

Washington, D. C., April 2.—From every section of the country letters are pouring in on congress to take definite steps to remedy conditions—or else. The letters have rolled in from Oregon, as elsewhere; hundreds of them, thousands of letters and telegrams. One senator received 20,000; a house member received 13,000. No one in the Oregon group received such a number, but in proportion to the state's population they had their average.

There are high members of the administration who consider this uprising of the people as part of Axis propaganda, but it stems from the grassroots and nowhere else. People are restless, dissatisfied. They have just paid heavy income taxes, which makes them conscious of appropriations for useless things; they have seen their boys drafted into the army at \$21 a month, or go into the navy, and they feel that they have a personal interest in this war—they want everything that the boys need to fight with. This makes production dominant.

Production is in the hands of labor—organized labor—and the people are losing patience with organized labor for insisting on retention of the 40-hour week, time and a half for over-time and double time when they work Sundays; and the people are sour about the closed shop. They cannot understand why the unions are permitted to insist that no one except a union member can work on government construction or in a war industry.

These are the major contributing causes to the "prairie fire" which has been sweeping the country. The fact that office of civilian defense, instead of educating the people in what to do in a war raid, was more interested in teaching square dances, pingpong, tennis, bowling and other sports was not aiding morale. Nor, when congress expanded the civil service regulations to give, under certain conditions, pensions to congressmen did it make a hit with the people.

Farm groups are angry because the price control over farm products has been misinterpreted and called a grab. The farmers are angry, also, over what is happening to the farm labor situation. Urged to cultivate more, the farmer is at a loss as to where he is to find help in cultivating and harvesting his crop. The draft is taking boys from the farms; others are attracted by the high wages in shipyards. Farm machinery is most difficult to purchase; some implements are scarce; tools for irrigation are scarce. There will be no more milking machines manufactured.

With administration officials trying to stem the rising tide by asserting that there are no strikes, that production is not being interfered with, that the 40-hour week should be suspended, along comes Truman Arnold, the trust-buster of the department of justice, who accuses unions of abusing power and adds his shovel of coal to the anti-union conflagration. According to Arnold, the unions have been exploiting the farmers, have impeded transportation, forced businessmen to employ useless labor, made it impossible to get cheap mass production of housing, restricted the efficient use of men and machines, and have independent businessmen and farmers completely at their mercy. With Arnold flying in the face of administration policy, it is the belief that he will shortly be invited to resign.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, who has been under attack and held responsible for the rubber shortage, has struck back. Jones makes a report saying that in 1940 the industrial defense board proposed financing the production of synthetic rubber at the rate of 100,000

tons a year, at a cost of \$100,000,000. Jones says that he took this recommendation to President Roosevelt and the president decided that \$25,000,000 was sufficient. Jones expresses the opinion that by the end of 1943 synthetic rubber will be produced in sufficient quantities to make it available to the every-day motorist — provided the every-day motorist still has a car at that time.

A county defense council in the northwest has written to the public health service requesting information concerning the possibility of men contracting tuberculosis from breathing aluminum dust. Dr. J. G. Townsend, medical director of the

division of industrial hygiene, states that aluminum dust alone has never been incriminated either as causing pulmonary fibrosis or as predisposing the worker to pulmonary tuberculosis. An investigation of 50 workers who had been exposed to the dust from alumina from five to 40 years in the furnaces of aluminum works showed no ill effects. The question was raised because of the rapidly increasing aluminum industry in the northwest, with the prospect of additional plants in the near future.

