

MOUTHPIECE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Advertising Medium of a Big Pay Roll Community

MOST PERFECT SAW MILL IN AMERICA STARTS OPERATION IN VERNONIA

**Not a Hitch, Every Machine Perfect,
Every Little Movement Has a
Meaning of It's Own!
She Runs**

Vernonia is known and in print all over the United States today. Every Lumberman's Journal and Daily papers of every state carried items of the opening of the big, all steel, beltless, electrified, sawmill in the city of Vernonia. Last Thursday the City Council and the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce were invited to participate in the party celebrating the sawing of the first log by the new mill. A special train from Portland arrived at 10:30 a. m. and all were shown over the plant which took about two hours. Luncheon was served on the dining car, and the large crowd, all guests of the Central Coal & Coke Co., enjoyed every minute of the time.

Superintendent E. E. Hayes was seemingly every place at the right time to explain in detail the workings of certain parts of the mill. The Portland Journal, last Sunday had a half page picture of the mill and a lengthy article on the opening which we here reprint:

"Thursday morning the whistles blew at the magnificent new mill of the Oregon-American Lumber company, Vernonia, the 225 men took their allotted places, the machinery was started by the electric power generated at the mill, and the plant was put into operation for the first time.

"There was no fanfare of trumpets and no speech-making to inaugurate this new large scale enterprise. It just began to saw wood, which it is expected to do at the rate of 250,000 feet every eight hours and at double that rate when a second shift of like number, which will be added later, is employed.

"And what is especially significant is that the operating company owns 24,000 acres of timber, aggregating two and one-half billion feet, which with the logs that the company plans to buy in the market, will insure from 25 to 50 years' supply to the mill.

"In the middle of the morning there arrived a special train from Portland over the new United Railways line, bearing 80 timbermen, lumbermen, bankers and business men, who were the guests of Charles S. Keith of Kansas City, president of the Central Coal & Coke company which is the parent concern of the O.-A. Lumber company. Frank Schofflin, other officials of the company.

"This party was shown through the new mill of steel and concrete, which represents the latest type of construction. They saw great fir logs which had been dumped into the newly created 40-acre pond after having been transported by rail from the logging camp 11 miles to the northwest, lifted into the mill, thence to carriers, operated by steam, and transported into lumber of varying sizes at the will of the Sawyer.

"They saw the cut lumber, after it had passed through the several processes of manufacture mechanically sorted and distributed until it found its way to the stacker sheds and storage sheds.

"They were impressed by the newest methods contrived by man to transform logs into lumber in the most economical fashion and especially by the outlay of capital which the enterprise represents.

"Doubtless the most interested spectator in the party was Mr. Keith whose modest manner gave no indication of the fact that he was witnessing the initial operation of a plant that represents over three years' negotiation and construction and the investment of an immense amount of capital. Yet nothing escaped his keen eye.

Large Scale Operation

"This is the advent of the Central Coal & Coke company into the Pacific Northwest, yet for years it has occupied a commanding position in the northern pine belt, where it now operates three large mills, which with the new Vernonia plant will turn out a total of 325,000,000 feet of lumber every year.

"In spite of his limited personal contact with the Oregon country, none is more aware of its opportu-

ities than Mr. Keith, who sees the wider market that awaits Pacific Northwest lumber than that from the diminishing southern belts. He will tell you how the south itself is absorbing a large percentage of its own lumber; he knows the percentages of western and southern timber consumed in the eastern and northern states and has an intimate knowledge of the foreign markets. A brief chat with him convinces the interviewer that his entrance into the Northwest field came from an exact knowledge of the conditions here and elsewhere that justified an initial investment that runs into millions with the immediate inauguration of large scale operation.

Half Century Old

"The Central Coal & Coke company was founded by Charles S. Keith father in 1871, and it now has extensive mine fields in Wyoming and other states to the eastward. In 1893 the concern entered the lumber field.

"The bulk of the timber holdings of the O.-A. Lumber company is in Caltop and Washington counties. One logging camp is now in operation, another will be established in the fall and a third next spring.

28 Dry Kilns

"When pressed for any outstanding features of construction in the new mill, Mr. Keith replied that no unusual innovations had been resorted to, the entire installation resulting from years of experience in lumber manufacture. All common lumber is to be dry kilned, however, he pointed out, and for this purpose 28 kilns, each with a capacity of 12,000 feet per day, have been installed. The kilns are in accordance with an approved design worked out at the U. S. Forest Service Laboratory at Madison, Wis.

"The casual visitor is impressed with the magnitude of the mill proper, sorter sheds, storage sheds, dry kiln buildings, planing mill, power house and other structures which have arisen within a year on what for all previous time had been a veritable jungle for its density.

"Once the mill is operating on two shifts its monthly payroll will aggregate \$135,000. And here is where the town of Vernonia takes renewed interest.

