

An Independent—Not neutral—news paper, published every Wednesday, by Wm. H. WHEELER

\$1.50 a year Advertising, 20c an inch; no discount for time or space; no charge for composition or changes. We "Paid-for Paragraphs," so a Haas. No advertising disguised as news.

WEEDS AND SCRAPS

"Halsey and Scio and Albany editorialists are scrapping over which town can show the best growth of weeds." — Saturday's Albany Democrat-Herald.

We find the above in last week's Scio Tribune with the comment that in that paper's home town the weeds are so large they have to use an ax to cut them. That's going back to first principles. A weed is a plant out of place, and a tree is a plant, many of which were found out of place and removed with axes to make room for the cities of this country.

But we wish to remark that we know of no Halsey editorialist who has been scrapping about the growth of weeds here. We haven't enough weeds in Halsey to do much scrapping about. We have well-kept lawns and gardens and abundance of their products, and at this writing, in November, we have seen no ice except such as came from the ice house and no very severe frosts. Many tender plants are flourishing as in July.

No, we are not scrapping about weeds in Halsey, though most of the weeds which tried to grow have been scrapped.

DIGGING A PIT

"The mayor of Miami recently remarked that the truth about the Florida boom is that it is nurtured on cocktails. In a word, it is his opinion that the state is popular with a pleasure-loving crowd of wealthy people because it offers unequalled opportunities to violate the prohibition law.

"From such a period of false development the real Florida will be long in recovering. Any state or community with confidence in its resources and its future may well voice a devout prayer to be spared that peculiar malady of false prosperity which now afflicts the land of the lotus and the corner lot."

The foregoing, from the Oregonian of the 20th, coincides with our recent statement that Florida is digging a pit into which she will some day fall. In another place in the same article the Oregonian says of those in the autos that crowd the roads leading to Florida:

"They visit Florida, carrying along their savings, because in a manner of speaking they believe that all the trees grow a rich fruitage of dollars. It is written that most of them, all save a fortunate few, must lose their money and go back whence they came."

We repealed the income tax in the expectation of attracting the same class of bunco sharps who are fleecing the masses of Florida immigrants. Where the carcass is these eagles gather till they pick it bare. And they pay no taxes. It is not wise to encourage them to come and feast in Oregon. The income tax should be restored and stiffened. The little that they pay in that way will be all the coin these evil birds will ever disgorge in Oregon.

European nations, notably the French, are putting Woodrow Wilson where he belongs—on a pedestal as the world's greatest benefactor, in this age—since the agreement of the European nations at Locarno and the stopping of the Greko-Bulgarian war. Without reservation or hesitation he gave his life for the "Wilson League" without emasculating reservations. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him.

The cheerful housewife came without our invitation. He walked in fifth and wiped his feet on our food. Most of his tribe have gone without exciting our regret. The rain is welcome.

In Berlin choruses girls have been ordered to wear stockings reaching above their knees and skirts that reach below them or go to jail. Here is more personal liberty.

If a girl is in love with a man, and he with her, but he "don't tum-

ble," let her hit him with an automobile and perhaps he will. Prudence's daughter tried it and it was a success.

Sarrail Fails in Arab Campaign

Paris.—General Sarrail, who permitted the bombardment of Damascus, has been removed from his post as high commissioner of Syria.

American official reports presented to the French foreign office by the American embassy on instructions from Washington gave the French government more information about the actions in Syria of General Sarrail than Paris had received from General Sarrail himself.

Under Sarrail's administration a rebellion of the Druses, a tribe little known in the western world, suddenly demanded and received the world's attention when the French resorted to a bombardment of ancient Damascus. Up to the moment when French shells began bursting in the city the French troubles in Syria were pretty much their own.

The government's decision to substitute a civilian for a military man at the head of the mandatory Syrian government is significant of French realization that the Damascus incident has aroused formidable if not generally articulated opposition to its activities as agent for the League of Nations in the Near East.

Weeks and Works

Halsey, Oregon, Nov. 1. This is apple week, when we are reminded that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away."

