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CO-OPERATIVE EXECUTIVE IS ON PROGRAM

Edgar L. Ludwick Tells of Progress Made in Year

CONSERVATIVE PLAN OF FINANCING

Other Speakers Tell of Controlling Rodents and of Other Farm Crop Problems.

At the meeting of the annual farm week held in the city hall here today, Edgar L. Ludwick, assistant secretary-treasurer of the Oregon Co-operative Grain Growers, addressed the farmers assembled from all parts of the county on the work of the association and showed what the association had accomplished during its first year and what its hopes for the current year are.

Mr. Ludwick pointed out that last fall the Portland Clearing House association was instrumental in providing credit facilities to the extent of \$1,250,000 for the association for the purpose of financing its business. To date, through these arrangements, the association has been able to make use of approximately a million dollars of credit, less than it was anticipated would be required. The association was hereby enabled to advance 70 per cent of the market value of wheat on warehouse receipts of its members.

The "orderly marketing system" of the association was explained in detail to the farmers by Mr. Ludwick. The aim of the association is to distribute, so far as possible, the marketing of the wheat throughout the twelve months of the year, one-twelfth of the wheat of the association being marketed each month. Advances are made to those farmers who desire it and distributions of the balance made

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BULLETINS

(By Associated Press)
BELFAST, Feb. 22.—Several were wounded today in a fresh outbreak of firing on the east side, resulting from a vendetta against saloon keepers having Sinn Fein sympathies. Military guards are stationed at all saloons in the York street district.

(By Associated Press)
ROME, Feb. 22.—Enrico de Nicola, president of the chamber of deputies, today declined the king's invitation to form a new ministry. He suggested former Premier Orlando as the most likely to succeed with this task. The king thereupon summoned Orlando.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—A movement to attach a blanket reservation to the four-power Pacific treaty struck a snag today in the foreign relations committee who adjourned without action after an hour's session. The administration senators on the committee indicated that a further conference with the president is necessary.

City Manager Form Not Cure-All for All Evils

BAKER, Feb. 22.—That the city manager plan as applied in La Grande is not a cure-all for all the ills, nor is it the solution of every difficulty in city affairs, was one of the statements of O. A. Kratz, city manager of La Grande, in his address before the Kiwanis club at the noon luncheon Tuesday. But it has at least to recommend it the sincere labor of able men who framed the charter and the endorsement of prominent administrators.

During his address Mr. Kratz briefly sketched the history of the "City Manager Plan" from the time of its first trial at Staunton, Pa., in 1908 and how from this beginning the movement spread until there are now 246 American cities and towns governed by the plan. The manager

Hermit of the Blue Mountains is on the Way to Good Health

DELINQUENCY OF TAXES IS BIG PROBLEM

Nearly Ten per cent Average for State Shown in Figures Submitted to Tax Commission.

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.—Delinquent taxes in the state for 1921 averaged 9.9 per cent, or a total of \$4,078,656.20 in the entire state. The delinquent taxes in Union county amounted to 8.2 per cent, or \$56,401.88, according to a statement dated December 15, 1921. Wallowa county had the largest amount of delinquent taxes, the statement being dated December 14, 1921, of all submitted to the tax commission at its meeting here yesterday. Her percentage was 38.9 or a total of \$195,262.47.

The delinquent tax problem has been the subject of repeated discussion among the commissioners. Records of the commission show that the delinquency is the greatest in the history of the state. This delinquency is one of the factors which is causing the increasing protest against high taxes and which is spurring the commission on to find some relief for real property by a state income tax.

Oregon is so strong for education that almost 50 per cent of all the taxes levied in 1921 went for educational purposes. Education cost \$18,793,477 of the \$41,117,367. The second biggest expense is roads, which amounted to \$6,986,266, and include the market roads, special road districts and the like.

Oregon has 3,443,989 horse power, according to statistics submitted to the commission by P. A. Cupper. Undeveloped projects investigated by the state amount to 2,662,350 horse power; other power possibilities amount to 291,900 horse power and there are developed and partly developed 489,739 horse power. The report shows there is actually developed 290,250 horse power, or less than 6 per cent of the total horse power listed.

Miners Do Not Want Rail Workers To Join In Striking

(By Associated Press)
CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—The miners do not want the rail workers to join in a strike, said President Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America in addressing the opening conference of miners and railway unions. He said the miners wanted only moral support of railway employees.

Bonus Committee Is Looking for a Hard Scrap On Tax Bill

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The house bonus committee got nowhere today, the first session to discuss the financing of the bonus. Preliminary discussions behind closed doors are reported to have indicated that there would be a lively fight before the manufacturers sales tax was reported out. There appeared little doubt, however, that the committee would recommend that form of levy.

Man Brought to Hospital Saturday Lived Secluded Life for Four Decades and Preferred His Lonely Mountain Home to City Life in Winter.

Daniel McWaters, the man who was brought to the Grande Ronde hospital Saturday suffering from a case of pneumonia, is improving according to latest reports. He is partially paralyzed in one side and a friend of his states that his feet were not frozen at the time he was found.

