



### MOST PERFECT SAWMILL IN AMERICA NOW OPERATING IN VERNONIA

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

Following Good Facts Were Broadcasted From Coast to Coast in July, When Vernonia's Big New Mill Started Operations. The Big Plant is Now Running Full Blase

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 Schoflin, of Kansas, vice-president, and 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.

"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 southern 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 opportunities 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 Clatsop 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.

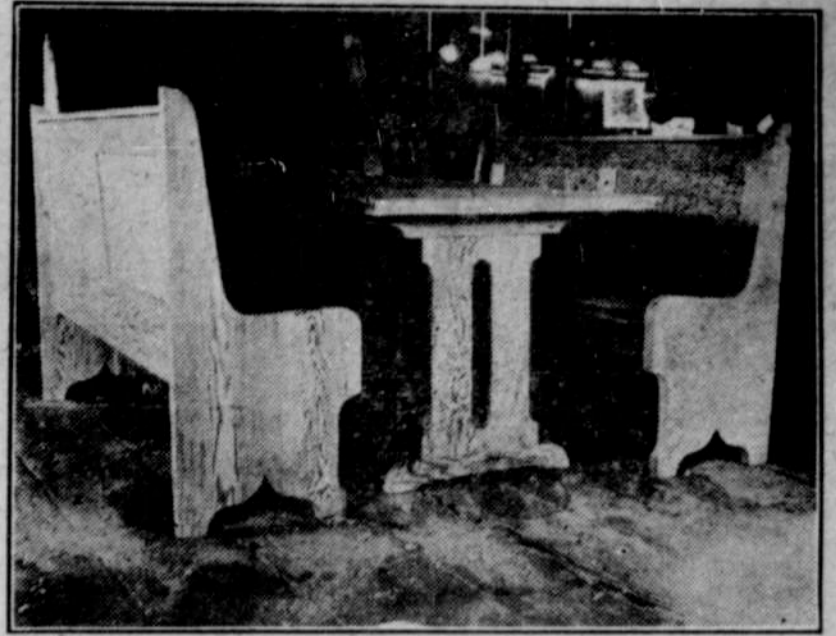
"In the intervening year since the new mill has been under construction the population of the town has increased to a point where Dr. Sears, its energetic mayor, claims it to number 2000, and points with pride to the new school construction, new water system and other factors that the growing population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

### 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

### PRODUCT OF VERNONIA WOODWORKING ESTABLISHMENT



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, standard 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 aid 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.

### VERNONIA'S FAST GROWING POST OFFICE

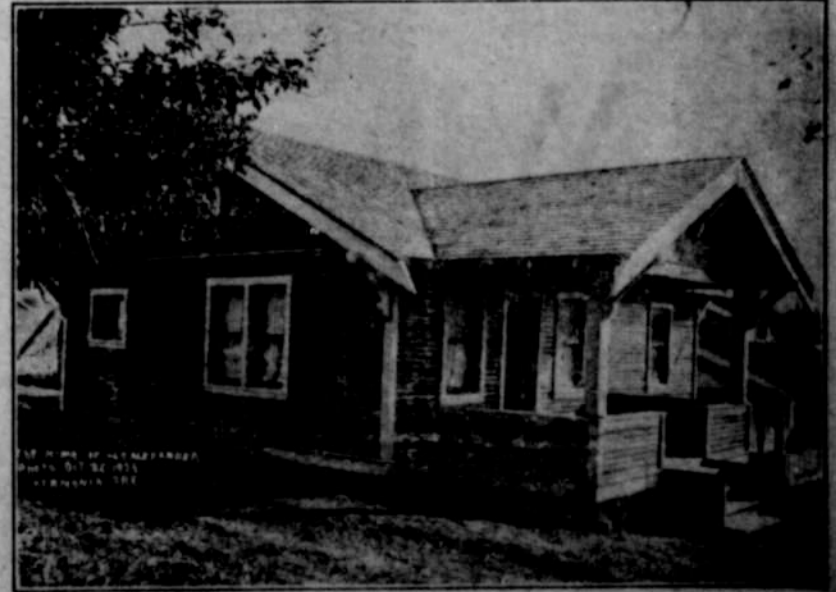


In a couple years Vernonia postal business has grown by leaps and bounds. A big wagon load of mail arrives daily. Postmaster Messing was crowded out of the former small building, and erected the present nice Postal Home, which is better able to handle the big business. Two clerks assist the postmaster in his daily tasks.

