

Washington, D. C., March 19.—War activities in Oregon are causing a housing problem which is arousing concern in the national capital. Pendleton, for example, needs more housing units for non-commissioned officers at the air field, at least 100 dwellings. While arrangements are being made for expanding the accommodations, it is proposed to transfer 100 modern trailers from Umatilla to be used by workmen, for there are no accommodations for carpenters and mechanics who must construct the 100 dwellings.

At Medford and the Albany-Corvallis area where cantonments are under contract (designed for a total of 60,000 soldiers) how to take care of the workers is already a problem, according to word received in the capital. In the two cantonment districts there are no vacant dwellings and workmen are filling the auto camps. There is and will be a drain on school accommodations, as several hundred children are being brought in while father works in the cantonments.

In other cantonments during construction it has been possible for workers to live 20 or 30 miles away from the job, but the sites in Oregon have been designated since the curtailment of automobiles and tires. Unable to replace tires when they become useless, the workers hesitate to use cars for any distance. Also feeding these families will develop another problem in the Willamette and Rogue river valleys. There is a possibility that by the time the cantonments are finished these workers will be available to gather in crops.

Hood River orchardists are anxious that a property custodian be named to take over the 98 orchards operated by 70 Japanese in that valley. Someone familiar with the fruit industry will be required to supervise the Japanese holdings, as care of the orchards is technical. Spring work on the trees must start in a few days and the association of orchardists has communicated with Washington, explaining that when a decision is to be made the Hood River association has a name to submit. The alien property custodian will be a part of the treasury set-up and he will appoint field men.

Metals division of war production

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board has heard that there is nickel in Oregon and has arranged to send scientists to that region to make an investigation. No nickel is produced in the United States, the current supply coming from Canada. WPB has a tip that one deposit is in Douglas county, not far from Riddle, and that there is a smaller deposit somewhere in the Jackson-Josephine area. It explains the metals division, these deposits can be used at all and even through they may cost more to produce than would be justified in peacetime, WPB will see that federal money is available to make the properties active.

There is before the senate a bill authorizing the secretary of war "to

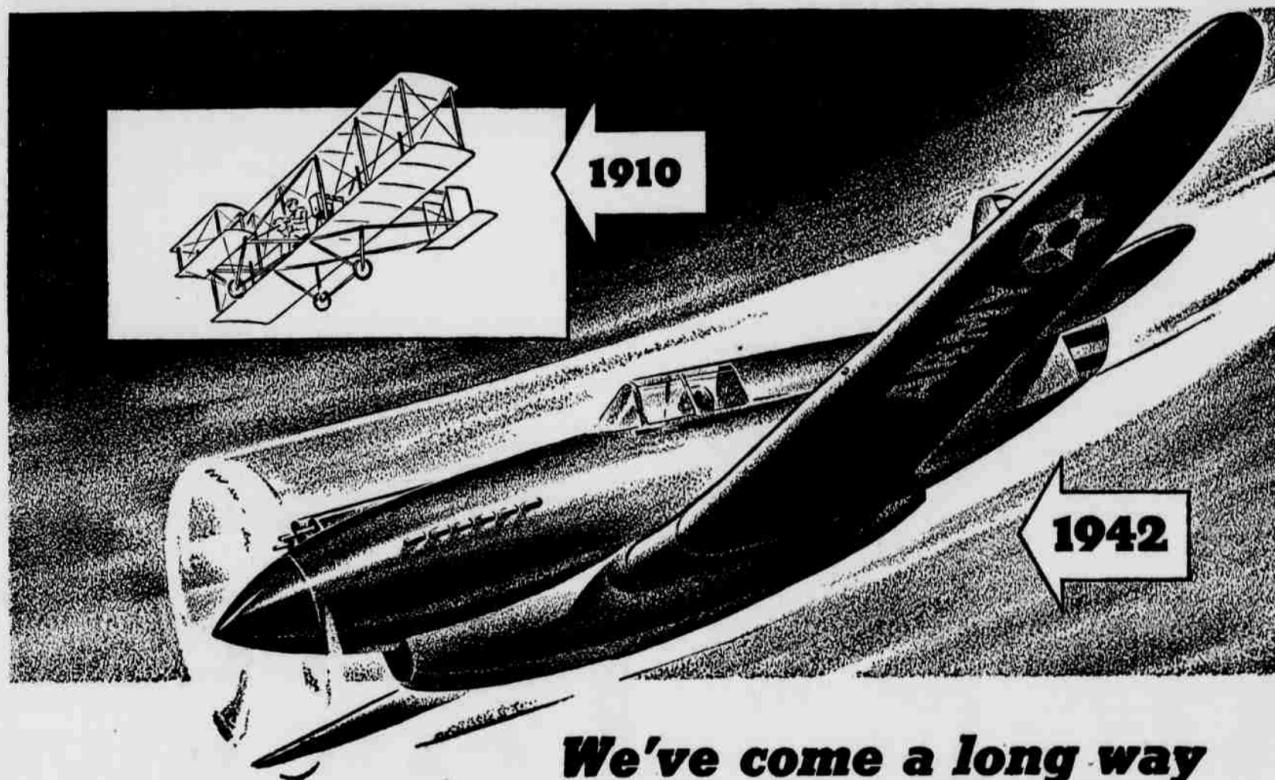
construct a permanent gate and monument to commemorate the deeds and achievements of early patriots whose efforts were responsible for the establishment of the title of the United States to the Oregon country." The site of the monument is to be at Champoeg. Twice, years ago, the senate passed bills authorizing \$100,000 by the federal government to match a similar sum from the state for a Champoeg memorial, but the bills were lost in the house. The present measure is modest; it authorizes only \$25,000 and requires the state to maintain the memorial.

