

Local News In Brief

COMING EVENTS
 Aug. 5.—Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri Association picnic at Riverside Park.
 Sept. 25-29.—Union County Fair at Elgin.

Visiting Boise Friends
 Mrs. Frank Jackson is spending a few days in Boise visiting friends.

Back to Work
 George Curry is at work again at the U. S. land office today after enjoying a month's vacation.

Angling Without a License
 Dean Eicklenberry was caught angling without a license yesterday by John Walden, game warden on Catherine creek and was fined \$25 and costs.

To Hold Hearing
 Judge J. W. Knowles will leave tomorrow for Baker, where he will hold a hearing in the Burnt River Water adjudication.

Home Again
 Dr. and Mrs. Ray F. Murphy returned home this morning from a week's vacation to Haden Lake, Idaho, and report a very delightful time. They made the trip by auto, making the trip in one day each way.

Happy in La Grande
 J. H. Gordon and Don E. Platt, state traffic officers, arrived in the city Saturday and today announced their satisfaction with La Grande and indicated that they would like to locate here permanently.

Mill Owner Here
 George R. Hicks one of the owners of the Bowman-Hicks Lumber Company, accompanied by his son, Chas. R. Hicks, are in La Grande from Kansas City for a few days on business.

Crawford Purchases Home
 Mr. and Mrs. John T. Crawford have purchased the Jacob H. Traynor residence at 1206 Seventh street. Mr. Traynor and family will soon leave for Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he will take charge of the large new L. D. S. hospital.

Dr. McAdory Locates in City
 Dr. W. P. McAdory, of Birmingham, Alabama, accompanied by Mrs. McAdory are in La Grande and the doctor announced today that he expected to open offices here within a few days. He is a physician and surgeon.

Aid Will Meet
 The First Division of the Ladies Aid of the M. E. church will meet Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. I. C. Smith, 1702 1/2 Washington avenue. The Second Division will meet the same day with Mrs. Fritta, 2006 Third street.

Huckleberry Crop Poor
 According to Floyd Kendall, forest ranger, the huckleberry crop will be rather a failure this year. The only reason he could give from his experience was that every few years we

have an exceptional crop and between this time they are never very good. We had a good crop in 1920 and this year the berries are few and scattered.

Kansas Man Buys Home
 John Gray, who knows what it is to lodge a Kansas cyclone and to bask in the smile of an almost tropical sun, came out a short time ago and took a position with the Bowman-Hicks people. Mrs. Gray and daughter followed shortly and they had been here but a few days when the Gray family purchased a home on East Adams from Phyl, Stoop & Black, stating they were here to stay.

She Has Faith in Valley
 Nellie M. Stevens, one of Portland's prominent teachers, is spending a portion of her vacation in La Grande and is a guest at the Foley hotel. Miss Stevens has ever kept faith in this valley and her property investments here are quite large. She goes on the theory that if any part of the world is solid and safe it is the Grande Ronde Valley, and when it ceases to be good then there will be nothing left elsewhere.

Hot Lake Arrivals
 The recent arrivals at the Hot Lake Sanatorium include the following: J. Stuart, La Grande; Henry McGrath, Union; C. E. Peterson, Spokane; Martin Larson, Kellogg; Roy A. Titus, Richland; W. R. Lonsdale, Denver; K. Worva, Aberdeen; E. J. Wilson and wife, Prineville; Juliet A. Whitteker, La Grande; M. E. Shackelford, Freewater; E. O. Wells, La Grande; Mrs. F. E. Geisler, Portland; E. P. Keller, Portland; W. L. Flower and wife, Enterprise; Joe Mickey, Yakima.

Return From Hayden Lake
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Watkins returned last evening from Hayden lake where they have been spending the past week on pleasure. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Murphy, of Hood River as far as Pendleton. On their return they passed Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stoddard, Mr. and Mrs. Chase Bohnenkamp, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reuter on their way to the lake, where they will spend a couple of weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Binger are expected home today.

Traffic Problem Costs London Many Millions
 LONDON, July 26. (AP)—Twenty million pounds annually is thrown to the winds as the result of traffic delays and congestion on the streets of London, according to experts in the art of statistics. This huge sum which is said to be a conservative estimate, is sufficient, however, to arouse the indignation of many London newspapermen, and to open a campaign against the present plight of the street traffic.

