the past year.

During the year, Oregon motorists used 239,773,825 gallons of gasoline, compared to a consumption of 263,803,913 gallons in 1942.

Total tax paid on 1943 gasoline amounted to \$11,488,691.54, compared to \$13,190,297.33 in 1942.

See Schroeder's Jewelry Store in Coquille for Diamonds and Watch Straps.



Washington, D. D., Feb. 10.—It is becoming more and more evident to candidates of both parties that a union labor endorsement for any political office is almost equivalent to the kiss of death, so say the politicians who keep their ears to the ground. Many candidates up for election and re-election have told their campaign managers to turn "thumbs down" on any idea of having union labor organizations come out actively for them. Any such open support and publicity, they believe, will work to the detriment of any candidate, in fact, it is agreed by the wise boys that to have union labor come out openly against a candidate is one of the best bets he has for election.

Many labor leaders know such to be the truth. They also know a large percentage of the rank and file of their membership will not follow organized labor's political endorsements but, on the contrary, will vote the other way, which has been proved in past elections. A good 75 per cent of all union members belong to the union because they have to, so to speak. When they get in the election booth it's one of the few times they are accorded an opportunity to register their dislike and the antagonism they hold toward certain union leaders.

Top flight labor leaders know that the public is fed up on war-time strikes. William Green, president of AFL, has taken the lead in attempting to smooth over the bad relations existing between organized labor and the public by again reiterating his pledge of no strikes for the duration, regardless of any grievance labor may have. "No matter how great the grievance or how aggravated a situation might be, there can be no justification for local strikes or local stoppages of work. Our soldiers are meeting their situations in a courageous American way, and our soldiers of production must meet the situation in the same courageous way," said Green.

This word has been passed on by the big chief of the AFL to his subordinates in no uncertain terms. It is expected Philip Murray, president of CIO, will come out with a like statement very soon. Labor leaders know their political influence at present is at an all-time low. It's the intention of both organizations to make every possible effort to build up good will before the fall elections. Organized labor would like to make its voting strength count this year. But competent observers say labor has a huge amount of fence building to do pronto if they expect to get back in the good graces of John Q. Public.

Judging from reports received back here, the high command of the Democratic party is pleased with the political outlook in the northwest. After Vice President Henry A. Wallace, Robert E. Hannagan, national chairman, and Oscar R. Ewing, vice chairman, broke bread with the faithful last Tuesday in Portland at the annual Jackson day banquet, they held some long pow-wows with northwest party leaders on the strategy to be used in the coming campaign. The party war horses predicted both states are in the bag for a fourth term. The trio stopped off in Seattle for a day on their way east to talk shop with the Washington state big-wigs, who assured them "everything was safe for Democracy" around those parts.

Wendell Willkie, accompanied by Ralph Cate, his western political Moses, will now take up where the Democrats left off by feasting with the boys and girls in Tacoma and Portland the last of this week.

It is predicted the coming campaign will see many prominent Democrats on the Republican bandwagon, who are against a fourth term. And by the same token, some big shot Republicans will be all out for Mr. Roosevelt and a fourth term. The politicians don't think ex-Secretary of War Harry Woodring's move to start a "stop Roosevelt" campaign among the Democrats will get anywhere. The former Kansas governor is not popular enough with any group to successfully put over such a deal. A couple of G. O. P. senators were all set to turn loose a blast concerning the \$25,000 a year salary the Democrats are going to pay their brand new national chairman, Robert E. Hannagan, until it was called to their attention that the G. O. P. paid John D. M. Hamilton the same amount when he was chairman. Incidentally, this is the first time the Democrats have ever paid any national chairman

### Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

A large crane sailed majestically from the marshlands and making a half circle alighted upon a high tension wire bordering highway 101. His mate came sailing along soon after and swooped down and alighted upon another wire opposite her mate. There they sat perched for several moments, when suddenly one of them, either in a friendly, or angry gesture, reached across the intervening space and gave the other a peck.

Bang! And presto, the cranes disappeared; all but a couple of shriveled carcasses, burnt, to a crisp, which tumbled from the wires. For that peck had made contact—and how!

Not long ago Jay Doak, of Coquille, who used to reside on Bear Creek during his kid days, told the writer some of his interesting experiences while hunting in those days. Jay used to possess an old 'coon dog and when he would get shy on powder and shots for his old muzzle loader, he used to go out and tree a half a dozen or so 'coon with his dog. The 'coon were skinned out and the pelts taken to an old fur dealer and sold for 25 cents apiece.

Jay tells of one incident in his duck hunting career where he fired the old muzzle loader at a big mallard flying along Bear Creek and missed, but knocked a teal dead, that was flying some twenty-five feet behind the greenhead. He also tells a good one on sheriff Bill-Dad Howell, with whom he used to hunt. Bill-Dad made a sneak on a couple of ducks in a slough, with a single shot shot gun and knocked them both over at one shot. "There you are," he said to Jay. "I got both of 'em alright; they have their rudders up." (He was referring to their feet, which were kicking in the air). And about this time both ducks righted themselves and took to wing, much to the chagrin of Bill-Dad and the amusement of Jay Doak.

And that reminds us somewhat of our first experience in shooting wild geese, many, many years ago in the rice fields of the Sacramento valley. That is, Jay's story of shooting at the mallard and bagging the teal that was flying behind the mallard. The big geese looked as big as balloons as they swept across the rice fields. They looked as though they weren't flying over ten miles an hour, when in reality their flight is from 40 to 80 miles per hour.

The first flock that came along I took about a foot lead on the old leader and when I dropped the trigger, a big honker dropped dead from the flock that was flying at least six feet behind the one I had fired at. The birds being so large and possessing such a wing spread, are moving a lot faster than a gunner figures and are usually when missed, shot behind and seldom fired in front of, as are most all birds that are missed in flight.

Of all the birds that fly, a Wilson Jack-snipe is without doubt the most difficult target to connect with, although a blue or green winged teal, coming in on a head-on wind and darting and dodging in flight, tests the skill of any gunner regardless of whom he may be.

### Bandon Boy Wins Prize As Coos Co. Poultry Club Winner

A year's subscription to the American Poultry Journal was awarded to Bill Domenighini, Bandon, for being judged the outstanding 4-H poultry club member in Coos county. Announcement of this award by H. C. Seymour, state club leader, has just been received and much credit is due Domenighini for this achievement, states J. F. Bishop, assistant county agent.

Outstanding poultry club members in 25 Oregon counties received this award which was made possible by R. R. Hannas, editor of the Journal. Bill Domenighini is a member of the poultry club organized last year under the leadership of Mrs. Edith Van Leuven at the Parkersburg school on Bear Creek. He prefers Black Minorca for his club project, in which breed he has a fine start toward another successful year in poultry keeping, avers Bishop.

The margarine vs. butter battle which has been on the active list of congress since the war began, is all set to open up again. High ration points for butter plus a decrease in production, has caused the margarine manufacturers to keep plugging away in their fight to have congress abolish the 10 cents per pound federal tax. A more than ample stock of raw materials is available, say the margarine manufacturers, to increase their output a hundred millions pounds a year.

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