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RAPID PROCESS IN KILN-DRYING

United States Forest Service Makes Experiments in Kiln-Drying Fir

DISCOVERS FAST PROCESS

The Forest Service Thinks New Process Is Adapted To Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—The Forest Service has been making experiments, at its Madison, Wisconsin, laboratory, in kiln-drying grand fir (one of the white firs), a species which is abundant in Oregon and Washington. These experiments have resulted in a very rapid and satisfactory process of drying fir.

First, the green lumber is heated clear through to the boiling point by allowing live steam to escape into the kiln until a vapor temperature of 225 to 230 degrees F is reached. For one-inch lumber, this should continue for about four hours, and is designed to prevent surface drying and also to aid in the evaporation of some of the moisture in the wood. The live steam is then turned off, and the humidity reduced from about 100 per cent to 40 per cent. The temperature of air and circulation should be maintained, however. At the end of sixteen hours, the humidity is still further reduced to 30 per cent, and the lumber removed at the end of thirty to forty hours.

The length of time for each operation will depend upon local conditions or circumstances—such as method of piling, kind of lumber, initial amount of moisture, and the exactness with which the required conditions of drying can be maintained. The piling is an important factor, for the lumber must be so piled that there is free circulation of air over every part of it. Edged stacking or piling is best.

Although this method of drying is very rapid, the lumber showed very little checking, no discoloration, but slight loosening of the knots, and slight case-hardening. In material that is not to be resawed, probably this latter difficulty would not appear. At all events, the amount of circulation and high humidity at the same time tends to diminish or prevent this effect.

The tests from which this method was developed were made with a special humidity-regulated kiln. Similar results may be obtained by using somewhat the same process by the oven or non-draft method now quite extensively used in the Northwest. In fact, any type of kiln may be operated in this manner by closing the ventilators to prevent draft. It is important that the lumber be heated through by means of a steam bath, and at a temperature of 225 to 230 degrees F. be maintained. It is difficult to control the humidity in most of the kilns now in use, but as the drying proceeds, the humidity automatically drops and the required conditions are approximated.

SOLD BY CONSTABLE

Plant of Aberdeen Glazed Cement Pipe Company Sold—Lack of Local Support Causes Trouble

The Aberdeen Glazed Cement Pipe Co., organized a few years ago by local men, with the object of supplying the Grays Harbor region with cement pipe, has practically ceased to exist, and the plant was sold Monday by Constable Fenwick to satisfy a claim of \$50, held by J. M. Vasbinder. The plant was bought for the amount of the judgment by L. G. Humbarger, manager of the Independent Sand & Gravel Co.

The organization of this company was the means of saving the city considerable money in the purchase of sewer pipe, but it had insufficient capital to endure. As soon as it began operations, large concerns on the Sound reduced the price of cement products on Grays Harbor to a point impossible to compete with, and so put the new company out of business.

BUILD JETTIES TO PROTECT RIVER BANKS

The Grays Harbor Construction company has a force of men at work driving piles for the jetties being constructed near Montesano by the Grays Harbor Port Commission. The jetties are intended to control the current in the Chehalis river and to prevent it gouging the bank and cutting across the neck of land around which the river loops. If that were to happen, Montesano would be left on a slough. The work of jetty construction which is costing about \$3,000, will be completed in a couple of weeks.

SHOOTS MAN HE SAYS HE FEARED

Barry C. Moxley Kills E. Alvin Preston in Quarrel at Grays Harbor City

THREE BULLETS IN BREAST

Says Preston Threatened Him With Hammer, and He Shot in Self Defense

HOQUIAM, Dec. 31.—Barry C. Moxley, 35 years old, in charge of the pumping station of the Hoquiam Water Company at Grays Harbor City, ton, aged 55, Wednesday morning, Moxley shot and instantly killed E. Alvin Preston, who surrendered, says he fired in self-defense. He is in the city prison. The dead man was a half-brother of Gen. S. M. Preston, of Seattle, and a distant relative by marriage of Harold Preston, the well-known Seattle attorney.

The tragedy occurred in the boiler room of the pumping station. Moxley fired three shots at Preston. All bullets pierced the breast.

Moxley told the police he shot Preston following a quarrel, when Preston started toward him with a small sledge hammer uplifted in a threatening manner.

Discharged Recently. About a month ago Moxley, on instructions from the water company, laid off Preston, who had been working at the plant. He said Preston flew into a rage and threatened he would "shoot his heart out." Moxley says from that day he has carried a pistol.