The members for London in the House of Commons have agreed to take the matter up and present a bill designed to regulate all classes of traffic in the city. The most difficult problem in London is that of the omnibus and other

heavy motor lorries. There are about 2,700 passenger buses in operation in the city, and the number is steadily increasing. The congested traffic has caused a considerable loss to the bus owners, as it is impossible for the machines to make any speed through the maze of other vehicles. The situation is becoming worse and according to the newspapers, and it now takes a bus three minutes longer to traverse the Strand, about a half mile in length, than it did six months ago.

A report shows that 53,500 vehicles pass Alynck Park Corner every 12 hours beginning at eight o'clock in the morning, while Piccadilly Circus accounts for 41,200 and Trafalgar Square for 41,699.

FOR SALE—Good house with four lots. Plenty water. \$40.00 down, \$40.00 per month, or trade in coupe or car. Phone 369 W. 7-30-1tp

FOR RENT—Furnished house. Inquire 1414 W. 7-30-2t

WANTED—Woman or girl for general housework. Apply 1307 U. Ave or La Grande Investment Co. 7-30-1tp

FOR SALE—Two iron beds, dining room chairs, overstuffed day port with chairs to match, 16 bed room suite and dresser, phonograph, etc. Phone 283 J or 501 Adams. 7-30-1tp

FOR RENT—2 housekeeping rooms. Good place for child. Phone 360 W. 7-30-1tp

WANTED—To rent 4, 5 or 6 room furnished house in good location. Write G. R. care Observer at 7-30-1tp

FOR SALE—Reed buggy. In good condition. Phone 422 M. 7-30-1tp

FOR RENT—3 house keeping rooms. No children. Inquire 1602 Washington. Phone 432 J. 7-30-3t

WANTED—Middle aged woman housekeeper for two adults and two children. Apply mornings after 10 to 401 Main. 7-30-4t

WANTED—A middle aged woman to help Mrs. Chris Miller with her housework. 1510 Adams. 7-30-3t

LOST—About a mile east of Island City a 25-20 Winchester rifle. Return to People's Market and receive reward. 7-30-3t

FOR SALE—Six room strictly modern bungalow. Built two years ago. All up to date fixtures. Basement, pipe furnace, Dutch kitchen, etc. Lot 58x110 ft. Fine lawn. Terms, 1304 Sixth St., Lee Hanford owner. 7-30-1tp

Ice Cream Bricks—Ice Cream in brick form the Hazelwood brand the finest you have ever been offered—each our wonderful Sherbet, frozen each day in any quantity. It keeps as well as Ice Cream—phone us your orders and you will be pleased at Silverthorn-Wright's. Open until 11 o'clock each night.

OPPOSES ANY WHEAT PRICE GUARANTEE
 Continued from page one
 modify, or abolishing of the railroads can abolish price determination in a world market. After the worst that can be done in these directions, it would still be necessary for the production of wheat in this country to be adjusted to the world market situation.

"There can be no doubt that the American wheat growers, as a body, are in an exceptionally unfavorable position. With wheat selling in Chicago at around a dollar a bushel, and the farm prices in Kansas and Nebraska about 50 cents, it appears that without a material advance in price a considerable part of this year's wheat crop may be sold for less than it cost to grow it.

"And while the price of wheat has been falling, other prices as a whole have been rising until very recently. It costs more now to raise a bushel of wheat than it did a year and two years ago. Labor is scarce and expensive. Farm hands have been lured to the cities by the prospect of high wages. The prices of most of the commodities which the farmer has to buy, both in producing his crops and in maintaining himself and his family, have risen.

"Both the absolute price of wheat and its relative purchasing power with respect to other commodities at a whole were declining from 1918 to 1922. In other words, the forces of competition as reflected in comparative prices were affecting adversely the growers of wheat. Year by year a bushel of wheat was the equivalent of a diminishing quantity of other commodities in domestic markets. The marked advance in the price of wheat as an incident of the war raised its purchasing power considerably. Since 1917, however, although the price continued high until 1922, the value of wheat in comparison with general prices has declined greatly and remains at an extraordinarily low level.

"Perhaps the most exasperating feature of the problem is that the property of the farmer is conditioned by factors over which he has only an indirect and partial control, save over long periods. Not only is it true that farming is in general a small scale industry, carried on by numerous independent producers without adequate organization for concerted action, but the price of wheat is essentially a world price determined by the world's production of wheat on the one hand, and the world's demand for wheat on the other.

"Moreover, the variability of the seasons, apart from general price changes, subjects the wheat farmer to a widely fluctuating yield per unit of production costs. Only imperfectly does the variation in price offset the fluctuating output per acre or per unit of cost. This is a natural consequence of competition with the general other wheat exporting countries. On the other hand, in the case of cotton, for example, the American production is so large a part of the world output that a short crop in this country is a more powerful in-

fluence upon price than is a corresponding shortage in wheat production.