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### Lamb Pelts With Short Wool Need of Airmen

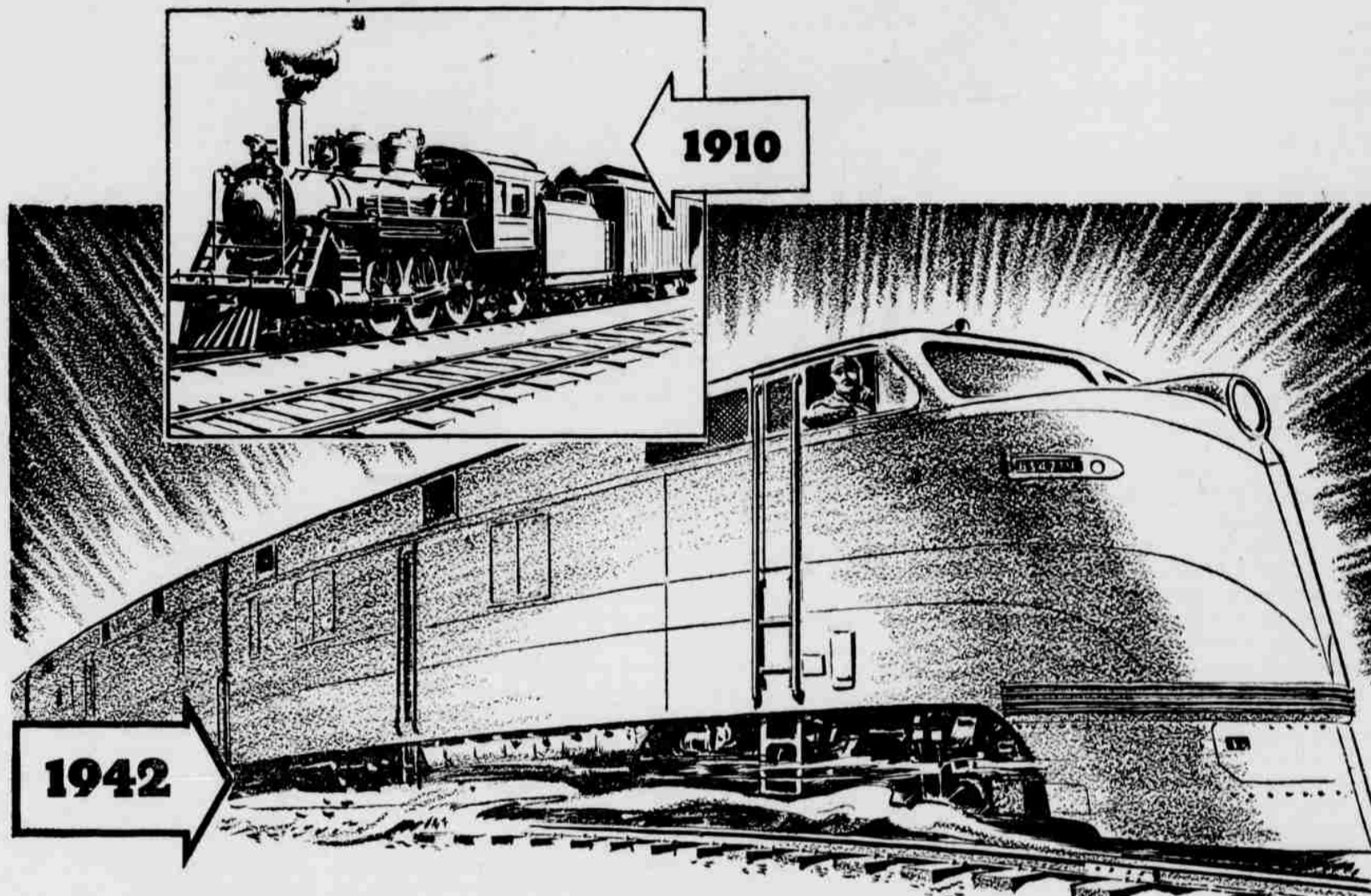
America's air force is appealing to sheep raisers of the country to time the shearing of their spring lambs and yearlings so that the pelts at slaughtering time will have just the right amount of wool needed for manufacturing warm flying suits for the airmen, says Dean William A. Schoenfeld of Oregon State college.

