



Washington, D. C., July 3.—There is so much "paper work" in producing supplies that months are required before a contract is finally signed. A house subcommittee has made a sizzling report on the subject, but its publication was withheld. This paper work applies to the lease-lend act as well as national defense and there is so much red tape that it is strangling urgent supplies.

An officer fighting in the desert put in a rush order for certain equipment. Weeks passed before the order received an O.K. in England, and only after more than 50 signatures had been attached. The order was then sent to the British embassy here, was taken up with a dozen agencies and each attached a signature. Eventually it went to the president's desk (he is the only one who can spend the lend-lease money). The president is a busy man. Several weeks passed before his approval appeared and the order then went to the buyers who must make the contract. More than four months were lost while the signatures were being gathered; turning out the goods was a matter of less than three weeks, and they must get to the British officer in the Red Sea area—almost half a year from the time he asked for the equipment in a rush.

The contract for the ammunition base at Hermiston is another sample of delay. After the base was selected (the site) the interminable paper work went full blast and at long last the contract was awarded under pressure, Oregon and Washington contractors being ignored. That base will be greatly enlarged before the present contract is completed.

Some of the delays come from the OPM, but not all. OPM only steps into the picture when a contract is for \$500,000 or more. This connects OPM with the building of plants of all sorts, powder making, shell loading, factories for tanks, anti-aircraft guns and similar large operations. Before any of these plants are started there is selection of a site, a survey, architects and, finally, a contract.

The government will operate aluminum plants in the Pacific northwest, but a contract with a private concern to operate them is another matter. This will consume weeks of negotiation and consultation with lawyers, with provisions and stipulations and myriad details. There are only a few concerns in the country that know how to manufacture aluminum—probably not more than three—and one of these is anathema to Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior.

Oregon contributed \$2,068,000 in federal taxes in 1939 (latest compilation) for the gasoline consumed. What it will be in 1941, with gasoline possibly curtailed and taxes increased, is uncertain. The average state gas tax paid by an Oregon motorist in 1939 was \$28.65 and the average federal tax was \$5.60. The state tax is 5 cents and the federal tax 1.5 cents (the total a trifle more than the tax on a package of cigarettes). In 1939 there were 2,847 service stations. Of gasoline consumed 88 per cent was used on public highways. Consumption of heating oil was 1,973,000 barrels or 900,000 barrels more than was sent to Russia from the Pacific coast. In 1940 consumption of motor fuel in Oregon was 262,505,000 gallons, or 1.09 percent of the total consumed in the United States.

Bureau of mines is now drilling on certain beaches in Oregon behind the seashore to determine the quantity of chromite which they may contain. People are still figuring on how to build roads to reach chromite

Pedestrian Protection — Underdog on Every Score!

| | AVERAGES | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | WEIGHT | SPEED | VOLUME | HORSE POWER |
| MAN | 150 | 3 m.p.h. | 2 1/4 cu.ft. | 1/5 |
| CAR | 3000 | 35 m.p.h. | 264 cu.ft. | 85 |

—Cut courtesy Oregon State Motor Association

Man is no match for the motor vehicle in weight, speed, volume or horsepower, as the comparison in the above chart clearly shows. Both drivers and pedestrians should remember this and drive and walk so that conflicts are avoided, according to the Traffic Safety Division of the State Department.

Housemothers Attend OSC Conference

Oregon State College—Fifty-six hostesses for sororities, fraternities and club houses from 13 states as far east as New York are attending the second annual conference here for housemothers, student counselors and others in charge of student living groups. The session continues three weeks.

This conference, held in connection with the regular summer session, is one of two such conferences held in the United States. Oregon State college along with Purdue university is pioneering in this field of instruction which has received the wholehearted support of national fraternal officers and university and college deans of women.

The schedule of class work includes lectures and demonstrations in the many fields covered.

Three other conferences are scheduled for the summer session. The three-weeks conference for Smith-Hughes agricultural teachers starts July 8. The combined conferences on guidance and adult education and the mathematics-science teachers conference start July 9.

in southwestern Oregon. To reach the best "kidneys" the ore would now have to be transported on pack-horses, and the price of the ore does not justify this primitive method.

Everyone guessed wrong last year. When the war department was told by an Oregon member that shiploads of rubber, tin, chromite and other important materials should be imported from the Philippines, he was assured that supplies already in the United States were sufficient for all purposes. Now the maritime commission is taking every available ship to bring these items to the Pacific coast. It was supposed there was sufficient steel, all the aluminum and magnesium required, ample supplies of copper, but a shortage has developed in each of these and priorities have been established to protect requirements of the army and navy and Britain.

