

LABOR OUTLOOK FOR 1926 BRIGHT DECLARES GRAM

That the state will spend about \$6,000,000 on highway work in 1926, a little less than in 1925, is the prediction of C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, in a forecast of the employment situation for the coming year.

"For a number of months," he says, "operators claim, lumber has been sold below the cost of production and regardless of conditions in the lumber market wages have remained without change for several months. It is doubtful that realization time wages are now at a level that will permit further reductions in view of the cost of living. The lumber operators have faith that 1926 will be a big building year; that production will be curtailed by severity of weather the next few months depleting stock on hand but with the coming of spring weather there will be heavy production of lumber and better prices."

"The consensus of opinion seems to be that structural building in Oregon in 1926 will equal the year 1925. Although a few estimates place volume of building construction for next year slightly under that reached in 1925. The erection of \$40,000,000 worth of new buildings in Portland this year has to a considerable extent provided employment to skilled mechanics and building laborers. The prospects for the amount of building activity in Portland the coming year and a proportionate amount throughout the state augur well for general business conditions and related employment."

"The proportion of fall grain this fall will be considerably below the average average, because of the season being unfavorable for plowing, owing to unusual dryness. Therefore the spring wheat acreage will no doubt be considerably increased, but there will doubtless be a falling off of general production as the spring crop is lower in production. There are indications that there will be much larger acreage of potatoes next year, due to the fact that there was a national shortage this year, with consequent high prices. Late potatoes were a good yield but the early acreage was short, on account of the very dry summer."

"Owing to the fact that a good season and the resulting high prices received for farm products, it is believed that a 10 per cent increase in acreage planted to various crops would not be over-estimating the situation for 1926."

Girl's Essay Places Salem In Center of Land of Diversity

That the vicinity of Salem is a "land of diversity," is stated by Margaret Purvine, 8th grade pupil in the McKinley Junior high school in her Kiwanis contest essay entitled "The Industries of Salem." The essay produced by her was tied for first place among 8th graders in the contest. It reads as follows:

Salem is often called the "City of Peace." It is called this because the word Salem means peace and because there are no mobs and strikes here. The workmen are contented as they do not strike. This community is also called the "Land of Diversity" because there is an opportunity for almost everyone to get the job that suits him best.

The fruit growing industry is an important one in the district. The harvesting of the fruit is an industry in itself for many people are employed to pick berries, and other fruit. The first harvest of the year is gooseberries which are gathered in May. They are immediately followed by strawberries. After strawberries come cherries, blackberries, loganberries, pears, prunes and apples. As the apple industry has not yet been developed to its full extent, there is not as much apple acreage here as

might be expected of this country where soil and climate are so adaptable for fruit.

One of the major industries here is fruit preserving. There are six plants for this purpose in Salem. Other canneries preserve vegetables while some of the fruit canneries also make jam, jelly and preserves. As the fruit canneries here are large, there are many people employed in them. Most of these are women but some of them are men. Their work varies from preparing the fruit for canning to sealing and labeling the cans.

We still have many industries yet to be developed, which should encourage eastern investors to come here and locate. Some of these industries are linen manufacturing, dehydrating, the raising of mist and cascara sagrada, and cultivating and making crude drugs and their by-products.

Because of its mills, fruit, di-

versity of industries, and beautiful scenery, is an almost ideal place for the homes of common people. There are many home owners here which make Salem a cleaner, and more beautiful city than if there were fewer owners and only transient residents.

SLASH BURNING POLICY STATED

A policy relative to slash disposal in the Coos Bay region was adopted by the state board of forestry meeting at Marshfield, Saturday. Selective cedar logging is carried on in that district. Representatives of the general land office, the federal forest service and the state forester's office attended. The following policy was adopted:

No broadcast burning at any time. No spring burning unless fire is put out completely with water, or equally effective means.

Controlled spot burning to dispose of moss, dangerous concentrations of slash, as determined by the state forester and his wardens.

Preparations for burning at right time and in right way to be made by operator in advance. Balance of slash to be left unburned. If additional patrol or other protection is needed because of added hazard created by unburned slash, arrangements to finance it to be worked out with fire patrol associations and by assessments under the state fire patrol law.

On Oregon and California and Coos Bay wagon road grant lands, slash disposal, as outlined above, to be required of purchasers under the terms of the sale contract made by the interior department, supported by surety bonds if necessary.

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