The Ontario Argus

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THE HAY SITUATION.

The mooted question as to the price of hay in this section has not been settled, as yet. No doubt a long step in that direction was taken at the meeting of the hay ranchers at the Boulevard Grange hall on Wednesday afternoon, which when properly followed up, in the spirit manifested at the meeting will result in beneficial practices for both the hay men and the stockmen, as well.

If there was one outstanding feature greater than any other shown by the ranchers it was that of open-minded fairness and consideration for their customers, the stockmen. No doubt some of the stockmen will laugh at this statement. Nevertheless it is true.

It was also apparent that the ranchers desire to have hay properly graded so that the man who raises clean hay and puts it up properly will no more be penalized for his good work, while a neighbor benefits at his expense. In this the stockmen can assist materially. If they show a willingness to pay an increased price for good hay, instead of trying to make one price for all kinds of hay, as has hitherto been the practice, there is no doubt that standard grades and standard measurements can be arrived at in this section.

There is no doubt concerning the benefit of such meetings as that held at the Boulevard hall. The ranchers laid the ground for better conditions. They made a conscious endeavor to get at the basic conditions of the hay market in various sections to determine the probable operations of the law of supply and demand, and by comparative statements as to the increase in values of the sheep, wool, cattle and dairy products endeavor to arrive at a figure at which hay can be sold and still permit all the industries to profit.

If the ranchers made any mistakes in their conclusions as to the fair value of hay it was not thru faulty methods of reasoning but thru figures furnished being inaccurate, or the failure to t ake into account all conditions in the various industries. The committee which will be appointed to consider further the question can study the question further to determine whether or not any such errors have crept into the consideration.

—BUY W.S.S.—

EVERY MAN'S DUTY.

There has been of late, especially in the past few weeks, more or less criticism voiced at the ratings which a number of men in the county have been given under the selective draft. Discussions on this matter have developed the fact that there exists a difference of opinion between the local draft board for the country and the district board which sits at La Grande. Due to this difference may be ascribed most of the classifications to which the public is taking exceptions.

In the interest of fairness to everyone, and on no other basis should the selective service law be enforced, both boards should have the advantage of the knowledge upon which critics base their objections to given classifications. The members of the boards have to act upon the evidence which comes before them, except in instances where they have personal knowledge of the facts. The man who is seeking an unjust exemption, of course, sees to it that a proper showing for his case is made. It is the duty of the public to see that any knowledge concerning his affairs which would indicate that he is not engaged in an essential occupation, or is not the sole support of anyone be properly presented.

Now that it is evident that men, in classes two and three, who are proven to have dependents, are to be called it is all the more imperative that the single men be properly placed to avoid injustices and thus injure the workings of the selective service law, which must be conceded to be one of the best measures ever placed on the statute books of this Republic.

—BUY W.S.S.—

GETTING THE CROOK.

One of the regretable circumstances of the wars in which this and other nations have fought, has been the prevalence of army contract grafters. Under the stress of circumstances vermin of the type that prey on the public seem to multiply rapidly and get in their nefarious work. They are they lowest kind of human beings for they would wax fat on the sufferings of their fellow men.

The usual penalties which attach to the crime of graft and exorbitant profit taking in times of peace should be immeasurably increased and rigorously applied to the war contract grafters. They are entitled to no sympathy from any human being. They are worse than traitors, they are worse than the open enemy. They are cowards of the yellowist type, and they should be made to suffer for their crimes.

Unfortunately, due to the intense activity in all governmental departments, it is hard to reach these men during the war, but that an effort is being made to run them down is evident in the recent arrests in the rubber coat contracts. The public will be glad to know that the government is getting after the specie of enemy that fights the nation by robbing it, and by trying to put shoddy goods on the backs of the fighting men. The public will applaud the assignment to prison for life at hard labor those who are guilty.

—BUY W.S.S.—

THE CHAUTAUQUA.

Ontario has at last experienced a summer Chautauqua. As a result only a few of those who guaranteed the performances this year are willing to sign the contract for next year.

The Chautauqua business, with its one-sided contract requiring guarantees from local business men, has long been the subject of much debate. Of course the idea of the guarantee is that by so doing it is possible to bring a class of attractions to a town such as otherwise couldn't be seen by the people. That part of the question has some merit. But on the other hand there is no guarantee that talent of that character will be delivered. Ontario's Chautauqua is proof of that. The talent was anything but good. It would be spreading a cloak of mercy over it to call it fair. Ontario itself could on two week's notice, with one or two exceptions, replace the program and improve the performance 100 per cent. Certainly Ontario has no need to guarantee talent such as the Cadmean company foisted upon the public this year.