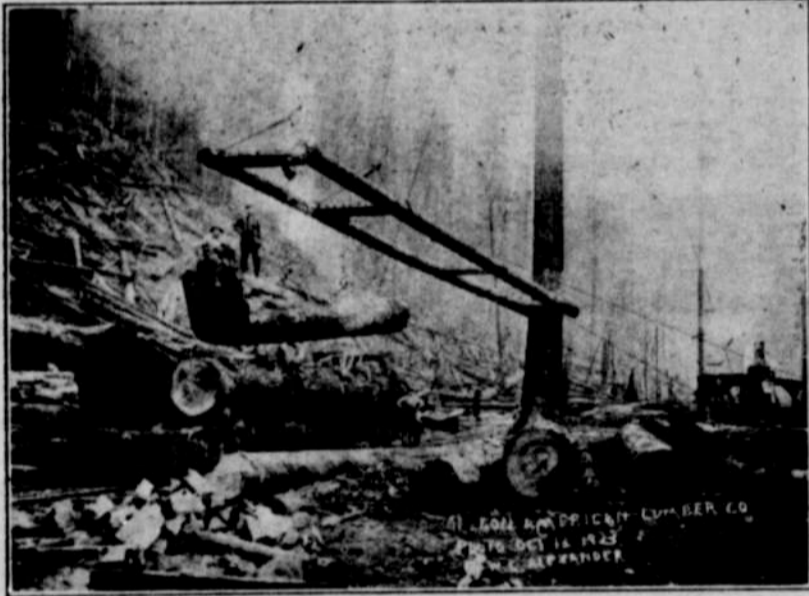
### A SCENE IN THE WOODS NEAR VERNONIA



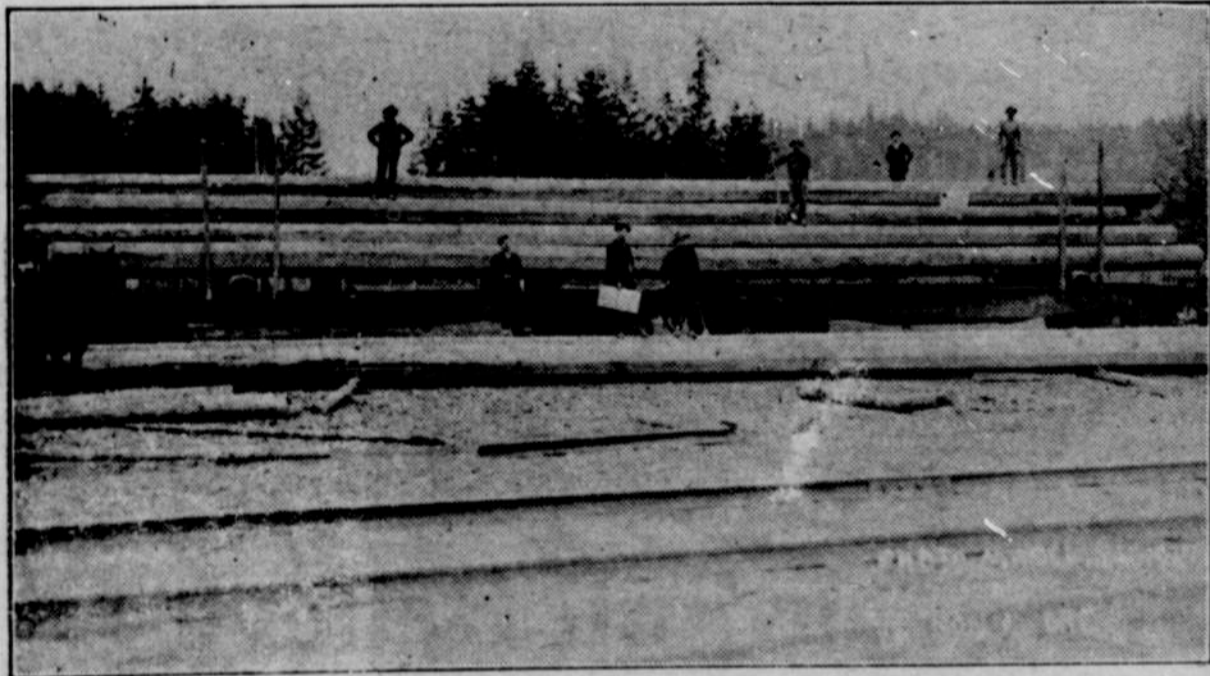
### ONE OF VERNONIA'S MANY FINE HOMES Owned By G. W. Alexander



### LOADING LOGS NEAR VERNONIA



### A LOAD OF 100-FOOT PILING MANUFACTURED AND SHIPPED TO NEW YORK BY HALL BROS. OF VERNONIA



### JUST A FEW FEET OF GOOD TIMBER TO BE FOUND AROUND VERNONIA

