

Oregon Farmers Sound Financially, Says C. H. Young

GOLD BEACH—The plant and equipment of Oregon ranches and farms have never been in better condition, and the state's farmers and stockmen are prepared to meet any emergency that may lie ahead, according to C. H. Young, vice-president of Curry County Bank, who represents the Oregon Bankers Association as county agricultural chairman.

"One of the best indications of this is that Oregon agriculture borrowed less from banks during 1949 than 1948," Mr. Young said.

Reporting on the ninth national survey of agricultural lending made by the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association, Mr. Young noted a decline in both the number of new loans and the total amount borrowed from banks by Oregon farmers and ranches last year. "This decline is particularly healthy," he said, "in view of the present uncertainties and the slight drop in agricultural income. It shows that farmers and stockmen are wisely avoiding excessive debt and are holding on to their reserves to meet any possible emergency.

Mr. Young stated that "in 49, the last full year of operation, the 68 Oregon banks serving agricultural communities loaned \$69,557,000 to 24,648 farmers and ranches to meet all types of financial needs. This is a decline from the 30,776 agricultural loans which totaled \$80,012,000 made by banks during 1948. Of this total amount loaned last year, \$65,595,000 was borrowed by 23,569 farmers and ranches of finance production and operational requirements. Of these loans, only \$20,033,000 were outstanding on Jan. 1, 1950.

"During the year, there were 1,079 farmers and stockmen, representing only 1.7% of all those in the state, who made real estate loans in an aggregate total of \$3,862,000. The prosperity of the states agriculture is shown by the fact that only \$8,492,000 in real estate loans were outstanding at the beginning of this year. The total of all bank-held farm and ranch debt in Oregon on Jan. 1, 1950, was \$28,525,000."

Mr. Young noted that one of the brightest aspects of the present agricultural debt situation is the small size of the average loan, indicating the service that banks are rendering to the owners of small ranches and farms in particular. The average loan for production purposes was only \$2,787, and the average loan made

\$3,579. "With the pent-up demand on farm real estate was only for equipment caused by World War 2 apparently satisfied," Mr. Young said, "a larger and larger percentage of agricultural borrowings have been going into other long range improvements. These improvements, along with the growing trend in Oregon to practice modern conservation and land management, will assure the importance of the state in the agricultural picture for 'he years to come."

Port Orford News

By Dorothy Asdel

A whole rash of fires broke out early last week in the Brush Prairie area north of the airport road. Driven by a strong north wind, they endangered, for a time, the Runberg and Blair homes, then hopped across the road for further fuel. Fire fighters were kept busy making trails around them days on end and still more fires cropped up in other areas. More fires started again north of the road, and at last reports, according to Deputy Fire Marshall, John Marsh, patrols were trying to keep the flames away from the Appling home, farther east and from a nearby sawmill. It is thought that an arsonist is responsible for many of the blazes but he has not been apprehended in the act as yet.

Across Garrison Lake, on the county road, a new bridge is being built to replace the old one which was beginning to deteriorate rapidly at the south end. The county is doing the work with logs for the pilings being taken from the nearby Val Townley property. Construction has been going on for nearly two weeks and residents in that area are watching with interest the progress. To reach their homes it is necessary for them to detour approximately three miles out of the way, partly over a rutted, narrow road winding through the woods, six inches deep in soft dust. If rains arrive before completion, it is feared that the road will be a morass of mud.

As seems universally true this fall, Port Orford school enrollment has increased in numbers with teacher-loads heavy and the space becoming inadequate.

Mrs. Frances Kirtland's first grade has 29 new pupils. Mrs. Alice Johnston's second grade has 27. Mrs. Esther Abston's third grade 34. Mrs. Mildred Russell's fourth and fifth grades 35, and to top them all, Mrs. Millie Mallory has 40 fifth and sixth grade pupils.

According to Joseph Kampa, superintendent, the peak enrollment is not expected until the end of next week when several new pupils are planning to enter.

He gives the high school figure—Seventh, 28; eighth, 22; ninth, 20; tenth, 24; eleventh, 14; the twelfth, 6. A new teacher has been engaged to teach English and girls physical education at the high school, Miss Mary Lou Richmond, of Hawley, Minn., arriving this week. This makes four new teachers in the system this semester.

When Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Abston drove to Tacoma, Wash., to attend the funeral of Gordon Johnston, Abston's partner, who died tragically in a woods accident, here last week, they took with them Abston's daughter and son-in-law, the Ed Heaveys and Mrs. Abston's daughter, Mrs. Patrick Leak and son, Mark, who are returning to their homes in Seattle after an extended stay here during the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Brioli and two sons spent several days at Ashland visiting Mr. Brioli's parents. Mrs. Brioli and the boys remained when Mr. Brioli returned home. He operates the

Cape Blanco Lumber Co.

While Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brooks of Sixes vacationed near Pasco, Wash., last week the R. A. Ransdells, who live in the Hamlet, stayed at their home. Ransdell leases the Union Oil station, adjacent to Brooks' store at Sixes.

Vacationing in Canada since the first of the month were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas. Their trip was especially enjoyed because it is the first vacation Mr. Thomas has been able to take for many years. Managing his dairy business and handling deliveries of bottled milk, during his absence, were his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Macy of Dallas.

Earth-moving machinery and tractors are continuing to work on widening the highway through town, which makes for much din and dust, but promises a sleek, wide ribbon of pavement in the not-too-far distant future. Work on the project was at a standstill for several weeks and residents are pleased to have it continued again. Many of the curbing have been placed during the past two weeks.

Gold Beach Grad West Point Bound

GOLD BEACH—Congressman Harris Ellsworth announced last week the appointment of Merrill Duane Baxter, 1950 graduate of Gold Beach High, as first alternate for the U. S. naval academy at Annapolis, Md.

In July, Baxter took the preliminary competitive examination for Fourth District candidates for nomination to the academies. In the event the principal appointment fails to qualify, Baxter will enter the acad-

emy in July, 1951, upon successfully completing the final entrance requirements.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Samples and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hurd of Medford visited the M. C. Beem family over the week-end.

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