—BUY W.S.S.—

A GREAT FAIR PROMISED.

The Malheur County Fair this fall is going to be a big one from every viewpoint. The directors have made a special effort to induce livestock men to show their fine cattle and the premiums for that department have been doubled.

That is one of the changes made. Another important change is that made to promote interest in the preparation of various war breads and food conserving dishes. In that patriotic effort the directors will no doubt find a whole-hearted response from the women of Malheur county.

Nor are the entertainment features to be overlooked. The greatest attraction of all will be the airplane flights. The directors are to bring to the city expert fliers to show what the bird men are doing over in France to help win the war. This will be an educational as well as exciting feature. Then of course there will be the big Bernardi shows so that from the entertainment standpoint Ontario will have the biggest week ever held in Malheur county. It is time therefore to figure on being in Ontario September 10, 11, 12 and 13.

—BUY W.S.S.—

IN SPITE OF CONDITIONS.

There is room for Ontario to congratulate itself on the construction of its water system this summer. In spite of war conditions the various contractors have been able to maintain their schedule and will have the system ready for use within the contract time.

At the present time there is no typhoid in the city and the new system will be in operation in time to eliminate that source of contagion. If further epidemics occur the source will have to be located elsewhere for the city will be assured of a pure water supply.

The construction of the system is a monument to the administration which has directed the work and it is a mark of progress greater than than which no city in this section can show for this year. It is an achievement of which the city may well be proud.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

Lebanon has good prospects of having a flouring mill established there.

The run of salmon in the Columbia river for the past week has been exceptionally good.

A drastic measure forcing all idlers to go to work has been adopted by the Klamath city council.

The Columbia river highway between Hood River and Cascade Locks was opened to traffic Sunday.

Marion and Polk counties will celebrate the completion of the new intercounty bridge over the Willamette river at Salem on July 30.

According to records, 10,000 more automobiles are in operation in Oregon already this year than were in operation during all of 1917.

Attendance at the summer school of the Oregon Normal at Monmouth has now passed 400 and is a few in advance of the attendance last year.

During the month of August the state supreme court will take the annual summer recess and most of the justices will leave on vacation trips.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Bryant, one of the oldest pioneers of Oregon, who crossed the plains in infancy, died at her home in Portland at the age of 87 years.

Fruit growers of the northwest are being urged to place their orders for boxes as early in the season as possible in anticipation of a possible shortage of box shooks.

J. D. McKennon, president of the La Grande city commission, has offered publicly to furnish a suitable site for any reputable dehydrating firm that will install a plant there.

Farmers near Redmond are having difficulty in obtaining help in their hayfields. Practically every boy over 11 years of age is out on the ranches doing the work men usually do.

A deadline on Yaquina bay to protect the oyster industry and conserve the supply is being planned through the co-operation of the oystermen and the state fish and game commission.

The first annual convention of the Oregon State Elks' association will be held in Portland August 26, 27 and 28 when an attendance of 12,000 Elks and their friends will join in a three days' patriotic celebration.

The body of Ralph V. Poindexter, manager of the Owl Pharmacy at Bend, who, with Vernon A. Forbes, was drowned in Crescent Lake, has been recovered. Mr. Forbes' body had been previously recovered.

Captain W. C. McNaught, well known in marine circles in Portland, has been appointed a member of the Oregon state board of pilot commissioners by Governor Withycombe, to succeed Captain J. Speier, resigned.

An investigation of the price of substitutes for wheat flour sold in Oregon has been requested by the national food administration, according to a letter received from Senator Chamberlain by Attorney L. E. Bean.

The high cost of living has invaded the University of Oregon summer camp. As a result men who attend the second summer camp for the 30-days period beginning August 3, will have their expenses increased 25 per cent.

As a result of investigations conducted in the state by George T. Dalton, special representative of the federal trade commission, prices of coal are to be immediately lifted, according to Fred J. Holmes, state fuel administrator.

That some of the Indians on the Klamath reservation will not be able to take stock, available this year under the $400,000 congressional appropriation, on account of shortage of hay crops, is reported by some of the prominent Indians.

A forest fire which has been burning on the northern boundary of the Klamath Indian reservation in Klamath county, now has entered the southern portion of the Deschutes national forest and threatens great tracts of standing white pine timber.

For the purpose of educating the public to the value of dairy products as a food and stimulating the almost moribund state of dairying in parts of Oregon, Governor Withycombe will be asked to set aside an entire week in August as Dairy Products week.

