

OREGON NEWS IN BRIEF

Forest fires have done considerable damage to property in the western part of Polk county.

The war department has ordered for the use of the allies 16,000,000 pounds of Oregon prunes of the 50-60 size.

Close to 2000 sacks of sphagnum moss were gathered from the Sand Lake moss bogs by citizens of Tillamook county last week.

Colonel William H. C. Bowen, United States army, retired, has been appointed commander of the students' army training corps at the University of Oregon.

School at Dundee has been closed to give the pupils and teachers an opportunity to assist in harvesting the immense crop of prunes grown in the community.

A big farm tractor demonstration was held at Linneman Junction, 10 miles east of Portland. Twenty-six makes of tractors and 53 different tractors were entered.

A. B. Mathews, of Thurston, killed a balky horse, had a complaint issued for his own arrest on a charge of cruelty to animals and paid a fine of \$10 in Justice Wells' court.

W. E. Durand, assistant cashier of the Redmond Bank of Commerce, was killed when the automobile which he was driving went off the grade in the eastern part of The Dalles.

In view of a probable shortage of labor for gathering the apple crop, the Hood River Apple Growers' association is urging attendance at the annual packing and grading school.

The annual Oregon conference of the Methodist Episcopal church is to be held in Portland, September 25 to 30, under the direction of Bishop William Orville Shepherd of Chicago.

United States Wood Administrator Green has finished for the time being the valuing of woods in Portland warehouses. An additional 4,000,000 pounds of wool was appraised in the past 10 days.

A new high record for packing peaches was made by Mrs. Ed Everson of Portland, who packed 210 boxes of peaches in nine hours and 5 minutes on the Frank Ogle ranch near The Dalles.

The evergreen blackberry crop in Lane county this year will aggregate 400 tons and bring \$50,000 into the county, according to E. J. Adams, former member of the state highway commission.

Use of yellow pine for airplane construction has been approved by the government, and the Blue Mountain region of the Whitman national forest is coming to the front with its quota of material.

Ira A. Hanshuett, a bachelor, who has lived alone on a farm near Fall creek, southeast of Eugene, for the past five or six years, was burned to death in a brush fire on his place several days ago.

Government disapproval of extensive expenditures for road work induced the Douglas county court to issue an order suspending all highway improvement, except where work is imperative to keep the roads passable.

The total fire loss in the state for August, outside of Portland, was \$636,415, according to figures prepared by Harvey Wells, state fire marshal. The most serious loss was that of \$100,000 worth of hay near Lakeview.

Owing to the continued dry weather of the past summer which resulted in the drying up of springs in the coast mountains from which the water supply of Dallas is obtained, a water famine is feared unless the fall rains set in earlier than usual.

Finding of human bones in the ruins of the Washington county poor house at Newton, which burned Thursday, made it certain that John Reinberger and Rudolph Strainer, two inmates who were missing, were cremated. Both were about 80 years old.

That Lloyd Anson, 18-year-old son of J. G. Anson, of Telocaset, captured five Germans lone-handed while acting as message bearer for an engineers company in France, is the information coming to the parents. He was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery.

With a lead of 97 eggs over the second pen in the contest and but another month to go, indications are that honors in the seventh annual international egg-laying contest at Victoria, B. C., will go to the pen of Barred Rocks entered by Oregon Agricultural college.

Resolutions expressing the appreciation, sympathy and condolences of the members of the state board of control have been adopted by that board in connection with the death recently of E. T. Moores, superintendent of the Oregon school for the blind; A. E. Strang, chief engineer at the state hospital; C. M. Wilcox, head of the poultry department at the state hospital, and Fred W. Hendley, chief book-keeper at the eastern Oregon state hospital.

The state industrial accident commission reports that during the week ending September 5 it was informed of a total of 536 accidents, two of them fatal. George Letch, of Dec, was fatally injured while lumbering, and Bert Jones, of Portland, was hurt fatally while engaged in public service.

Ira Hutchins, manager of the Brownville cannery, has been forced to call upon women for volunteer workers. The housewives of Brownville have responded in large numbers and are now working alongside of the girls, children and the very few men in the effort to pack the heavy offering of fruit.

