

The Two-Price System

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In its endeavor to achieve "a planned agriculture" the Administration has tried out many schemes. It has experimented with crop restriction, acreage allotments, marketing quotas, dollar devaluation, cash subsidies, crop insurance, the purchase of surplus commodities, and export dumping. Notwithstanding these measures the prices of agricultural products are still low, and there is much discontent among the farmers. Some new scheme must therefore be evolved.

The new scheme is the two-price system, an arrangement whereby certain agricultural products and the goods manufactured from them will be offered to those on relief and to others with low incomes below the market price. Instead of dumping our surplus farm products abroad, to the benefit of foreign consumers, it is proposed that we dump them at home, and thereby help, says Secretary Wallace, "the lower third of our people."

The difficulties that would be encountered in administering a two-price system are staggering, especially if the Secretary of Agriculture really intends to apply the plan to "the lower third." There are literally millions of people who do not fall in the category of the lower third, but who would like to obtain the benefit of the lower prices. Naturally they would be prevented from doing so. Probably the Government would have to supply to the lower third a card certifying that they are entitled to the lower prices. Before issuing the card, however, the Government would have to investigate carefully the family's income, and

this would require an enormous staff. Obviously, it would not suffice to make one investigation of such applicant for an applicant's economic status might improve sufficiently to take him out of the lower third. The Government would therefore have to investigate more or less continuously the income of the lower third, not to mention those in the lower brackets of the middle third. This would mean many new government jobs, more red tape, and more class divisions. A sorry prospect indeed!

Supporters of the plan say that as a matter of fact we already have the two-price system in industry. Telegraph companies make lower charges for night letters than for day telegrams; telephone companies charge less for long distance calls at night than during the day; and electric light companies have special rates for energy taken off the peak.

True enough, but this is quite different from the two-price system proposed by the Department of Agriculture. One important difference is that the lower charges of the utilities apply at periods of low use, and are designed to promote a fuller utilization of the company's facilities. The low rates are open to anyone, and by bringing in revenues that would otherwise be unrealized they make possible a reduction in rates for the remaining customers. The two-price system of the Department of Agriculture, however, is designed to raise the price of agricultural products, to the detriment of the consumers who are not made beneficiaries of the scheme.

Another difference is that the two-price system of the Department of Agriculture will impose a heavy burden on the taxpayers, for they will have to make up the difference between the price paid to the farmer and the reduced price at which the goods are sold to "the lower third." The policy of rate differentiation followed by the utilities, on the other hand, imposes no burden whatever on the taxpayer.

Coquille Women At Portland Pro-America

Mrs. O. C. Sanford, Mrs. C. W. Kline, Mrs. Albert Powers and Mrs. R. A. Wernich drove to Portland Sunday to attend meetings of Pro America. They returned Tuesday evening. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. T. Gerlinger Sunday evening at a lovely buffet supper held at the Town Club in honor of Governor-elect and Mrs. Charles A. Sprague. Over sixty guests were present at this delightful affair.

Monday morning, Mrs. Kline, as president of the local Pro-America club, attended the board meeting of Pro-America held in the Wilcox building. In the late afternoon, Mrs. Gerlinger drove the ladies to Oregon City, where they visited the restored McLaughlin home and the Barclay Tea Room. Monday evening they were guests for dinner at the home of Mrs. Gerlinger in honor of two special guests.

Tuesday morning the ladies attended the annual meeting of Pro-America held in the Neighbors of Woodcraft building. Most of the counties in the state had a representative of their organization present. There were over 100 at this meeting. At 12:30 a luncheon was served in the building and the session resumed. The Coquille ladies were unable to remain the whole of the meeting but received much inspiration for future Pro-America activities.

Assembly of God Society Has Meeting

The missionary circle of the Assembly of God Church met at the home of Mrs. H. L. Johnson yesterday. After the regular business was attended to two letters were read, one from workers in South America and one from Belgian Congo. Mrs. E. L. Smith had charge of devotions and read Psalm 103. Mrs. Holmstrom led in prayer, Mrs. R. D. E. Smith gave an interesting talk on work and conditions in South India.

Lunch was served to twenty-five ladies: Mesdames V. R. Wilson, R. D. E. Smith, E. L. Smith, May Bates, Ella Nelson, Strang, Lucy Whitney, Fern Schroeder, Hattie Coy, Nash, Cooper, Frances Holmstrom, Dorothy Jeffries, Marney, Van Fleet, Newton, Frank Fish, Lewis English, Carpenter, Wilkins, Steward, Margaret Steward, Dorothy Caudle, Miss Aileen Wilson and the hostess, Mrs. H. L. Johnson.