Preston appeared at the pumping station Wednesday for the first time since he was laid off. He told Moxley he had called for a few of his belongings. Among these was the sledge hammer. The two men, according to Moxley, became involved in an argument over the articles Preston claimed. Moxley says Preston raised the hammer and walked toward him. Moxley drew his revolver and fired. Moxley has been employed at the pumping station about four years, and has a wife and one child.

Preston had lived in Grays Harbor City for seven years. After an autopsy, Coroner Hunter decided an inquest unnecessary.

Had Followed the Sea. E. Alvin Preston was born in Stafford, Vt., and in his early years he followed the sea, travelling all over the world.

Mr. Preston was a deep sea sailor for many years. For nearly eight years Mr. Preston had lived at Grays Harbor City, cultivating a small piece of land and working in Hoquiam as a laborer. For a number of years he worked for George A. Gillette, the contractor. It is said he had an 80-acre tract of land on Chenoweth creek. Mr. Preston was 55 years old and was a lifelong teetotaler. He is survived by his wife, three sons and five daughters. The sons are Ernest, who is in the East and has a family; "Chit," a well known local boxer, and Warner, who lives at home. The daughters are Mrs. Ernest Willis of Aberdeen; a married daughter, Anna, in Oregon; Alice, who is attending the Hoquiam high school; Clarice and Gladys.

LUMBERMEN PROTEST AUSTRALIAN TARIFF

Senator Voices Their Fears That British Columbia Is Seeking Undue Advantage

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Senator Poindexter today put up to Secretary Bryan the protest of Pacific coast lumber manufacturers against the efforts of the British Columbia manufacturers to secure a preferential tariff on lumber in the Australian states. The senator showed that such tariffs, if enacted by those states, would be a discrimination against the United States, and he argued that since this administration in the matter of the Panama canal tolls was so intent on avoiding discrimination against Britain, it should be equally alert in seeking to prevent British possessions discriminating against the United States.

Secretary Bryan promised to look into the matter.

CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING

Rev. and Mrs. F. K. Van Tassel will celebrate their golden wedding on Monday evening, January 11, at their home, Market street and Broadway. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tassel are pioneers of Aberdeen, and will receive the congratulations of a host of friends on this memorable occasion.

Father Time Loops the Loop Again



COST OF COUNTY ROADS THIS YEAR

Chehalis County Is Noted for Its Good Roads, and They Cost Some Money

MONTESANO, Dec. 31.—The county has spent in road building and repairs this year, \$261,852. That is in addition to state and permanent highway funds.

This \$261,000 went for engineering, \$1018; supervisors and foremen, \$15,600; labor and teams, \$90,899; material, \$23,011; contracts, \$119,817 and tools and machinery, \$9754. General roads and bridges got \$65,168 of the total; district No. 1, \$22,682; district No. 2, \$33,845; district No. 3, \$80,092; district No. 4, \$32,514; district No. 5, \$22,612; district No. 6, \$24,956.

Of other funds besides the current expense previously reported the veteran soldiers' relief fund shows expenditures of \$1470.65. The game protection fund spent \$5,512.18. The circulating library fund shows expenditures of only \$6.50. The Port of Grays Harbor spent a total of \$2539.82, of which \$2,443.60 was for election expenses.

Probable Changes This Year.

County road work next season may be delayed somewhat owing to the change in the makeup of the board of commissioners. While appropriations were made for certain roads, it does not necessarily follow the money will be used strictly where it was estimated for and no contracts of importance will be let until the new commissioners get in and familiarize themselves with the needs of the county.

The main misfortune of this is the short season left for doing any contracting. To finish any considerable job in this county contracts should be let in January or February, so the contractor can have the clearing and grubbing done, ready for grading when the dry weather begins.

TWO SUITS APPEALED

MONTESANO, Dec. 31.—Two suits were appealed from Justice of the Peace J. M. Phillips' court today, in both of which Judge Phillips found for the plaintiff. They are the Independent Sand & Gravel company's suit against R. E. Pasley to collect \$99 and J. F. Balsch's suit against the Aberdeen Drug company to collect \$53.05.

MUST CONDEMN TO CHANGE ROUTE

Mrs. Stewart Will Resist At- tempt of City Council to Change Bluff Road

PRESENT GRADE GOOD

Councilman Vandevort Sees No Need of Change—Route Meets Demand of State

At the meeting of the city council Wednesday evening, the bid for a car-load of hay by the Chehalis Produce company was referred, there being but one bid received, a special committee was appointed to look into the site for an electric light pole in controversy; the engineer was instructed to survey F street and work out a method of improving the street; Mrs. J. B. Stewart made it known she would fight securing any other route for a road around the bluff than the one offered, and a batch of minor matters made up the principal business given attention.

