

EFFECT OF CUT IN LUMBER IS PROBLEMATIC

More than a passing ripple of interest was created in local lumber circles by the announcement, through the Associated Press, that the Weyerhaeuser interests have ordered a cut in lumber prices, ranging from 10 to 20 per cent.

Local lumber men are considering the effect that the price reduction by the Weyerhaeuser will have on the general market. It seems to be the consensus of opinion that it is bound to effect all lumber, although the result may not be immediately noticeable here, if the reduction is confined to the Weyerhaeuser concern; but if other big distributors follow suit, it will bring all lumber producers into line in a hurry.

The Weyerhaeuser distributing agency, big as it is, does not control sufficient distribution to immediately affect the entire industry, is the belief, but the force of its example is likely to cause other big firms to follow the same course.

If this should happen a general reduction would be brought about and the momentum of the downward movement might cause prices to take a still greater drop, for, as one local producer says, "Lumber prices always drop, even under normal impulses, much faster than they advance."

The Weyerhaeuser movement, it is understood, is entirely independent and designed to stabilize prices and remove all artificial inflation. The upward trend of prices, out of proportion to the production increase, have long appealed to George S. Long, Coast manager of the Weyerhaeuser company, as an unhealthy condition that was bound in the long run to result in retarding the industry, and it is believed that it is due to his investigation of conditions that the summary reduction was made.

As far as box factories are concerned, it is not believed that a difference will be felt for a long time, for the box factory turns out an independent product and under present demands prices of box shooks will undoubtedly hold up for a long time.

The announcement of the Weyerhaeuser reduction comes with a suddenness that leaves its effect in the minds of timber operators as much a matter of speculation as in the mind of the layman. They have not had time to study the possibilities of the situation or the developments that will follow, but it seems to be generally admitted that the move will arrest the upward trend and start prices downward all along the line, just how fast and how far depending upon the manner in which other big distributors view the Weyerhaeuser precedent.

SUITS ARE DISMISSED BY CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court yesterday dismissed the suit of Ed. Sutton, rancher, against the Keno Power company, an action for damages for alleged non-delivery of electric current under contract. The suit dismissed is an old action, but another damage suit, covering approximately the same ground and involving some \$2500, is still pending.

The appeal of Theodore Sides from an award of the State Industrial Accident commission, was dismissed, having been settled out of court. Sides was awarded \$96 by the commission for the loss of an eye and regarded the sum as insufficient.

The divorce suit of George H. Verley against Dora Verley was dismissed, the parties having reconciled their difficulties.

FREE SEEDS GONE.

The Herald has distributed all the free government seeds received from Congressman N. J. Sinnott, and further applications for seeds are useless. If another supply is forwarded later the fact will be announced.

UMATILLA INDIAN IS ASPHYXIATED, CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Chief Yumkin of the Cayuse tribe, Umatilla county, Oregon, who was en route to Washington on a mission for his tribe, was found asphyxiated in a hotel room here today. He had blown out the gas. On a string about his neck were two small chamois bags, each containing the dried head of a snake.

PENDLETON, Feb. 25.—

Yusumkin was the son of Chief Sumkin. He was 64 years old. Arrangements have been made to bring the body home for burial.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE DEAD

Word has been received here of the death from influenza, at Verdi, Nevada, of Miss Helen Storey, a former resident of Klamath Falls and graduate of the local high school and a sister of Mrs. Irving H. Hibberts of Pelican City. Her death occurred Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Hibberts left Sunday morning for Verdi, on receipt of a telegram stating that her condition was serious, but death occurred before they got there.

Miss Storey lived with her sister at Pelican City while attending high school here. She was of a lovable disposition, and possessed of considerable musical ability. During her life here she not only attained high popularity among her classmates, but endeared herself to many older people, and the grief over her sudden passing will be widespread.

Following her graduation from high school last June, Miss Storey went to Verdi to keep house for her widowed father, and enter the employ of a big lumber firm there. She was making rapid advancement in her vocation when overtaken by death.

Before coming here she resided for a number of years in Chico, California.

