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Official Paper for Morrow County

An Astounding Loss

SINCE 1933 fires have destroyed more than 14 billion feet of timber in Oregon. The logging and manufacture into lumber of this timber could have provided 20,000,000 man days of work—enough work to keep 150,000 men on payrolls for a full year and furnish support for 600,000 Oregonians. The Tillamook fire alone consumed enough timber to build 1,000,000 small homes.

This is an astounding loss. The figures are taken from a letter received from N. S. Rodgers, state forester, who is making an appeal to all Oregonians and all others using the forests of the state to exercise the greatest care in preventing fire.

June was the driest month of record in Oregon history, Rogers points out. The drought continues and intensifies the worst fire menace the state has faced in many years. On top of that, forest workers have been considerably disturbed by increasing evidence that some of our recent costly fires were started by criminal incendiaries.

For years, officials, the press and other agencies have sought to educate the public in the proper use of the forests. This has been effective in reaching thoughtful people but there remains a great deal to be done to reach those who for one reason or another remain indifferent. Despite warnings of posters, newspaper articles, moving pictures, lectures over the radio, there are those who are too apathetic to see, read, or listen, and consequently do not heed.

It must be remembered that the loss in timber alone, while appalling, is not the only cost. It requires the services of a considerable army of men each season to fight these fires which, in a large part are the result of human carelessness. Added to that is the loss of wild life and the injury to watersheds, to say nothing of the menace to human life.

The worst fire season is yet to come, unless a change in the weather should bring sufficient moisture to abate the menace. This is hardly likely and it is up to every person entering the timbered areas to use all possible precaution to prevent the starting of fire. Those in charge of the forests have their hands full checking blazes resulting from natural causes and their responsibility is increased many times by human carelessness. Let us all join in the "total war" against this enemy which yearly makes such devastating inroads on our greatest natural resources.

Freight on Wool Upped by Decision

A decision of the maritime commission made on July 12 sustains a raise of 25 cents per hundred pounds for the transportation by common water carrier of wool and mohair, in grease and scoured, in bags and bales, from Pacific to Atlantic coast ports. This information is contained in a report of the commission's findings forwarded to County Judge Bert Johnson last week.

Schedules filed by the steamship companies were to become effective March 16, 1940, but upon filing of protests by the public utilities commission of the state of Idaho, the secretary of agriculture, Arizona Corporation commission, public utilities commissioner of Oregon,

board of railroad commissioners of Montana, National Woolgrowers association and numerous state and county wool growers and marketing associations, farm organizations, and individual wool growers and dealers, the operation of the schedules was suspended until July 16, 1940. Judge Johnson, on the transportation committee of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league a few years ago, where he acquired a considerable talent for filing protests on freight rates, was prevailed upon to intervene in behalf of the woolmen and he forwarded a letter to the commission setting forth what he viewed as an injustice to the industry.

The maritime commission heard the case at its office in Washington, D. C., on July 12 and ordered that the suspension be vacated and set aside and that the proceedings be discontinued.

Conservation to be Re-emphasized In AAA Program

Next year's AAA farm program will continue to emphasize soil conservation and soil improvement, will strengthen the "ever-normal granary" plan of balanced production, and will give Oregon farmers increased opportunity to fit the program in with their individual farm requirements.

This summary of 1941 AAA plans was brought back to Oregon by William Steen of Milton chairman of the state agricultural conservation committee, following his attendance recently at the national AAA conference in Washington, D. C. Plans for the following year must always be made in advance of fall seeding time.

N. C. Donaldson, in charge of the state AAA office in Corvallis, accompanied Steen to Washington. While at the conference, they offered a group of suggested changes in the 1941 program, as made previously by the 36 county AAA committees throughout the state. Some of these were accepted and will be incorporated into the official farm program for next year, Steen said.

The state chairman declared that the AAA program, as set up for 1941, will continue to be a vital factor in "agricultural preparedness" as an aid to national defense.

An important recommendation concerns expansion of the grant of aid plan under which farmers receive advances of lime, superphosphate and similar conservation materials, with costs deducted from payments which they have earned. Another recommendation is that farmers be permitted to earn portions of their payments only by carrying out specified soil-building practices most needed in their communities.

In general, next year's farm program will follow very closely that now in effect, Steen said, and pointed out that there have been few major changes in the agricultural adjustment act since 1938.

Cooperative Wool Auctions Slated

The Portland warehouse of the Pacific Wool Growers will be the scene of the first competitive bidding wool auctions on the Australia-New Zealand plan ever held on the Pacific coast, when the first auction series sponsored by the wool cooperative will get under way August 5th and 6th. The association's second auction will be at their Stockton, Cal., warehouse August 8th and 9th.

Although new to the Pacific coast, wool auctions have for many years been the method used in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and South Africa, in marketing the bulk of the world's wool clip.

Between three and four million pounds of wool will be offered at the first series of the Pacific's auctions at Portland and Stockton. The Pacific's sales will be held in sequence with auctions scheduled for late July in Denver, Ogden and Billings, so that eastern mill buyers can conveniently make the circuit of the five sales on one trip west.

The new auction program, announced this spring after two years of study and consideration by the

Mrs. Fred Stark Reported Mending

Mrs. Fred Stark (Velton Owens), who miraculously escaped death in an automobile accident near Colfax, Wash., recently, is reported on the mend. This information was contained on a card received by her father, Creed Owens, yesterday, which stated that she had sufficiently improved to permit removal of two nurses.

One lung, collapsed by the accident, is building back fast. There was a 10-inch gash in her back thru which the doctors could see her heart beating. It was necessary to give her blood transfusions for eight days and she was kept in an oxygen tank for eight days and nights. Her escape from death was considered a miracle by attending physicians.

How Mrs. Stark's 8-year-old daughter, Oween, played a part in saving the mother's life is told by Mr. Owens. Leaving her mother

directors of the wool cooperative, has met with a very favorable response from range growers in the northwest states and in California and Nevada, where the association also operates, says R. A. Ward, general manager, and some of the largest clips raised in these sections will be included in the auctions.

Original bag and graded lines of wool from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, including Valley Oregons, and an accumulation of Oregon mohair will make up the Portland offerings. At Stockton, California and Nevada wools, including a line of California lambs wool, will be put up for sale.

The Pacific Wool Growers is one of the oldest cooperative in the Northwest and has pioneered the cooperative wool marketing movement in these states, marketing millions of pounds of wool and mohair for its grower members during the past twenty years.

unconscious and digging at the wound after the car turned over, Oween climbed the bank to the highway and stopped the first car coming along. She told the man to stay with her mamma and then walked more than half a mile to a farm house to call a doctor while the man prevented Mrs. Stark from further molesting the wound. Asked later how she happened to do that, Oween said, "Mamma always told me in case of a car accident

that the first thing to do was to go for a doctor."

Bessie Harrington, Vancouver, Wash., and Retha Adkins from Newport, sisters, have returned home after being with Mrs. Stark for five or six days.

Mrs. F. W. Turner returned home Tuesday from Valdez, Alaska, where she visited at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Raymond Huddleston. Mr. Turner drove to Yakima to meet her.

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