

VIEW ON LABOR IS OPTIMISTIC

Commissioner Comments on Returns of Recent Crop and Labor Survey

While a labor shortage of from 15 to 35 per cent is evident in Oregon for the harvest season, State Labor Commissioner Hoff, he believes that a sufficient number of laborers can be recruited to glean the crops, counting upon the boys' working reserve and the loyalty of city employers in allowing their employees to go to the country for a few weeks to help with the crops. A statement issued by the commissioner based on the recent farm crop and labor survey estimates that the increased acreage of fall wheat this year will be 45 per cent over 1917 and spring wheat will show an increase of 6.6 per cent. The statement follows:

"Probably the greatest shortage of seasonal help will be experienced in the berry fields and orchards of the fruit producing section of the state. The organization of the United States Boy's Working Reserve under the authority of the department of agriculture and the direction of Oregon of Farm Help Specialist J. W. Brewer, in which it is estimated the recruits will approximate 10,000, will serve to relieve this condition very materially as the boys, women, and girls of the state can perform the labor without hardship ad to their pecuniary benefit.

"There are thousands of skilled farm laborers engaged in other more or less essential industries in the state which, through some system of voluntary action on their part and that of their employers and an efficient organization, could be utilized to the greatest benefit for emergency work in the harvest season. The release also of soldiers in training in the camp assignments for harvest work, as has been contemplated by the government, will relieve the situation insofar as the war products are concerned very materially."

"In this time of stress when the future of our nation is at stake there will be a sufficient number on hand, to a greater or lesser degree unskilled, to be sure, to cope with the situation. The survey returns show a variation from 10,000 all-year help to 17,000 having help in farm labor needs, as indicated by the percentage of returns upon this question from the farmers. The United States census returns for 1910 show a total of 46,070 farmers in the state to 33,312 farm laborers, on dairy and general farms inclusively. Allowing for a reasonable and conservative increase of 10 per cent in both of these classifications we would have possibly 50,000 farmers and 36,000 laborers."

"While the enlistments for war and the extraordinary prices paid by the war industries in the cities have attracted labor from the farm, it is believed that the adoption of a uniform wage of \$60 per month in

the wheat raising counties of the state will have a tendency to overcome this difficulty in a large degree while at the same time it will remove two other difficulties heretofore experienced—that of doing away with the bidding between farmers for labor and eliminating to a considerable extent at least, the constant movement of transient labor on the lookout for better pay."

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"While the enlistments for war and the extraordinary prices paid by the war industries in the cities have attracted labor from the farm, it is believed that the adoption of a uniform wage of \$60 per month in

preparation for the approaching harvests. The granges and farmer's unions are active and of great value in the organization and co-operative effort and their good offices have been of inestimable value in emergencies such as these.

"While the farm, crop and labor survey returns show a comparatively small percentage of reports from all farmers in the state, they, however, indicate a satisfactory and encouraging increase in acreage of the most essential crops, as compared in 1917, which, taking into consideration with a average normal yield, in contrast with at least 40 per cent decrease in yield in the staple products of 1917, give promise of abundant increases in yields in all the important crops over those of last year.

"One of the most satisfactory indications of increase in acreage is that shown for both winter and spring wheat. The former, as indicated by the report, will show an increase of 45.5 per cent in acreage over 1917 while spring wheat shows an increase of 5.6 per cent. The great increase of winter wheat over spring wheat is accounted for undoubtedly from the farmers' benefit as a result of their experience of last year, when owing to the extended dry season a large percentage of the spring grain failed to mature, whereas the fall-sown grain yielded at least fall average.

"The spring wheat yield was 40 per cent below the ten-year average of 18.8 bushels per acre, while the winter wheat yield was but 29 per cent below the ten-year average of 21.9 bushels per acre. Taking the prospective increase in acreage and a reasonable assumption of an average annual yield of 23 bushels per acre into consideration, using as a basis the acreage planted to winter and spring wheat in 1917, as indicated by a collaboration of government statistics with survey returns, the indications are that the wheat yield for 1918 will be 19,739,000 bushels, as compared to 12,811,000 bushels in 1917 and 19,500,000 bushels in 1916. (U. S. Bureau of Crop Estimate Reports.)