The report of the committee rejecting the petition for the vacation of L street north of Broadway, was approved.

A warrant was ordered drawn in favor of the county for \$317.80 for L. I. D. No. 469.

Claims were referred to the city attorney against Hunley & Henry for \$315 by R. E. Pasley and for \$38 by the Chehalis Produce company.

A petition was referred for an electric light at Newell and Henry streets, which had 14 signers.

An ordinance was passed authorizing issuance of local improvement bonds for the alley improvement in block 20, Weatherwax addition, from Broadway to lot 7.

The committee appointed to interview Mrs. J. B. Stewart relative to a new route around the bluff, reported Mrs. Stewart positively refused to consider any other route than the one offered and that she would contest any move of the city to acquire another right of way. It was ordered filed. Councilman Vandevort said in his opinion, if the city started to condemn, Mrs. Stewart would get a big price for the land because the route she offered met grade requirements of the state highway board. Vandevort thought the demand of

ESCAPES BANDIT BY SPEED BURST

W. L. Leighton, of Hoquiam, Foil Holdup Man by Break- ing Speed Ordinance

Shortly before 7 o'clock Wednesday night a bold attempt was made to rob William L. Leighton, a Hoquiam merchant, who was driving to Aberdeen in his auto. A red lantern, placed in the center of Pacific avenue by the bandit succeeded in causing Leighton to slow down his car, but a premonition of danger and a quick decision to go ahead full speed, foiled the highwayman and may have maimed him as, in trying to hold on to the machine, he was hurled violently to the street.

When Leighton saw the red light he concluded it was odd, as he had traveled over Pacific avenue a few hours before and found the thoroughfare all right. Leighton had no sooner slowed down than he scented danger and as quickly sent home the accelerator and the automobile jumped ahead. As it gathered speed a man, supposedly masked, though Leighton was not sure of this, and carrying a revolver, jumped alongside from the darkness and seized the side of the machine. The burst of speed whirled the fellow off his feet and broke his hold and he fell to the street. Leighton kept his foot off the "soft pedal" until the police station here was reached when he reported the affair.

Because granting his request would be a violation of the building ordinance, the fire committee reported adversely to granting W. B. Lowry a permit to erect temporary chimneys at 109 and 111 East Heron street.

A committee will investigate the site for an electric light pole on the Northern Pacific right of way in the Donovan Lumber company's yards.

Mayor France reported F street in bad shape and in need of repairs. It should be filled or replanked, he thought, the former process probably being the more practical. Councilman Fraser thought filling the street by sluicing might be the proper thing and it was decided to have the engineer make a survey, so the proposed improvement would conform with the D street extension and to work out a method for the improvement.

OUTLOOK IS BRIGHT FOR PROSPERITY IN NEW YEAR

United States Enters the New Year With Every Indication that all Obstacles to Pros- perity Have Been Removed

EUROPEAN WAR AIDS FOREIGN TRADE

Completion of Panama Canal Opens Wide Field For Pacific Coast Commerce — Rail- road Rate Advance Helps

The United States will enter the new year with nearly every obstacle to prosperity out of the way and with many stimulants to prosperity in full operation. The farmers have been paid high prices for large crops. Many lines of industry are working full force full time to supply war material, sales of which up to December are estimated at \$500,000,000. Export demand for iron and steel is steadily increasing since the railroads have been enabled by the rate advance to resume buying. General construction and building have revived and will add to the demand. Merchants in the grain belt are settling old accounts and are buying more freely to meet liberal buying by their customers. An increasing demand for every commodity seems to be the natural consequence.

There is every reason in basic conditions why business should flow in a full stream. With all its faults, the Underwood tariff is fastened upon the country for at least two and probably four or five years. Hence our manufacturers must adapt their business to it and make the best of it. They are being aided in this adjustment by the war, which has cut off a large measure of foreign competition at home and has offered to them a splendid opening in foreign markets. Opening of the regional banks has inspired confidence in financial conditions, has coincided with if it has not aided in, the opening of a period of easy money and has assured the country of a volume of money corresponding to the volume of business. The anti-trust laws are the last legislation affecting business to be attempted by Congress for at least another year and probably during this administration. Business men are, therefore, safe in adapting their methods to those enactments. The advance in railroad rates establishes the principle that public regulation is not inconsistent with a fair profit on capital. That the spirit of this decision is generally abroad is noted by the Boston correspondent of the New York Evening Post in the remark that there is "an increasing tendency on the part of courts and public service commissions to stress the fact that business enterprises must be allowed sufficient profit to attract new capital."