RECRUITING PARTY HERE FROM EAST

The United States army is making a thorough campaign for recruits in all branches of the service and has recruiting parties out from the various posts scouring the country for material. A party consisting of one officer and four men arrived in this city last night from Camp Grant, Ill., seeking recruits for the 78th Field artillery.

The regiment is a horsed, 75 millimeter, organization and has lots of openings for men who like to be around horses. The 78th is an old cavalry regiment that has been converted to field artillery and is sure to see service in the islands in the near future.

The party is in charge of Lieutenant D. T. Nelson and is stopping at the White Pelican hotel. They will be here for about three days.

BIG ENGINEERING WORK PROGRESSES.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 25.—Twin tunnels, each 5,700 feet long, for the use of vehicles and pedestrians, are being bored through the range of hills bordering the southern side of the Monongahela river valley here, in order that the thousands of persons who live in the southern part of Allegheny county and work in Pittsburgh, may more easily reach the city.

Work on the tunnels, which began a few days ago, will continue for more than two years, engineers estimate, and the cost will be \$4,600,000.

It is proposed to have the tunnels connect with a high bridge which will span the Monongahela river and bring the tunnel traffic to the heart of the business district of Pittsburgh. This will cost \$3,500,000. Each tube will be made to accommodate two lines of vehicle traffic, and in addition there will be footpaths.

WILL EXCLUDE DISPUTED AREA

Directors of the Langell Valley Irrigation district at a meeting here yesterday afternoon decided to submit proposals for the elimination of 3,600 acres of swamp lands in the district, the area of contention in the legal controversy now pending, to the objecting owners, and it is believed that their offer will be accepted.

The owners of the acreage in which the controversy centers are the possessors of water rights, and contend that they will gain no advantage by having their lands included in the district, having water for irrigation already, but will be made to bear a proportion of development costs. In endeavoring to escape inclusion they resorted to litigation, and when the attorneys for the district petitioned the circuit court to confirm the legality of the steps of organization, filed objections, and a hearing is now pending in the circuit court.

Negotiations have been underway ever since the filing of the objections between the persons who want irrigation and the objecting ones, seeking to find a way out that would be satisfactory all round without adding to the expense, or placing additional engineering difficulties in the way of the district.

It is believed that a solution has been reached and the water right owners will accept the proposal of the directors to exclude the swamp lands entirely. There is no reason why they should not, as they are virtually given without a battle all that they were seeking to obtain by litigation.

Engineer C. T. Darley was present at yesterday's meeting and explained the effect upon the engineering features of the project, which, he said, would not be detrimental, but rather the reverse. By excluding the swamp area, construction of a costly drainage system will be avoided and the cost of purchasing the water rights saved. In the engineer's opinion this would more than balance the revenue from the lands if they remained in the district.

HALLS PURCHASE PARTNER'S INTEREST

E. B. Hall and wife have purchased the interest of the Klamath Development company, now controlled by the Fleischacker interests, in the Hall hotel at the corner of Main and Fourth streets. Mr. Hall announced today, and are preparing to make extensive renovations to the hostelry.

The deal included only the furnishings of the place, the lease always having been owned by the Halls. The lease has been renewed for five years, one of the conditions being that the owners, Melhase & Withrow and Richard Melhase, remodel the outside of their buildings this spring by covering the brick fronts with a coat of smooth white plastering, which will add greatly in attractive appearance.

Renovation of the interior is already underway, and when the work is finally completed the proprietors will have spent several thousand dollars and every room in the place will have been overhauled, re-tinted and put in first class condition.

CHARGE LUMBER MEN DISCRIMINATE

PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—Following complaints from Walla Walla of alleged discrimination practiced by Portland mills in selling lumber to local builders at prices lower than those quoted for export lumber, it was admitted today by millmen here that a portion of their output is so disposed of to stimulate home-building operations.

WOOL GROWERS TO HOLD MEETING AT MERRILL

The Klamath Wool Growers' association will hold a meeting at the Merrill hall at Merrill Monday evening, March 1, at 8 o'clock, to consider various important matters affecting the sheep-growing industry in this county.

