

Polk County Observer

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COUNTY AGENT WORK.

Through development of improved organization and the growth of a more definite project system the office of extension work in the U. S. department of agriculture in the north and west carried its demonstration activities into closer relation to the practical needs of the farmers of the region during the past year, according to the annual report of the states relations service of the department. Local associations of farmers took a greater part in the work and more attention was devoted to studies of local economic facts upon which to develop demonstrations of permanent value. Extension work in the special interests of farm women was undertaken in the territory under the office, and a number of women agents were placed in the field.

Among the specific results from the county-agent work of the office of extension work in the north and west during the year were:

Yields of corn in fields managed as demonstrations under supervision of the county agents increased on an average 12.8 bushels per acre over the average yields for the region.

Yields of wheat in fields managed as demonstrations increased 8.4 bushels per acre.

Yields of oats in fields managed as demonstrations increased 11.7 bushels per acre.

Alfalfa was introduced on 11,311 farms.

Several score registered stallions and rams and several hundred registered bulls and boars were placed on farms.

Nearly a thousand fine bulls no longer useful in their communities because of danger of inbreeding were saved from the block and transferred to other communities.

One hundred and forty-three cow-testing associations, 99 live-stock breeding associations, and 142 hog cholera control associations were organized.

More than 200,000 hogs were vaccinated against cholera.

Better farm management was promoted through assistance given to farmers in determining the factors that make for success or failure in farm enterprises.

Farmers' exchanges and co-operative marketing associations were organized and effected large savings to members.

Three hundred and twenty-one water-supply systems were introduced into farm homes.

Club work was carried on with more than 209,000 boys and girls. Over 24,000 of these engaged in profit-making projects, producing over \$500,000 worth of food products.

The club work was placed on a more permanent basis as an extension agency, and boys and girls are now enrolling to pursue the work for a series of years.

PRICES TO BE LOWER.

"The day after the close of the European war prices in this country will start downward and they will keep going down," was the assertion made recently by Franklyn Hobbs, "business barometer" and trade expert of Chicago. The assertion was made at the monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Ad Forum, and attended by many Minneapolis business men not affiliated with the Forum.

Mr. Hobbs based his assertion on the abnormal amount of gold in America, which, he said, will start back across the Atlantic the minute peace is declared.

Opening with the statement that the gold transfer to this country justifies an increase of from twenty-nine to thirty-nine per cent in general commodity prices in America, the speaker cited some things in which an even greater increase is justified by existing conditions, assailed those men responsible for what he termed unjustifiable increases in other lines, and closed with a statement of what must be done to establish a condition of financial preparedness for the end of the war and what will follow.

"My assertions are based on the theory that this war will not be followed by international peace or disarmament," he declared. "I do not believe there ever will be an end to war. When this war is over Germany immediately will begin rebuilding itself to that point of comparative preparedness which it held at the start of the war. England, Russia, France, Japan and other nations will be forced to follow suit, and the United States will have to bring itself up to the

comparative standing it held before the war began.

"While the foreign nations are doing this, along military lines, they will be bending every effort to re-establish their financial equilibrium.

"American's hope of salvation in the face of this assault will lie, probably, in one of three things: Either an absolute embargo must be placed on foreign made goods, and I doubt if this could be done without a constitutional amendment; a prohibitive—not a protective—tariff must be established; or there must be a subsidization of American manufacturing interests, solid enough to meet the great financial pressure that will be brought to bear by the government controlled industries of European countries. Prosperity is not going to die in this country following the end of the war, but individual businesses may, unless prepared, meet sudden and painful deaths. Individual firms cannot hope to compete with the national organizations of Europe, the latter, spurred by the necessity of recovering their economic poise."

AN INCONSISTENCY IN GOVERNMENT.

Members of congress elected in November will not assume office until next March and, unless congress is called to meet in special session, they will have no hand in shaping legislation before next winter—more than a year after they were chosen to represent the people. This is one of the inconsistencies of the American system of government that frequently has been called to attention, but every effort heretofore made to modify this fault has met with failure. Discussion of this problem has been revived, however, and it is likely another attempt will be made to bring about the necessary change in the constitution which will allow newly elected members of congress to assume office and commence their work without waiting for more than a year.