"The same condition is practically true with every other staple crop with possible one or two exceptions, the government reports upon which show conditions at this time ranging from 97 per cent of normal winter wheat upon April 1, 1918, as against 84 per cent for the corresponding date for 1917, and 100 per cent for rye as compared to 94 per cent for 1917. The ten-year average condition for winter wheat on April 1 is 83.6 per cent, while that for rye is 97 per cent.

"Aside from grains those crops which suffered most severe from dry weather conditions last year include, among the most important, potatoes and beans. Government reports show the total acreage of beans harvested in 1917 was 14,000, an increase of 250 per cent over the 1916 acreage harvest and 29 per cent of the total acreage planted abandoned. The acreage reported in the crop survey for 1917 (914 acres) is 40 per cent of the acreage reported by the government, with a decrease of 13.6 per cent for 1918 as compared to 1917 acreage indicated by the report, it would still leave an increase acreage of 225 per cent for 1918 over 1917, or about 17,000 acres, which with a conservative average of 500 pounds to the acre would yield 141,600 bushels, or 50,600 bushels more than in 1917. The same condition applies to the potato prospects for 1918, which, like beans, is an altogether uncertain crop as to acreage in yield.

"Owing to the confusion which seemed to prevail as to what data was wanted in relation to hay acreage and the variance of interpretations placed upon the questionnaire questions, it was impossible to secure an accurate report upon these crops. This is especially true of alfalfa, clover, timothy, and grain hays. Alfalfa, clover and timothy, producing successive crops from a single sowing, were grouped by some as both old and new acreage, while others listed the new acreage, hence the acreage as given for 1918 is incorrect and misleading. Conservative estimates by agricultural authorities place the probable increase in acreage of alfalfa at 13.5 per cent, and timothy and clover at 10 per cent, respectively.

"The great percentage of the grain ent for hay consists of that trimmed from around the edges of the grain field preparatory for the harvests, and this acreage, which is considerable, is not taken into consideration in the listing of grain hay acreage to the purposes of this survey. Last year, too, owing to the extended season of dry weather, much of the grain acreage was cut for hay. With normal weather conditions this year

BE PRETTY! TURN GRAY HAIR DARK

Try Grandmother's Old Favorite Recipe of Sage Tea and Sulphur

Almost everyone knows that Sage Tea and Sulphur, properly compounded, brings back the natural color and lustre to the hair when faded, streaked or gray. Years ago the only way to get this mixture was to make it at home, which is messy and troublesome. Nowadays, by asking at any drug store for "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," you will get a large bottle of this famous old recipe, improved by the addition of other ingredients, at a small cost. Don't stay gray! Try it. No one can possibly tell that you darkened your hair, as it does it so naturally and evenly. You dampen a sponge or soft brush with it and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time; by morning the gray hair disappears, and after another application or two, your hair becomes beautifully dark, glossy and attractive.

Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound is a delightful tool requisite for those who desire dark hair and a youthful appearance. It is not intended for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease.

This situation will not prevail and the acreage harvested for grain will be greatly in preponderance with a consequent reduction in harvested in the hay acreage. Acreage of other hays is always problematical and seldom correctly reported.

The reports upon livestock was incomplete in many of the principal livestock counties of the state and the returns are, in most instances, incorrect and misleading. This is especially true of sheep, as some of the largest sheep producing counties of the state did not have an opportunity to report, owing to sparser settlement and widely scattered ranches, hence the sheep returns are inaccurate for the purpose of comparison.

