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ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1929

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COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM TONIGHT

Dr. Davis of Whitman College Will Deliver the Address.

Beginning this evening at 8 o'clock the commencement exercises for the 1929 graduating class of Athena high school will be witnessed by a large audience.

A class of fifteen, nine boys and six girls, will tonight bid good-bye to Athena Hi where they leave behind them the years spent in public school training, to enter upon a period of effort in acquiring education of a higher trend.

Dr. Davis, of Whitman college will deliver the commencement address to the class which has for its motto, "stick to the ship." Class colors are rose and cream, and the class flower, rosebud. Those having charge of decorating the auditorium for the occasion, have spared no effort in their work and as a result the audience tonight will be surprised at the decorative effect.

The members of the graduating class are Weldon Allen Bell, Alberta Charlton, Jack William Dow, Lee Foster, Pearl Irene Green, George Gross, Areta Maxine Kirk, Marjorie Marguerite Wilson, Edwin Luvoise McEwen, Ralph McEwen, Jr., Oral Michener, Wilford Miller, Donald Wayne Pinkerton, Emma Marie Ringel and Mildred Street. The program is as follows:

- March.....Orchestra
- Invocation.....Rev. H. E. Dow
- "Sweet and Low".....High School
- Presentation of Class Gift.....
- Vocal Solo.....Mrs. David Stone
- Commencement Address.....
- Overture.....Dr. Wm. R. Davis
- Presentation of Awards.....Orchestra
- Presentation of Diplomas.....
- Benediction.....Supt. Lee A. Meyer
- Announcements.....B. B. Richards
- Hymn.....Rev. H. E. Dow
- Invocation.....Congregation
- Scripture Reading.....
- Announcements.....
- Solo.....Mrs. R. B. McEwen
- Baccalaureate Sermon.....Rev. H. E. Dow
- Benediction.....

Pheasants Thrive In Eastern Oregon

Reports from the state game farms at Corvallis, Eugene and Pendleton show that up to April 30, eggs were gathered as follows: Chinese pheasants, 6356; Wild turkey, 507; Guinea fowl, 525; and Mongolian pheasants, 898. The Hungarian partridge has not started laying. This season many more Mongolian pheasants will be raised than heretofore as it has been shown that they thrive in Eastern Oregon where plantings have been made.

Experiments being carried on at Oregon State College under the supervision of the state game commission to determine the food habits of Chinese pheasants is being watched by other states. The experimental work has been under way for the past ten months and has two more months to go when a report will be made. Ten representative agricultural counties of Oregon are the scenes of the work. So far it has been learned that while the pheasants eat a certain amount of cereals they also destroy pests that do damage to crops, and feed on weed seeds that if given growth would be destructive to the farmer. Michigan and other state game commissions have asked for reports on the work now being carried on.

Making Improvements

Henry Dell is making extensive improvements to his cottage on High street, east of Fifth, which is to be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Armond DeMerritt, who are moving to Athena from Walla Walla. A new addition is being built on the south end of the cottage, and the interior is also undergoing alterations.

Local Rain Welcome

A good, hard shower of rain of an hour duration was welcomed here Saturday, and during the afternoon intermittent showers fell. The rainfall was local in scope, a few miles from town but little moisture was in evidence. Gardens and growing crops in the Athena vicinity were greatly benefited.

A Half Section Is Being Planted Daily By Four Crews

A half section of land—320 acres—is being planted daily to beans in the Athena-Weston district, where more than 6000 acres have been leased from landowners by the Eickhoff Products company for its first year in bean production in this section.

Divided into four crews, operating two caterpillar tractors, each drawing three corn planters which are equipped with mechanism for drilling the seed beans in the soil, planting operations are well under way.

Each crew manning two tractors and six planters, seed on an average about 80 acres per day. Two crews are operating in Athena neighborhood under supervision of Marion Hancell, and two crews at Weston, where Buzz Fisk is overseeing the work.

Before the seed beans go into the hoppers on the planters, they are inoculated as soon as the sacks are opened, put into the containers immediately and sent on their way through the drilling apparatus and down under the soil, which has previously been packed and carefully prepared to receive the seed.

Permanent Clinics Held For Children

Miss Edna Flannigan, county health nurse, reports that permanent clinics for children have been established in this county. These clinics are being held at the hospital in Pendleton each Monday morning, beginning at 9:30.

An average of eleven patients attended the clinics during the month of April. One tuberculosis clinic was held during the month at which twelve patients were examined.

In cooperation with Child Health Week, the county health association had for its special project a chart examination for all children taking part in district track meets, the examinations being made by different physicians, when 469 pupils were examined.

Ten pupils were eliminated from all activities of the meet, and ten were limited in their activities. Of the ten eliminated, seven returned to their physician for re-examination and treatment.

WHEAT PRICES AT LOWEST FOR YEAR

Chicago bears caught the grain markets in a weak moment Tuesday and drove wheat prices down to rock bottom for the year. Made vulnerable by the huge exportable American surplus carried over from the great 1928 crop, and a new crop only eight weeks distant, wheat quotation sagged 2½ to 3½ cents at Chicago, and from 8½ to 9½ cents at Winnipeg, where the pit had taken a holiday while American markets were starting down hill.

