

### OREGON MEMBER U.S. FARM BUREAU

Portland—Oregon is now added to the growing list of farm bureau states. Nearly 40 states with over a million and a half members are now enrolled in this nationwide movement.

Action to join the national federation as well as the perfecting of the state federation of the county bureaus took place at the three day session in Portland last week by the delegates from the 15 farm bureau counties which have ratified the constitution of the state bureau.

The officers of the organization are George A. Mansfield of Medford, president; V. H. Smith of Wasco, vice president; P. O. Powell of Monmouth, secretary; J. F. Schroeder of Norway, V. V. Hickox of Ontario and T. N. Case of Klamath Falls, members of the executive committee.

President Mansfield says: "In order to succeed in a movement of this character we must have the support of all classes of society, and our open forum meetings are doing much to acquaint the public with our aims and purposes."

It was a remarkable, and one might say unique spirit that prevailed over the entire meeting. The air was charged with a spirit of cooperation, not only of growers' associations and various state organizations, but also the representatives of the farmers' union, the state Grange, the bureau of markets, and the several marketing associations of the state. The federation is acting in conjunction with the extension service and in harmony with the other organizations.

Starting its work of conducting hearings and threshing out the problems which confront the farmers, the new state federation considered a few of the marketing questions which are at the present time of vital interest to the producers of the state. The question of a cooperative association to handle the wheat crop was introduced early in the meeting and was discussed by leaders of various farm organizations, delegates from wheat growing counties, representatives of the bureau of organization and markets and experts on cooperative marketing.

At the opening of the meeting there were indications of a difference of opinion upon the best plan for marketing wheat, but after a few hours of deliberations practically the entire group was in favor of the plan now being used by the Washing-

ton and Idaho growers. This plan which is also winning wide favor among eastern producers, was introduced into the Northwest by The Journal.

Wheat growers will meet in the near future at The Dalles to confer on the best means of putting their marketing plan into operation.

A meeting of the wool and mohair growers of Western Oregon will be held at Albany, January 21 to formulate marketing plans.

The committee on legislation endorsed several measures. They urge the state to continue matching the regular and supplemental federal Smith-Lever funds supporting extension work, and to continue the support of the extension experimental work. They favored appropriation of \$75,000 for the Pacific international, during the biennial. Endorsed law to regulate feed stuffs, and investigate dairy feeds and stock diseases. To include livestock in agricultural statistics. To continue support of rodent control. Making coyote bounty optional with counties. Livestock law amendment for Southern Oregon counties.

The state federation expects to have 8000 members signed up by the first of March.

#### FARMERS OF BENTON PLEDGE \$1500 FOR BUREAU DRIVE

Corvallis—The first drive for membership in the Benton County Farm bureau will begin January 31. This was decided upon at a conference attended by President George A. Mansfield of the State Farm bureau. It is estimated that the expense of calling on every farmer in Benton county to join will be \$1500 and this sum has been pledged by 31 farmers.

The membership will be for life and will cost \$10 a year, though a member may withdraw after the expiration of one year. A speaking campaign will be begun and President Mansfield will give this his personal supervision. Similar membership drives are to be put on in other Oregon counties at an early date.

Keep Warm As You Wait. By paying an annual fee to an electric light company in London, Ont., motorists are permitted to attach a wire from current taps on poles at convenient points throughout the city and heat their radiators while the car is left standing in cold weather.

The first European observatory was built at Nuremberg in 1472.

### BETTER BUSINESS CONDITIONS NOW

Portland—That the country has passed through its financial stringency and has long ago reached the point where it is certain there will be no panic and that the signs of the times in business circles throughout the country point to better conditions soon to make their appearance in the declaration of Frederick Greenwood, manager of the Portland bank of San Francisco. A sound system, he says, has preserved the nation in the most serious situation for years.

"The business and financial outlook is growing daily more encouraging," said Mr. Greenwood. "Leading bankers and economists agree that the worst of the storm is over and that bright spots are appearing on the horizon."

"One of the most satisfactory phases of the situation is that we have long since passed the point where a panic was possible, and while the readjustment to lower price levels which business has been experiencing for the last six or eight months has been a somewhat painful process, it has not been accompanied by the acute and distressing symptoms which we have experienced during similar readjustments in the past. The fact that the public generally realizes that we have a banking and financial system which is fundamentally sound and capable of standing the strain without breaking under it, is doubtless responsible for the absence of hysteria."

"The greatest factor in bringing about the readjustment and consequent deflation has been the attitude of the consuming public and not, as some would have us believe, a concerted movement on the part of the banks of the federal reserve board to force liquidation. A year ago the public was beginning to resent continued high prices and the reaction in the shape of curtailed purchases had the desired effect of bringing prices down. Producers, wholesalers and retailers are having to take losses in selling goods at less than they cost to produce or put on the shelves, but the ultimate consumer feels he has been taking his loss during the last two or three years of high prices and that it is only fair that the tables be turned."

"It is now felt that the bottom has been reached in most lines and an improvement from now on is to be looked for. Stocks of high priced goods are being disposed of and are being replaced at lower values. The demand for goods is strengthening, mills are re-opening and within a few months things should be much nearer normal. It will take less money and credit to carry on the business of the country under the new level of prices. Already money is easier in some sections. Call money in New York recently ruled as low as 4 percent. It is significant to note that the offerings of United States treasury certificates on January 15 were at a lower rate of interest than previous offerings, indicating the trend of the money market."