"This may sound like a peculiar request, but it is made in dead earnest, according to the information received at my office," said Dean Schoenfeld. "It seems that wool on skins used in manufacturing flying

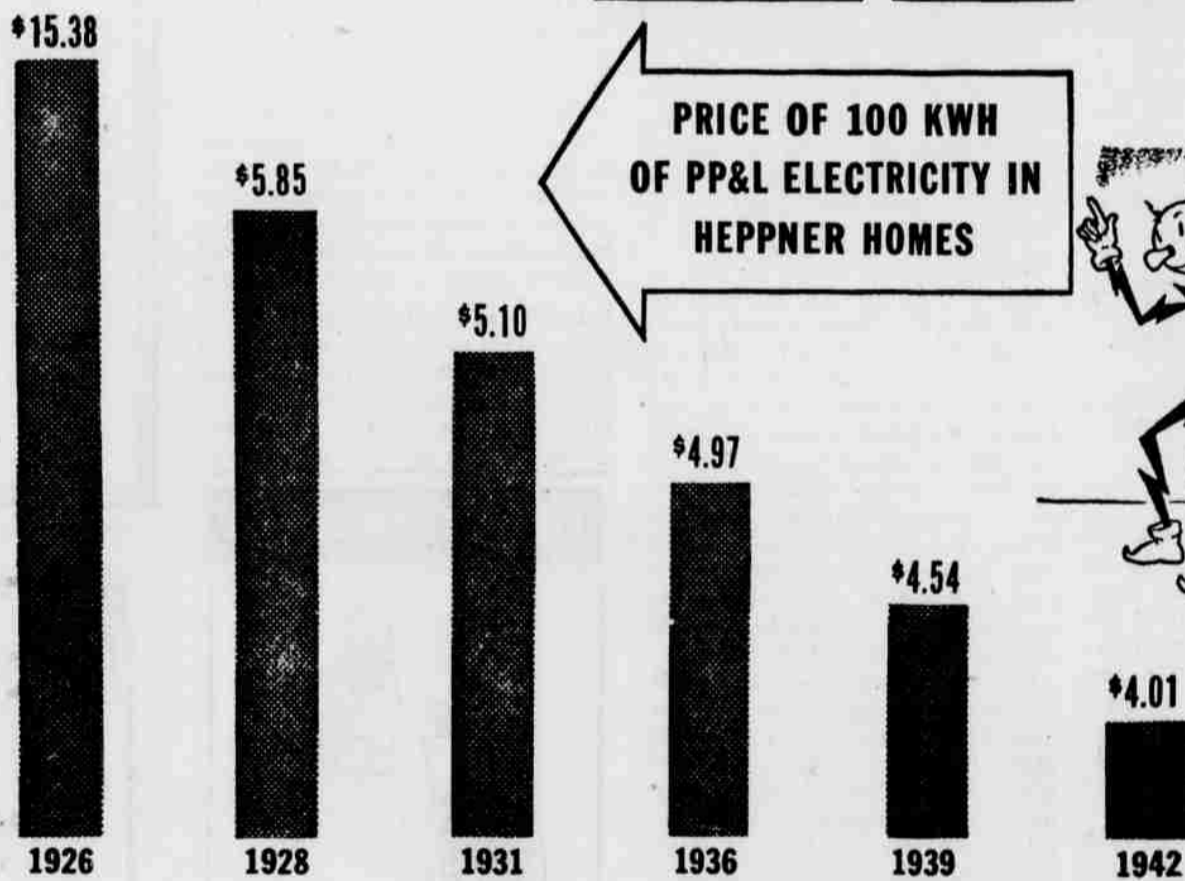
suits must be between one-fourth inch and one inch in length. If wool is more than an inch long at slaughtering time, it is both difficult and expensive to trim the wool to the required length after the pelt is removed.

"The entire output of these pelts, known as 'shearings,' has been reserved for military uses. The war production board believes that more than two million additional skins suitable for flying suits can be obtained as a result of such a shearing program."

The best procedure to insure a proper interval between shearing and slaughtering is left to the judgment of the sheep raisers.



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