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## Olympia Light & Power Company

# WHY COUNTRY FACES SHORTAGE OF FOOD

### NO RESERVE SUPPLY OF WHEAT AND WINTER CROP LOWEST ON RECORD.

So frequently and loudly have we Americans boasted that "We've enough to feed ourselves and the world, too," that it is hard to realize the seriousness of the food situation and to appreciate the urgent need of the "agricultural preparedness" campaign now in progress throughout our own state and the entire nation. Yet President Wilson considered the situation so serious that he made it the subject of a special appeal to the American people, as published in this paper last week, and every agency of the government is working to effect all possible increase in production this year. Chiefly the shortage is in wheat, the winter crop being the lowest on record, according to the government estimate as of April 1.

#### Hard to Realize.

As suggested by E. F. Benson, state commissioner of agriculture, in a letter to newspapers the other day, "It is difficult for people of this state to comprehend the possibility of a food crisis in the United States. We are apt to feel that this country has such a surplus that the question with us is how to get rid of the surplus at a good price," he adds, "and not how to get a greater surplus, but we must not close our eyes to the seriousness of the problem."

"An actual food shortage confronts the people of this nation," he continues. "The winter wheat of the East is alarmingly short. Our winter wheat in this state is only 60 per cent of a full prospect."

#### Meat Supply Is Short.

Along this same line is the official announcement of Secretary of Agriculture Houston that America's meat supply is 100,000,000 pounds short, due primarily to disease among cattle, principally foot and mouth disease and the Southern tick, and the department is putting under way strenuous efforts to increase the nation's meat production. Otherwise the United States, faced by the shortage and the necessity of feeding Europe's large armies, will have to convert itself to vegetarianism, Secretary Houston declares.

Perhaps the most comprehensive review of the situation is that given in the April 16 bulletin of the National City Bank of New York, the largest financial institution of the United States, which in addition to receiving detailed and accurate reports of crop conditions from all parts of the United States, maintains a corps of correspondents throughout Europe and has a number of branch banks in various parts of the world. A copy of this bulletin was received by the Olympia National bank last week.

"The situation," it declares, "grows more serious as spring advances. All of Europe—neutrals as well as warring countries—has been placed upon food rations to ek out supplies until the new crop is harvested. This country entered the present crop year last July with 164,000,000 bushels of wheat carried over from the crop of 1915, and in 1916 produced 482,000,000 bushels of winter wheat and 158,000,000 of spring wheat; total supply, 804,000,000.

#### No Wheat Carried Over.

"This year there will be practically no wheat carried over and the government's estimate upon the winter crop forecasts a yield of only 430,000,000. On this basis the spring wheat crop must be 214,000,000 bushels larger than last year in order to give us a wheat supply equal to what we will export and consume in the crop year now closing.

"This is an alarming outlook. The spring wheat crop is notoriously subject to weather conditions. More spring wheat should be sown, but it is doubtful if the wheat shortage can be made up. Other food crops must be grown to meet the deficiency.

"This country is now at war and our allies, Belgium, Great Britain, France and Italy, are dependent upon us for food. They will have no reserves and must have more from us in the coming year than in the past, or they will not be able to feed all their people. Added to the appeals of starving humanity will be military reasons making it impossible for us to put an embargo upon the exportation of food.

"We must divide what we grow this year with these countries and with the neutral countries—Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain—which are not self-sustaining in grain supplies. And not only must we supply enough to keep those peoples from starving, but enough to cover the heavy losses at sea which result from submarine warfare.

#### Situation Not Dreamed Of.

"If we grow no more food than

# CHEVROLET GROWS RAPIDLY ON COAST

### INTRODUCED THREE YEARS AGO—BIG FACTORY NOW OPERATING AT OAKLAND.

The development of the Chevrolet interests on the Pacific Coast affords one of the most interesting stories in the history of the automobile industry in America.

A little more than three years ago the Chevrolet made its debut on the Pacific Coast, and there was a small establishment in Los Angeles from which the business of the line was conducted for the entire Coast territory. Almost like magic the Chevrolet line has jumped into popularity and today there is a great factory at Oakland turning out 12 carloads of automobiles per day; there are 200 dealers and sub-dealers handling the line in the territory supplied by the Chevrolet factory at Oakland and

held on and the harder the going, the harder he fought for business. At last he began to gain public recognition, and he began to sell cars throughout the state as well as in Southern California.