(Special to The Observer)
HILGARD, Feb. 22.—On the road across the mountains about four miles above Hilgard one comes to a little old ranch house built across the canyon on the steep hillside. For more than 40 years this has been the home of an old man, D. H. McWaters, who has lived there alone except, perhaps, for the companionship of a cat or dog once in awhile. As the "Hermit of the Blue Mountains," he is known by many who are familiar with his name. He has no horses or stock of any kind and as no one has any occasion to break a road through the deep snows, his place is almost inaccessible during the winter months. The only way to reach his place is by the poorly-trod trail which "Old Dan" himself makes as he comes out once a week for necessary supplies. Every winter for a number of years his friends have tried to persuade him to move out during the severe months but failed for he always seemed to value his own society more than that of his neighbors and friends. Distant relatives in La Grande offered him a home but this he also refused.

About three weeks passed without anyone seeing anything of Mr. McWaters, and some friends becoming anxious, made the rather difficult trip in to see if everything was alright with the old man. His situation was pitiable in the extreme, for he had injured himself slightly in cutting wood and was otherwise quite ill. He had run out of matches as well as firewood and had resorted to burning some of his books until his fire finally went out. All this was much of a hardship at his advanced age, which by the way, no one knows, and we can only guess it to be well beyond the 80 mark.

Of course measures were immediately taken for his relief and he is now at the Grande Ronde hospital receiving the necessary attention for his condition. All his old-time acquaintances are wishing him the best of luck and a speedy return to his little ranch house in Pelican canyon.

The circulation of the new-papers of the United States and Canada is 40,000,000.

INVESTIGATING COMMISSION TO BE HERE SOON

Tax Probers to Visit Eastern Oregon Early Next Month; Redistribution of Tax Burden Sought.

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.—The tax investigating commission will make a trip into Eastern Oregon, holding meetings at which county officials, citizens, representatives of the various tax reduction leagues and other organizations will be asked to meet with the commission to assist in getting before the public the opinion and desires of the public on the subject of tax distribution, and other matters dealing directly with taxes.

Tentatively the dates were set as follows: Baker, March 13; La Grande, March 14; Pendleton, March 15; The Dalles, March 16. If possible a meeting will be held in Astoria, March 17 and in Portland on the day following, or vice versa.

The subject of investigation of the state institutions with a view to ascertaining what economies may be made in their budgets was indefinitely postponed at this morning's session, as it was the opinion of the commission that such investigation would merely lead into a labyrinth of specific investigations, and would take time and energy away from the specific task of working out a measure which will provide for a more equitable distribution of the tax burden.

RACE HORSES AND BOOZE A PLENTY

Uncle Sam Brooks Tells of the Mexican Town Where the Horse Races are Run—Also Trip to Island.

"We have been to San Diego and over to Mexico," writes Uncle Sam Brooks, who is making a trip through the south this winter. "The races in Mexico were fine, but the track was not in very good shape on account of mud. It is a mile track and the best one I have ever seen. There was all kinds of booze at the race meet and as free as water except that it cost from fifty cents to one dollar per. Not many drunks in sight. We spent about two hours in the old Mexican town, which is quaint and interesting. I picked two out of every three of the winning horses and had I bet a little I could have made my expenses on this trip. Mr. Welch and myself went over to Catalina Island, where the nabobs hob around, but the boat ride did not appeal to Mr. Welch for he turned as white as a young girl after she has been using her powder puff. He finally went to bed, but he still will not admit he was sick."

ROTTEN GAS BAG CAUSE OF CATASTROPHE

Mechanics Declare that Dirigible was Defective

THIRTY-FOUR ARE DEAD; 8 INJURED

Wreckage Burned; Structure Over Stern Rudder Said To Have Slipped and Ship Plunged Down.

(By Associated Press)

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 22.—Reports that the bag of the dirigible Roma, destroyed yesterday with 34 killed and eight injured, was rotten will be probed by an army board.

Officers and men declined to comment on the report which originated from an indirect quotation of mechanics. The last of the bodies was recovered today. The disaster was caused when the bag bit a network of electrical wires.

Barely a dozen of those aboard were picked up alive and one of these died on the way to the hospital. All who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, perished in the hull of the fallen bag, were burned to death.

The flames were finally brought into submission by three fire departments who fought them with chemicals. Derricks then began picking up the wreckage which consisted of scarcely more than the aluminum frame work and the six Liberty motors of the once proud ship of the air. Within the wreckage lay the bodies, practically all

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Farmer Kills Self and Family Walks Through Heavy Storm

ECHO, Feb. 22.—George Goodnight, wheat farmer near here, shot the top of his head off early today, according to a report brought to a neighboring ranch by his wife and four children who tramped three miles in the darkness through a snowstorm.

No reason for the suicide was given. Goodnight yesterday sold his 600 acre ranch to Rose Meyer for \$35 per acre and seemed pleased and in good health.