On the upper Columbia river, somewhere in Umatilla county, the war department plans the construc-

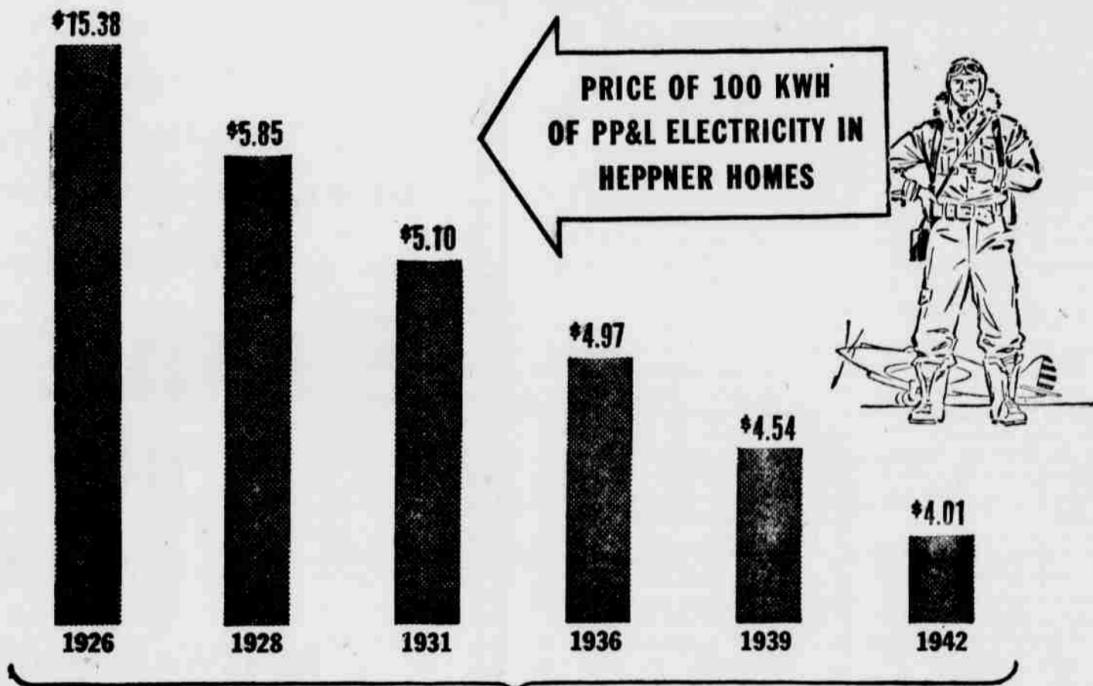
tion of a depot for quartermaster supplies. The depot will cost several million dollars and work is expected to begin during the coming summer. The contract will be negotiated and not competitive. A negotiated contract usually eliminates any contractor or contractor group not known to the army officers and the job is given to a concern that has worked for the army before. This is why some of the government work in the northwest has so frequently been handed to the same few contractors and is why maritime commission refuses to award ship orders to new concerns, regardless of their experience.

The income tax just paid on last

year's income is the heaviest that has ever been imposed on the American people. However, it is slight compared with that which must be paid one year hence. Secretary Morgenthau is proposing that the tax be doubled and that part of it be deducted from wages every month. One reaction is a demand on congress that every unnecessary expense be eliminated, including cost of the publicity bureaus. There are 3,000 press agents in Washington with a payroll in the millions and at present an entire block in the heart of Washington is being dug up for a press bureau building. Congress turned down this super-bureau but somewhere the promoters managed to get the money.



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