

THE EMMETT INDEX.

PUBLISHED IN THE GARDEN VALLEY OF IDAHO.

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR.

EMMETT, GEM COUNTY, IDAHO, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1916.

No. 38.

BOISE-PAYETTE CO.'S MILL TO EMMETT

BUILDING OPERATIONS TO BEGIN AT ONCE

Definite Announcement Made by General Manager Barton—Construction to Commence Soon and Crew of 250 Men to be Employed Within Six Weeks

The big sawmill of the Boise-Payette Lumber company will be located at Emmett. This announcement was made yesterday by C. A. Barton, vice president and general manager of the company, accompanied by the state that construction work "will be started soon and within six weeks a crew of from 200 to 250 men will be employed."

This is good news to Emmett people, and a feeling of jubilation is evident on every hand. The establishment of this big lumber industry has been a cherished dream for the last 12 years. Its fulfillment means great things for Emmett and tributary country as well as Long valley where the company owns sufficient standing timber to keep the mill in continuous operation for 20 years. Additional timber on the South and Middle Forks of the Payette river are available to feed the rapacious maw of the mill another 20 years.

The announcement already has had the effect of largely stimulating the real estate market, and several large store buildings, including the handsome Butte block, will be constructed without delay.

The construction of the plant will require at least six months' work and a large force of skilled mechanics and laborers will be continually employed. Mr. Barton states that "there will be plenty of work for every man in Emmett and vicinity."

Mr. Barton has kindly furnished The Index with the following general description of the plant:

The sawmill building will be 72 feet by 196 feet with a sorting shed 256 feet long. The mill will contain three 9 foot single cutting band mills of the latest type. The carriage will have 54 inch openings with steam set works and be operated by 14 inch steam feeds. There will be one 96 inch double edger and one 60 inch single edger and a 24 foot trimmer of modern construction. All machinery will be of the most modern type.

Connecting with the sorting shed will be the stacker building 62 feet by 148 feet, where the lumber will be automatically sorted and stacked onto cars ready to be carried to the dry kilns by power transfer cars. The dry kilns will contain 12 stalls and be equipped with automatic controls to keep the temperature and humidity at the best points for drying the lumber as quickly as possible without overheating.

After coming out of the dry kilns the lumber will pass through an unstacker building 62 feet by 148 feet, where the lumber will be taken from the dry kiln trucks by automatic machinery run over a chain through the dry sorter building attached to the unstacker building.

The planing mill building will be 96 feet by 150 feet and will contain modern fast feed machines driven by electric motors. In one end of the planing mill space will be provided for a box factory. The dry shed for storing dry lumber will be 124 feet by 70 feet. Other buildings to be erected will be a machine shop 36 feet by 212 feet with a store room at one side 40 feet by 64 feet.

The power house and engine room will be 50 feet by 60 feet and will contain a modern steam engine to generate 900 horse power and a 750 K. W. turbine operated by steam and controlled by an automatic valve to use exhaust steam when of sufficient pressure and to admit live steam

whenever the pressure of the exhaust steam is insufficient. Also a lighting unit will be installed to furnish light for the whole plant.

The boiler house will be 56 feet by 96 feet and will contain the most modern type of boilers with dutch oven furnaces to burn green sawdust or mill refuse.

There will be a refuse burner 34 feet in diameter by 100 feet in height to take care of mill refuse.

The yards will be laid out with track system and a power transfer car to run the full length of the yard for transporting the green lumber from the sorting platform to the yards.

All lumber will be handled on trucks both from the mill to the yard and from the yard to the planing mill. Loading tracks will be provided for at the planing mill, so that at least fifteen railroad cars can be loaded at one time.

It will be the aim of the Boise-Payette Lumber Company to erect a plant that will insure a maximum output of lumber and provide a light and safe place for its workman. The mill will have a capacity of 200,000 feet of lumber for a ten hour run or 400,000 feet for a night and day run.

Plans for the mill are being drawn by Dion and Horstkotte of Spokane, Wash., who have designed some of the most modern mills in the west. Construction will be in charge of J. P. Dion, of the firm, who will be on the ground and have charge of all construction.

Work will be started soon and within six weeks a crew of from 200 to 250 men will be employed. While there will be many experienced mechanics brought in from outside points, there will be plenty of work for every man in Emmett and vicinity. Wherever possible married men will be given a preference.

In a short time logging operations on the Payette river will be started and this will furnish work for another large crew.