A party of seven timber cruisers have spent the past two months making a cruise of the 87,000-acre tract of the Booth-Kelly company which lies in northern Klamath and Lake counties. It is understood that the estimate is being made by the Long-Bell company with a view to the purchase of the tract.

General matters affecting taxation will be considered at the annual meeting of the State Taxpayers' league, which has been set for Saturday, September 28, at 10 a. m., by Walter M. Pierce, of La Grande, president of the league. A large attendance is expected at the session, which will be held in Portland.

U. S. Grant, of Dallas, president of the National Mohair Growers' association, has received telegraphic notice of the action on mohair by the war industries board. Secretary F. O. Landrum, of the association, wired that mohair can be sold in the open market, prices ranging above 85 cents per pound. Recent sales in New York are verified at 95 cents.

The Oregon Agricultural college will put special stress upon football and other athletics this year. Because of war conditions, it is even more important than usual to have every man physically fit, in the opinion of President Kerr. Intramural contests are being planned which are expected to develop each man in college from a physical standpoint.

Highway work in Oregon will proceed regardless of the recent order of the fuel administration requiring approval by the federal highways council before further work be done. Secretary Pennybaker, of the council, telegraphed to the state highway commission granting the right to go ahead on all work now under way, providing materials for such work are available.

Oregon hopgrowers with yards throughout the hop-growing area of the Willamette valley, foresee a sudden end to the industry as a result of the government's decision to prohibit the manufacture of beer after December 1 next. With picking under way in most of the yards, growers are undecided whether to continue to harvest the crop or to abandon the yards at once.

At a conference of bankers held in Portland a resolution was adopted recommending to the American Bankers' association action to maintain gold production of the country at the pre-war volume. The conference was held under auspices of the executive committee of the Oregon Bankers' association, and a number of bankers of Washington, Oregon and California were present.

Plans have been practically completed for training at least 200 and possibly 400 young men for special military purposes at Albany college this winter. The men will receive special instruction in army band music, preparatory training in other military work and also in certain college courses. It is planned to send the first class October 14 and continue the course of instruction until June.

A county cannot be a bidder for construction of state highways, Attorney-General Brown held in an opinion submitted to District Attorney Hodgins, of Union county. Union county offered the best bid on two jobs of road work to be done by the state highway commission in that county, executed the required bond and attended to other formalities. Some money was needed and the county made application to a bank for a loan. The bank questioned the legality of the procedure.

After devastating the high line ditch trail, Gold Hill's famous strolling grounds on the heights north of the city, a forest fire which had been raging for a week on the divide between the Rogue river and Sams valley on the south and Sardine and Evans creek valleys on the north, threatened the city. The entire population, with the fire department equipment, resorted to backfiring to prevent heavy loss. The burned area extends from Gold Hill northeast for nearly 20 miles and is from three to five miles wide.

Figures prepared by Professor J. O. Hall, engaged in preparing the biennial report for State Labor Commissioner Hoff, show that 44,000 males of Oregon over 18 years of age are estimated to be in military service or in occupations essential to winning of the war; 64,000 are engaged in agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry; 700 in the extraction of minerals, 25,000 in transportation activities, 85,000 in mechanical and manufacturing industries, 19,800 in trade, 2600 in public service, 5300 in professional service, 7200 in domestic service and 2600 in clerical occupations.

Germany's war debt is almost \$35,000,000,000, not counting the blood upon her record.

OUR SAVED FOOD FED THE ALLIES

Food Administrator Writes President America Conserved 141,000,000 Bushels Wheat.

CREDIT DUE TO WOMEN.

Meat and Fat Shipments Increased by 844,600,000 Pounds.

Conservation measures applied by the American people enabled the United States to ship to the Allied peoples and to our own forces overseas 141,000,000 bushels of wheat and 844,600,000 pounds of meat during the past year, valued in all at \$1,400,000,000. This was accomplished in the face of a serious food shortage in this country, bespeaking the wholeheartedness and patriotism with which the American people have met the food crisis abroad.

