

**RURAL ENTERPRISE**

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**CHANCE FOR HARMONY**

Forty-one per cent of the farming land of the New England states that was under cultivation 50 years ago is dead land today, uncultivated; there are only four small cylindrical thrashing machines in the whole state of Massachusetts and there is not a single real thrashing outfit to be found between Boston, Mass., and Albany, N. Y. Big business concerns of the east are not concerned—they want an industrial country.—Hoard's Dairyman.

Let them have their way. Here's a chance for harmony. The farmer agrees with "big business concerns" in desiring more industrialists who must buy his products. The wise farmer is not half as much interested in encouraging settlers to come and raise more crops to compete with his in the market as he is in seeing the market grow through increase of city population.

And increase of city population comes only through immigration from the country. Without that the cities would soon be depopulated. The birth rate in cities hardly keeps pace with the deaths.

It is out on the farm that healthy livestock, grains, vegetables and boys and girls are produced.

The New England farms that have been abandoned, as Market Agent Spence tells in another column, will be occupied, their fertility rebuilt and their products placed on the market whenever the increase in city population produces a sufficient demand for food and clothing.

There are in cultivation in Linn county 61,000 acres of land, only one county in the state exceeding it. These figures are given by Paul V. Maris of O. A. C., who also says this county has the second largest number of cows in the state, but does not raise enough of the right kind of dairy feed and is making less profit, therefore, than it might. The county now has 280 acres in alfalfa and has the largest acreage in the state adapted to growing flax.

Under a reduced schedule of surtaxes a taxable bond must yield in excess of 8 per cent to incomes within the higher brackets to equal a tax-exempt at 4 1/2 per cent.

Thus saith W. H. Lines in a speech which will appear in the Oregon Voter this week. The editor of the Enterprise disclaims any personal interest in the matter because he does not own in excess of half a million of those tax-free bonds. "If he had as many millions of them as any other bloated capitalist he believes he would be perfectly willing to exchange them for the 8-per-cent which the municipalities would have to issue if all bonds were taxable. He would take his chances with the tax collector on that 8 per cent. The taxpaying public would pay it all the same.

Dr. J. C. Booth of Lebanon is reported to have gone twelve miles on horseback where an automobile could not go, recently, to treat five cases of smallpox in one family. A school had been closed on account of the disease. Would it not have been wise to even delay completing paved highways a few days to build a passable road to that district? Those people pay taxes.

Governor Pierce is severely blamed by partisan opponents for vetoing the special election on the cigaret and titling taxes. The special election would have cost \$100,000, it is estimated, and in case both taxes were sustained would have brought ten times as much in taxes, less cost of collecting. This million, we are told, is "lost forever." The \$100,000 would have been lost forever to the state. Thanks to the veto, it is lost only to the tax eaters who would have had it. The million is not lost forever. If the people veto both taxes the state has lost the use of it one year against a saving of \$100,000. Ten per cent is good interest. If the people vote against both taxes the veto saved us a clean \$100,000.

Mitchell's sentence was as heavy as the powers that be dared to make it. They would have been glad to make it imprisonment for life, with a flogging once a week. And how they would have liked, had they dared, to do it without a trial and its accompanying exposure of their shortcomings to the public gaze!

Oregon walnut orchards are beginning to give indications of what they will do when mature. Fred Groner of Schroll's this year got \$19,500 worth of nuts from 300 acres. And this is the year after the big freeze.

Another railroad strike for a general wage increase within three months. Then an increase in freights is in the offing. The strike is a club which hits everybody except the striker, and sometimes it hits him the hardest of all.

**Let 'em Go**

Halsey, Dec. 18.  
 Editor Enterprise—I read that the population of the city is increasing and that of the farms is decreasing. Let the good work go on.

We on the farms will fertilize better, cultivate more thoroughly and with more efficient machinery, use better seed and raise more crops on fewer acres with less labor than heretofore.

The few farmers will get more money—more comforts and conveniences—for feeding the many city dwellers than many farmers got for feeding the fewer city people.

Let 'em go. We'll feed 'em.  
 Rural Optimist.