The Boise-Payette Lumber Company owns a large amount of timber tributary to the Payette River and expect to have an operation extending over a period of from 25 to 40 years.

Will Celebrate Tonight.
The location of the sawmill in Emmett will be celebrated tonight. The band will play, fireworks will be shot off and the old town will receive such a turning over that it will wonder what has got into its usual even-minded citizens. Everybody is invited to come in and join in the jollification.

Bad Boys
In the Emmett cemetery is buried a little Japanese baby. The parents follow the custom of their native land by placing candy in a jar on the grave instead of flowers. But sad to relate, some naughty boys are in the habit of stealing the candy after the parents have departed.

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT THE MILL

Capacity 200,000 feet every 10 hours.
Storage capacity of log ponds 60 million feet.
Timber holdings sufficient to keep plant in operation 40 years.

Two hundred and fifty men to be employed within six weeks in the construction of the mill.

Own electric light and power plant to be maintained; also waterworks system.

Box factory and pulp mill for utilization of by-products.
All machinery of the most modern type, and every tested appliance employed for economical operation and saving of labor.

Six buildings to be constructed at once.
Loading yards will permit of 15 cars being loaded at one time.

Land holdings comprise 700 acres.
Mill will be ready for operation early next year.

EMMETT'S LUMBER INDUSTRY IN PAST

The Burdge Mill.

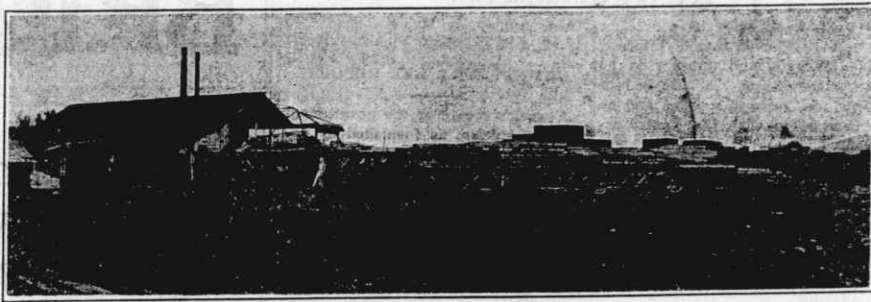
In going back to the event of the first sawmill to be located in this part of the Payette valley, it is found that the United States government used a portable single circular saw outfit, which was run by horse power, for sawing a part of the timbers and lumber used in the building of Fort Boise. This sawmill was located on a branch of Moore's creek, about eight miles from Boise. After the completion of the fort, the outfit was brought to the fort at Boise and eventually sold to William (Doc) Burdge, a settler living two miles west of Emmettville, on the Payette river. Mr. Burdge brought the outfit to this valley late in the year 1869, or early in the year 1870, and installed it in connection

with Dan Downs and Sam Warner assumed control and operated it until they sawed into lumber a drive of logs that James Wardwell had made for them that season. This was the first real drive made for the Burdge mill. The logs used previous to this time were catch-as-catch-can and one-man drives of a few logs.

After Downs and Miller had finished their run, Bill Burdge again took charge, but did very little sawing.

The mill was then successively in charge of Joe Baker and J. V. Witt. Under the latter's charge the mill fell into disuse for several years and went to wreck.

In 1900 or 1901 George Boone repaired the mill and put it in running order, made a small drive down the



THE McNISH MILL.

river alone and sawed some lumber. This drive is the only real one-man log drive on the Payette river on record.

In 1902 W. H. Davis, now a rancher at Deer Flat in Canyon county, came into possession of the mill, repaired and remodeled it, had a log drive prepared and made ready to commence sawing, but the government had a claim on the logs he had out and interfered with his arrangements. Consequently he did not saw any lumber.

In 1903 McNish & Allen assumed charge of the plant, got possession of the timber Mr. Davis had cut, made the drive and sawed the timbers for their mill and booms. Mr. Davis, not long after this, sawed up a few

(Continued on Page 2)

MILL WILL EMPLOY

500 to 1000 MEN

Will be One-Third Larger Than Barber Mill at Boise and Will Have Capacity of 200,000 Feet Every Ten Hours---Vast Timber Holdings

When the plant, with its factories for the utilization of by-products, is in full operation from 500 to 1000 men will be employed. Just what these by-products factories will consist of has not yet been made public, but reports are they will comprise a box factory and a pulp or paper mill.