Public sentiment will decide this matter, of course, and if a sufficient number of the people should demand the change suggested, it would be accomplished in short order. That sentiment in favor of this change is increasing will scarcely be denied, but congress will never act on this matter until it faces an imperative demand.

The nervous condition of the markets, a condition that causes wheat and corn to rise and fall five or ten cents a bushel in a day, shows beyond question that the high prices are caused more by the speculator than they are by the actual conditions. When a cure can be found for this gambling evil, the cost of production and the cost of living will be brought nearer together.

Twenty-six years ago there were four states that had prohibition—Kansas, Maine, Iowa and North Dakota. Then Iowa went back to her bottle, and there were three, and Maine wasn't badly hurt by ingrowing prohibition. Now half the states of the union are prohibition, with the whole country coming.

Up in the hunting country of Wisconsin and Michigan there have been eighty-six men killed and forty-one wounded during the hunting season this year. There were only fifty-nine killed last year, which shows that the marksmanship in the north woods is improving.

Some of the New York papers accuse Chicago speculators with being responsible for the high cost of food-stuffs. And the Chicago speculators very likely will retort that Wall street is the guilty party.

The generous and general advice that is coming to us now to the effect that we keep all the windows open, may not come from the gas and coal companies, but it has a suspicious sound.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

This Sounds Like Sense.

The best estimates of the value of all Oregon crops of grain, fruit, fish, vegetables, live stock and dairy products for 1916—at war prices—is placed at \$130,000,000.

In the grain districts and the live-stock centers the farmers are mighty prosperous.

But if some man came along and showed these farmers where they could get another \$100,000,000 added to the circulating medium in this state, would they take it?

Foolish question number one.

Yet, that is exactly what is proposed by the North Pacific Coast Tourist association. They intend to bring a crop of tourists to Oregon, Washington and British Columbia and to have those tourists drop \$100,000,000 every year in the laps of Oregon farmers, laborers and merchants.

If the association should get only \$50,000,000 a year from tourists it would be more money than is brought into the state by wheat and cattle; it would about double the value of

the combined fruit crops; it would be more money than Oregon gets for her potatoes, corn, barley, rye, oats and hay.

The Tourist association has adopted the same plan, with improvements, that has been successful in getting the tourist to California and to Switzerland. They will combine the big scenic attractions of the northwest and advertise them as one tour. It is intended to feature the summer climate of the northwest and to induce tourists to stay here for months, visiting every section of the state. That means that every community will secure its share of this new money, and that its resources will be looked over by men who are able to buy.

Emery Olmstead of Portland, is vice-president for Oregon. H. A. Latta, of Medford, R. E. Scott of Hood River, J. H. Koke of Eugene, Tilford Taylor, of Pendleton, W. J. Hofmann of the Oregonian, Phil Metschan, Jr., representing the hotel men of the state, C. C. Overmire for the automobile men, and Mark Woodruff for the Portland Chamber of Commerce are the men behind the scheme.

With such a roster of directors for Oregon the plan escapes being branded as a "Portland scheme." It is an all Oregon move.

With all Oregon interested the legislature will be asked to finance the North Pacific Coast Tourist association for \$25,000 a year for two years. Washington and British Columbia will do their part.

If the legislature refuses to make the appropriation the plan will be dropped. It would be impossible to raise the money by subscription. And it is doubtful if it should be. Every citizen is benefited by the new money brought here by the tourist, and why should not every citizen pay the few cents that this sum means to each taxpayer in the state?—Exchange.

Winning Pastures and Farms From the Wastes.

American hunger for land can still be gratified. Uncle Sam may no longer have a fine farm for every corner, but he still owns acres enough to provide farms for many colonists for decades or generations. During the fiscal year which ended with last June the national government distributed 20,000,000 acres of the public land among the people and still had 250,000,000 acres in reserve.