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**Oregon Farms Fall in Value**

And Eastern Agriculture is in Still Worse Condition

(Market Agent Spence)

The department of commerce, Washington, has issued a five-year farm census report for Oregon, from 1920 to 1925. While the head lines in the big daily papers make it appear that agriculture is in a prosperous condition, analysis of the figures fall far short of sustaining this. The gains are based on the following:

New construction on farms increased \$22,043,117; number of farms increased 5,702; dairy cattle increased 24,428. But against these assets are the following declines:

Farm values, lands and buildings have fallen \$58,037,069 in value, or 8 1/2 per cent. The report says this is "relatively small in comparison with states further east," and perhaps Oregon farmers may find consolation in the fact that other states are in worse condition.

The fall of land values alone in Oregon is \$80,082,186, or 13 1/2 per cent. If the other states are in worse condition, national agriculture must indeed be in a bad way.

The decrease of the average value of land and buildings to each farm in the state is \$2,410.

Range cattle have decreased 64,277 and all crops except fruits have decreased. In one county, Umatilla, the figures show a decrease of \$20,578,820 in land values and buildings. If this is "relatively small in comparison with losses further east," there is little use in further search for the cause of farmers going to the cities. The director of agriculture of Iowa state college says: "In six years Iowa farmers have lost one billion dollars through lack of price equality of other products."

"It is believed by many of the most intelligent producers that next to a crop failure the greatest misfortune is a bumper crop," says L. A. Rhodes, commissioner of the Florida state marketing bureau.

If agriculture was as solidly organized as other industries a bumper crop would not be a misfortune; distribution could be regulated to avoid gluts and low prices, and consumption could be largely increased by cutting out many useless middle expenses and profits and lowering prices to consumers. "But just signing contracts and organizing selling agencies to do business through the same old trade channels won't remedy present conditions very much, nor will electing five directors to fight the other four get us very far."

Organizations have got to have loyalty behind them and the one purpose of mutual interests to work for. They must start on a cement foundation and build up. Men of ability must direct them. Oregon has had many co-operative failures because they have not been run the way the same men would have run their private business. Co-operation will win when it is handled right and when producers behind it realize that its success depends on every member giving all that is in him to make it such.

Shortage of settlers on some federal reclamation projects in Oregon is due to the inefficiency of the government, but Secretary Work in effect "passes the buck" to the state by delaying construction on more projects unless the state becomes responsible for settling them and financing the settlers. The secretary is right so far as his proposal is an acknowledgement of the government's incompetence to perform the latter task.—Portland Oregonian.

**Poultry Business Beseet by Pitfalls**

(Prof. Cosby in Oregon Farmer)

Poultry dopes, panaceas, vital this and miraculous that find their greatest sales on poultry plants that today are built upon greased skids.

There is enough miscellaneous advice along poultry lines to wreck a business of twice the magnitude.

Four or five hundred hens should not be expected to occupy full-time employment for an able-bodied man, neither should they be expected to commercially yield an income beyond certain limitations. This number of hens constitute a farm sideline rather than a poultry farm. The man should nurse the poultry business along as a sideline until the size of the flock and experience gained warrant the discontinuance of the pay check job.

The poultry business is a fickle enterprise for the owner who rushes in without recognizing the hazards that must be avoided through systematic management.

**THE MARKETS**

**Portland**  
 Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.54; hard white, soft white, and western white, \$1.53 1/2; hard winter, northern spring and western red, \$1.50.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$19.50@20 ton; valley timothy, \$19@19.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@22.

Butterfat—44c shippers' track.

Eggs—Ranch, 30@32 1/2c.

Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook;

Triplets, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb.

Cattle—Steers, good \$7.85@8.25.

Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.50@

\$12.25.

Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$12.50@14.25.

**Seattle.**

Wheat—Soft white, Big Bend bluestem, \$1.55; western white, \$1.55 1/2; hard winter, western red, northern spring, \$1.52.

Hay—Alfalfa, \$25; D. C., \$28; timothy, \$20; mixed hay, \$24.

Butter—Creamery, 49c.

Eggs—Ranch, 46c.

Hogs—Prime, \$12.15@12.35.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.75@8.00.

Cheese—Oregon fancy, 28c; Oregon standards 25c; Washington triplets 28c.