Food Administrator Hoover, in a letter to President Wilson, explains how the situation was met. The voluntary conservation program fostered by the Food Administration enabled the piling up of the millions of bushels of wheat during 1917-18 and the shipment of meat during 1917-18.

The total value of all food shipments to Allied destinations amounted to \$1,400,000,000, all this food being bought through or in collaboration with the Food Administration. These figures are all based on official reports and represent food exports for the harvest year that closed June 30, 1918.

The shipments of meats and fats (including meat products, dairy products, vegetable oils, etc.) to Allied destinations were as follows:

Fiscal year 1916-17... 2,105,500,000 lbs.
Fiscal year 1917-18... 3,014,100,000 lbs.

Increase 844,600,000 lbs.

Our slaughterable animals at the beginning of the last fiscal year were not appreciably larger than the year before and particularly in hogs; they were probably less. The increase in shipments is due to conservation and the extra weight of animals added by our farmers.

The full effect of these efforts began to bear their best results in the last half of the fiscal year, when the exports to the Allies were 2,133,100,000 pounds, as against 1,295,500,000 pounds in the same period of the year before. This compares with an average of 801,000,000 pounds of total exports for the same half years in the three-year pre-war period.

In cereals and cereal products reduced to terms of cereal bushels our shipments to Allied destinations have been:

Fiscal year 1916-17... 259,900,000 bushels
Fiscal year 1917-18... 340,800,000 bushels

Increase 80,900,000 bushels

Of these cereals our shipments of the prime breadstuffs in the fiscal year 1917-18 to Allied destinations were: Wheat 131,000,000 bushels and of rye 13,900,000 bushels, a total of 144,900,000 bushels.

The exports to Allied destinations during the fiscal year 1916-17 were: Wheat 135,100,000 bushels and rye 2,300,000 bushels, a total of 137,400,000 bushels. In addition some 10,000,000 bushels of 1917 wheat are now in port for Allied destinations or en route thereto. The total shipments to Allied countries from our last harvest of wheat will be therefore, about 141,000,000 bushels, or a total of 154,900,000 bushels of prime breadstuffs. In addition to this we have shipped some 10,000,000 bushels to neutrals dependent upon us, and we have received some imports from other quarters.

"This accomplishment of our people in this matter stands out even more clearly if we bear in mind that we had available in the fiscal year 1916-17 from net carry-over and as surplus over our normal consumption about 200,000,000 bushels of wheat which we were able to export that year without trenching on our home loaf," Mr. Hoover said. "This last year, however, owing to the large failure of the 1917 wheat crop, we had available from net carry-over and production and imports only just about our normal consumption. Therefore our wheat shipments to Allied destinations represent approximately savings from our own wheat bread."

"These figures, however, do not fully convey the volume of the effort and sacrifice made during the past year by the whole American people. Despite the magnificent effort of our agricultural population in planting a much increased acreage in 1917, not only was there a very large failure in wheat, but also the corn failed to mature properly, and our corn is our dominant crop. "I am sure," Mr. Hoover wrote in concluding his report, "that all the millions of our people, agricultural as well as urban, who have contributed to these results should feel a very definite satisfaction that in a year of universal food shortages in the northern hemisphere all of those people joined together against Germany have come through into sight of the coming harvest not only with wealth and strength fully maintained, but with only temporary periods of hardship."

"It is difficult to distinguish between various sections of our people—the homes, public eating places, food trades, urban or agricultural populations—in assessing credit for these results, but no one will deny the dominant part of the American women."

A hoarder is a man who is more interested in getting his bite than in giving his bit.

COMMERCE ON THE PACIFIC SHOWS RAPID DEVELOPMENT

While world commerce is shifting Portland has an opportunity to again place herself on the trade routes of the Pacific Ocean. World shipping has shifted to new channels since the war began, but none of it has found it necessary to come by the way of the Columbia River. The trends of trade have not yet become stable, hence Portland has a chance to again handle traffic which now seems to be permanently diverted to other channels.

The Pacific Coast ports are rapidly becoming the favorite route for merchandise bound to or departing from the United States. A compilation by the National City Bank indicates that the imports entering through the Pacific ports in the nine months ended with March, 1918, were more than double those of the corresponding period of 1917, while merchandise entering through the Atlantic ports showed an actual decrease.