Elois Wilson Is Soprano Soloist

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Wilson are driving to Portland Friday to attend "The Messiah," in which program their daughter, Elois, has been chosen as soprano soloist. "The Messiah" will be given Friday evening in the Swedish Baptist Temple and will include 100 voices. Elois is in her senior year in the Portland Bible Institute, which is sponsoring the program.

Keys made for all locks. Stevens Cash Hardware, Coquille, Ore.

Social Notes

(Continued from Page Three)

At the lecture on "China," given by Miss Helen Whitaker Monday evening, people from the rural districts were well represented. The advanced pupils from the Valley View and Coaledo schools attended in a body and the Junior Woman's Club members also attended in a body before their regular meeting, which was held downstairs in Pioneer Hall.

At the meeting of the Royal Neighbors Tuesday evening, two were initiated into the order: Mrs. Frank Willard and Mrs. Michael McCarthy. The annual election of officers resulted in the following being chosen: Oracle, Ida Sherrard; Vice Oracle, Ruby Johnson; Chancellor, Myrtle Jones; recorder, Mae Waggoner; receiver, Ethel Leach; past oracle, Katherine Varney; marshal, Elizabeth Bull; assistant marshal, Georgia Stephenson; inner sentinel, Nora Thorp; outer sentinel, Mollie Wersh; manager three years, Lottie Miller; flag-bearer, Katie Peart.

A "galloping" tea was held at the home of Mrs. Fred Bull this week, callers being Mrs. Zoe Smith and Mrs. Georgia Stephenson.

At the meeting of Mamie Rebekah Lodge, No. 28, November 23rd, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Ena Harless, Noble Grand; Mrs. Lois Stevens, Vice Grand; Mrs. Florabel Boober, secretary, and Mrs. Harriet Schaefer, treasurer.

Saturday evening, Dec. 17, the Three Links club will sponsor another dance in the I.O.O.F. hall.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Spangler were hosts at a six-thirty o'clock party last Saturday night. Following dinner, the guests chatted, etc. Present were: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Todd, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hoolstead, Mr. and Mrs. Zed Finley, Mrs. E. C. Finley and son, Cecil, and Mr. and Mrs. W. Hoolstead.

Mrs. Louis Fugelson entertained her Sunday school class with a Christmas party Monday evening at her home on Sanford Heights. The girls played "Touring Hop Ching" and "Pick Up Sticks." They were then served delicious "eats" by Mrs. Fugelson. Present were: Ann Hawkins, Helen Kyle, Eunice Howe, Beverly Norton, Donna Dean Bosserman, Betty Jo Thorp, Mary Jane Dunn, Vada Tucholke, Dorothea Yarbrough, Zula Westmoreland, Geraldine Cole, Dorothy Belle Newton, Muriel Davis, Barbara Leslie, Margaret Smith and Jeanne Cleterbos.

Mrs. A. B. Collier was hostess to her evening bridge club Monday for seven o'clock dessert. Contract was played with Mrs. Geo. Johnson winning high score; Mrs. U. E. McClary, second, and Mrs. Frank Thrift, the travelling prize. Present were: Mesdames J. L. Aasen, E. M. Kay, Frank Thrift, F. C. McNelly, U. E. McClary, George Johnson, H. S. Norton and the hostess.

Mrs. Carla Savage was hostess to the "Zodiac Club" Wednesday for one o'clock luncheon in honor of Mrs.

Young Matrons Club Meets

The Young Matrons club met on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 30, at the home of Mrs. Jack Clouse. Two tables of Chinese Checkers were played, at which Mrs. Weldon Curtis and Mrs. Enno Dornath won prizes. The door prize was won by Mrs. Wylie Embree. Later in the afternoon delicious refreshments were served to the following members: Mesdames Bert Ferry, Walter West, Weldon Curtis, Fred Martin, Ronald Burr, Ernie Embree, Elmo Sanders, Enno Dornath, Wylie Embree, Virgil Todd and the hostess, Mrs. Jack Clouse. The club will meet in two weeks with Mrs. Fred Martin.

EPISCOPAL GUILD MEETING

The Episcopal Guild ladies met in the Parish House Wednesday afternoon. Following the Bible study, a business meeting was held. Refreshments were served by Mrs. L. H. Hazard and Mrs. A. J. Sherwood to the following: Mesdames J. S. Barton, F. L. Greenough, Hal Pierce, Chas. Stauff, W. H. Mansell, Ed. Lorenz, Ida Owen, Geo. Laird, C. J. Fuhrman, Lloyd Rosa, Jas. Watson and Rev. G. R. Turney.

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