**Spokane.**

Hogs—Good to choice, \$11.75@11.80.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$7.50@8.00.

**Standish Predicts Slump in Sheep**

And He Does It "With a Big, Big 'D'"

John Standish, in his address to farmers broadcast from Chicago Tuesday noon of last week, at a meeting held on account of his visit, predicted a rise in the price of grain and stock the first of the year, but added: "The sheep industry has made millions of dollars this year. Next year there is going to be a genuine stampede and sheep won't be worth a d—."

He also cautioned against the alfalfa seed industry because the farmers have made good in it this year. Cattle prices, he said, are fair and will be better next year.

The rule on which he bases his predictions is a sound one: That the tendency to rush into an industry when prices are high usually brings overproduction and a slump, but the Enterprise does not look for that rule to go into effect so instantaneously. A good many lambs have gone to the butcher this year. The American sheep supply of a few years ago might be doubled without any serious slump. What Australian and other foreign sheep are doing we are not informed, but, even if we had use for those "d-'s" we would rather have a good sheep, deliverable any time next year, than two of them.

There will be some alfalfa seed sown, though not near enough for best results, in Linn county and elsewhere.

Bee keepers from all sections of Marion county met in Salem Saturday to form a permanent organization.

Sixty poultrymen and others met in Canby to organize the community for development of the poultry industry.

The 1925 convention of the Oregon State Horticultural society will be held at Salem it was decided at the convention at Medford. The following officers for next year were elected: Lloyd T. Reynolds of Salem, president; C. A. Reed of Hood River, vice-president and Clayton L. Long of Corvallis, re-elected secretary and treasurer.

The disjunction of having made a gain in the number of farms during the period from 1920 until 1925, when practically all of the counties of eastern Oregon showed losses, is held by Umatilla county, as disclosed by the report of the department of commerce. During the five-year period Umatilla county farms increased from 2353 to 2484, a gain of 131.

As we understand it, the basic policy of the Federation of Labor is to have its own members work as little as possible and not to let anybody else work at all.—Farm Journal.

**Herbert Hoover on Farm Problems**

Secretary of Commerce Cites Four Ills That Juggle Prices

Following are excerpts from a letter of Secretary Hoover to Farm and Fireside:

Agriculture is in need of better business organization of marketing in all its branches. Some start has been made by the farmers in better grain elevators and grain marketing and livestock marketing, and great progress has been made in dairy products and perishables.

Commercial agriculture has lagged behind the commercial organization of industry. Industry has gained greatly in stability in the last decade.

Other industries and services than agriculture can adjust their production quickly to shifting economic currents, whereas agriculture cannot control the weather and cannot shift itself to changing demands except in periods of from eighteen months to five years, so that the problem of better organization of agricultural marketing is greater than that of industry.

Crises are due to periodic production of a "surplus," with fall in prices below fair profits to the producer. The manufacturer operates largely upon specific orders; in any event he can quickly adjust to demand. The farmer produces first and finds his market subject to every circumstance of production and distribution after. In so doing he must of necessity carry over a periodic "surplus" and he should not be punished for providing the national need of carry-over from good to bad years. This condition of oversupply is due to

1—Disorderly marketing. Temporary glutting of the market breaks the price. Undermarketing produces short famines, diminishing consumption, and so contributes to create a surplus.

2—The annual fluctuation in production due to weather.

3—The decrease in consumption in periods of unemployment and business stagnation.

4—Continuous overproduction.

Stabilize agriculture against all of these disasters. We certainly ought to have the brains to cover the first three and to make a contribution towards decreasing the fourth.

We should secure domestic production, so far as may be, of those agricultural commodities which we import and thereby replace, as far as may be, the export surplus on other commodities, for in both cases of export and import of farm products we are competing with lower standards of living and cheaper lands abroad.

Another major problem is the unnecessary number of transactions between the producer and the consumer. Agriculture, as no other industry, develops strong individualism, independent character, initiative and resource. It is free from the ever-present boss of industry. Farm life is free from a certain artificiality of urban life because it is in close contact with nature, and is less subject to the insidious sources of moral degeneracy which are such a corroding influence in the life of our great cities. The bonds of family life must be stronger, the health of children more assured, in separate homes than in anthills of brick and mortar.

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