

**RURAL ENTERPRISE**  
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by Wm. H. WHEELER

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**OUR GESTURES ARE FUTILE**

The plan for an "association of nations" as a substitute for the league of nations was an American partisan proposition that fell flat. The treaty with a few nations limiting navies gave hope to the anti-league faction in this country of greater things to come. The other signatories were willing to soothe us by scrapping an obsolete portion of that servile, and Uncle Sam unsuspectingly accepted the situation as a diplomatic success for him.

Now the others are fast building up the aerial systems which will be decisive if another war comes. If they listen to learn what Uncle Sam is doing in that field they hear: "Z-z-z-z."

Flushed with the imaginary success of its "government by party," the administration thought to win laurels and financial relief in a parley in Europe on reduction of land armament. Vexed at the dilatoriness of the responses it hinted at a conference in Washington. Out of the east has come an indefinite postponement of the proposed meet. Maybe the threatened call for a conference at Washington will be issued and we shall see who come and what they say. Mebbe so. Mebbe so.

Meantime the league, founded under American auspices when our nation had at its head a statesman of world-wide influence, is about to admit Germany, Poland, Spain and Brazil, while the United States, Mexico and Russia, an interesting trio, flattened their noses on the window pane outside.

**SCATTERGUN SHOTS**

The height of fashion—the hem of a popular ballroom costume.

Mussolini drew his sword and staged a tempest in a teapot in Rome. All's quiet there.

When a stomach pump finds intoxicating liquor inside a man is he liable to a fine for having it in possession?

Governor Pierce has kept the income tax in the spotlight until each political party is trying to adopt it as its child. The Dennis resolution's name is Dennis.

The Oregon Voter classes Governor Pierce as the champion spell-binder. After reading the Voter you'd think Pierce's talk would draw votes from a stone wall.

The loss from wheat smut in eastern Oregon is reckoned at \$1,000,000 a year. That million could be put in farmers' pockets without the vote of any politician in Washington or elsewhere.

Grover Cleveland Bergdoll gets into the newspapers again. This time he has been arrested for scandalous conduct with women. The United States can get along without him or any of his stripe.

Last Friday 200 wheat men at the Moro conference organized the eastern Oregon Wheat league to market their crop. We watch with interest to see whether this will be a great aid to wheatgrowers, like some co-operative organizations, or a failure, like others. Its chances of success are better than they would be if there were fewer past failures and successes to study.

A law requiring people to refrain from work one day in seven might be fair but we doubt it. A law prohibiting the employment of a person more than six consec-

utive days would be less objectionable. But a law requiring a Mohammedan, who observes Friday as the Bible day of rest, a Jew, who so observes Saturday, or a Methodist, who keeps Sunday, to remain idle a second day each week would be tyrannical, unless every competitor were required to rest two days in seven.

For thousands of years linen was made by the most roundabout and laborious process. A generation or so ago spinning and weaving became machine work instead of hand work. In the last few years pulling and scutching machines and a quick retting process have taken most of the drudgery out of the preparation of flax for the loom and the industry seeks a home in Oregon and probably will get it. See, on this page, remarks from the Eugene Register.

**Local Members of Election Boards**

Halsey, Shedd, Harrisburg and Brownsville Officers

The following have been appointed election officers for the next two years. Some are dead and some removed.

East Halsey, First board, judges, J. H. Vannice, Veva M. Marks; clerks, Clarion L. Gourley, Chancy Sickels, Charity C. Clark. Second board, judges, George Taylor, Beulah A. Miller; clerks, H. C. Davis, Ruby Hayes Standish, Sarah E. Robertson.

West Halsey, First board, judges, W. L. Wells, Henry Zimmerman; clerks, Edythe R. Drinkard, Gladys Palmer, Arthur Wesley. Second board, judges, O. G. Coldiron, E. D. Isom; clerks, E. F. Cross, Lois E. Jackson, E. E. Gormley.

North Harrisburg, First board, judges, W. E. Wadsworth, Chas. H. Hupp; clerks, Edna Sherrill, Pearl Gilbert, Mildred J. Colburn. Second board, judges, Thomas W. Sommerville, Ina Bridges; clerks, Inez Thomas, Gladys Decker, Ida Kessel.