Pacific northwest has immense quantities of chromite, magnesite, magnesite, copper and other ores but it has been impossible to induce the government to develop these resources. There is worry lest the supply of tungsten from China be cut off, but fine deposits unworked and neglected are in Idaho. Bureau of mines declares the Idaho tungsten is high grade. Should the Japanese interrupt American freighters bringing chromite from the orient the government may turn to the deposits in southwestern Oregon and in the John Day country.

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Changes Proposed for AAA Program in 1942

Elimination of the total soil-depleting allotment for farms under the AAA program is in prospect for 1942, report N. C. Donaldson, state executive officer of the AAA, and W. L. Teutsch, assistant director of extension, who were members of the Oregon delegation attending the conference in Washington, D. C., on the 1942 program.

The proposed change, which was recommended by the conference and is expected to be proclaimed soon, would permit flexibility, found needed during the defense period when increases are essential in certain types of crops from time to time. The elimination of the total soil-depleting allotment would make unnecessary changing the designation of such crops.

To compensate for this change, it was further proposed that greater emphasis be placed on the growing of soil-conserving crops and that the benefits on these be increased somewhat. Allotments for the main surplus crops, such as wheat, will remain, of course, under the new plan. Numerous other recommendations were made by the conference, mostly pertaining to special conditions under the defense program.

Swine Bulletin Issued As High Prices Stay

The production of hogs in Oregon is much less than the peak requirements of the state at a time when prices are the highest in many years and when profitable returns are guaranteed for at least another year by federal action. This situation has led to many inquiries on swine management, which demand has just been met by a new extension bulletin, No. 550, written by H. A. Lindgren, extension animal husbandman, and A. W. Oliver, the swine specialist in the animal husbandry department.

The new bulletin discusses briefly the steps in swine production from the selection of breeding stock thru the care of sows, the use of electric brooders for small pigs, a recommended feeding program, and various miscellaneous management practices. The use of irrigated pastures for hogs, adapting electric fences for swine, and the use of self-feeders are other topics included.

Rifles Taboo for Hunting Pheasant

Rifles may not be used in hunting China pheasants and other upland birds in any part of the state during the fall bird season, according to gun regulations announced by the Oregon State Game commission.

This regulation is designed to prevent injury to individuals from stray shots and also is expected to stop the illegal practice of use of rifles to shoot at birds from automobiles on or by the highways.

All shotguns must be plugged down to three shots when hunting upland game birds during the hunting season. Shotguns loaded with buckshot or bird shot are barred from use in hunting for big game. Guns with less than 1,700 foot-pound muzzle energy will not be allowed for antelope. Under the new regulations, guns used in hunting elk will not be allowed if smaller than 30 calibre except when using cartridges with bullets of not less than 1,400 foot-pound energy at 100 yards distance or weighing not less than 150 grains.

Farm Prices Up As Good Harvest Prospects Loom

The old rule of big crops bringing low prices is apparently not holding good this year. Although crop prospects in the country as a whole are as favorable as during the last three years, which were good seasons, further gains have been made in the general farm price level, according to a report on the agricultural situation just issued by the agricultural extension service at O. S. C. Gains in industrial workers' income have strengthened domestic demand, while a moderate increase has occurred in exports owing to the lease-lend program.

The gain in foreign demand for farm products is only moderate and mostly for hog products some dairy and poultry products, and some specialty crops. The general export outlook remains poor as no marked increase in exports of wheat, fresh fruits or cotton is expected.

The income of industrial workers is already about 20 per cent higher than the 1940 average, the report says, and the Oregon farm price index shows a similar percentage gain in the general farm price level. The greatest gains have been in prices for meats and wool, truck crops, and poultry and dairy products which respond promptly in price to changes in consumer purchasing power. Farm costs have increased only moderately during the past year, compared with prices for farm products in general. As a result, the purchasing power of farm products is higher than a year ago. The exchange value of some items is above or near parity, particularly the "domestic-type" products. The exchange value of most of the "export-type" farm products is still below parity owing to surpluses in relation to market demand, and relatively high prices for some items of farm expense.

On the whole, the exchange value of farm products is now around 90 per cent of the 1910-1914 parity. Relatively low prices for grain, fruit, cotton, and some other farm products account for some of the disparity which remains. The remaining disparity is also accounted for partly by relatively high price indexes for farm machinery and building materials, with higher taxes and farm wage rates also affecting farm costs.

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