Reopening of the Stock Exchange has been followed by a considerable volume of European selling, but the minimum prices set by the exchange have prevented sales from becoming as extensive as was feared. On the other hand, the London agreement that banks should be at liberty to call loans whenever the collateral rose to the level of July 27 has prevented a rise to that level, since such a rise would bring a flood of selling orders. Thus the market has been operating under a maximum as well as a minimum price list. London admits that even within these limits, there have been realizing sales from Europe, partly because banks desired to increase their liquid resources. Assurance given by the rate decision that railroads will be permitted to earn fair income and that industries dependent on railroad prosperity will profit by the advance may well check the foreign selling movement.

The case of the money market is such that the open market rate has declined more rapidly than the reserve discount rate set by the reserve banks, which have reduced the rate in the first month of operation from 6 to 5 per cent. and yet have made an insignificant amount of rediscounts. The low rates are a recognition of a period of easy money, but this has been caused by small demand. As business revives demand will grow, but the Federal reserve system provides that volume of money shall grow in proportion and secures us against gold exports unless an adverse trade balance warrants.

We are more likely to import than to export in the coming year. Our exports in the expiring year reached the unprecedented total of \$200,000,000, but our balance of exports over

imports of commodities is growing so fast as more than to offset our foreign debts. This balance in November was \$79,200,000, in October \$57,000,000 and in September \$16,900,000. August having shown a balance against us. Our export balance is still below the figures for corresponding months of 1913, but is decreasing rapidly. In October, it was \$81,600,000 under that for October, 1913, but in November the difference was only \$17,700,000 and December may show an increase. The only influence likely to prevent imports and cause exports of gold is heavy liquidation of foreign security holdings, which is not yet in sight.

The favorable trade balance is being swollen rapidly month by month by the resumption of cotton exports to Europe. Two million bales have been shipped and this total may be enlarged before the new year, the chief difficulty being now to find ships. Cotton exports in November were less than half those in November, 1913, but in the first week of December they were 80 per cent of the total for the same period of last year, and the second week showed an increase of 12 per cent. With exports of cotton again normal and those of foodstuffs and manufacturers above normal, while imports are far below normal, the favorable trade balance may soon grow to such proportions as to justify gold imports, even after offsetting considerable unloading of American securities by Europe.

Our wheat crop for 1914 is estimated by the Government to have been worth \$878,680,000 on the basis of December 1 prices, or \$202,000,000 more than the most valuable previous crop. The cotton crop was estimated to be worth \$306,000,000 less than that of 1913, but the others among the twelve great crops showed such an increase as to reduce the total falling off in value compared with 1913 to only \$21,000,000. The December report on winter wheat showed a condition 9 per cent lower than in December, 1913, but an increase of 11 1/2 per cent in acreage, indicating that the total yield in 1915 will about equal that of 1914, though estimates based on December reports are unsafe. Reduction of European production of wheat by the war holds out prospects of a large decrease in the world's total and of consequence high prices and large foreign demand.

Steel has been recovering from depression, foreign sales having grown from the low level of August to a point beyond the average for the first six months of 1914. December orders showed a decided improvement over November and renew demand for railroad and building materials has made manufacturers unwilling to take orders at present prices except for immediate delivery.

As to general business, Boston believes that for months to come the volume will be below normal, but that the period of disintegration has ended and that of reconstruction begun. In manufactures, Philadelphia reports that a reassuring turn followed the rate decision though business continues backward, but that city looks for a large export business.

For the Pacific Coast all these conditions warrant predictions of a ready market for foodstuffs, an increased road construction and more capital for general development.—Oregonian.

THE NEW YEAR IS GREETED WITH NOISE

The New Year was ushered in with the usual noise in Aberdeen at midnight. Steam whistles, ringing of bells, auto horns, tin horns, drums, cow bells, and the vocal efforts of the crowds of men and boys who thronged the downtown streets last night, made the welkin ring.

Open house was kept in the hotels and restaurants, services were held in some of the churches and watch night parties in private homes were numerous. Today, the stores, banks and postoffice are closed, and the streets wear a Sunday appearance.