Vernonia Grows

"For a half century Vernonia has nestled in the hills at the junction of Rock Creek and the Nehalem river 25 miles west of St. Helens, and until the advent of improved highways it was quite inaccessible in the winter season. Its older residents recall the hope entertained years ago for direct rail communication with the outside world, a hope that has just been realized by the establishment of an industry which at its very beginning employs probably as many men as there were people in Vernonia when the enterprise was begun.

"In the intervening year since the new mill has been under construction the population of the town has increased to a point where Dr. Sears, its energetic mayor, claims it to number 2000, and points with pride to the new school construction, new water system and other factors that the growing population of a thriving town requires, including sewer, streets and light and power."

FIRE BOYS ALWAYS READY

The fire alarm sounded again Sunday morning and before it can be told Chief Smith was at one of the hose stations and in two minutes the west side hose wagon was attached to Joe Bauman's auto on its way to the fire. The "fire" was a false alarm but the speed and willingness of the department members to act and act quick was demonstrated as it always is in an emergency. Vernonia is well equipped for so young a department, and the city owes a great debt to our water system and the fire department that is always there when any danger threatens your home or business.

RAILROAD WORK

The Railroad has a force working at Vernonia on cuts and sidings. The road to the mill off the main track is being bettered by the cutting down of the entire hill at the curve. The big steam shovel is quite a sight to behold.

VERNONIA PLANS BUILDING Lodge, Store and Office Structure Will Go Up Soon

VERNONIA, Or., July 12. — A stock corporation has just been organized with local business men at its head to build a modern lodge, store and office building on a 60 by 100-foot site recently purchased from the Bank of Vernonia between Third st. and Weed avenue on Bridge street in Vernonia. Practically all of the stock has been subscribed and construction will begin in August, according to officers of the company. The building will be of three stories and its cost will be about \$40,000.

The ground floor will be occupied by two stores, which already have been leased to local business concerns. The front of the second floor facing Bridge street will contain five offices and the front of the third floor will be occupied by offices of the different lodges. The rear half of the second and third floors will be used as a lodge hall and will be two stories in height and have a floor area of 3000 square feet. The various lodges of the city will occupy the lodge hall on practically all the days of the week and it is planned to use the hall for fraternal and social dances.—Oregonian.

Bank of Vernonia to Build

A. E. Doyle has completed plans for a \$20,000 building to be erected at Vernonia, Or., for the Bank of Vernonia. The building will be a one-story brick structure. It will have a commodious lobby and cages. On the mezzanine floor will be committee rooms and other facilities. A modern safe will also be a feature.

The contract for the general construction work has been let to S. A. Fredrickson of Beaverton. Bauman & Berglund of Vernonia were awarded the contract for plumbing and heating. Construction work will be started Wednesday.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Christian church services next Lord's Day will be held in the high school auditorium. The unified morning services begin with the Bible school at 10. For the sermon at 11 the subject will be "Power Through Knowing Christ".

In the evening at 8 o'clock, the sermon will be given by J. M. Chastain. His subject will be "The Open Door".

Everybody cordially invited to all these services. W. A. Gressman, minister.

NEW BRICK BLOCK

Mr. Baldwin is just finishing his new fire proof block on Bridge street west of Mr. Richmond's office. It is one of the best buildings in the city. With the cement floor and tile and brick construction it is entirely fire proof and an asset to the town. The new building will be occupied by Mr. Corey with his "Crown Department Store." The store will be opened next week and Mr. Corey informs us that he will handle groceries and furnishings, as well as shoes and dry goods, making a regular department store out of it.

WHY FRACTIONAL VOTES IN A NATIONAL CONVENTION

Fractional votes occur when fewer than the full membership of a state delegation cast the vote allotted to their state. Thus, if a state were entitled to 20 votes and only 17 members were present and these divided, say 9 to 8, the candidate receiving nine votes would receive nine-sevenths of 20. The method is based on the principle that the state is entitled to full representation in relation to other states, whether or not all the individual delegates are present at a particular time. It is also happens that some states send a greater number of delegates than their quotas. A state, for example, entitled to ten full delegates, may send 20, each polling one-half vote.

MARRIED

Miss Eula Pearl John and Mr. R. C. Stanton of Vernonia were married at the home of the bride's parents on Tuesday evening, July 15. The young couple are very well and favorably known over the valley and all are wishing them all happiness and prosperity. They left Wednesday for Colfax, Wash., on a honeymoon trip.

LUMBER COMPANY HOST AT VERNONIA

Portlanders See First Logs Cut at
\$3,500,000 Plant

MACHINERY IS MARVEL

Mill Operated Almost Entirely by
Electric Power Generated by
Using Water as Fuel

The brand new \$3,500,000 plant of the Oregon-American Lumber Company at Vernonia sawed its first logs Thursday while a party of Portland railroad men, lumbermen and bankers, guests of the management of the company, watched with admiring eye. Massive logs seemed but sylinters under the handling of man-made machinery, and enormous forest conifers were speedily converted into timbers and planks for distribution to far areas of the globe.

