

Washington, D. C., April 9.—Z. E. Merrill, chairman of the Linn county defense council, has raised the question whether workers in aluminum plants are threatened with tuberculosis from breathing the dust. The question was asked because of the expanding aluminum industry in Oregon and Washington and the possibility of new plants in the territory. According to Dr. J. G. Townsend, chief of the division of industrial hygiene, there is no danger from the dust unless it is mixed with dust containing free silicate. Dr. Townsend says that an examination was made of 50 men in aluminum blast furnaces from five to 40 years and that not one was affected.

Storing wheat is a real problem for grain growers of the northwest, for they are handicapped in obtaining materials. Construction of bulk facilities is wanted at Lexington for 200,000 bushels; Ione 200,000; Heppner 150,000, and Dufur 150,000 bushels. For a crib elevator nails, iron roofing and pipe are required for wood, while roofing and pipe are needed for concrete structures. The difficulty is in obtaining the metal. Especially important are nails. Triple A has requested war production board to issue an order requiring nail makers to devote their facilities to producing nails instead of other articles.

At present wheat stands very low on the order of war purposes and no matter what the priority may be there may not be enough supplies of critical materials to go around. The wheat grower is getting a different deal from what he did in the first world war when the price of wheat was sky high and there was great demand for it abroad. Thus far wheat is one article of food that it not being shipped foreign.

Preparations for control of the Mormon cricket in various sections of Oregon are now under way, according to the bureau of entomology and plant quarantine. The infestation in Wasco county will be the first to receive attention, announces the bureau to J. M. Oxford, of South Junction.

With hundreds of thousands of acres in Oregon devoted to growing legume seeds, the harvesting has been studied by the department of agriculture for some time. Few of the seed growers had sufficient equipment and many had none. By pulling a few wires the department obtained a priority from war production board and will have available about 300 new combines to handle this year's crop. The hairy vetch and Austrian winter peas are grown principally in the Willamette valley, but there also is a vast acreage in eastern Oregon. The department of agriculture states that these seed crops are the most profitable grown in the western country. Market for the seeds will be in the south, for soil conservation.

Engineers of the war department have turned thumbs down on improvement of the mouth of the Rogue river. Three plans were considered and the engineers reported after considering each that none would justify the annual maintenance and therefore the development was "out." Gold Beach also asked for the location of an airport or landing field which would be convenient if a Japanese bomber should blow out a bridge on the coast highway. This, reported the engineers, is not within their province, as General DeWitt of ninth corps area at San Francisco, has charge of such matters. Report of the engineers on Rogue river is very long, covering many typewritten pages, but it sums up that there is nothing they can do about it.

At the moment there is question as to where mail for soldiers at the

Corvallis cantonment shall be delivered. It is said that mail for Corvallis goes to Albany before it is taken across the river to the home of Oregon State college, and for this reason mail for the cantonment should be distributed at Albany. In either event, the present postoffice will require additional facilities and Albany reports that a large store room is available.

Postoffice department announces that congress has granted free postage to soldiers and postal officials do not relish the idea, saying no other country in the world is giving free mailing privileges and that it will inspire soldiers to write more letters and enormously increase the

cost of handling franked mail. Also postoffices will not be benefitted by these additional cancellations. Postal department says that where the soldiers shall get their mail is something for the army to decide, but army is said to be passing the buck. There is no argument about the Medford cantonment. The mail will be handled by the Medford postmaster.