Threshing outfits have begun work in Linn county threshing fall grain. The fall grain generally is yielding a fair crop and in many cases grain planted on land well drained and properly cultivated is producing a good crop. Due to lack of rain, the spring grain is practically a failure.

The University of Oregon received notice from the war department that it will be permitted to send additional students to the cadet officers' training camp at Presidio up to one-half its present student quota in the camp. There are now 27 students and four faculty members receiving instruction. Eighteen additional students will be appointed to attend.

Appropriations carried in the rivers and harbors bill for maintenance work and improvements in the first district of Oregon consist of $40,000 for the Coquille, Coos, Siuslaw and Yaquina rivers and Coos, Tillamook and Nehalem bays, and $250,000 for the Columbia river and lower Willamette.

County Agriculturist H. R. Glaisyer, of Klamath county, and J. E. Pittman, of the department of irrigation and drainage, who have been conducting experiments in this county, report that the application of 100 pounds of sulphur per acre on alfalfa lands has increased the yield about one ton per acre.

Valuable fir timber on an area approximately two miles wide and four miles long, the residence of J. C. Williams, on Rogue river, in the western part of Jackson county, and many buildings owned by farmers in the district badly burned, is the toll of a forest fire one mile south of Rogue river.

At the request of sheepmen in Klamath county, Representative Sinnott has submitted to the wool division of the war industries board petitions for lower freight rates on feed, and that bureau has promised to take the matter up with the railroad administration and secure any relief that is found proper.

The Pendleton water commission has installed a chlorine plant at the intake of the city water system to guard against any possible infection from river water which was turned into the system some weeks ago to avoid a shortage during the time the new extension to Chaplish springs is being completed.

Prices for the fall run of salmon on Oregon coast streams were announced by W. B. Ayer, federal food administrator, following several conferences and approval of the prices by the food administration heads at Washington. The approved price for chinooks is placed at 8 cents. That for silversides is set at 6¼ cents, and that for chums at 3½ cents.

Secretary Lane has approved Congressman Sinnott's bill granting the citizens of Malheur county the right to cut timber in Idaho for agricultural, mining or other domestic purposes. The passage of the bill will be of great assistance to citizens of Malheur county in Gordon valley, and Mr. Sinnott will endeavor to have the same enacted on the reconvening of congress.

Principals and superintendents of Oregon schools in attendance at the University of Oregon summer school are sending out letters to the school boards of the state urging that the districts send some man of their faculty to the second summer camp at the university, which opens on August 3, that they may be trained in military work and be able to teach the boys in the schools.

A reduction is shown this week in the number of accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission. During the week there were reported 534 accidents, of which five were fatal, as follows: Louis Gjertsen, Olney, logging; Lester Vaughn, Springfield, lumbering; S. Mathisen, Portland, shipbuilding; Charles Eckert, Tillamook, logging; William G. Murray, Portland, motorman.

The shortage of harvest hands in the Prineville community is becoming very acute. Many of the farmers are able to obtain only about one-half the number of men required for harvesting their crops. A number of men and boys from the town, including store clerks and professional men, are working in the harvest fields, because of the scarcity of labor. The wages paid average from $3 to $4 a day, including board.

A second shipment of foxglove, 850 pounds—enough for nearly 510,000,000 doses of tincture of digitalis—dried and shipped by citizens of Oregon at the request of the United States government, has just been sent by Dean Adolph Ziefle, of the Oregon Agricultural college school of pharmacy, to the federal laboratory at the University of Minnesota, where it will be made into tincture of digitalis for the army and navy.

State Highway Engineer Nunn has submitted to Governor Withycombe a statement showing the total of estimated funds available for highway improvement purposes contemplated by the commission for the five-year period, 1917 to 1921, inclusive. The statement shows that from the several sources a grand total of $15,058,590.13 will be produced. Up to July 1, this year, $1,895,525.91 has been expended and the total amount available in the next five years will be $13,162,974.22.

Probably not since the days when the waters of Jordan rolled back at the command of Moses for the children of Israel to cross dry-shod, has a more wonderful phenomenon of this kind occurred than the drying of the rapids of Link river at the west end of Klamath falls by winds sweeping up the canyon from the south. These rapids, which have a fall of 63 feet in two miles, and which furnish enough power under ordinary conditions to turn every wheel in Klamath county, were blown back in a few hours, leaving the bed of the river so dry that it could be crossed on foot at almost any point.