"The banks of the country have been laboring under a heavy load and have stood the strain. Credit has been available to meet the necessary demands of business and industry, and with the cleaning up of stocks of merchandise and the moving of our crops to market, the wheels of business should soon be turning normally again."

"Here in the northwest we have had ideal crop conditions this winter, and with the promise of a bountiful crop next fall, we have a right to be optimistic as to the future."

#### EMPLOYEES WARNED OF UNSAFE INVESTMENTS

T. O. Edwards, auditor of the Southern Pacific company, issues a word of warning to the thousands of employes on the Pacific system against putting their savings into purely speculative ventures. This warning was prompted by recent discovery that a number of employes had lost Liberty bond savings and other "nest eggs" through the misrepresentation of artful and unscrupulous promoters.

"No matter how attractive the proposition may seem to be on the surface," says the Southern Pacific's financial authority, "employes before investing their savings should consult with some responsible banker in their community, who will gladly give them frank and unbiased advice, whether they are patrons of the bank or not. There are many opportunities for sound and profitable investments at the present time, but there are also attempts being made every day to defraud the public and impose upon the credulous."

### MARVEL DAY

By MYRTA A. LITTLE.

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Boy Dan was lonesome, so lonesome there were tears in his blue eyes and a choke in his throat. But he clutched his fists manfully in his patched pockets and he tried to get up a real stride for the ruts of the frozen road. There was a heap o' courage tucked away in Boy Dan's heart, and a heap o' faith.

Besides, Boy Dan was running away from the home with no mother in it, running away from the loneliness, to find a real mother and a real dad and a house with a fireplace and a kitten and a fishing rod and a baseball, all today, and a dog named Jip. There was reason enough to stride ahead, indeed.

Once Boy Dan had had a father with sandy hair and eyes like his, and tanned face and nice kind hands and a smile. And once Boy Dan had had a little dark-skinned mother who loved him to pieces one minute and threw saucepans at him the next. Once she had hit Boy Dan so hard that the scar stayed on his wrist. She hadn't lived very long, and all the women Boy Dan's father had had to cook for him hadn't been nice or patient or neat. So, after a while, one day, Boy Dan's father had taken him to the home, and he hadn't smiled when he left him. Boy Dan knew he was very sorry. That was years ago.

All that time, Boy Dan had been planning to run away. Now he was doing it.

The day was lonesome—just gray clouds and a brown earth, and huddled piles of leaves. Only the little cedar lane looked cheerful. And right in the same town, a little woman was lonesome, too; Miss Sarah Graham, who lived at the Cross Roads in the brown cottage with the woodbine over it.

Ten years before Sarah had lost a dear friend. They were to have been married. But one evening the man had been late in coming to take her for their walk through Cedar Lane, and when he had come Miss Sarah had sent him away without meaning it at all, just for the sake of hearing him refuse to go.

Then the marvel happened, as marvels will come to pass. Boy Dan and Miss Sarah met right in front of the little town square, where the rows of cedars began to form Cedar Lane. Miss Sarah stopped and put her hand on the boy's shoulder.

"Son," said Miss Sarah. Then she flushed and wondered why she had said it. "Where are you going?" she asked.

"Nowhere," said Boy Dan. "Except to find a mother and—"

"Where do you live?" asked Miss Sarah.

Boy Dan told her, and he told her he couldn't stand it any longer without mother.

Suddenly Miss Sarah spoke. "I'll take you to my house, boy. I'll let the home know. We'll have our dinner together today."

The boy chuckled. "Might 's well tell the home folks I've found a mother, I guess, for keeps," he said. "I like you. Guess I'll stay at your house all the time." He hesitated. "Have you got a daddy?"

"I live all alone," said Miss Sarah. "Would you be lonesome?"

"Without a dad I would," Boy Dan told her. "Come on."

"Now we'll go find our daddy," said Boy Dan with a sturdy purpose, dragging his new-found mother toward the path of cedars and the little town square.

Chill though it was, there were men lounging in the square, tanned men and untanned men, dark men and sandy men. And there was one man who began to look hard at the trudging boy.

All at once he hurried over from the bench and clutched Boy Dan's hand and looked quickly at the little scarred wrist. Then he knelt right down and hugged Boy Dan close and whispered jerky things.

"M' boy, Dan, I couldn't git the courage ter go ter the home and not take yer along back with me."

The man looked at Miss Sarah, started to speak, leaned closer, thrust out a trembling hand.

"This is my new mother, dad," said Boy Dan firmly. "She's awful nice. Guess she's cold. She's shakin'. Glad yer come long. We'll be startin' home all of us, now we've got together." He stopped. "Is there a fireplace and a kitten?" he asked.

"Yes," said Miss Sarah faintly.

"May I come?" the man asked.

The last time Miss Sarah had heard him speak he had said, "If you send me away I shall not come back again."

And here he was. Truly such ways are marvels. How had it all come to pass?

Why, there was a heap o' courage in Boy Dan's heart, and a heap o' faith. And it was marvel day in the morning.

The fire burned bright in Miss Sarah's kitchen and in the fireplace, and the man said the dinner was the best-smelling one he'd ever waited for. Boy Dan? There was going to be a baseball and a fishing rod and a dog named Jip. Dad had said so, and he'd said something about a wedding, too. The day wasn't lonesome any more, either. The leaves had mused in them as they fluttered down to the welcoming earth, and the grayness had a pearl light in it that is as a halo.

It was marvel day in the morning.

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