South Harrisburg, First board, judges, W. A. Elliott, Tom Lovell; clerks, Essie Turnblad, Amelia Grimes, Joseph Hayworth. Second board, judges, J. W. Owen, L. Hathaway; clerks, J. P. Quigley, R. C. Huston, J. T. Juve.

Shedd, first board, judges, C. H. Davidson, H. C. Poland; clerks, Ida M. Brasfield, Mrs. Dora Davis, E. W. Shedd. Second board, judges, C. A. Puga, L. St. John; clerks, Lura Pugh Malson, Sadie A. Poland, F. J. Sprenger.

East Brownsville, First board, judges, Leslie M. Haskin, Maude Coshow; clerks, Bessie Bramwell, Alta Howe, Margaret D. Pugh. Second board, judges, L. H. Briggs, C. J. Howe; clerks, W. C. Elmore, Beulah E. Elmore, Geo. H. Coshow.

North Brownsville, First board, judges, G. W. Drinkard, Irene Henderson; clerks, Edward Oxford, Aubrey S. Tussing, Mary Boyles. Second board, judges, R. V. Henderson, Minnie Drinkard; clerks, L. B. Morse, Mamie Enger, Elinor Morse.

South Brownsville, First board, judges, Anna McFarland, Cecile S. Oliver; clerks, P. E. Beatty, Lizzie Cameron, Wm. Schunk. Second board, judges, Charles W. Fullager, Ernest Baker; clerks, Laura B. Hughes, R. L. White, Myrtle McDowell.

West Brownsville, First board, judges, Rowena Blakely, S. C. Hunter; clerks, Clara Swearingen, George C. Hume, F. B. Isom. Second board, judges, Jeannie M. Wilson, Henry Blakely; clerks, Tracy McHargus, R. P. Dougherty, Sadie E. Ferris.

**Hall's Catarrh Medicine**

will do what we claim for it—rid your system of Catarrh or Deafness caused by Catarrh. Sold by druggists for over 40 years. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio

**Flax Speeded up From Farm to Mill**

**General Prosperity Seen for Oregon in New Methods**

(Eugene Register.)

The time required for retting flax straws has been reduced from a matter of days to a matter of hours. This is the news brought back from eastern Canada by J. J. Quinland, superintendent of industries at the Oregon penitentiary.

Retting is the process of "rotting" out from the flax stems the gummy substance that binds the fibers together. From time immemorial it has been accomplished by soaking the flax in water, preferably running water, that is free from chemicals. As practiced at the Oregon penitentiary it takes from five to six days. By the new process, in which steam tanks and hot water are employed, the flax is retted in about eight hours.

It has been customary to ret the flax in summer and then save it until the rainy season to scutch it, scutching being the practice of beating the fiber from the stems after the gum has been dissolved. This has been done because moist air has been required for scutching. The new steam retting process, it is said, obviates all this delay, and scutching proceeds immediately after retting.

Obstacle after obstacle is removed from the manufacture of flax into linen in Oregon. At first the great obstacle was the high cost of pulling the flax by hand, for the fibers are damaged when cut by a sickle. Then pulling machines were invented that got around this difficulty. Improved methods of retting promise to speed up the process immensely.

If anyone wants to know what the flax industry will do for Oregon, when fully developed, let him travel through the Carolinas and Georgia. These states were backward in the extreme. Their prosperity lagged because they spent their efforts in producing a great agricultural staple which went elsewhere to be manufactured. But now there are cotton mills every few miles; and these mills take the cotton from the surrounding fields and manufacture it. Fine towns have sprung up around these mills, and the new development that is coming to the whole region is building important new cities—new in the sense of new growth, such as Greensboro, Charlotte, Durham and many others.

What cotton has done for the south flax will do for western Oregon, once its manufacture is thoroughly and profitably established. The United States buys from abroad \$100,000,000 worth of linen every year, and this total could be greatly increased by intensive cultivation of the home market with a home product.

The flax would be a new crop to take the place of grain and hay which are no longer profitable, and its manufacture would provide payrolls for the cities. These, in their turn, would provide a nearby and profitable home market for vegetables, fruit and dairy and poultry products.