The capacity of the sawmill will be 200,000 feet every single shift of 10 hours, or 400,000 each double shift. This is one-third larger than the Barber mill at Boise, which is owned by the same company. The Boise mill is designated as Plant No. 1 and the Emmett mill as Plant No. 2. Both mills will be under the general management of C. A. Barton.

The land holdings of the company, upon which the mill will be located, comprise approximately 450 acres south of the river and 240 acres north of the river. The following properties have been purchased for this purpose and extend from the E. E. Stanley farm below the McNish mill and all the land north of the P. V. railroad to the junction and all north of the Short Line from the junction to the Farmers' Co-operative canal. East of the canal the line runs meandering to the river on the north and Washington street on the east.

The Stanley place, the McNish mill land, storage ponds and ditches, Gardner's, Murray's, Chapman's, George Portlock's, White Pine canal and right of way, Jonathan Smith's, Ederklip's, Tom Pearson's, Mrs. Sarah Martin's and the Hanthorn ranch across the river, which includes an island in the river.

The company owns vast timber holdings along the North, South and Middle forks of the Payette river, comprising approximately 200,000 acres. Of this about 5000 acres is on state land and from it the ripe timber must be removed within the next few years, according to the company's contract with the state.

The timber on the North Fork and its tributaries will be transported to the mill over the Short Line railroad. This will necessitate greatly enlarged side tracks and switching yards and the employment of a number of crews of railroad men, whose headquarters will be in this city.

The timber on the south and Middle Forks is not accessible to railroads and will of necessity have to be driven on the river. In addition to the timber on these two streams the government forest department has about a billion feet of ripe timber that will be available.

The storage ponds for logs will take care of 60 million feet. The storage system will include a dam across the south branch of the river to the Hanthorn island. It will be about eight feet high.

The company will have a retail yard here, to be located near the river, west of Washington street and south of the river bridge. The purchase of John McNish's holdings include his sawmill and his retail lumber business, together with the stock on hand. The Michigan-Idaho Lumber company has a lease on the mill running to January 1 of next year. It is not unlikely that the Boise-Payette company will take over the lease and also the logs on hand.

In the conduct of the Emmett mill the company will deviate from its custom of many years in having stores and dwellings of its own for its workman. The men will live in town and there will be no company stores.

WAS EXPECTED 12 YEARS AGO.

As long ago as 1903 the Barber Lumber company, then known as the Payette Lumber company, planned to build a mill at Emmett. The Index, under date of March 10, 1903, contained this information:

"C. A. Weyerhaeuser and Henry Turrish, representing the Payette Lumber company, were in Emmett last Tuesday. They drove over from Boise in the morning and in the afternoon inspected the Fuller island above town. The company owns a great deal of timber along the river above Emmett. Their visit here was for the purpose of inspecting the possibilities of a sawmill at this point. The Fuller island is owned by Cobban & Casey, Montana men, who also own a tract of land just north of Emmett on the river banks. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was inspecting these lands with a view of buying them. Both men were well pleased with Emmett and its good location for a sawmill. Mr. Weyerhaeuser had a long talk with Jonathan Smith, Emmett's oldest inhabitant, and made numerous inquiries about the water power along the Payette river. 'We have sent several men to Emmett to look for a sawmill site,' Mr. Weyerhaeuser said to an Index reporter, 'and the reports were so favorable that I came out myself. I cannot say anything definite further than that the matter will be considered.' Just before the train pulled out Mr. Weyerhaeuser shook hands with Jonathan Smith and said: 'I agree with you, Mr. Smith, that this is a good country. I like the climate, too.'"

A year later Emmett's hopes were again bolstered up, as witness the following from The Index of March 10, 1904:

"As a timber market Emmett promises to regain the position it held in the early history of the state when it was the shipping point for a large portion of the commonwealth. Two mills will be sawing timber by next fall and a third within a year. This last will be one of the largest, if not the largest, in the state. It will be owned by the Weyerhaeuser syndicate, the largest lumber merchants in the world. This concern owns vast tracts of timber land on the North Fork of the Payette river, besides thousands of acres in the northern part of the

(Continued on Page 1)

The Butte Block--A Modern Office and Store Building



This proposed building is owned by a stock company of local business men. The foundations and basement, with numerous supporting pillars, was constructed sometime ago. Six of the store buildings are already contracted for and applications are pending for the others.