

Europe Held In Great Lumber Need

PORTLAND, May 22 (AP)—Europe needs lumber to rebuild, but lacks the funds to finance the import of

40 billion board feet during the next two years, Al Hartung, regional CIO director, reported here on his return from a United Nations' conference in Czechoslovakia.

Hartung said his observations in Europe convinced him of the ne-

cessity of, timber conservation by America.

Few virgin tracts remain in western Europe, the CIO official reported, while in Sweden reforestation maintains a 60-year crop cycle that is the basis for many allied timber industries.

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Wood Utilization Plan Progresses From Pilot Plant To Production Point

Weyerhaeuser Timber company's experiments in wood conversion will soon progress from pilot plant to actual production for commercial use, it is indicated in the company's annual report, just announced here.

The firm's announcement said that "basic timber products, such as lumber, pulp and plywood, will be augmented and perhaps supplanted to a degree by new products from growth now poorly utilized or wasted."

The Weyerhaeuser statement sounds the keynote for the West Coast lumber industry's future utilization pattern. According to the report, the company is following that pattern in continuing its construction program, which includes a sulphate pulp mill and plywood plant at Longview, Washington, a new log and lumber plant at Springfield, Oregon, and many major improvements to existing wood conversion plants in Oregon and Washington.

Highlighted in the report are significant operating trends such as improvement in production per man hour, substantially increased utilization of available logs and more balanced and complete manufacture of prewar standard grades and items. Two company mills produced 4.6 per cent more lumber with 3 per cent less log scale wood usage. The two pulp mills maintained production at the 1945 level with 4 per cent less logs. Over two-thirds of the 1946 lumber output was kiln dried and 90 per cent of shipments were surfaced, conforming to the demands of consumers increasingly interested in quality manufacture. Return to these refinements and an increase in labor saving specialties such as prefabricated items, 4-squaring and end-matching im-

Evolution The evolution of today's forest industry from forced timber liquidation to a scramble for raw wood has been dramatized by its sudden occurrence, according to the report. Whole crop utilization of Weyerhaeuser's potential annual harvest, for instance, could double annual sales, but will require substantial capital investments and a tremendous sales effort.

The report cites that hourly rates of pay for logging and lumbering employees throughout the industry were raised twice during the year, 5 cents an hour on April 1 and 15 cents an hour on December 1, bringing the minimum wage to \$1.25 an

hour. Average number of company employees for 1946 was 6358, as compared with 6034 in 1945, all of whom worked the standard five-day week.

Operating Trends Highlighted in the report are significant operating trends such as improvement in production per man hour, substantially increased utilization of available logs and more balanced and complete manufacture of prewar standard grades and items. Two company mills produced 4.6 per cent more lumber with 3 per cent less log scale wood usage. The two pulp mills maintained production at the 1945 level with 4 per cent less logs. Over two-thirds of the 1946 lumber output was kiln dried and 90 per cent of shipments were surfaced, conforming to the demands of consumers increasingly interested in quality manufacture. Return to these refinements and an increase in labor saving specialties such as prefabricated items, 4-squaring and end-matching im-

proved sales realization, resulting in a 13.9 per cent increase over 1945.

The Weyerhaeuser company during 1946 withdrew from the more favorable export market for the duration of the critical domestic housing shortage. The company's export volume was less than 1 per cent, contrasted to a 5.4 percentage for the fir region as a whole. Shipments going to retail lumber dealers exceeded those of any previous year.

Net Income Net income of the wholly owned group for the calendar year 1946 was \$2.9 million dollars, which compares with \$1.1 million in 1945 and \$1.5 million in 1944, the previous high point. Dividend payments in 1946 totaled \$7,500,000, or \$2.50 per share. Ratio of earnings to net assets in 1946 was 8.5 per cent. Funds reserved for postwar plant expenditures totaled \$20,000,000 at the close of the year, the increase from the previous \$12,000,000 being necessary partly because of the lower value of the dollar in financing these facilities.

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Air Tour To Be Extended Again

PORTLAND, May 22 (AP)—The air-vacation tour inaugurated last year as an Oregon event by business-

men pilots will be extended this

year to include Washington and Idaho points.

L. S. White, chairman of the committee, reported 30 pilots have registered for the June 24-26 tour, 30 planes were expected to make the 1200-mile trip.

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GREEN THUMB PORTLAND, May 22 (AP)—Gardens here drew the critical eye of "green thumb" experts today as delegates to the national convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America toured the city's vegetable patches and flower displays.

Montgomery Ward

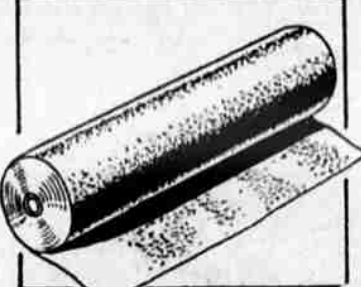
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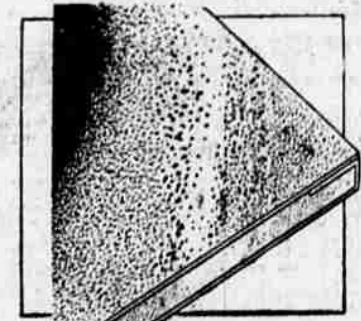
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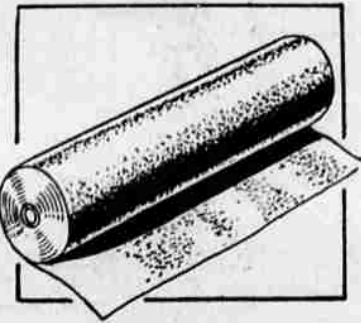
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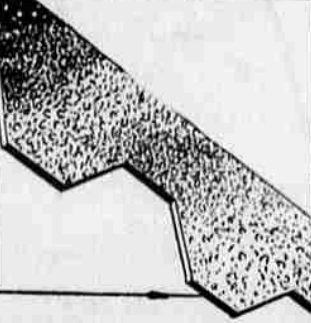
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