The Oregon-American company has in the course of a year erected one of the most modern equipped plants in existence. The plant occupies a 200-acre tract, including sawmill, planing shed, power plant, klin sheds, off and on stacks, log pond and railroad yards. The pond, artificially constructed, covers 40-acres, and it will require at least two months to saw all the logs now afloat in the water.

800 Men Will Be Employed

The output of the Oregon-American mill is estimated at between 250,000 and 300,000 feet in eight hours. Working two shifts it will employ about 400 men, while another 400 will be busy in the logging operations now penetrating to a point 13 miles from Vernonia.

The sawmill of the plant has been completed and a special excursion, comprising about 100 men made the trip to Vernonia for the purpose of inspecting the new project and the ultra-modern equipment installed.

As the visitors set foot in the sawmill unit, which is constructed on solid concrete foundations and built strong steel framework, a roaring din greeted them. Automatic conveyors hurried freshly cut lumber in all directions so fast that the eye could scarcely follow. The crash of giant forest monsters on the machinery seemed to shake the solidly implanted concrete of the foundations.

Steam Pressure Works Carriers

The head rigs receiving the logs from the pond are of the most modern design. The logs are hurled on the carriers, which are of the shotgun type operated by steam pressure, band saws square the trunks and send the large timbers on to be cut into veritable toothpicks by the 40-blade gang-saw. The lengths are then fed to the trimmers, one of which is a 40-foot machine, the other a 24. The first slices taken by the band saws from the big logs are conveyed to the edgers, of which there are two large ones and a small one. Here they are ripped and carried away for sorting and storage until they are demanded by the market.

An intricate system of conveyors operated by men at controls allows the sawed strips to be sent in any direction which the sorter may choose. If it is decided a timber must suffer the mutilating fury of the re-saw, then the piece in question is sent currying to its fate by the mere pressure of a lever, the slight twitch of a finger.

Sorter Ingenious Device

The sawed material is carried to the sorter, an ingenious device which operates like a sieve automatically to cache each length of lumber in its proper resting place for drying. The operator of the head-rig on this sorter is held responsible for the efficiency of the device. He steers each plank into its right channel and the machinery does the rest.

The mill is operated almost entirely by electric power. Some machines are driven by steam, such as the head rig carrier, the "nigger" on the head-rig, the drag saw, cutting logs into right lengths, and rollers which grasp the boards as they are fed in the edgers. The mill has its own power plant. Three generators, one supply direct and two alternating current, are propelled by steam turbines. Furnaces of the boilers are fed by hog-fuel and sawdust. Especially constructed chain conveyors carry the refuse of the mill in the form of dust and splinters to the fuel bin. From the bin other carriers lead to the feed chutes. Thus the furnaces are automatically fed, requiring the attention of only one or two men.

Plenty of power is thus supplied to the mill at small expense.

Sawmill Unit Only One Completed

Water is taken from the Nehalem river and stored in the pond for the log-dump. The logs are brought to the mill on disconnected trucks. When the finished product comes from the mill it will be placed in cars and brought to Portland for the market via the Spokane, Portland & Seattle line from Vernonia.

The sawmill unit of the plant, together with the sorting apparatus, is the only one so far completed. The other units will be ready for use in a few weeks.

The trip to Vernonia, about 50 miles, was made in about two hours the trip going taking longer because of the grade. Charles S. Keith president, and Frank Schofflin, vice-president of the O.-A. company, were present to act as hosts and conduct the party through the plant.—Oregonian.

MILL OPENING IS CELEBRATED

Formal opening of the Oregon-American company's saw mill at Vernonia was celebrated Thursday, when seventy-five lumbermen, bankers and railroad officials were the guests of the company at the site of operations.

A special train left Portland at 8:30 a. m. and reached Vernonia at 10:40 a. m. Luncheon was served on the millsite, after which the visitors inspected the plant, which will commence operations Friday.

The new mill is the first in the Northwest to be constructed entirely of steel and concrete, and represents with ten miles of logging road and other construction, an investment of several million dollars.

Charles S. Keith, president of the Oregon-American Lumber company, and Frank Schofflin, vice-president, are also officers in the Central Coal & Coke company of Kansas City, which controls the the O.-A. interests.

Approximately 250,000 feet of lumber per eight hours shift will be handled by the new mill. The company owns a stand of Douglas fir fifteen miles from the mill which will keep the plant in operation on two shifts for thirty years.

The lumber will be sent largely on rail shipments East, going through Portland yards. Employment will be given 250 to 300 men on each shift, with a crew of over 200 in the woods. The company has built around seventy-five houses at the millsite for rental to its employees.