Then came the Phoenix road race of 1914. Young Durant, now vice-president and sales manager of the Chevrolet factory, entered a car and drove it himself, finishing well up in the money, in this, the hardest of all motor classics.

The wonderful performance of the sturdy little Chevrolet in the famous desert grind gave it impetus, and the sales force took on new life. At the end of the year when young Durant took stock, he found that he had made \$17,000.

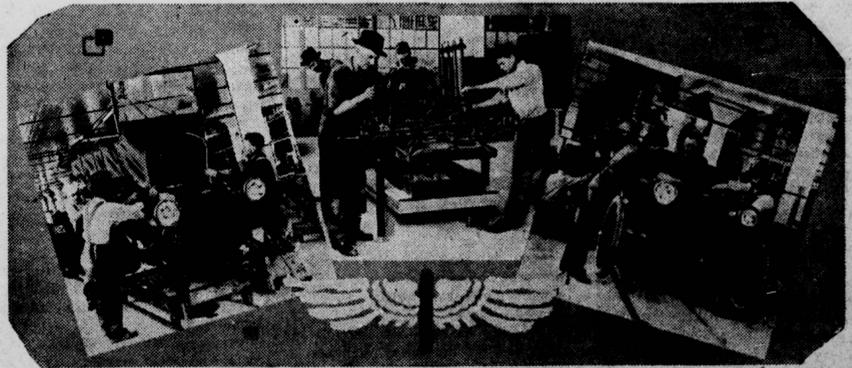
At that time he had several dealers and sub-dealers, and Norman De Vaux, veteran of the motor car industry and well known on the Pacific Coast, became interested in the Chevrolet line. Joining forces with Durant, the organization became known as De Vaux & Durant, Pacific Coast Chevrolet distributors.

dollar Chevrolet factory at Oakland. While the Oakland factory is merely a California venture, controlled by California men, its product is supported by the Chevrolet policy and every car turned out is backed not only by the million-dollar corporation, the Chevrolet Motor Company of California, but by the eighty-four million dollar Chevrolet Motor company.

Starting with an output of nine cars the first day the factory commenced production, the plant now has a capacity of 75 cars per day, which is to be increased to 100 cars per day shortly. Additions to the plant at Oakland are now under construction, and as soon as these additions are completed the Chevrolet factory will not only be the largest on the Pacific Coast, but one of the largest in the entire country.

#### Factory Fully Modern.

Sales Manager Henderson, of the Cole Motor Car company, of Indianapolis, said only last week that the Chevrolet factory at Oakland is as modern as any in the United States,



SCENES IN FACTORY WHERE CHEVROLET IS MADE.

the contracts of these dealers call for an output of 22,000 cars this year.

After being trained by the manufacturing wizard, W. C. Durant, president of the Chevrolet and head of the General Motors company, R. C. Durant, his son, came to California to build up the line. His capital consisted of a carload of Chevrolet machines and \$500 in cash. Added to this was the experience gained through years of service in his father's factories. With this equipment the younger Durant opened a small salesroom and service station in Los Angeles.

#### Going Hard at First.

For the first few months it was discouraging, but the young man

Up and down the Coast interest in the car spread. The demand became so great that it was decided by the company to erect a factory in California. De Vaux and Durant went East and had a conference with W. C. Durant. In a very short time the factory was a reality.

Durant & De Vaux became the Chevrolet Motor Company of California. R. C. Durant, who had come to California with but \$500 of his father's money, less than three years before, had something like \$250,000, and he was able to raise another \$250,000, which, with a like amount invested by President Norman De Vaux, made the necessary capital for the erection of the great million-

being on a par with the Dodge, Ford and other great factories. Mr. Henderson said that the Chevrolet factory in Oakland is now turning out more cars than any factory in Indianapolis, and that the people of California fail to realize the importance of this factory to the automobile industry.

The Chevrolet is rapidly coming to the front in the territory of which Olympia is the center, being represented here by the Capital Transit & Repair company, which is now undertaking an aggressive campaign in Thurston and Mason counties under the direction of Burton Troxell, who became affiliated with the company last week as sales manager.

we did last year—and so far the outlook is for less—there is danger of a food situation such as the world in modern times has not dreamed of."

The bulletin quotes from a letter received by an officer of the National City bank from Sir George Paish of London, editor of the London Statist and one of the most distinguished economists of the world. Discussing the world's food situation, he said, under date of March 21:

"I have been endeavoring to form some sort of notion of the world's supplies of food both this season and next, and have come to the conclusion that if the American people will continue to help the world to get through this time of great stress and strain by (1) growing as much food as possible, and (2) themselves consuming no more than absolutely essential, the world will weather through, although the margin of safety will be very slender."

