

## Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., April 15, 1944.—The proposal to produce alcohol from wood waste has lately attracted an unusual amount of national interest. As is generally known in my district, the first such plant in America will be installed at Springfield, Oregon, if and when the War Production Board gives its approval.

A number of statements made in national magazines and some newspaper stories I have seen here contained several errors regarding this project. Some stories say the plant has been approved. Some even go to the extent of saying that construction is under way. This week, the press wires carried a story based on an action taken by the Requirements Committee of the War Production Board, stating that the project had been killed. Neither of those statements is correct, although in each case the writers had some excuse for making the errors.

The operation of the War Production Board in handling an application of this type is quite complex. It must go through a great many steps before final action.

The application for construction of this plant was filed by the Willamette Wood Chemicals Company on February 10th. It then underwent some technical revisions following a conference of chemists and engineers. When presented to the Chemical Division of the War Production Board, it was promptly and enthusiastically

approved March 21. That was the first step and a very important one. The news that the project had cleared the Chemicals Bureau was considered by some people equivalent to final granting. Hence, the printed statements that the plant was approved.

Since the Chemical Bureau's approval, however, the application has been under consideration by the Facilities Committee and by the Requirements Committee of WPB. The latter groups, early this week, declined to approve the application, giving rise to the printed statement that the application had been totally and completely denied.

The project is still very much alive, and is now subject to review and consideration by the War Production Board itself. The facts of the case are so compelling that I believe the WPB will approve the project. When you realize that alcohol is now being purchased by the government at a price averaging three times what it would cost to produce it from sawdust (36c from sawdust—90c from grain, sugar, petroleum, and molasses), and that the present sources of alcohol are either very expensive or in a state of critical shortage, I cannot believe the War Production Board will shut its eyes to these facts and decline to provide a source of alcohol from waste material at a low price.

The most compelling and startling fact about alcohol production is that more than one-half of the total requirement is being made from grain. Our grain reserves are exhausted, and for the past two years, we have been consuming grain at a rate of 400,000,000 bushels annually in excess of our annual production plus imports. A drastic shortage of feed is certain next year. But regardless of this fact, alcohol production from grain still requires 180,000,000 bushels annually. The War Production Board knows these facts, and I do not believe they will be willing to ignore them.

The House of Representatives resumed regular sessions Wednesday of this week, following Easter recess. The only business transacted was the passage Friday of the Naval Appropriations Bill. Other appropriation bills are now being prepared by the Appropriations Committee and will be up for final passage in the House before long.

Honorable John McCormack (D., Mass.) told me yesterday that two of the late Senator McNary's forestry bills will be acted upon in the House during the coming week. One of these bills is an authorization for cooperative forest fire protection money. The other one is to provide for a continuation of the Forest Survey. These bills are non-controversial and unopposed.

### Arago News Items

Mrs. Millie Waters, of Coquille, spent several days at the home of her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kellison, last week.

Ladies Aid met Wednesday at the church for an all-day meeting, with potluck dinner at noon. Those attending were: Mesdames O. H. Assen, Albert Lillie, Albert Gulstrom, Ward Evans, Stanley Halter and Werner Plaep. Ward Evans, Maureen and Junior and Darwin Gulstrom joined the ladies for dinner. They will meet again this Thursday, instead of Wednesday and the ladies will price the articles for the Mother's Day sale, which will be held at the Arago store Friday, April 28. The ladies have quite a nice selection of aprons, tea towels and pillow cases for sale at this time. They will also have a cooked food sale at the same time and place.

Mrs. Ward Evans visited at the homes of Mrs. Harold McCue and Mrs. Arney Willson last Thursday.

John Belloni, of California, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans last Friday.

An eight pound, five ounce boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Martin of Arago at the Mast Hospital in Myrtle Point last Saturday morning. The young lad has been named Joe Allen. Both mother and babe are doing nicely.

Jaylene Simmons spent Wednesday night at the home of Miss Phyllis Thomas.

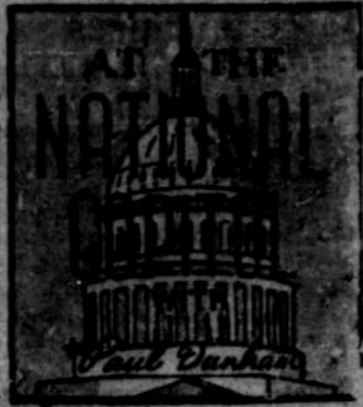
Miss Jeanette Miller, of Myrtle Point, was an overnight guest of Miss Evelyn Leeper last Thursday.

Miss Katherine Henry, of Myrtle Point, was a week-end guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Peterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Meldon Carl and Douglas visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Schroeder in Bandon Monday.

Miss June Simmons spent Wednesday night at the home of Miss Ruth Wilcox.

