

PLANE AIRPLANE FUNDS CHANGED U. S. Paid \$650 for Lumber Worth \$180. Declares Providence Journal

WASHINGTON, July 14.—A new investigation of American airplane production, or rather the lack of production during the war, has its birth yesterday in charges of flagrant waste of public funds, of incompetence, of dishonesty and of dissipation by army officials.

The charges are made by the Providence (R. I.) Journal and submitted with affidavits supporting them to the House committee investigating War-department expenditures.

This latest official opening of a modern Pandora's box uncovers a phase of airplane emergency manufacture not heretofore revealed in the story of airplane production of spruce lumber in the Northwest. The subcommittee on aircraft production, headed by Representative Frank R. Rowley, is to inspect the spruce forests for first-hand confirmation of the charges made by the newspaper.

The committee will also look into the getting out of spruce timber by government railway construction and other activities of the airplane service of the Pacific coast. They declare that the government was subjected to a cost-plus system, to a cost of virtually \$650 a thousand feet of spruce when private concerns were procuring the same kind of spruce for from \$130 to \$175 a thousand.

The charges assert that some of the companies given contracts for the construction of railroads and the production of spruce timber had no practical logging experience or knowledge; that they were caused by the government in the building of camps in various localities, camps which had to be abandoned, ran into many thousands of dollars; that there were an utter lack of proper care of foodstuffs and that in many cases hundreds of dollars' worth of flour and lard were carelessly thrown in the mud at the side of the spruce left to rot. In one instance even stoves were left by the roadside exposed to the weather and ruined.

There are affidavits alleging that many miles of two-inch plank road were built into the forests and never used; also the construction of camps where spruce lumber was felled, but not a stick was brought out.

Attempts at salvage. "Affidavits by men on the spot assert that camps were started, that hundreds of workmen, as well as United States soldiers, were transported to the locality where spruce lumber was to be built, and that, after the lumber had been built, roadways, structures and provisions and equipment brought in instructions were received to abandon the camps. So far as could be learned no attempt whatever was made to salvage any of the material used in the construction.

Besides this, much of the correspondence which emanated from the office of Colonel Disque, chief of the spruce production division, in regard to the letting of contracts for the construction of railroads and the production of spruce, was also turned over to the committee.

Practical lumber men, as well as railroad men, are authority for the statement that in the cost-plus system adopted by Colonel Disque, the construction of railroads into the forests and the production of spruce cost the price of the lumber to such a point that in the aggregate the government paid virtually \$650 a thousand feet of spruce it procured, while private interests were getting out the same kind of a cost of from \$130 to \$175 a thousand feet. One of the biggest lumber men on the coast asserts this to be a fact.

The process of raising the splitting logs into quarters by means of wedges, was inaugurated by Colonel Disque, and although he succeeded for a time in getting out the material, the waste was terrific.

GERMANY INCREASED GOLD DURING WAR Inflation of Paper Money to Meet Army Expenses Greatly in Austria-Hungary

Washington, July 14.—Germany increased her stock of gold during the war, but lost \$122,000,000 between January 1 and May 31 of this year, according to information obtained by the Federal Reserve Board. The loss was due to reparations made by Germany and Russia for gold stolen from those countries and by shipments to neutral countries in financing purchases of food.

Beginning with \$298,000,000 in gold at the outbreak of the war, the German Reichsbank increased its metal to \$439,000,000 at the end of 1918.

The Federal Reserve Bank of this country and the Bank of England increased their holdings of gold, but the Bank of France and the Bank of Italy showed decreases.

Inflation of paper money to meet war expenses was greatest in Austria-Hungary, where the increase in four years was for \$423,000,000 to \$8,747,000,000. The increase in the United States was \$1,200,000,000 to \$5,285,000,000, with still further increase in 1919.

France increased her bank notes from \$1,200,000,000 to \$5,285,000,000, and the United States from \$1,000,000,000 to \$2,802,000,000.

Summary of Charges. The committee will also look into the getting out of spruce timber by government railway construction and other activities of the airplane service of the Pacific coast.

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GLoucester Bars Thrive Camden Thirty Attracted to Saloons Selling 2.75 Per Cent Beer

In Gloucester City on Saturday evening the hotels and saloons there which are open and disposing of the 2 1/2 per cent beer, enjoyed one of the best nights of their career, as the action of the executive board in Camden requiring the Camden saloons to close down flat sent the thirsty toward Gloucester City.

The result was that extra bartenders in most places had to be called upon because of the wants of those who were seeking the new beer.

Before midnight most of the saloons had sold out, and closed their doors. Be it as it may, there were no arrests Saturday night for drunkenness. About ten out of the twenty-eight saloons in Gloucester are operating with doors open.

Deaths. LE GRAND—Deaths, July 12. HARRY, husband of Margaret Le Grand and son of Alexander and Helen Le Grand. Frank M. Le Grand, Philadelphia, Pa. Interment, Holy Cross cemetery, Philadelphia, Pa. Interment, Holy Cross cemetery, Philadelphia, Pa.

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PERSONALS

LOST AND FOUND. COLLAR—Lost, diamond and black velvet collar, containing 11 diamonds and one pearl-shaped diamond ring, stamped with 'E. J. 1234' on the back. Reward, \$100.00. Inquirer, 1234 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

PERSONALS. ACCOUNTANT. Man with public accounting experience, thoroughly familiar with cost accounting, etc. Address: 1234 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

PERSONALS. BOOKKEEPER'S ASSISTANT. Good penman, accurate at figures, permanent position for right party. Only those having experience need apply. Friedman-Aronson Mfg. Co., 4000 N. 18th St., near Wayne Junction, Philadelphia, Pa.

PERSONALS. HOG ISLAND SHIPYARD. WANTS. RIVETERS. RIVETING GANGS. COPPERSMITHS, FIRST CLASS. BRASSERS. PASSENGER BOYS. MUST BE OVER 16 AND FURNISH PROOF OF AGE.

PERSONALS. MACHINERY HANDS—EXPERIENCED. MEN on moulders or stokers. 48 hours, highest wages. Fleming Mill, 1th and Thoga sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

PERSONALS. HOUSE GIRL wanted. Sherry's Cafe, Broad and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

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