The volume of distribution exceeded that for several years before and equaled an increase of 3,000,000 acres over the fiscal year of 1914-15. Irrigation rendered practicable the making of 5000 new farms last year, and the progress of the irrigation enterprises of the nation, the state and the private corporation assures yearly increases of tillable territory in the naturally dry areas of the country.

Such facts as these, which are drawn from the reports of the secretaries of the interior and for agriculture, are instructive and encouraging facts. The continuous expansion of arable areas in the United States bears directly upon the problem of sufficient supplies of food in the future. Already the effect is more than negligible. Secretary Houston of the department of agriculture declares that in the business of producing food this country has held its own, despite increase of population and immense exportations to Europe, and has done so not merely with meats and the products of the dairy, but with other articles. It is to be noted, nevertheless, as a corrective and caution, that the main gain in cattle comes apparently from enlarged use of land in the national forests as grazing ground.

The public pasturages now support more than 1,500,000 cattle, 7,500,000 sheep and calves, and lambs in addition. Here is an increase of at least 15 per cent. It is expected that the end of another decade will see 2,000,000 cattle and 9,000,000 sheep on those ranges. Outside of the national forests there also are additional available grazing grounds on public land. These render practicable, under the auspices of the national government, a material increase in the number of food animals in the west.

There is and always will be land enough in the United States for any number of inhabitants. China demonstrates this. The people's business is to utilize the land and simplify and cheapen distribution of its products.—Spokane Review.

Getting Even.

You have heard the remark often made, "I will get even if it takes a lifetime." Let's, for our own sakes if for no other, do away with all desire to "get even" with another for any mean act that another may have done us, no matter what it is.

Aim to treasure and pay back the kindly things but drop the unpleasant ones out of your mind. Don't notice them and you will be infinitely better off for this course of action.

The man or woman who keeps cool under bitter provocation to "fly off the handle," who maintains his or her self-poise and goes about doing daily duties with a smile, "hits back" far more effectively than when

stooping to do a mean action in return, just to "get even."

The non-residents attitude is by far the safest one under the circumstances. Don't misunderstand us. We don't mean that one should yield one's own individuality or self-respect, rather that one should strengthen both by keeping out of the turmoil of envy and backbiting and hatred.

Have you ever noticed how it weakens you—how exhausting it is to give way to a fit of anger?

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Remember that revenge, while it is said to be sweet, is not. There is no sweetness in it, and when the first sense of triumph is past it is sure to leave a sting of self-reproach that is hard to efface.—Pacific Homestead.

The Oregonian has cut out one section of its Sunday edition and the print paper thus saved is sufficient to print half of the weekly newspapers in the state one week. The Oregonian is to be commended for doing its share in reducing the high cost of paper. If present prices be maintained for any length of time, a number of smaller newspapers, those not very generously supported in advertising patronage, will be forced to quit.—Independence Monitor.

POLK-I-DOTS

Yack Rabbit Mountain, Dec. 25, 1916
Mr. Editor:

I see it stands on de nusepaper da goin to hav a meetin in Portland on Yanuary sax, of de Oregon Irrigation Congress, an at nite da goin to giv a big banquet. Vel now voodent dat noek you, a irrigation banquet in a dry town lak Portland. Ay tank day better callin it a dry farmin banquet, for a man som han ust to havin a yin riekey or a fue Hi Balls ven he sitten down to a banquet mite ust so well try to smook a pipe vidout any tobacco in it.

Yewhiz, vot is de use to invite a man to irrigation banquet ven it is noting to irrigate wid, he mite ust so well stay at hoam and drink loganberry yuse.

Cors Ay aint sayin anything gainst loganberry yuse, but if any boddy can get any venuine voy by drinkin loganberry yuse Ay lak to fine out how he goin to do it.

Will you excuse me?
TORGER OLSON.

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THEY GET THE MANUFACTURER'S PRICE
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Hang an electric lamp where it can be switched on and off.

Let it burn for a time after dusk and in the morning.

This will lengthen the poultry day, give more exercise and speed up egg production.

It has increased egg production 40 per cent.

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Oregon Power Ask Us.

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