**Columbia Basin Bill is Approved**

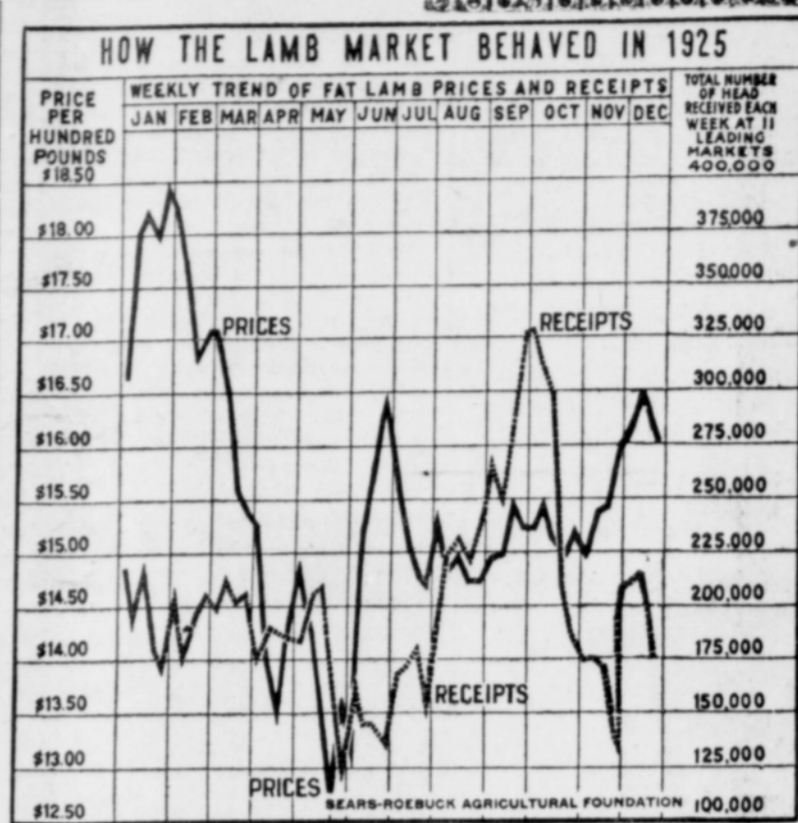
Washington, D. C.—The house committee on irrigation has voted to report favorably the bill of Congressman Summers of Washington, authorizing appropriation of \$25,500 for final surveys and federal expense in arranging a compact between the states for allocation of waters of the Columbia river in connection with the Columbia basin irrigation project.

As the proposed compact between the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana includes the settlement of rights with respect to tributaries as well as the Columbia, Congressman Winter of Wyoming for some time had insisted his state should be included, but withdrew his objection and the bill will be reported without amendment. An identical bill by Senator Jones of Washington has been reported and is on the senate calendar.

Milton A. Miller has a chapter of early Oregon history in Saturday's Democrat.

**The Great Outdoors**

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



THE prices for lamb have been relatively high in 1925, with lamb supplies available for slaughter only slightly below normal figures, according to an analysis of the lamb market by the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation. In the sheep-producing states pastures and ranges have been good. Conditions in the whole area west of the Rocky mountains are vastly better than they were a year ago.

The sheep industry was much more profitable in 1925 than it was in 1924. Lamb prices in Chicago averaged \$15.35 in November, 1925, as compared with an average of \$9.65 for the same month in the five years from 1920 to 1924. The top price was reached in January, at \$18.50 per hundredweight, and the low price of \$12.50 came in May. Both prices and receipts have fluctuated up and down through the entire season, but efforts to expand production have kept market receipts down because ranchers were retaining their ewe lambs with which to replenish and increase their flocks. The number of ewes slaughtered from July to September in 1925 is the smallest for that same period during the last four years.

The number of lambs on feed both in the corn belt and in the Western feeding districts is smaller than last year and some advance in the present price of lamb seems probable from now on. There will probably be a larger lamb crop, however, this spring and a moderately lower level of prices as these lambs come to market during 1926.

A new February record was set at Ashland Friday when 30 non-resident automobiles were registered at the chamber of commerce. Heretofore 15 has been the highest number of such cars registered in any one day in February.

The old Salem hotel, which was established at Salem in 1864, is to be torn down to make room for a more modern structure, according to an announcement made by Frank Bligh, owner of the property.

Reports were received at Salem that the board of education of the Methodist church, holding its annual meeting in Chicago, had approved officially the proposal to move Kimball college of theology from Salem to Seattle.

The county bridge about two miles south of McKay dam in Umatilla county will be moved upstream to the south about a mile. The present site of the bridge and a part of the road will be under water when McKay reservoir is completed.