This applies to Harney and Malheur counties, two of the largest sheep producing counties in the Northwest, either of which contain upwards of 80,000 sheep on their respective ranges. The last two columns in the tabulation, herewith, are government figures on livestock for 1917 and 1918.

The principal agricultural crops are estimated as follows:

Crop.	Increased Area per cent.	Est. yield bushels.
Corn for silo...	44.2	1,840,400
Wheat (winter)...	45.5	9,639,488
Wheat (spring)...	5.6	10,099,520
Oats...	15.0	12,595,500
Barley...	6.5	7,368,540
Rye...	60.4	911,423
Buckwheat...	182.0	32,040
Alfalfa hay...	13.5	
Clover hay...	10.6	
Vetch hay...	26.5	*2,669,760
Timothy hay...	19.0	
Grain hay...		
Other hays...		
Beans...	-13.6	112,500
Peas...	22.5	*1,831
Potatoes...	-14.3	8,000,000
Root crops...	11.4	
Livestock:		
Dairy cows...	80,530	89,629
Bulls, dairy or beef...	5,369	7,557
Beef cows...	55,341	70,505
Steers...	35,278	51,293
Horses and mules...	63,480	79,916
Rams...	6,969	11,959
Mutton sheep...	43,517	65,465
Breeding ewes...	310,322	439,607
Boars...	1,682	2,493
Breed sows...	14,693	19,104
Other hogs...	69,221	67,340
(*) Minus sign indicates decrease.		
(*) Indicates tons.		

Kay Predicts Ryan Will Win in Voting Tomorrow

State Treasurer Kay yesterday made the prediction that Judge Thomas F. Ryan will show his strength over all other candidates in the election tomorrow for the Republican nomination for the office now held by Kay.

"Some of the candidates are strong in one place, but not well known in another," said Mr. Kay, "while Judge Ryan is known everywhere. The contest seems to be between Ryan and Hoff, and I think Ryan will easily receive the nomination. He will carry Marion county without question."

County Is Asked to Grade and Macadamize Highway

All but \$15,000 of the \$188,849.6 in Bean-Barrett bonds available for the years 1917, 1918 and 1919 will be used in Marion county, according to G. E. Ross, secretary of state highway commission. The \$15,000 will be used in Tillamook county. In return for application of the funds to this county and for the paving this year of the Salem-Aurora stretch of the Pacific highway, the commission is insisting that Marion county pay the expense of grading and macadamizing the highway from Salem to Jefferson. The county court has returned no definite answer. The commission declares this was the condition on which improvement of the Salem-Aurora stretch has been undertaken.

GIRL SLACKERS TO BE CALLED. The "girl slacker" is to be the target of a concerted attack by the Speakers' Bureau in the Wisconsin Division of the Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense. "The idle girl, the girl with no definite plan for the future, the girl who is not now preparing for useful work," is to be made to feel that an obligation to do her part in the war rests on her no less than upon her brother. Girls are to be urged to fit themselves for nurses, teachers or stenographers.

The Fireless Cooker in the Farm Home

You can't afford to be without one. The fireless cooker can save fuel in winter and make your kitchen comfortable in summer. It will give you better food. It will save you time and labor for you can have your dinner cooking while you attend to other duties or go away from home. Make one for yourself. It may cost less than a dollar and will pay for itself in time and fuel saved. Or buy a ready-made one.

How a Fireless Cooker Cooks.—First the food is made as hot as it can be on the stove, then it is put immediately into the cooker. Once there, it stays hot and keeps on cooking. The walls of the fireless cooker keep the heat in just as the walls of a good refrigerator keep the heat out.

Materials needed for a fireless cooker are:

1.—The outside container—any good-sized box or bucket with a tight cover—a grocery box, a butter firkin, a wooden candy bucket, a 100-pound lard can, or a new garbage can.

2.—Packing material—soft hay, excelsior, ground cork, sawdust, tightly crumpled newspapers, or any other good non-conductive material that can be packed in closely. This packing material forms a nest for the cooking vessel.

