

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANE LENEVE

We are grateful to F. S. Emery, of Elgin, for sending us an editorial clipped from The Elgin Recorder regarding the game and fish situation over there in the northeastern part of our state.

According to The Recorder, the herds of deer and elk in Umatilla, Baker, Wallawa and Union counties are faced with extermination if steps are not taken by the Oregon State Game Commission to afford them decent protection. Which all goes to prove the fact that the Game Commission is just about as popular over there as it is in southwestern Oregon and other parts of the state.

The workings of the commission are silly to the extreme in lots of cases. For instance, the enumeration of wildlife—the joke of all jokes. And that planting of game fish is something, too. That is, if it is carried on the same as it was a few years back. We had the opportunity to take a look into a container that was supposed to contain 5000 fingerlings. There actually weren't enough fish in that can to furnish a kingfisher with a decent meal. They probably estimated those fingerlings the way they estimate deer, bear, fisher, marten, mink, etc.

Our game and fish are too important to be conducted under the heading of a guessing contest, or department. Besides that judgment should be shown regarding open and closed seasons and the voice of the people—the common sportsmen should be heard, instead of the voice of politicians and wealthy Portland gun clubs.

The present commission has been the biggest fizzle of all fizzes and has accomplished less for the state than any previous commission. They have shown ignorance concerning open seasons in more ways than one. They refused to bend an ear to the pleadings of the sportsmen of Coos and Curry counties regarding the opening of the elk season. Practically every one was against it in these two counties but, owing to the fact that a few politicians and Portland sportsmen no doubt demanded an open season, such a season was wished off on us.

It's a shame to see our wildlife sacrificed by a group of men who appear to place the almighty dollar ahead of it. There's always some special license to sell—doe licenses, elk licenses, antelope licenses, or something along that line. Just something to fill the coffers of the Game Commission, regardless of what sort of hardship it may work upon our wildlife. Following is a paragraph from The Recorder:

"At the same time, those who enjoy whipping mountain streams for fish, are beginning to realize that unless there is an increased and improved program for the propagation of trout, that sport will become only a memory within the next few years. It is not the purpose of sportsmen of northeastern Oregon to deprive those west of the Cascades of the right and privilege to hunt big game on this side of the Cascade range. They concede them equal rights and welcome them to their share of our deer. But that which is irking the hunters of eastern Oregon is the fact that the influence of western Oregon sportsmen in the formation of game regulations will, if continued, result in the ultimate destruction of big game in this area. And, they propose to put an end to that influence."

So there you have it. The above is an expression from east of the Cascades showing dissatisfaction concerning the present Game Commission. And here in southwestern Oregon we feel that we are not favored. Centrally located counties have expressed dissatisfaction also. It appears to us that about the only satisfied sportsmen in the state appear to reside at and around Portland. It appears to us that when practically all the hunters and fishermen of an entire state become dissatisfied with a Game Commission that it is time that a change was made.

The Recorder erred to a certain extent when it stated that it was through the influence of western Oregon sportsmen that the game laws were enacted. That statement covers too much territory, for the game laws come far from favoring us west of the Cascades, as a whole. The truth of the matter is the fact that, as we have stated before, rich gun clubs, the main one being at Portland, and politicians, are responsible for the present deplorable conditions regarding our game propagation and protection. The object of a game commission is to protect our wildlife, not raffle it off at so much per head by creating special open seasons upon it in order to raise more funds for their "kitty." How long will this farce continue?

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Washington, D. C., April 5—Just why "military security" should prevent the giving out of figures on exports of farm machinery is not clear, but this is given by foreign economic administration as a reason for withholding these data from congress and, therefore, from the public. A partial report has been received, however, by the chairman of the house subcommittee on appropriations and the figures cannot be other than interesting to farmers in the Pacific northwest who, somehow, have managed to meet crop production quotas despite shortage of farm help and lack of adequate machinery.

