

Farm Bureau Studies Double School Taxes

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

A survey of Oregon school districts to determine how many will be affected by a new rural school law passed in the 1957 Legislature is now being made by the Oregon Farm Bureau. Gerald Detering, state Farm Bureau president, said Saturday.

The law allows rural school boards to levy taxes over the entire county while a union high school district can reach across a county line to effect double taxation, Detering explained.

Marion and Polk Affected

Cases already known are between Marion and Linn, Polk and Yamhill, Linn and Lane, Douglas and Coos, Clackamas and Multnomah, Multnomah and Washington, and Malheur and Harney counties, he said.

County unit system counties are not affected by the rural school district law, nor are unified districts which provide grades on to 12 even though they may embrace areas in more than one county.

"But in cases where elementary schools are in one county and the districts are part of a union high school district in another county, residents of the overlapping area are subject to taxation by rural school levies in both counties," Detering explained. "The situation is general enough over the state that we feel relief from being taxed twice is important enough to be considered at the special session of Legislature." He added that a request for an amendment to the new law is being contemplated by the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation.

No Separate Levies

"Our proposed amendment," Detering said, "would provide that all school districts become part of the county rural school district. Joint districts which include areas in more than one county, become part of the rural school district in the county in which the school is located. One levy will be made for rural school district purposes instead of separate levies for elementary schools and high schools as made under the present law."

Attention to the "double taxation" problem was pointed out at a special meeting this past week of the Benton County Farm Bureau, Corvallis. Four elementary school districts which are under the jurisdiction of Benton County Rural School board are a part of the Albany Union School district and are therefore, Detering said, also a part of the Linn County Rural School district.

Detering Reports Confirmation

"Residents of this overlapping area have been informed that the new statutes make no provision for separation of elementary and high school levies in joint district. They would be subject to rural school district levies from both counties," Detering went on. He added that confirmation of the "double taxation" has been made by both the state superintendent of public instruction and the Oregon Tax Commission.

Detering concluded: "When farmers as property owners are already carrying a large tax load in a period when farm income is decreasing and costs are increasing, we feel that to allow taxation by two counties would pyramid the farmers' taxes unjustly."

Estimate of Filbert Crop Bearing Up

Justification for his heavy filbert crop estimates is being substantiated by the harvest now nearing completion, Robert Barr, agricultural statistician for the USDA crop forecasting service, said Saturday.

Parr, who came under fire at a Sept. 30 meeting of filbert growers in McMinnville when he held to his high 1957 crop estimate, said that his Sept. 1 estimate of 11,800 tons still holds for the Oct. 1 estimate.

His supporters at the McMinnville meeting noted that in the 1956 estimate he has been only a fractional percentage off.

"The harvest looks unusually good with a high percentage likely to grade out larger than normal. The blank count is running far below normal," he said this week. The filbert control board and the filbert commission earlier in September set the ball rolling for seeking a government assistance if estimates proved out and prices continued at the 15-to 16 cent per pound level. Cost estimates for this year of production have been placed at 17½ cents by the growers.

Greatest single difficulty to the nation's filbert economy has been the Turkish imports, trade interests claim. The Northwest's filbert growers received a government assistance in 1949 when a similar market problem existed.

Three to Head For Induction

Three men will leave Marion County Draft Board No. 10 on Wednesday for induction into the armed services at Portland.

The trio are Thoro Franklin Earlywine, Salem; James Arthur Fitzgerald, Brooks; and Robert Lee Pallett, Aumsville.

The real name of Madame de Pompadour was Françoise d'Aubigne. She was born in a prison cell.



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