Probable Curtailment of Production
 "In the long run, an adjustment of wheat production to wheat consumption is effected by the same process which is observed in the case of any other commodity. But while this process is natural and inevitable, it is like all economic changes in that it is not always comfortable for all concerned. If the supply is short and the price high, some of the less well-to-do consumers will feel the pinch. On the other hand, if conditions in the next year led to an over supply, and the low price makes wheat growing unprofitable for the producers with the highest costs, their withdrawal in many cases is attended by a good deal of hardship. It is not always feasible to shift from the growing of one crop to another. And even where the shift can be readily made so far as the physical factors of production are concerned, the resulting additional output of the other crops may depress prices to such an extent that new difficulties are encountered.

"One effect of the war was to increase enormously the output of wheat in the United States. The collapse of Russia, formerly one of America's chief competitors in the world's markets, particularly helped to reduce wheat prices, and Jean spent Tuesday and Wednesday in La Grande and Union visiting relatives. Mrs. H. Gardner of Sumpter, who has been visiting at Medical, called home by the serious illness of her husband, H. Gardner, and Mrs. N. Pope was a business visitor in Union Wednesday.

Mrs. C. O. Bloom is visiting Baker while Mr. Bloom is on the road.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Whitten, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wanker and daughter Ruby and Hazel were in Baker Friday and Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Miller of Brookfield, N. Y., have been visiting a relative in the city and will be in the city again this afternoon.

Increasing Production Abroad
 "Europe has furnished the bulk of the demand for exports of wheat from the principal producing countries. General recovery there has been slow, and the output of this country still conforms to war conditions. Europe's production of wheat moreover, is now increasing rapidly, and this year's crop is expected to exceed that of last year by a considerable margin. Canada's capacity as a producer is constantly increasing, and Australia and Argentina are also factors of growing importance in the world's markets. India has prospects of a large exportable surplus. Russia is still an unknown quantity, but there are indications that she may shortly resume her place among the wheat exporting countries.

"The area under wheat cultivation in the five principal exporting countries averaged 122,000,000 acres for the years 1920 to 1922, inclusive. This compares with a five year pre-war average for the same countries of 109,000,000 acres. These countries, therefore, are devoting to wheat production 22,000,000 acres, or 21 per cent, more than before the war. An increase of 12,000,000 acres, or more than one-half of the total increase, has taken place in the United States alone.

"Under these conditions, it appears that a portion of the land drawn into wheat cultivation in this country by the war demand must be relinquished because of the high cost of production. It is apparent, therefore, that the United States producing, on the average, 150,000,000 bushels more than before the war, and with a reduced European demand for imported wheat, a relatively low price now is not surprising.

"Even under ordinary circumstances the ever increasing pressure of competition from Canada, Australia, and Argentina would tend to make the position of this country as a wheat exporter less favorable than it has been heretofore. In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1923, Canadian exports of wheat and flour to Europe were 125 per cent greater than two years before, while those from the United States during 1922 were 14 per cent less than in 1920. And in the last fiscal year ended June 30, total exports from this country were 21 per cent less than in the preceding fiscal year. This shift of positions is perhaps traceable partly to the high duties imposed by the emergency tariff of 1921 and the tariff act of 1922, which seem to have the effect of diverting a large part of our imports of Canadian wheat into the European markets. The relative weakness of our export position, therefore, or slightly offset by a reduction in imports from Canada, the extraordinary stimulation provided by the war however, has probably only served to intensify a condi-

tion which would have developed in any case.

"Another factor which tends to make the present situation particularly different is the peculiar nature of Europe's economic recovery. The agricultural sections of Europe have revived with comparative rapidity while the industrial organization, shattered by the war and hampered in its recovery by the chaos in Continental financial and monetary systems and by the unfortunate trend of political affairs, is still badly demoralized. The result is that Europe has become much more nearly self-supporting agriculturally than industrially. Although there is a strong demand for many classes of American manufactured goods, large numbers of the urban populations, normally consumers of American wheat are able to satisfy only their most urgent needs, and these are met more than formerly by domestic production.

Proposed Relief Measures Inadequate
 "It was natural that one of the first schemes to be proposed should look back to the Government's price fixing activities of the war period. Such an expedient easily attracts the support of those who are concerned merely with temporary amelioration, but it would undoubtedly be disappointing and harmful in its ultimate results. Not only would it provide a subsidy to an industrial group at the expense of the community at large; it would be in effect not merely a fixation of price but essentially a fixation of output. It would destroy the delicate mechanism by which production and demand are brought into equilibrium and, so long as it continued, the acreage sown to wheat in this country could have no normal relation to the world's needs.