Mrs. Glen Zeller, of Coquille, was an Arago visitor last Friday and Sat-



Paul Danham

Washington, D. C., April 27.—Sheepmen of Washington and Oregon are not the only people who regard with some uneasiness the mounting hold-over supply of wool in the United States. Officials of war food administration, which buys through the Commodity Credit Corporation the total American production, are pondering the problem of how they will dispose of the huge stockpile after the war. WFA is committed to the policy of not selling below the ceiling price, and it is inevitable that this should be higher than the market price when peace comes. The bulk of all the wool in the world will be owned by the British and American government and surplus stocks are accumulating at a rapid rate.

War food administration has on hand 185,000,000 pounds of wool left over from 1943 and expects to buy 420,000,000 pounds of domestic wool this year. There is no prospect that anything like this 600,000,000 pounds will be needed by military forces in 1944 and the stockpile next January 1 will be larger than it was one year ago. There is good reason to believe that if the war lasts through 1945 the surplus will be even greater. But whatever the situation with respect to the war there is no hope that the surplus can be disposed of for civilian use. In the days before the war Europe and Japan provided markets for a billion pounds of wool a year, but neither will be in position to resume purchases after their defeat by the allies.

It is estimated that the world supply of wool in 1944-1945 will be in excess of seven billion pounds, about one billion pounds more than the 1943-1944 production, and the world's consumption this year is not expected to exceed 3,300,000,000 pounds. While United States markets will have tariff protection against this excess its existence will operate to discourage exports of wool from this country and leave the entire domestic production to be consumed at home. In the event price support agencies are abolished by congress after the war, and with a surplus stock on hand, it is difficult to see how a

urday.

Kenneth Sumerlin broke out with the chicken-pox Monday morning.

Mrs. Vernon Trigg, of Norway, visited her mother, Mrs. George Gillespie, Monday.

Bill Sinko was a Tuesday evening guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Carl.

Miss Lillian Simmons was an overnight guest last Thursday at the home of Miss Virginia Butler.

Mrs. Clifford Summerlin and her mother, Mrs. Frank Miller, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish and Mr. and Mrs. Orvus Miller, Phyllis, Alice and Orvus, Jr., were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller.

Nile Miller has been ill again. He was suffering with neuritis last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Woodward were Sunday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Halter.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Myers of Myrtle Point visited at the home of Mrs. Ida Myers Sunday evening.

Mrs. Ida Myers was a Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Woodward.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fish in Coquille.

John Ed Leeper spent Sunday night at the home of Gene Young.

Mrs. Ward Evans, Pamela and Maureen attended the Juvenile lodge of the Royal Neighbors in Myrtle Point last Saturday afternoon. They also visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Willson and Miss Chloe Willson came home with them and spent the night. On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Willson were dinner guests of the Evans and Miss Chloe returned home with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mason, Phyllis, Dennis and Becky were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burbank.

Mrs. Lee Kellison gave a birthday party for her son, Bobby, who was five years old, last Saturday at her home in Arago. Guests present were: Mrs. Geo. Mason, Phyllis, Dennis and Becky, Mrs. Millie Waters, of Coquille, and Mrs. Floyd Griffey and son, Donald, of Fairview. A lovely time was enjoyed by the small guests. Lillian, Jaylene and Junior Simmons were all sick and unable to attend school the first of the week.

Mrs. Rolland Syfert was a Tuesday guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kellison.

rapid price decline can be averted, unless the policy of government buying is continued during the period of readjustment.

While office of price administration worries over its assigned task to hold prices down, war food administration is worrying over the prospect that next fall's marketing of cattle will cause a break in prices which will bring disaster to the livestock industry. The cattle population has swollen beyond the feed and range possibilities this summer and fall and it is feared that this will bring a rush of autumn marketing at about the same time as shipments of this spring's record hog production are at their height. The only suggested relief is that the cattle men undertake an orderly marketing of their surplus stock during the summer at a sustained level of 30 to 35 percent of the 1943 volume. Government proposal of a bonus to sustain prices is not acceptable to the livestock men, who prefer to manage their own business without federal interference.

Last year the farmers were asked to increase their acreage planted to potatoes. It was to be a war effort. The farmers complied, and today there are such quantities of potatoes on hand that their growers view with suspicion the government agricultural program for 1944. To dispose of the surplus, it is now proposed that the potatoes be transformed into starch and distilled into alcohol. A few carloads of surplus Idaho potatoes are being earmarked for a brandy distillery in Oregon to be made into industrial alcohol. This potato program is a peace offering for the rejection by war production board of a distillery to be built to utilize sawdust.

Charges are being made in congress that farmers have been told that unless they sign up with the federal program they would not be able to

obtain gas for their farm machinery and that they could not obtain deferment from military service for their boys in the farm. This practice of coercion and intimidation is reported to have been generally prevalent, judging from letters received by congressmen and now there is talk of making an investigation to learn what authority existed for this alleged high pressure and for what purpose. There is no doubt that many farmers have been faced with this situation, for too many and from too scattered sections of the country have the letters come to be passed off as a coincidence or the over-enthusiasm of one or two government agents. Congressmen, or a substantial number, from agricultural districts are convinced that a situation has developed which should be probed.

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Speaking of specials, they're like sales where you pay premium prices for something you don't really need.

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