What are the doctors going to do if we all keep eating apples? And what am I going to do if I need a doctor and am not able to go to him and some chump in the house keeps him away by eating an apple a day?

Next week will be canned goods week. It's come to be just one week after another the whole year around and not a minute between them.

And now a row is being raised in Portland because some people refuse to close their stores armistice day. And there are as many "days" in the year as in the calendar. If we observe them all we shall be as idle as the population of heaven, where there is eternal rest.

I've noticed that the soldiers who did the most to whip the Germans when they needed whipping are the ones who make the least noise about it now. Those who did the least work on the battle field do the least now and so have plenty of time in which to make a big noise.

Humblebegump.

Big Area in Oregon Burned Over. Salem, Or.—A total of 51,144 acres of forest land was burned over in 1925, with the destruction of approximately 1,509,900 feet of timber valued at \$15,300, according to a report issued by the state forester.

Hall's Catarrh Medicine will do what we claim for it—rid your system of Catarrh or Deafness caused by Catarrh.

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TUSSING & TUSSING LAWYERS [Halsey and Brownsville Oregon

Did you ever see a

Windigo?

Did you ever hear one?

Brent Steele catches one in a fatal trap in George Marsh's story, "The Valley of Voices," which starts next week as a serial in

RURAL ENTERPRISE

DELBERT STARR Funeral Director and Licensed Embalmer Brownsville, Oregon Call C. P. STAFFORD, Halsey, or DELBERT STARR, Brownsville

WRIGHT & CO. Funeral Directors W. L. Wright, Harrisburg Mrs. S. C. Bramwell, Halsey

The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

Willamette Valley Irrigation Increases

Production to be Doubled or More in the Days to Come

Somebody signing himself "An Experienced Farmer" writes to the Eugene Register claiming that the reason farmers are not more prosperous is that they produce too much, not too little. He essays prophecy, too, saying: "Those people clamoring for irrigation will never use it anyway. There is more produce now than can be taken care of or marketed. I was down in the river bottom a few weeks ago and Mr. Smith was giving away his string beans; Mrs. Simons said the cannery would not handle any more tomatoes and I think she said she had a hundred bushels rotting on the ground — no market for them."

A few have used irrigation in this valley — more every year than the year before. We may never put as much manual labor into the production of crops as the Chinese, the Japanese or the Dutch. It is to be hoped wages will never be low enough here to permit that. But with more water being carried to our mountains by the sun and wind and brought down again in streams than in any other part of the country of twice the size, the day will come when, all over the Willamette valley, periods of need will see that water boosting otherwise thirsty crops.

If Mr. Smith raised string beans, or Mrs. Simons tomatoes, for which they had no market, their failure was their own fault. Before embarking heavily in such crops they should have had contracts for their disposal. But Mr. Smith need not give away his string beans. If he planted them at the proper season he could ripen and trash them and have a crop that will not spoil on his hands if he needs to hold it a few weeks and that in recent years has never failed to command a good price. That is, if there is moisture enough to carry them to maturity. If not, irrigation would be the salvation of the situation.

Waldo Anderson's Clear lake vision, if realized, would provide the remedy for many such cases. The abundant rainfall in the Willamette valley is an insurance against the evil that has turned many thousands of productive garden soil in this world into deserts. The ruins of prehistoric irrigation systems are seen in Arizona, in Peru, in India, in Mesopotamia and elsewhere. In India the cause of their decline is still observable and so is known. Land made productive by irrigation without sufficient rainfall accumulates potash and other salts, brought by the water and left by evaporation, until they poison the soil. In this country we have "black alkali" soil and "white alkali" soil which is thus poisoned. Some crops will stand more alkali than others. Sugar beets are more hardy in this respect than potatoes, though the latter require considerable amount of potash.

In India indigo was grown when other crops had been abandoned on account of the "reh," as the Indians call it, which accumulates with irrigation and insufficient drainage. But in great areas even indigo perforce was final abandoned and the land lies desert.