SHASTA VIEW TO GET WATER

The people of the Shasta View Irrigation district are going to have water for their land, whether the government appropriates the money for the enlargement of the Griffith lateral or not. It has practically been decided that if the government fails to appropriate the funds needed for this work the district will bond itself for the money and go ahead and enlarge the ditch. Realizing the immense loss annually through lack of water, the land owners are going to wait no longer than is absolutely necessary to convince them that there is to be another delay of government assistance, when they will raise the money themselves. In this they will undoubtedly have the help of the land owners of the Mallin and Patterson districts.

The bringing of this land under irrigation will add to the productive territory of the Klamath basin one of the best sections in the county. It is claimed to be the best land in the county, as it is a deep sandy loam, with perfect drainage, entirely free from any alkali, and having less frost, as it is protected from the cold north winds by Mt. Stukle. With water, this land would increase in value so rapidly as to make present owners wealthy almost overnight.

PNEUMONIA CALLS ANOTHER VICTIM

William Henry Palmer, 24 years old, died yesterday afternoon at the city isolation hospital from influenza pneumonia. He had been employed at the Chelsea box factory before he was taken ill. His brother, Lester Palmer, is here from Spokane and was with him during his illness, and his father is on his way here from Spokane and will arrive tonight. The decedent was a native of this state, having been born at Toledo, Oregon, April 7, 1896. The body will be taken to Grants Pass tomorrow, where burial will take place.

KAISER'S STATUE REMOVED

BERLIN, Feb. 8. (By Mail.)—The "Kaiser Wilhelm" monument at Haderleben, Schleswig, which was covered up with potato sacks when the French marched into the town, has been removed to the premises of a private club where it is concealed from the public gaze.

ENGLISH TO AID IN OBSERVING LANDING

PLYMOUTH, Eng., Feb. 9. (By Mail.)—A branch of the Anglo-American society to aid in the celebration in September of the tercentenary of the "Mayflower" and Pilgrim Fathers has been organized here. A suggestion was made that Plymouth subscribe for a special gift to be sent to Plymouth, Mass.

Telegraph Tabloids

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Wilson's reply to the allied note on the Adriatic situation was delivered to the allied supreme council today.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Former Premier Herbert H. Asquith was elected to parliament from Paisley at the recent election, it was announced today.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Harry Hogarty, an American, has been kidnapped by Mexicans at Matimi, Durango, and is being held for ransom, according to information received by the state department.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President Wilson today signed the oil land leasing bill.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—An attempt was made to assassinate Prince Regent Alexander of Serbia and Premier Protitch, a Trieste dispatch says. Both were wounded.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The programme of the Republican house leaders to omit universal Military Training from the army reorganization bill was accepted today by the House Military committee, which ordered a favorable report on the bill.

COLBY APPOINTED TO SUCCEED LANSING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Bainbridge Colby, former Progressive party leader under Theodore Roosevelt, has been appointed to succeed Robert Lansing as secretary of state. It was announced at the White House today.

Colby's selection came as a distinct surprise, most officials assuming that Frank L. Polk, acting secretary, would be the choice of President Wilson. Colby was a Republican until 1912, when he joined the progressives. In 1916 he joined the Democrats.

TROOPS CALLED TO KEEP ORDER

TACOMA, Feb. 25.—A detachment of troops under Major Arthur Colby left Camp Lewis today for Montesano on a special train, following the request of District Attorney Herman Allen, who is prosecuting the I. W. W. defendants for the Centralia Armistice Day murders, for larger forces to preserve law and order.

MONTESANO, Feb. 25.—James A. Ball, thirteenth juror in the trial of the ten alleged participants in the slaying of Warren Grimm at Cemprenment when the trial resumed today, in the place of Edward Parr, a juror who is ill.

Continuation of the defense will be taken up upon the arrival of additional troops from Camp Lewis, who are expected here this afternoon.