Diamond Lake and the land abutting it would be ceded to the state of Oregon for fish cultural purposes by the federal government under the terms of a bill introduced in the senate by Senator Stanfield.

The bill providing for transfer of the Bull Run watershed to the city of Portland by the federal government was introduced in the senate Tuesday by Senator Stanfield. The transfer is recommended by the public lands committee of the senate as the result of a hearing held at Portland last August by a sub-committee taking testimony on the proposed grazing bill.

At an open meeting of the North Bend city council Chief of Police Frank R. Jackson was dismissed from the service of the city for conduct unbecoming an officer. Complaint that Mr. Jackson had been supplying women with liquor from the supply stored in the city jail was made by R. P. Lowry.

**Big Oregon Wheat Union is Formed**

Moro, Or.—Organization of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league was completed here with the adoption of a constitution and election of officers. F. B. Ingels of Dufur is the first president, Charles B. Cox of Heppner vice-president, and Harry B. Pinkerton of Moro secretary-treasurer.

An executive committeeman from each of the 11 counties was elected. More than 250 wheat growers, representing every important wheat producing county in eastern Oregon, as well as representatives of all commercial or government agencies directly concerned with the wheat industry attended the session.

Though this was preponderantly a farmers' conference, the reports are notable in that they frankly point out the faults and virtues in every branch of the industry, even though the burden fell equally on the wheat grower and the other agencies. Better management is needed as much as better freight rates, the reports say, and proper tillage is as essential as proper inspection and grading.

**THE MARKET**

**Portland**  
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem and hard white, \$1.50; soft white, \$1.52; western white, \$1.51; hard winter and northern spring \$1.49; western red, \$1.48.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$20@20.50 ton; valley timothy, \$19@19.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$22@22.50.  
Butterfat—42@45c shippers' track.  
Eggs—Ranch, 23@26c.  
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook; Triploids, 31c; loaf, 32c per lb.  
Cattle—Steers, good \$8@8.25.  
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$13@14.  
Sheep—Lamb, medium to choice, \$12@13.65.

**Seattle.**  
Wheat—Soft white, western white, \$1.50; hard winter, \$1.48; western red, northern spring \$1.47; blue stem, \$1.49.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$26; D. C., \$25; timothy, \$20; mixed hay, \$26.  
Butter—Creamery, 43@46c.  
Eggs—Ranch, 30@32c.  
Hogs—Prime, \$14@14.25.  
Cattle—Prime steers, \$8.50@9.00.  
Cheese—Oregon fancy, 25c; Oregon standards 25c; Washington triplets 28c.

**Spokane.**  
Hogs—Prime mixed, \$13.75@14.00.  
Cattle—\$7.75@8.25.

Prospects are excellent that Pilot Rock area farmers will have ten carloads of fat dressed turkeys to ship to market this fall if the season proves as satisfactory for brooding and maturing the birds as it has been for wintering them.

Assurance that a pickle factory will be established at Silverton next year, providing growers sign up sufficient acreage, was given by J. L. Stafford, state manager for the Oregon Pickle & Canning company.

Oregon ranks fifth among states of the union in per capita income of its farm population, with an average of \$630, according to data compiled by the national bureau of economic research.

Strawberry growers of the Grants Pass irrigation district will be given financial aid by local banks, in an effort to increase berry plantings within the district to several hundred acres this spring.

Supporters of the Gooding bill, which would require coloring of imported alfalfa and clover seed, told the senate agricultural committee that farmers are losing thousands of dollars annually by sowing defective foreign seed.

**Red Cedar Posts**

Made from old-growth cedar, 7 ft. long, good size, 15c each, delivered where truck can go. See Mr. Laubner, Halsey, or write N. O. Isaacson, Goldson, Ore.

**BARBER SHOP**

First-class Work  
J. W. STEPHENSON.

**TUSSING & TUSSING**  
LAWYERS  
Halsey and Brownsville  
Oregon

Shipment of

## Land Plaster

has arrived

Those who have placed orders may obtain same at their own convenience. Those who have not placed an order are urged to do so, as the quality and the price are right.

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Hay is worth just as much in storage as you might get for it in case of fire. The American Eagle Fire Insurance company will pay you 85% of the cash value in case of loss by fire.

**C. P. STAFFORD, Agent**