3.—The nest lining—a metal or enamel bucket and sheet asbestos to cover the bucket. The bucket must have straight sides and a lid and must be of such a size as to allow at least three inches of packing material between it and the outside container, top, bottom, and sides.

4.—The cooking vessel—a vessel with a tight lid to fit closely into the nest lining and yet slip in and out easily, or two or three of the small ones especially made for the fireless. The best kind is of enamel, granite or aluminum.

5.—Cardboard—to make the col-

lar.

6.—The cushion—denim or muslin stuffed with the packing material. This cushion is to be pressed down across the top under the outside lid.

7.—Two soapstone disks—purchasable at a hardware store. They are not needed for all cooking, but with them you can cook more quickly and in greater variety.

To make the fireless cooker:

1.—Line the outside container with newspaper if a wooden box is used.

2.—Pack the bottom of the outside container compactly with a layer of the packing material to the depth of three inches or more.

3.—Cut a circle of asbestos two inches larger in diameter than the nest lining. Place the asbestos mat in the center of the packing.

4.—Cut a strip of asbestos big enough to cover completely the outside walls of the bucket which is to serve as the nest lining, and tie it in place.

5.—Place the bucket with its asbestos covering directly in the center on the asbestos mat. Hold in place and tightly fill in the space between it and the walls of the outside container with the packing material. Pack in solidly to within one-half inch of the top of the bucket. The success of your cooker depends largely upon the tightness with which you crown in the packing material, which prevents the heat from escaping from your hot food.

6.—Cut a piece of cardboard to fit in the outside container. Cut a hole in the middle of it which will fit closely over the bucket which forms the nest lining. This "collar" holds the packing material in place.

7.—Make the cushion for the top by cutting two pieces of cloth the size of the outside container and putting them together with a straight strip of cloth three inches wide. Stuff with the packing material.

8.—Outside finishings. If a box is used for the outside container, the lid should be hinged and fastened down with a hook. If it is of wood, paint or stain it a dark color. Casters make it convenient to move about.

Some precautions in using the fireless cooker are:

Don't let the food or disks cool before you put them in the fireless. The food will not cook unless there is enough heat shut up with it. Reheat the food that requires long cooking, if it cools before it is finished. Reheat the food before serving, if necessary. A small quantity of food cooks quickly, so either use the disks or put a small vessel containing the food in the regular cooking vessel and surround it with hot water.

Sapstone disks will increase the usefulness of your cooker. They can be heated hotter than the boiling point of water and when shut up in the fireless furnish heat which cooks the food. If you made your fireless according to directions, you can safely use the disks. Heat them very hot, but do not let them get red hot for fear of cracking. With one below and one on top of the cooking vessel

LAST CONTEST TO BE TONIGHT

High School Has Program Junior Class Winners Debate Yesterday

The last of a series of six public speaking contests between high school classes will take place in the school assembly hall tonight. It will consist of selections by representatives from each class entered in two sections. The following are in the "serious" division: Leslie Springer, senior; Howard Sanders, junior; Kathryn Gibbard, sophomore. Those whose numbers will be humorously Lloyd Waltz, senior; Emily Schier, junior, and Turfield Schier, sophomore.

Yesterday afternoon the senior debate, another program in the series, was won by the third year class by a 2 to 1 decision. Those on the winning junior team were Donald Ryan, Thomas Tuve, and Robert Notson. Judges were Rev. G. F. Holt, Professor J. O. Hall and Mrs. Myrtle Mason.

PRESIDENT WILL NOT VETO BILL

WASHINGTON, May 15.—President Wilson today declined, to veto the bill passed by congress changing the basis of army draft quotas from state population to the number of men in Class I because of objection to the elimination of the plan for giving credits to volunteers.

In a letter to Senator Phelan of California, who has asked that the bill be returned to congress, the president said:

"I admit there are two sides in the question about allowing credits for volunteers in conducting the