LIGHTWEIGHT IS OUT FOR MATCH

An added attraction for the fans who will witness the boxing contests Friday night at the opera house loomed up today with the advent of the 78th regiment's recruiting squad. One of the party is Carmen Demellia, a light-weight who took on a number of husky army athletes in his overseas career. When Demellia learned that the boxing commission had a match slated for Friday night he issued a challenge to all comers at 133 pounds, or less, and a few pounds more don't matter. Matchmaker Knight immediately set to work to gratify the pugilistic desires of the soldier boy and at last reports was seeking Young Harrington, who is always ready for a fight and bars nothing but buzz saws. Knight was hard on the trail of the Chilquin wonder this afternoon and is fairly sure he'll sign up the fighters.

Earl Ritchie, local heavyweight, who will meet Soldier Marples in the main event, and Billy Huff, who is down for the semi-final with Bob Wagner of Portland, are doing heavy training. Every once and a while they get so warmed up in their exercise that they forget it's only sparring and dig in for points, with the result that the far-sighted assistants have laid in a special supply of court-plaster.

Ritchie today issued a denial of the rumor that is being spread to the effect that he has fought Soldier Marples before and put him away in the first round.

"The rumor is evidently malicious," said Ritchie, "and it is absolutely without foundation. I have never met Marples in the ring, or out of it. I do not know him at all. All I know of him is that his manager declares he has been victorious in his last twenty starts. It seems probable that he is a fighter. He certainly couldn't have avoided picking some tough men in twenty fights, and I know from experience that there are hard fighters around San Francisco. I expect to have a fight on my hands Friday night, all right and I expect to win it, but the report that I have fought Marple before is utterly false."

WEATHER REPORT

Oregon—Tonight and Thursday, fair; gentle northeasterly winds.

FRENCH TIMBER MAN WRITES OF CONDITIONS

Below is the copy of a letter from Paul Etienne, a French timber merchant of Bruyeres, Voges, France, to Mayor S. O. Johnson, of Berkeley, Cal., who during the war was in command of the operations of the 29th Engineers in the Epinal forestry district of France, which throws an interesting sidelight on present economic conditions overseas:

"As in your part of the country, nay, more so, the economic crisis has overtaken France in a most disturbing manner. Salaries have attained enormous dimensions, which renders necessities more and more expensive. Labor is almost impossible to obtain, and there is a great lack of coal. For a number of years it will be useless to expect any labor from abroad in America; in fact, the different governments have taken steps to prevent the emigration of the laboring class. It is true that this desire to emigrate, which in times gone by was largely due to the higher salaries paid in America than in our old Europe, is no longer dependent on the same cause. In fact, the laborer, who prior to the war made from four to five francs per day, now receives from 25 to 30 francs. Skilled workmen—masons, carpenters, plasterers—easily achieve from 35 to 40 francs, and others even more.

"The future is very disturbing, and thinking people wonder where this insane state of affairs will end. Nevertheless, we have had splendid elections—the socialistic party, which is to a large extent, responsible for the present state of affairs, has been beaten to a finish and its leaders are biting the dust. We have feared here in France that the discontent which exists more or less everywhere would manifest itself by poor elections; that is to say, favorable to the socialistic party. But the reverse took place, and the moderate party came out of the struggle the victor. Let us now hope that the government, which has an enormous majority in parliament, will find a solution for this crisis.

"The prices of lumber are still very high, but that is mainly due to the high cost of exploitation and transportation, rather than on account of our present needs—it costs approximately from 80 to 90 francs (\$13) per cu. meter (231 board feet) standing, and that is entirely too much."

NO COUNCIL MEETING

Three members of the city council were present last night for the regular weekly meeting postponed from the previous night, but on account of the small number and absence of the mayor, decided to adjourn until the next regular meeting, Monday night.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS CALIFORNIA TRAGEDY

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—Miss Florence Housel, owner of the Huntington school for girls at South Pasadena, was shot and killed in her room last night by an unknown assailant, who set fire to the building. The fire was discovered and quenched.

The body of W. M. Bowen, husband of the school housekeeper, was found later in the adjoining room with a bullet through the heart. Mrs. Bowen said she and her husband had been separated and he had threatened her with violence.

NOTICE.

Until arrangements can be made that will insure a supply of paper sufficient to enable The Herald to return to its regular size, it will remain as it is today, with the exception of Fridays, when we are permitted to print eight pages. We shall return to our regular size at the earliest date possible.