**Logging and the West Notes for Pueblano and Crater Lake**

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Feel free to email or message on Twitter any questions you may have over the summer, or any insights into the camps and roles that you play.

Logging was an industry ancillary to all others in the West. Wherever railroads were being built, or mines were being drilled, logging could be found nearby.

One area relevant to the logging industry in 1914 not mentioned in the camp profiles would be the conservation movement. In the 19th century, the American West was seen as so vast that the resources were inexhaustible. Thomas Jefferson speculated that it would take 30 generations to settle the Louisiana Purchase; it took about three. Around 1890 there arose the notion that the frontier was over (based on the 1890 census report and a highly arbitrary definition of “frontier”). This led to many debates as to what that meant to the country. Many politicians, writers, and scholars felt it would weaken U.S. institutions and lead to internal conflict (note the number of strikes in the 1890s). It is not a coincidence that the U.S. engages in imperialism that same decade, taking Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam, Samoa, and Puerto Rico as territories and Cuba as a proctectorate.

This also led to a movement to preserve natural resources, and this was most true of forests since forests were most obviously being decimated. In the 1890s and after, numerous national parks were designated. Under the administration of Theodore Roosevelt (president from 1901 to 1909) millions of acres of the West were set aside for conservation, meaning they were off the market. Loggers would be aware of this in 1914, and probably somewhat defensive about their industry that seemed threatened by conservationists such as John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and Enos Mills (Colorado’s John Muir). Just as now, there was a raging debate over conservation vs. development.

1914 was also the high point of progressivism, a wide-ranging movement to reform American society and correct some of the issues raised by industrialization in the 19th century. The main concern was the unequal distribution of wealth and power to unelected captains of big business. It was a sharply anti-business era as evidenced by strikes such as Ludlow and the passage of a slew of anti-trust and regulatory legislation. Most working men had a keen sense of politics and their political affiliations were part of their identity.

The summer of 1914 also saw the clouds of war over Europe. In late June, the assassination of the archduke Franz Ferdinand of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo set in motion a chain of events that led to the outbreak of a continental war by the end of August. This may not have been as obvious to all residents of the West, but many were following the events. This also might cause ethnic tensions in a logging camp. There arose intense anti-German sentiment in the U.S. that eventually led to the U.S. joining the Allies (Triple Entente) in April of 1917. German atrocities in Belgium in August were widely reported in the U.S., fanned by British propaganda. German-Americans and German immigrants would find little sympathy among most Americans and immigrants, except for one group: Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans. Although not predictable or consistent, the Irish instinctively sided with anyone fighting the British, as the Irish were rapidly approaching a revolution to free Ireland from British rule, which came to most of Ireland in 1921 (Ulster, or northern Ireland, remains part of the UK). Both Irish and Germans were often very interested in politics.

1914 was also the crest of a massive wave of immigration that dated back to the start of industrialization in the 1830s. That immigration came to a screeching halt with the outbreak of war, and after the war Americans made a sudden turn and began to severely restrict immigration in the 1920s (note the strength of the Ku Klux Klan during that time). Tensions over immigration could be noticeable in a logging camp. It is nice to see that the U.S. has grown beyond such problems.