Imports through the Pacific ports in the nine months mentioned above amounted to \$466,000,000 in value, against \$223,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1917, and those through the Atlantic ports \$1,170,000,000, against \$1,234,000,000 in the same months of last year. In the case of New York the total for the nine months ending with March, 1916, was \$868,000,000, against \$938,000,000 in 1917.

Exports Show Increase.

In exports the Pacific Coast ports also show an increase of \$120,000,000, while New York shows a fall of \$271,000,000. The total exports through the Pacific ports in the nine months ending with March, 1918, were \$360,000,000, against \$240,000,000 in the same months of last year, while those from the port of New York were \$2,001,000, against \$2,272,000 in the same months of last year. The share which the Pacific ports handled of the import trade of the United States in the nine months ending with March, 1918, was 22 per cent, against only 12 per cent in the corresponding months of 1917, while the share handled by the Atlantic Coast ports was 56 per cent, against 68 per cent in the corresponding months of 1917.

The contrast at the Pacific ports when compared with 1916 is even greater, the imports through the Pacific ports having been in the nine months ended with March, 1916, but \$177,000,000, in the corresponding months of 1917 \$223,000,000, and in the corresponding months of 1918 \$466,000,000, while exports through the Pacific ports jumped from \$166,000,000 in the nine months ended with March, 1916, to \$360,000,000 in the nine months ended with March, 1918.

Pacific Route Safer.

These figures of the gains in the

share which the Pacific ports are handling of the foreign trade of the United States relate entirely to a period preceding the presence of the U-boats on the Atlantic frontage and are due to another phase of war activities. Even before their presence on our Atlantic frontage was suspected the trade of the Orient found the trans-Pacific route much safer than from attack by U-boats in the Mediterranean and the eastern part of the Atlantic.

As a result a very large proportion of the merchandise from China, Japan, and the Philippines, Australia, Dutch East Indies, Singapore, and India, much of which had formerly been sent to us by way of the Mediterranean or around the southern cape of Africa, began to seek passage across the Pacific, a part of it passing through the Panama Canal to the eastern ports and a large part landing at the Pacific ports, and passing thence by rail to the eastern trade centers of the United States. The articles switched from their usual trade routes and those sent across the Pacific included India rubber from the Dutch East Indies and the Malayan peninsula, coffee from Java, from the same section, jute from India, hemp from the Philippines, coffee from Java, and tea and silk from China and Japan.

Trade From Orient.

As a result of this change, by which a larger proportion of the merchandise from the Orient came by way of the Pacific, the imports of the port of San Francisco increased from \$79,000,000 in the nine months ended with March, 1916, to \$204,000,000 in the same months of 1918, while those of Seattle increased from \$89,000,000 in the nine months ended with March, 1916, to \$244,000,000 in the nine months ended with March, 1918. Even these figures do not fully tell the story of the gain of the Pacific ports because a portion of the merchandise entering through those ports passed in bond to the eastern ports of the United States and is accredited to them in the government figures of imports by customs districts.

Gold Medals for Essays.

Ten gold medals will be awarded successful contestants in an essay writing contest inaugurated by the management of the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign among the pupils of the public schools of Oregon. One medal will be given for the best essay submitted from each grade, third to eighth, inclusive, and also the four high school classes. Ten silver medals will be awarded in each county in the state for the ten best essays submitted by the pupils of the county.

WATSON and KENDALL

Mrs. Frank Harrow invited Mrs. Adal McFarlain to her birthday dinner last Sunday, it being the 22nd anniversary. The bounteous repast did justice to the occasion, as the lady is an excellent cook. Mr. Harrow entertained the ladies with guitar music and they responded by singing popular airs.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fletcher entertained Mrs. A. L. McFarlain Sunday evening at their home on Clinton Avenue and Twenty-second street. They conveyed their guest to their home in a fine automobile.

Another reason why the callow youth of this time is spindle-shanked, narrow-chested and dance-crazy is that he was not permitted to live in a period when it was the height of fashion to wear paper collars and use two pints of bear grease on his hair every week.

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