The partial report shows that in 1944 there were exported through all the government agencies 41,037 wheel tractors, 39,041 plows, 13,543 harrows, 7,865 drills, 17,520 cultivators, and 6,368 combines and grain binders. In every item the number exported last year is more than double the number exported in 1943—and this in face of a constantly increasing shortage in the number of machines available for sale to farmers in the United States.

The total number of machines exported is perhaps less impressive than the list of countries receiving farm machinery through lend-lease or the foreign economic administration. Great Britain was favored above all others, with Australia, New Zealand and Mexico following in the order named. However, South Africa, India and most of the Central and South American republics were not overlooked, the Latin-American countries receiving a sizeable proportion of the total. A statement accompanying the report explains that the figures given do not in any case include tractors and other motorized equipment furnished the army.

Among other bad guesses by the army, aside from Canal, the oil deal that stuck American taxpayers to the tune of \$135,000,000, is the Gopher ordnance plant in Minnesota. The plant was designed to produce 300 tons of smokeless powder daily, but no powder was ever manufactured. After spending \$78,000,000 on the project the war department ordered construction work discontinued on three of the six producing lines. The three completed were placed in a stand-by condition with the explanation that existing plants could meet all requirements. The story was dug up by the house committee on military affairs, which has been doing some investigating on its own account and with surprising results.

Here is another case: The war department cancelled a contract and left the contractor with \$58,000 of electrical equipment. Of this amount \$3,000 was absorbed by the contractor, leaving \$55,000 to be sold as junk. The war department sold it for \$6,000. Two weeks later the junkman sold a small portion of this high priority equipment to a manufacturer for \$12,000, and when he sells the remainder it will represent a still further clear profit.

Another: A Puerto Rico corporation chartered a war shipping administration cargo vessel and shipped 1,359,000 gallons of molasses to New Orleans where it was sold to a dealer for 18 cents a gallon at the suggestion of the molasses section of the WPB. The same cargo could have been bought by Defense Supplies Corp. for five cents a gallon, plus six cents for transportation, if a ship had been made available to Defense Supplies Corp., a government agency, by the war shipping administration. The military affairs committee protested the chartering of government cargo ships to private speculators while federal agencies were unable to obtain a boat.

Setting up of a government school for the training of diplomats is proposed in a bill now being considered in the house. Boys between 21 to 25 years old with at least three years of college would be admitted after examination tests and they would be instructed in all matters essential to a successful career in the diplomatic service. Representative Curtis, of Nebraska, author of the bill, argued that specially trained diplomats, freed from partisan political influence, would be a factor in formulating a foreign policy which would be continuous through successive administrations and that such continuity will be necessary if the United States is to retain its present high position in world affairs.

At an outlay of \$45,913.08 for expenses, the senate committee investigated non-essential government

O.P.A. Questions and Answers On Retail Clothing Reg. No. 500

Q. To whom does this new retail apparel and house furnishings regulation apply?

A. It applies to retailers of men's, women's, children's or infants' wearing apparel, apparel accessories, shoes, household textile items like blankets, towels or sheets, floor coverings, lamps, bedding, furniture, and other specified articles.

Q. Why was the regulation issued?

A. The regulation was issued in order to provide a simple and more effective method for fixing ceiling prices for the articles covered by the regulation, and to stabilize retail prices for the articles covered by the regulation.

Q. What is the first thing a retailer does to comply with this regulation?

A. He must prepare a "base date pricing chart." This chart consists of his costs and selling prices for the items covered by the regulation which he offered for sale on March 19, the "base date."

Q. Are different types of goods to be classified by retailers in the preparation of their charts?

A. Yes. Certain groupings of merchandise are required to be made and these groups of merchandise are called "categories." A list of the "categories" and a description of the items that belong in each category is shown in the regulation.