#### CONSIDER DITCH PROJECT.

Lewis and Thurston Commissioners Postpone Action Until Later.

County Commissioners of Lewis and Thurston counties met at Chehalis Saturday to take up the matter of the drainage work along the two county lines, which has been under consideration for some time, but final action was deferred until a later meeting. In the meantime J. E. Berry of Centralia, has been employed to survey several acres north of the original tracts, which it is proposed to add to the improvement. There is an old drainage ditch on the location of the work, but it is choked and inoperative.

The estimated cost of the improvement is about \$7,000 and several hundred acres of land will be drained. Both counties are to share in the expense and benefits, and make assessments against the property. The work is to be done under the supervision of Engineer Neville of Lewis county.

Purchase of 27 acres of land near the end of the pavement on East Fourth street by State Law Librarian C. Will Shaffer was announced this week. A house and lot on West Tenth street formed part of the \$7,200 consideration.

#### STATE OFFERS FREE LAND. Applicants Must Agree to Cultivate Tracts With Food Crops.

State Land Commissioner Savidge announced this week that the state will give the use of vacant state lands free of rental charge, during this present season only, to all who will agree to use them to raise food crops. The offer does not apply to grazing lands which would be ruined by being broken out.

Co-operation with the government in its efforts to increase the food supply to meet the present crisis, prompts this offer by the state. Applications for the use of city lots must be indorsed either by the mayor or the president of the Commercial club; those for outside tracts by at least one member of the board of county commissioners. Applications will receive prompt attention.

#### TREADWELL MINES FLOODED. World's Largest Gold Quartz Stamp Mill Properties Are Ruined.

A final check showing that no lives were lost at Juneau Sunday in the flooding of the great Treadwell mines, is the only consolation that residents harbor for their great loss. The mines, largest gold quartz stamp mill properties in the world, valued at \$60,000,000, passed into history beyond redemption when the waters of the Gastineau channel broke into the workings under the channel, flooding all the mines except Ready Bullion.

Actual loss to the mines is \$10,000,000, but this is light when it is considered that the great output which supports the Juneau district has been stopped. Future mining there will be impossible, say residents.

#### SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT

(From The Commoner.) How many men should be listed? As many as the government asks for. And how much money should be appropriated? As much as the government thinks necessary. Individual opinions are merged in one voice, the voice of the government. W. J. BRYAN.

# JOINT WAR COUNCIL IS NOW UNDER WAY

### BRITISH, FRENCH AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS BEGIN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

Upon the arrival of General Joffre, Vice-Premier Viviani and the other members of the French war commission at the national capital Wednesday, all preliminaries to the conference which will shape America's part in the war on Germany had been disposed of and the formal sessions of the commissioners with President Wilson, Secretary of State Lansing and other members of the cabinet and the army general staff are now under way.

The big outstanding question before the joint war council is: Will America send an army to the battlefield at once?

The French desire it. The British are non-committal, but intimate that the United States can do more for the allies now with money and food. The Washington administration inclines to the implied British view.

In the quiet, broad boulevard city on the Potomac, surrounded by the hills and dales over which the first great battles for a nation's freedom were fought more than a century ago, the representatives of the greatest peoples of the earth will be gathered for the next three weeks.

Europe, according to the impression given by the British war commissioners, looks upon the declaration of principles being evolved by the international conferees, such as the original 13 states looked upon the Declaration of Independence made in the cradle of liberty, not three hours' distant from Washington, July 4, 1776.

Thus the developments of the next 21 days in this world's war capital are given a far wider significance than could be given by a mere discussion of America's mechanical part in the war of nations.

The war of the revolution, the conferees say, was a war to guarantee freedom of the development of personal individuality, while the world war, whose broad policies are being determined here now, is a war to guarantee freedom of development of nations and peoples.



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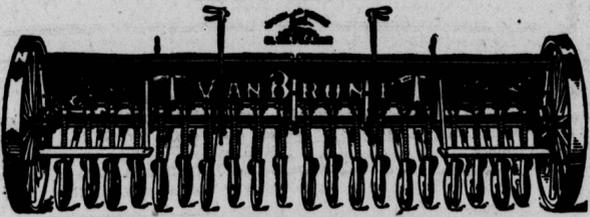
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