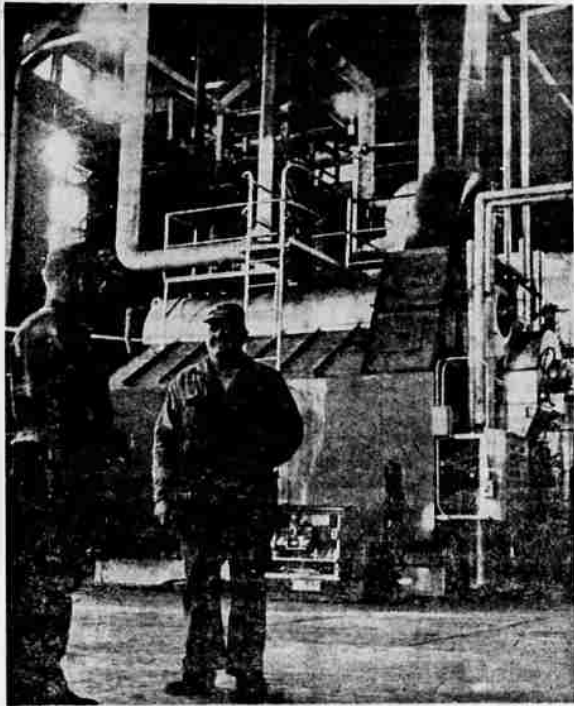




APPRAISING THE new heat generating equipment in the OTI campus boiler room are heating plant superintendent Cliff Thomas, far left, and James Weaver, a boiler plant employee. A major steam generating unit was put into operation in the plant this year.



STENOGRAPHER and administrative office worker Gail Campbell is busy at the reception counter in the new OTI administrative office, while OTI Director Winston Purvine, seated, and assistant administrator Jack Douglas are busy discussing school opening matters in the adjoining room.

Christmas Tree Standards Set

U. S. Standards for Christmas trees were announced today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

These standards, which are being issued for the first time, will become effective November 1, 1957.

The standards provide for three grades: U. S. Premium, U. S. No. 1, and U. S. No. 2.

Commercial production of Christmas trees in the United States during 1956 was estimated at about 25 million. In addition, about four million trees were imported. In general, the states bordering Canada are the leading states in Christmas tree production.

These species comprise over 85 per cent of Christmas trees produced: Douglas fir, balsam fir, black spruce, red cedar, white spruce, and scotch pine.

The standards were published in the Federal Register October 1, 1957.

Book Describes Winter Wheat

A hard white winter wheat for the medium and low rainfall areas of Oregon is described in a new folder published by the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station.

The new wheat variety, named "Burt," yields more bushels per acre than other hard winter varieties, according to the folder. Burt also resists smut and may turn out to be a more attractive variety on some major foreign markets than medium to high protein club varieties now grown.

The first hard white bread-type winter wheat released jointly by Oregon and Washington, Burt is generally recommended in areas of 14 inches or less rainfall. In higher rainfall areas, the Omar variety is better, the folder says. Oregon residents can get a copy of the folder at their local county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Oregonians Protest Freight Reductions

DENVER (Special) — A representative of the Portland Chamber of Commerce testified before the Interstate Commerce Commission in opposition to the proposed rail rate reductions on westbound dressed meats and packing house products. The chamber spokesman was Clancy Jean, manager of the chamber's agricultural department and secretary of their agricultural committee.

The chamber's opposition to the rate reductions grows out of the lack of any commensurate and concurrent rate reductions on live animals westbound. The destruction of the historic relationship that has existed between the two is viewed as a serious and injurious threat to Pacific Northwest packing plants and poses an equally serious threat to the markets for 40 per cent of Oregon's agricultural income, Jean declared.

The chamber's statement stresses the importance of two factors essential for the full development of Oregon and the region's livestock production. These are (1) the presence of effective livestock markets and (2) the presence of available feed grains at prices growers can afford to pay.

The livestock producers of the region will witness a substantial reduction of activity in their livestock markets if this rate reduction is granted, the chamber contends.

Federal government agricultural programs have priced our grains out of the feed market. In the past 140 months, which goes back through 1946, corn, largely of Midwest origin, has been priced below our own wheat in 55 per cent of the months; it has been equal to wheat in 6.5 per cent of the time, and below wheat 38 per cent of the time. According to the chamber spokesman this has discouraged livestock feeding to develop as it should in order to meet the demands of our present and growing west coast population, which is forecast to increase as much by 1975 as it has since 1940.

Jean noted that the regional feed grain situation has improved in the past few years as a result of barley production which has increased nearly 100 per cent over the 1944-53 10-year average. This has been largely the result of recent wheat acreage restrictions. Today there are indications of increased feeding of beef and hogs

in the region. However, producers are slow to move into these enterprises because of two unknown factors: (1) the nature of future federal agricultural programs and (2) the extent that transportation and other factors will change to offset any advantage that may be gained through the current favorable price of grain.

Jean said, "The proposed reductions on transportation of dressed meats from the Midwest would upset local marketing of livestock thru offsetting any advantage to be gained by favorably priced feed grains."

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