SERVICES AT GOOSEBERRY

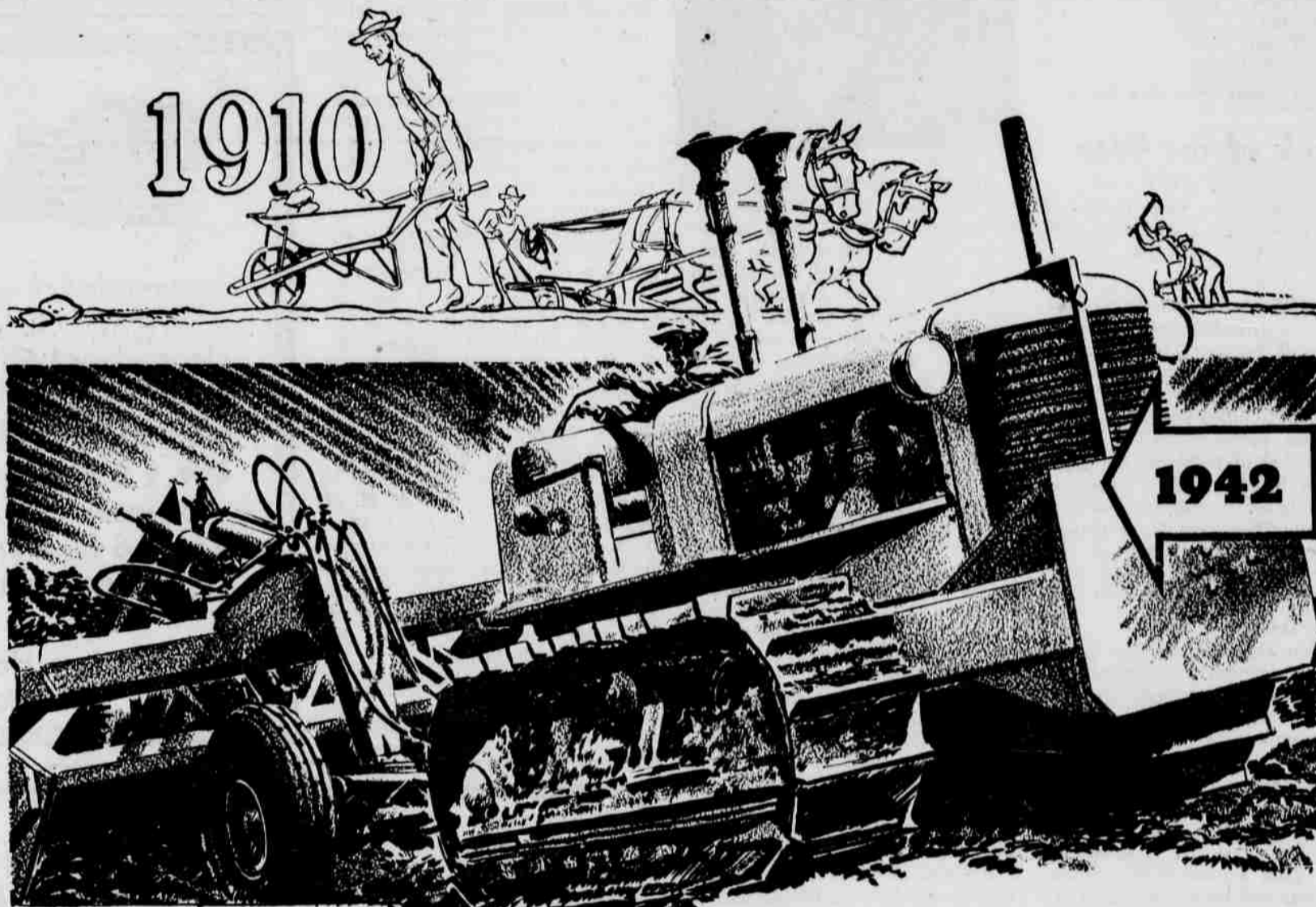
Pastor Harry W. Lundblad of Gresham will hold services at the Lutheran church in Gooseberry on Sunday, April 12, at 10:30 a. m. and in the evening at 8 p. m. All are invited, says Leonard Carlson.