Among those invited to be a part of the group to inspect the mill are W. F. Turner, president of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroad; A. J. Davison, general manager; W. D. Skinner, traffic manager; Paul McKay, purchasing agent; E. L. King, superintendent of the Southern Pacific, and J. P. O'Brien, general manager; C. E. Dant of the Dant & Russell Lumber company; H. B. Van Duzer of the Inman-Paulsen Lumber company; John B. Yeon; F. C. Knapp of the Peninsula Lumber company; Frank Ransom of the Eastern & Western Lumber company; Myron Woodard, of the Silver Falls Lumber company, and Charles R. McCormick of the St. Helens Lumber company.—Telegram.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Sunday school at 10 a. m.
Christian Endeavor at 7 p. m.
Morning service at 11. Subject "Testing Your Religion."
Evening service at 8. Subject, "At the Dawn of a New Age."

Monday evening, July 21, a concert in the social hall by the Vincent Entertainers, under the auspices of the church choir. Admission will be 50c for adults and 25c for children under 12 years. The Vincent entertainers are recommended by Rev. Phelps who was the main speaker at the recent K. K. K. celebration.

Tuesday evening choir practice.
Thursday evening prayer meeting and Bible study.

Tuesday, July 22, the annual camp meeting of the conference opens at Jennings' Lodge, Oregon. The Sunday school convention will be held at the same place on the 31st, and the Christian Endeavor convention the day before at the same place.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass and Sermon on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:30 a. m. Week day communion Mass to be announced. Jos. P. Clancy, Pastor.

A NEW INDUSTRIAL CENTER FOR OREGON

Vernonia, 50 Miles From Portland
Offers Inducements to Home
Seekers

A new town that is forty years old. The Heart of the Big Timber. An industrial center. The fast growing city that has gone from 200 to 2000 in two years. These are the slogans that are broadcasted about Vernonia, Oregon. Vernonia is located on the "Inland Highway, midway between Portland and Astoria, about fifty miles from each city. It has a trade territory for 30 miles in each direction with no competition. The little city is in the center of the "Nehalem" Valley, noted for its fruit, vegetable and dairy possibilities. Only two years have passed since Vernonia was touched by a railroad, giving the inhabitants an outlet to markets and to the outside world.

For nearly 40 years the little village nestled cozy and contented along side of the Nehalem river and Rock Creek and surrounded by big fir trees. The populace were busy; they farmed, felled trees, fished and hunted, and were as neighborly as one big family. Then rumors of the railroad and talk of a big saw mill and other industries opened the eyes of the inhabitants to the great possibilities in store for the village. In August, 1922 the S. P. & S. laid rails into Vernonia from Portland; it was a busy and exciting day. And every since has been a little better to the business men setting stakes in the thriving and fast growing city. Vernonia has today some 2500 people and new houses being built every week. Two years ago the Oregon-American Lumber Co., a branch of the Central Coal & Coke Co., of Kansas City Mo., purchased 200 acres in the city on which to build a big all steel mill and 40 acres on which to 84 five room modern cottages have been built. For two years a large construction gang has been working on this immense mill, the largest all electric saw mill in the United States. Today the mill is finished, and on Thursday, July 10, the first log was sawed into lumber. At the time a special train loaded with bankers, business men and timbermen, of Portland, Seattle and other large cities, came to witness the opening at the future Industrial Center. With the starting of the big mill the city is starting anew. More people employed, more camps opening in the vicinity, more business openings being established and an optimistic air prevails. More industries are wanted. Small factories are solicited, such as box factories, handle factories, chair factories, creamery, brick and tile plant—these are other like institutions are needed and desired. The city has splendid churches, stand ard grade and high schools, hospital good theatres, city water system, a sewer system under construction, and light and power from Vernonia Light & Power Co., a hydro-electric plant on Rock Creek. A second railroad is now headed for Vernonia and new camps are being established, and every assurance proves that the population will double within another two years. A new mill is now being talked of by a different timber company which will add greatly to the bustling little business center. In the present new mill just starting about 800 men will be employed in mill and camp. The output will be 300,000 board feet of lumber per eight hour shift and they will run two shifts. Witnessing the starting of the plant was a sight long to be remembered.

The above is part of an article on Vernonia appearing in the August number of the "American Railway Journal" a monthly Magazine printed in Los Angeles and widely circulated in every state in the Union. The journal had a picture of our new mill on their cover page. It will be seen and read by many thousands.

A Caucus will soon be called to nominate an entire city ticket. Some names have been mentioned of men regarded as interested in the city's welfare and the Eagle sees nothing wrong with the ticket spoken of.

Mayor: A. W. Petersen.
Councilmen: C. S. Hoffman, N. Soden, W. C. Repass and J. P. McDonald.

CITY ELECTION APPROACHING