HIGHWAY MEN TOLD OF NEED OF NEW ROAD

Desperate Need of Island City-Cove Road Pointed Out to State Commission.

Desperate needs of a road between La Grande and Cove are fully appreciated by the Oregon Highway commission but the Oregon Highway commission is just as desperately in need of funds, and ways and means of allowing Union county's court to spend money on the Cove road this year instead of next, have not yet been devised, but are under the most careful consideration. This is the word brought to La Grande today by County Commissioner J. F. Hutchinson of Union, and A. W. Nelson, manager of the Ad club, both of whom returned today noon. The rest of the delegation that went to the highway commission session have not returned.

The Union county delegation are pleased over the seriousness with which the matter is being considered by the commission. In spite of more than a score of delegations each present with momentous road problems on their hands, the commission listened attentively to the proposals made by Union county in formal session yesterday and deferred the conference until the evening hour when for more than an hour and a half the commission wrestled with the problem again. Numerous other delegations were trying to get the commissioner's ears at the same time. The whole problem is being taken under advisement by the court. County Judge Conch is in Portland today, having remained over on other matters, but it is not expected that a decision will be reached for several days yet in the Cove road matters.

The Union county delegation that has returned reports that the highway commission is flooded with applications for loans and extensions in time of payment of money due from various counties, and that the commission's funds are alarmingly low.

MILLINERY TO BE TAUGHT

In connection with the Farmers' Week program women of the county will be interested to know that work for women has been arranged for beginning on Friday, February 24, and continuing until Wednesday, March 1st. The work will consist of two millinery schools, one to be held at Elgin, February 24th and 25th, and another to be held at La Grande, February 27th to March 1st, inclusive.

Miss Esther B. Cooley, assistant in clothing from the Oregon Agricultural College, who gave similar demonstrations here October of last year, will instruct women in making hats and remodeling of hats. A general invitation has been extended to various women's organizations of the community and all women interested. The meetings will be held in the City Hall.

Sinn Fein Meeting Has Adjourned Again

DUBLIN, Feb. 22.—Ard. Healy, the Sinn Fein national convention, which had been called to pass upon the Anglo-Irish treaty, adjourned today for three months following an agreement approved by DeValera and Arthur Griffith that no vote in the Dail Eireann shall require the resignation of the provisional government and that there shall be no election in the meantime.

When the election is held it is stipulated that a new constitution under the Anglo-Irish treaty shall be submitted to the country.

Union is to have paved streets at last. M. S. Levy, of Union, and J. F. Hutchinson, county commissioner, returned to Union today. They have been in Portland, in company with M. F. Davis, Union mayor, to receive bids for the construction of the pavement.

Bids were opened and the United Construction Co. of Portland bid \$96,897 and was awarded the contract. Instead of a cement pavement a bitulithic pavement will be constructed. The work will begin in the near future.

Power Company Will Spend \$100,000 in Year

BAKER, Feb. 22.—J. P. Lottridge of Baker was elected vice-president of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company at a recent meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and J. P. Pulliam, formerly vice-president and also well known here, was elevated to the presidency of the corporation. Mr. Lottridge has been general manager of the company with headquarters at Baker, for a number of years. According to Lottridge, money is growing faster and in the west the opinion was generally expressed that the west is

CHARITY FUND INCREASING VERY RAPIDLY

Two-Thirds of Quota Reached During First Two Days

WORKERS STILL ARE HARD AT IT TODAY

Funds Will Be More Efficiently Expended than in Other Cities, It Is Declared.

With but two days of the week devoted to the Home Charity Fund drive gone, two-thirds of the amount to be raised during the week had been raised last night, according to the report made after checking over the work of the canvassers last night. The sum of \$2,000 was in hand at that time, the total goal for the week being \$3,000.

The workers were much encouraged with the result because they have been working under difficulties, some of the members of the committees not having been able to get out because of illness, while the weather has been such as to make canvassing hard because of the slush.

It was also announced today that there have been some calls received at the downtown headquarters of the drive, in the La Grande Investment company's office, to the effect that some residents had been misled by the solicitors. Those calling up the office declared that they were anxious to give but were not at home when the canvassers called. Contributions from these people will be accepted at the headquarters and credited to that team which has charge of the residential district in which the contributors live.

In explaining the purpose for which the money is to be used yesterday one of the members of the committee in charge of the home service of the Red Cross pointed out the unusual efficiency of the local chapter. Under the direction of Mrs. Fay T. Catlin, secretary, the overhead cost of each case of aid rendered has been kept down to approximately 60 cents. Reports of various organizations doing similar work in other cities show, it was declared by the committee member, that the overhead cost is usually around \$2 per case.

In the La Grande office about 200 cases are handled monthly by Mrs. Catlin, while many associated charity organizations in the larger cities consider 25 cases a month as sufficient for one social worker.

"Every dollar given to the Home Charity Fund will do the work of \$3 or more given for similar causes in other places," declared this committee member.

PAVED STREET FOR UNION

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