There are prosperous irrigated communities in California where the same fate impends. The Willamette valley is insured against it by abundant rainfall which comes at some time during every year.

Costly Federal Bnngling

Discussing the irrigation question in Oregon the Portland Journal says: "The economic crimes committed by state authorities against settlers on irrigated projects in Oregon are chiefly responsible for the debts, bankruptcies and troubles in irrigated districts."

"Here is an example: When the Warm Springs district was formed, those directing the plan included within its limits 3500 to 5000 acres of land which the soil experts of the Oregon agricultural college classified as unfit and advised that it be left out of the district. The suggestion was that the water would bring alkali to the surface and utterly destroy the small producing

value of the soil. "But the advice was ignored and the several thousand acres of unfit land was included in the district. And under the rulings the good land in the district is responsible for water charges on this useless land. It is the same frightful blunder that has embarrassed various other districts.

"And there was a further suggestion by the college experts that irrigation would raise the water table of the soil, that it would bring alkali salts nearer the surface with danger that the plant growth would be hindered.

"And for this reason it was suggested that drainage be provided. But this suggestion was likewise ignored, and the project constructed without drainage. The result is bitter history.

"The mortgage bonds are on the land. The interest runs against the settlers night and day. The state guarantees of interest have been paid, and interest on the bonds issued by the state to do the paying is also accumulating against the settlers. And to bring the soil back to useful production there must be drainage of such lands as are affected by the alkali.

"If the project had been intelligently directed from the first, there would have been no failures. The district would have blossomed like the rose, production would have been profitable, and debts would have been met. Many a settler would have been in easy circumstances instead of being burdened with charges he cannot pay.

"It is not irrigation that is at fault. The fault is with the parlor irrigationists."

Playing Politics

The state authorities are not the only ones that are musing things up. Friday's Oregonian says:

"Emphatic denial that he had directed the sheriff of Klamath county to eliminate from the tax roll all of the unpaid taxes of the Enterprise Land & Investment company, as charged October 22 by Dr. Elwood Mead, commissioner of reclamation, was made here today by R. E. Bradbury, president of the Klamath irrigation district.

"Mr. Bradbury charged Mr. Mead with misstatements which, he said, were being made for the sole purpose of defeating the present administration in the irrigation election to be held here December 10.

"Although he has sent a series of urgent telegrams to Commissioner Mead demanding authority for the published charges which appeared in news dispatches from Washington October 22, Mr. Bradbury declared tonight that he had not yet received a reply, except a message from Mr. Mead's assistant in which that official denied that Dr. Mead gave out any interview either concerning the

operation of the Klamath irrigation district or the unpaid taxes situation. "Mr. Bradbury characterized Commissioner Mead as a "busy-body" who is attempting to mix in the internal politics of the Klamath irrigation district by discrediting the present administration of Mr. Bradbury and procuring the election of two directors who would be favorable to the local officials of the United States reclamation service."

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.53; hard white, \$1.51; soft white, \$1.45; western white, \$1.44; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.41. Hay — Alfalfa, \$18@19 ton; valley timothy, \$18@20; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22. Butterfat—55c shippers' track. Eggs—Ranch, 41@49c. Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook: Triplets, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb. Cattle—Steers, medium, \$6.75@8.00. Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.50@12.25. Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$12.00@13.00.

Seattle.

Wheat—Soft white, \$1.48; western white, \$1.47; hard winter, \$1.45; western red, \$1.44; northern spring, \$1.45; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.55. Hay—Alfalfa, \$23; D. C., \$28; timothy, \$26; mixed hay, \$24. Butter—Creamery, 49@55c. Eggs—Select ranch, 56@58c. Hogs—Prime, \$12.00@12.70. Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.75@8.25. Cheese—Oregon fancy, 25c; Oregon standards 25c; Washington triplets 28c.

Spokane.

Hogs—Prime mixed, \$11.75@12.00. Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

Why Not Alsike?