"The Government would in all probability incur a large loss in reselling the wheat it might purchase in making the guarantee effective. Obviously such a measure could be only temporary. And the result would be continued over production. The guarantee of a 'fair price' to the wheat growers would tend to stimulate the next year's output instead of reducing it, and in the end the farmers would probably gain nothing.

Government Purchases
 "It has been proposed also that the Government should purchase, say, 200,000,000 bushels of the present crop at the market price and store it until later in the season. Just what the effect of such action on the price of wheat would be is not clear, but there should be any perceptible effect, could last only until the stored wheat was resold. Probably a modification of the seasonal fluctuations is the most that could be looked for. If the wheat were held over until next year, the price might possibly be sustained until then; but in that case the hold-over would come into competition with next year's crop, necessarily tending to depress prices. Such a measure could scarcely fail to accentuate the difficulty, for if the Government's action should cause

any appreciable upward movement in the price, the inducement to a reduction in acreage would be largely canceled.

"A modified form of this plan is for the farmers themselves, taking advantage of the credit facilities at their disposal, to store a substantial portion of the crop instead of marketing it as promptly as they ordinarily do. This is essentially the same as the former proposal, except that the growers, rather than the Government, would assume the speculative risk. Assuming that the plan could be made to work—which is by no means assured—something might be gained by a more orderly and uniform flow of wheat to the markets. But here again, there could be nothing more than ironing out of the seasonal price movements. Any sustained attempt to bolster up the price in the face of world conditions, by speculative withholding of actual supplies from the market, must inevitably fail. And if in the course of the season the price should fall, the farmer would lose, rather than gain, by his assumption of the role of speculator.

"The common weakness of all these schemes is their failure to recognize the fact that the fundamental condition adversely affecting the farmers—the low relative price of wheat—is the natural result of a continued relative over-supply. The most important contributory causes of the price disparities also lie outside the range of their influence. Moreover, by the extent to which they might succeed in raising the price, they would nullify the corrective influences tending to restore normal conditions.

Positive Help
 "A basic readjustment either of re-

lative demand or of production is called for, anything that may be done to accelerate the processes of general economic recovery in Europe, with consequent revival or demand there for foreign foodstuffs, would afford a measure of durable relief for wheat growers in this country. It appears, also, that the farmer's difficulties have been accentuated by tariff rates which are able to raise the prices of his products that are determined in world markets.

"But not all the price disparities from which he suffers have their origin in the unequal effects of the tariff rates. Whether with the existing or lower tariff rates, or with no protective duties of any sort, in any event the demand for American manufactures at the present time would be more nearly in conformity with supplies than would be the demand for wheat and other foodstuffs. The relation between the movements of wheat prices and the prices of commodities in general which obtained prior to 1914 was destroyed during the war. The subsequent decline in their values has been accentuated by the efforts of important wheat importing countries to become as nearly self-supporting as practicable in the matter of foods. A restoration of something like the former price relationships probably can be effected only gradually.

"Meanwhile, the drift of economic forces is tending to shift the production of heat and other agricultural and live stock products from the high-priced lands of this country to newer and cheaper lands elsewhere. This fact, however, is not sufficient ground for believing that the days of prosperity for American wheat growers are past. Rather, it calls for a recognition of the necessity for fundamental economic factors."

Glady's E. Miller, Instructor of Band and Pipe Organ, is a limited number of pupils will be enrolled for term beginning in September. Address Drawer 573, La Grande, Ore.

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 It's a glowing romance of unleashed passions, of picturesque scenes and stirring climaxes.
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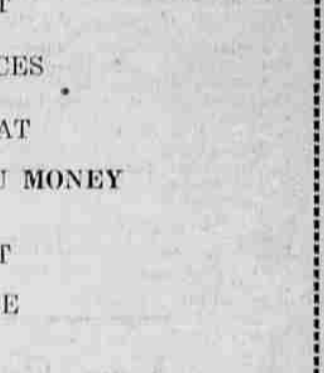
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 2 and 8 p. m.

Lew F. Cullins Famous DOG & PONY CIRCUS
 Corner Jefferson and Chestnut
 FREE EXHIBITION
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 IF YOU WAKE UP CRANKY IN THE MORNING—PUT ON A PAIR OF THE FAULTLESS LIGHTWEIGHT PAJAMAS TONIGHT.

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