

Agriculture Still Economy Background for All Oregon, Extension Service Agent Says

By LEROY INMAN

Regardless of the importance of the timber industry in Oregon, agriculture remains the background of economy in every county in Oregon, Burton Hutton state agent and 4-H Club worker for the extension service at Corvallis, declared in a talk before the Roseburg Kiwanis Club Tuesday noon in the Hotel Umpqua.

Our entire economy is based upon agriculture, and even the timber industry could not exist were it not for a healthy farm crop condition, said the speaker. In calling attention to the silver anniversary of a meeting in Corvallis 25 years ago, when 400 men and women met to work out a sound planned economy for farming.

Hutton, formerly a resident of Douglas County and a student in the Roseburg Schools, recalled his early experiences in this county and their relations to the farm picture.

"I can remember," he said, "when practically all of Garden Valley was devoted to apple growing. One farmer, shipping 26 carloads of apples from Roseburg, had to dig down in his reserves to pay the freight costs."

Market Bolstered
That meeting in Corvallis, called by persons concerned over the drop in market resulting from increased boom planting during the years from 1915 to 1920, has shown definite results, he declared. The records reveal how some crops have been trimmed down, and others built up to maintain a sound economy.

New fields were looked into, he said. Small seed production and nursery crops loomed as possibilities, he said. An expected \$900,000 annual income from shrubs has developed into a \$85,000,000 a year income. The planners hoped for a million dollar return on small seeds, but \$20,000,000 has been realized. The potato industry was developed in the Klamath Falls area from a single carload of seed potatoes. The result of such planning has resulted in farm income amounting to \$440,000,000 annually in Oregon, he stated.

Through development of the small seed industry, Douglas County's once worthless hill lands, have been developed to the point where the County now leads all others in the state in sheep raising. No sheep census was taken 25 years ago but today the number has grown to 112,000.

Key Industry Cradled
Douglas County cradled the turkey industry which has increased 500 per cent. Through planned increased chicken raising, egg production has jumped from 700,000 dozen to 2 1/2 million. Prune crops, however, have been reduced 63 per cent, and apple production reduced to 77 per cent of acreage and 48 per cent of production. The average size of farms has been cut from 227 acres to 207 acres. He laughingly re-

marked, however, that the cut in farm size may be attributed to the fact land is selling for \$1000 an acre.

Hutton called attention to the reclaiming in Eastern Oregon of large tracts of fertile sage brush lands, where crested wheat is now being planted. This, he said, is an example of planning by stock raisers who are seeking places to pasture and fatten their cattle, when they can no longer receive 25 cents per pound F.O.B. Prineville for beef.

Hutton was introduced by Roland Parker, county agent, who was in turn introduced by Dr. Louis A. Dillard, program chairman.

The size of American farms varies from an average of about 80 acres in the South through 100 acres in New England to about 400 acres in western wheat growing regions.



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and allow a greater upriver escapement of salmon in the Columbia River and its tributaries. It will eliminate the traps, seines and fixed appliances of a fishing monopoly that is steadily killing millions of trout and steelhead. Spiller and bunt meshes used by this ruthless group are so small and their trapping distances so great they virtually sweep everything in their path. Even the fish that manage to escape from these traps are so badly battered by the desperate lunges of the larger fish that most of them die. In this connection, it should be pointed out that operators will claim no small fish get into the spillers because leads of the trap are constructed of wide mesh net. This is fallacious thinking. Fish instinctively follow any obstruction of this kind right into the trap.

Your Resources Exploited by a Selfish Few.

The fish in the Columbia River belong to all. They are your fish. They represent an important part of the rich natural resources of our state. The greedy wasteful traps and seines are designed to take every possible fish with the least possible regulation. These traps are operated on the basis of "Take while the Taking is good" . . . Exploitation of the most vicious kind.

This Group Oppose EVERY Conservation Measure.

Indicating that they are not at all interested in what becomes of future runs, this group has consistently opposed every far-sighted measure that aimed at sane, scientific sustained yield management. We, as a nation, have allowed profiteers to get away with some ENTIRE SPECIES of other game. Take, for instance, the great herds of buffalo that used to roam the plains. They were ruthlessly destroyed by hunters paid by dealers in hides who profited while the buffalo lasted and ultimately destroyed their own source of revenue. . . . AND a great natural resource belonging to the people. The same thing can happen to our fish. The snowy egret, whose feathers were adorning women's hats a generation or so ago, also fell prey to the avaricious greed of a few men who profited by selling these birds to milliners. Such a thing as saving a few for seed never entered the heads of these greedy few. Result—the disappearance of the egret. Extinction to another natural resource. Passenger pigeons, once a table delicacy, are now extinct. They, too, are the victims of those who thought nature was capable of keeping up with thoughtless destruction. It is an alarming picture, and one which we all need to think about seriously. LET'S VOTE YES 318 AND START PAVING THE WAY FOR SCIENTIFIC CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES.

318 Will Benefit The Entire State.

318 Fish Bill will be of benefit to every part of the State of Oregon in many ways. Everyone knows that tourists spend huge sums annually on visits to Oregon. They do not concentrate their spending in any one town or region, but by the very nature of their visits here, must travel through at least half of the state in order to visit any other part.

Last Year Tourists Spent \$105,000,000.00

An income which obviously was felt everywhere to a greater or lesser extent. This huge sum was brought here by a group drawn westward by our great scenic attractions and no small part of it was brought in by people who came to fish our streams. This is one of the reasons we, as citizens, owe it to ourselves to do everything we can to guarantee continued tourist travel. To allow our fish to be destroyed would certainly cut off one important tourist attraction.

Up-river escapement of fish is important to the trout and steelhead population in tributaries of the Columbia. By cutting off a continually larger proportion of the migrating fish of this kind, fishermen will soon find mountain streams devoid of steelhead. A clean outdoor sport of this nature is too important to ignore.

Lower Food Costs.

You can't find a low-cost item on any grocer's shelves if that item is in short supply. Laws of economics don't work that way. It follows, then that if salmon are ruthlessly destroyed, less and less canned fish will reach distribution channels and prices will go up.

This Program Is Tax-Free.

This bill known as the Fish Bill and on the ballot as 318, does not include one cent of extra taxes. Administration expenses are already a part of our annual State budget.

Alaska Outlaws Fish Traps.

A few weeks ago Alaskans voted to remove traps from Alaskan waters by an overwhelming majority . . . and this from a section where the annual fishing income is a large part of the entire economy. Why did they do this? Because they could see that serious danger from over-fishing would bring about depletion and then extinction of a vital industry. California does not allow traps; Washington State does not allow traps. OREGON NOW STANDS ALONE IN ALLOWING THE USE OF FISH TRAPS. VOTE YES 318—PROTECT YOUR HERITAGE AND YOUR POCKETBOOK.

Paid advertisement, Roseburg Rod and Gun Club, Roseburg, Ore.

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