(Junction City Times)

It is claimed by many who have had experience that there is more money in raising alsike clover seed than any other field crop.

Alsike is a much surer crop than any other clover and there is a ready market right here for all the seed you can raise. It can be raised at very little cost—practically nothing except the cost of seed—as it is sown with a grain crop which can be grown for hay and then the alsike seed harvested later.

One man got a yield of 14 bushels to the acre. Of course this was very exceptional, but suppose he only harvested half that amount, at the present price of 90 cents a pound he would receive \$126 per acre from his land after the hay had been taken off. It is not unusual to clear \$75 per acre on alsike seed.

Fewer Farms and Farmers in Linn

Less Competition With Those Who Stick to their Jobs

The department of commerce of the United States has just issued some figures on the situation on farms in Linn county this year and compares them with those of five years ago, though it warns that the 1925 figures are subject to future correction.

The figures below are from that bulletin. We note that notwithstanding the steady stream of settlers pouring into Oregon we have 262 fewer farms and 341 fewer farm owners in this county than five years ago, and that farmers' real estate has depreciated about one and one-third millions of dollars. There are reported in farms 5116 less than the 472,469 acres listed five years ago.

The farms and the farmers, according to this, are going to the dogs or somewhere faster than new settlers come in or new areas are brought into cultivation.

Here are some of the figures:

Table with 3 columns: Jan. 1, 1925, Jan. 1, 1920. Rows include: Number of farms (2303 vs 3041), Acres (467,353 vs 472,469), Owners (2604 vs 2263), Managers (12 vs 17), Tenants (692 vs 761), Horses (9078 vs 11,640), Mules (171 vs 170), Cattle (29465 vs 22,880), Beef cows two years or over (3649 vs 2901), Other beef cattle (4287 vs 5502), Dairy cows two years or older (12,800 vs 13,398), Other dairy cattle (7729 vs 7058), Swine (14,960 vs 21,176), Sows and gilts for breeding, 6 months old or over (2062 vs 2161).

Farm land is valued at \$24,750,979 in 1925, against \$28,312,250 in 1920, and farm buildings at \$6,525,815 now against \$5,280,445 then.

Paragraphs for Farmers

Pyrotol orders are still being accepted by the first national bank of Lebanon and R. I. Edwards of Brownsville to go into a pool that closes Nov. 15.

Clyde Starr of Monroe sowed 10 acres of forty-fold wheat in the spring of 1924 and thinks his dairy cows got \$125 worth of pasture from it in July, August and September and he got ten loads of wheat from it this year. He has another ten acres now in a similar routine.

Of \$640,000 capital needed for a linen mill at Salem \$425,000 has been subscribed. Albany is promised a retting and scutching plant if she will take \$50,000 of the stock. The promoters say they expect from 500 to 750, acres of flax to be grown in territory tributary to Albany this year.

An old rancher, who had made an exceptional success of his ventures, once attributed his prosperity to the fact that he had always raised what the other fellow didn't. If all of his neighbors were raising cattle, he went in for sheep. If all his neighbors were producing wheat, he kept away from it. He was a wise man who was following in his selection of ranch activities the economic law of supply and demand. He was keeping away from glutted markets and raising products which were bound to be scarce and therefore high in price—Albany Democrat.

Receipts of the Oregon state 1925 aggregated \$74,699.24, as against \$66,874.50 in 1924, according to a financial report prepared by Mrs. Ella Schultz Wilson, secretary of the state fair board. It was estimated that the fair board would have a balance of approximately \$20,000 after all expenses have been paid.

Cabbages near Cottage Grove have not been injured by the light fall frosts and those on the Taylor farm on Row river, operated by George James, are growing to mammoth proportions. One tipped the scales at 27 pounds.

A Modern Barber Shop Laundry sent Tuesdays Agency Hub Cleaning Works ABE'S PLACE

Advertisement for An-Fo Sheep Dip, Fisher's Egg Producer, O. W. Frum, and American Eagle Fire Insurance Co. C. P. Stafford, Agent.