Q. How many copies of his chart must each retailer prepare?

A. Each retailer must prepare three copies of his pricing chart.

Q. Are copies of these charts to be filed with OPA?

A. Yes. Each retailer must file two copies of his chart with the OPA and retain one copy for his own use.

Q. When must the charts be filed with OPA?

A. Each retailer must file copies of his pricing chart with OPA on or before April 20, 1945.

Q. Where are the charts to be filed?

A. Each retailer must file two copies of his chart with his district OPA office.

Q. Is it important for retailers to prepare their charts immediately?

A. Yes. Retailers will find the preparation of their charts much easier if they prepare them immediately since the information to be shown on the charts involves the costs and selling prices of goods in stock on March 19 the base date.

Q. When do retailers start using their charts to price the items covered by the regulation?

A. On April 20, 1945, the effective date of the regulation.

Q. Will the regulation have any immediate effect on retail prices?

A. Some repricing will be required by most retailers on a relatively small number of items on April 20, 1945, the effective date of the regulation.

Q. Will the regulation benefit consumers?

A. Yes. As lower priced items return to the market as the result of the government's program, this regulation will assure that these lower prices will be passed on to consumers. It will also stabilize the retail prices of all other items covered by the regulation.

Q. Will the regulation benefit retailers?

A. Yes. Although it requires a substantial amount of work in the preparation of the pricing chart, this is a one-time job for the retailer. After the chart has been prepared, the retailer has a positive, simple and more effective means for determining ceiling prices for those items. The chart also provides him with a simple method of determining ceiling prices for new lines.

Q. Where may retailer obtain more information about the regulation?

A. From their War Price and Rationing board. The board is distributing copies of the booklet containing the regulation and other information to each retailer who sells items covered by it. Additional copies are available at the board upon request. Your War Price and Rationing board will be glad to answer questions.

Oregon Gas Consumption Down Slightly From A Year Ago

Gasoline consumption for the month of February totaled 15,971,765 gallons, a decrease of 385,471 gallons from gas used a year ago, according to Robert S. Farrell, secretary of state. Consumption for the first two months of 1945 totaled 32,582,185 against 32,735,389 for the same period of 1944.

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expenses has effected direct savings amounting to \$2,457,623,568, according to a report read by the chairman, Senator Byrd. The report also claims credit for having been instrumental in effecting indirect savings of approximately \$600,000.

Progress Being Made For A Museum

The executive board of the Coos-Curry Pioneer Historical Association is gratified at the reports coming in answer to the questionnaires which were sent out a short time ago in regard to the establishment of a Museum. It is the consensus of opinion that a museum is needed and a safe place to house the antiques already collected, should be provided at once.

The type of building, which is to be permanent, has not been decided upon nor the exact location of such a building, but the committees have been appointed to work out and decide those questions. More pioneer stories also are being requested to be preserved for a future History of Coos and Curry counties.

The next meeting of the board will be held in the City Hall, Coquille, Saturday, April 28, at one o'clock p. m. Anyone interested will be gladly welcomed and expression of opinions will be appreciated.

—Mary M. Randleman, Chairman Museum Relics

Proposed Change in Boundary Between Arago and Valley View School Districts

A hearing on the proposed change in boundary between Arago and Valley View school districts will be held in the County Court room on April 9 at 10:00 a. m.

The territory which is proposed to be changed is from Arago to Valley View school district and is the property which has for many years been owned by the several Burgess families and consists of some 60 acres with a valuation of \$7,825.

The cause for the petition for change is that some property has recently been purchased by Ernest C. Burcher from California who is the father of children of elementary age. This property is now located in

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the Arago school district and in order to attend the Arago school it is necessary to cross the Coquille river. Until question of boundary is settled, the Valley View School board has permitted the attendance of the pupils in the Valley View school.

All people who are in any way interested in this matter are welcome to attend the hearing.

District Boundary Board is made up of members of the County Court and county school superintendent, the judge acting always as the chairman and the county school superintendent as secretary.

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