STANDARD MAKES STATEMENT

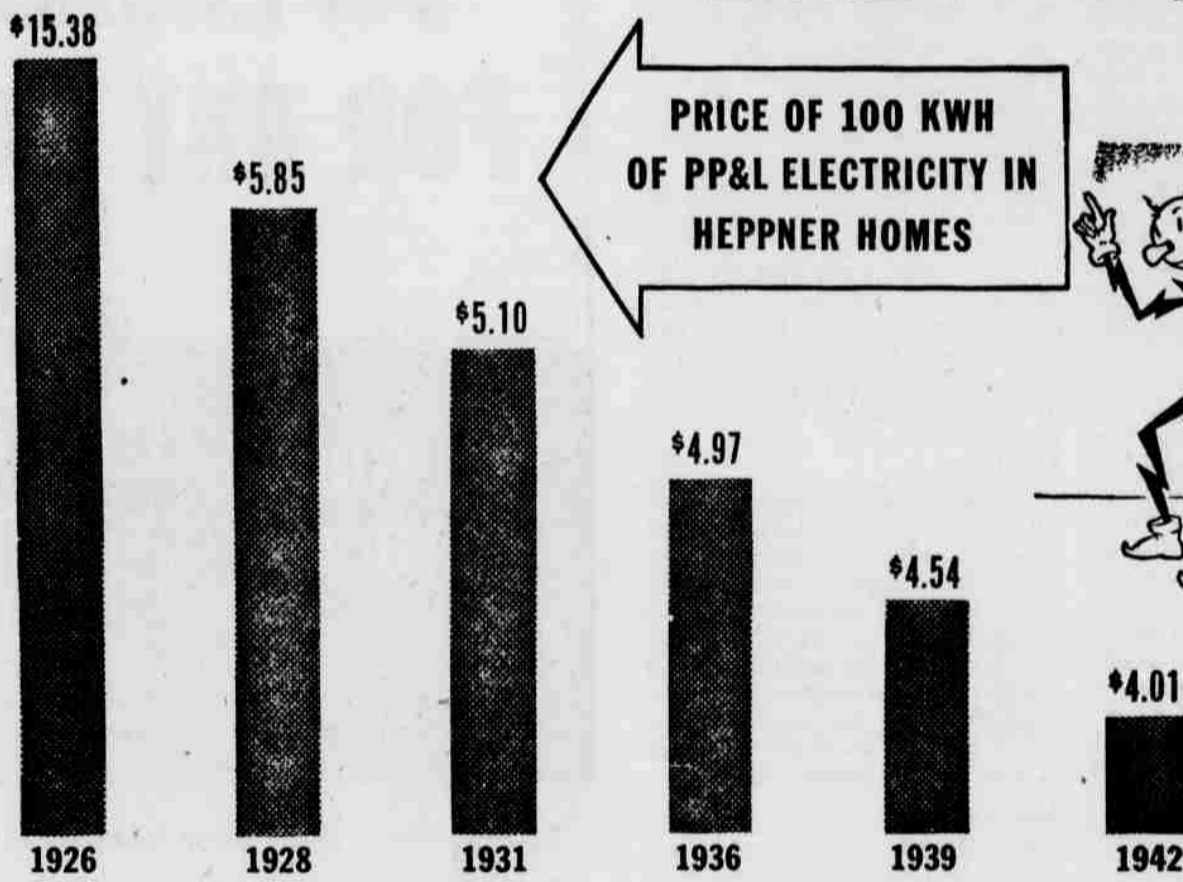
M. E. Harris, district representative of Standard Oil Co. of California, in the city last week end, cited a lettergram received from E. V. Burns, district sales manager at Portland, indicating the local company's connection with recent synthetic rubber charges. It says: "Newspapers are publishing charges by Government officers that Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has interfered with the development of synthetic rubber in this country. Owing to lack of public understanding that the various Standard Oil companies are unrelated, these stories are likely to create a public impression that this company is in-

volved. If anyone is our organization encounters criticism on this score he should say that the Standard Oil Company of California is not involved in any way whatsoever, and that this is a matter between the government and an eastern company."

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