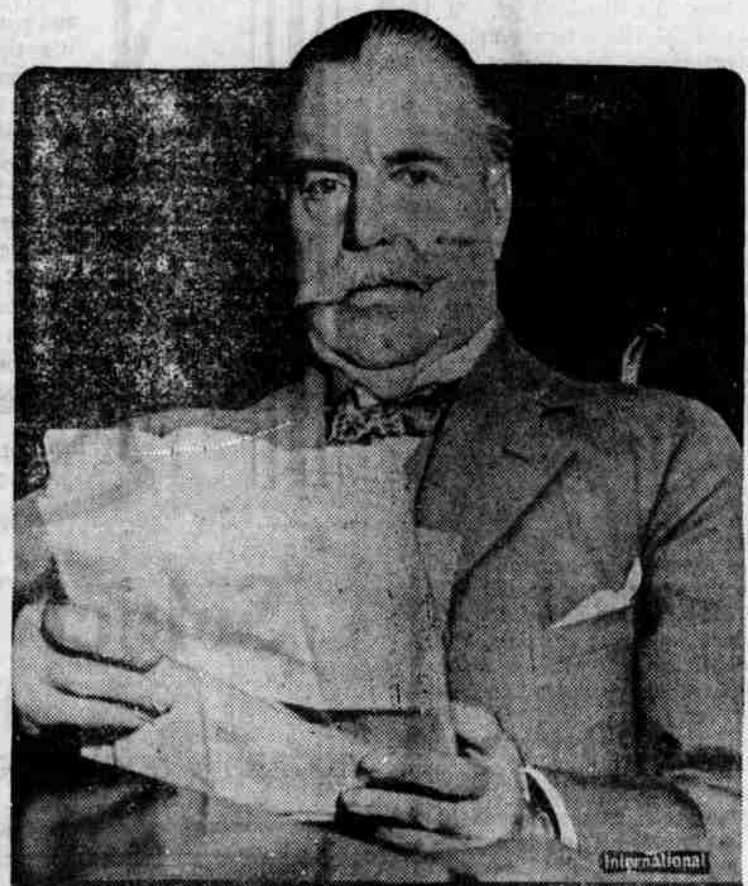
The market had closed before the Western trunk lines announced a voluntary cut until September 30 of grain rates for export, taken at the behest of President Hoover to facilitate the movement of the 1928 carry-over to the seaboard. The reduction ranged from 5½ to 11½ cents per hundredweight of wheat.

Enormous short covering, much of it for foreign account, seemed to have little effect on the Chicago pit. Winnipeg's opening weakness had given impetus to the downward movement at Chicago, and the market showed little inclination to rebound. The lowest prices for the season since 1924 were marked down, and at the finish wheat was about 28 cents under the year's peak price of three months ago, and 50 cents under the figure a year ago. May wheat closed at \$1.05½, and September \$1.13 to \$1.13½. Other grains also were undervalued but corn was firm in comparison.

On top of optimistic crop comment for this year came the latest estimates of the heavy surplus still in storage from last year's record yield on this continent. In Canada 38,000,000 bushels were said to be packed away in elevators at the seaboard competing with domestic grain for the foreign market and for shipping facilities. Montreal, with elevator capacity for 15,000,000 bushels, reported 21,000,000 bushels on hand in elevators, ships and on rail, and private reports indicated no relief in sight before late May.

Meanwhile markets abroad were cutting the American price. Liverpool closed 2 to 2½ pence lower than yesterday, and at noon Buenos Aires was ¼ to ½ down. The Canadian visible supply was estimated at 88,927,000 bushels, compared with 77,656,000 bushels a year ago.

How to Dispose of Ten Millions?



C. Harold Smith of New York, who is in the unique position of a man who has \$10,000,000 at his disposal, and doesn't know what to do with it. So Mr. Smith has asked for suggestions from the public and how they're coming in. Mr. Smith will present \$1,000 to the person who makes the best suggestion to him.

MILTON MEN FAVOR HOUSE BILL 363 PERTAINING TO INCREASE IN SALARIES

Milton, Oregon, May 8.—(To Editor, Athena Press:—)The following item appeared in the Portland Oregonian of May 5th: "The referendum idea has struck Umatilla County, and A. R. Shumway, member of the Legislative Committee of the Grange and Farmers Union is credited with being the inspiration. The referendum is aimed at House Bill No. 363 increasing salaries of Umatilla County officers * * *. Eight counties pay the County Judge more than Umatilla; five counties pay their Sheriffs more; twenty-one counties pay their Assessors more; seven counties pay their School Superintendents more; five pay their County Clerk more than Umatilla, but the Grangers of Umatilla county consider the county officials are paid enough at present."

In view of the history of this legislation, and the facts which make its enactment essential and desirable, it is hard for us to conceive that the Grange of this county would endeavor to accomplish its defeat, unless its members have not been fully or correctly informed.

The membership of the Grange locally, as we know it, is composed largely of men and women who are sincerely dedicated to the cause of efficient and economical government. We do not believe that they would willingly want to commit their organization, or themselves, to any course which would not be fair and just to the Granges, or which would be prejudicial to the welfare of the county as a whole, and certainly in no event would commit themselves to any policy for or against any legislation, without first informing themselves of all available facts in connection therewith.

Therefore, in order to bring pertinent matters concerning House Bill No. 363 to the attention of the Grangers of this county, and others who might be invited to sign the referendum petitions when presented, we respectfully urge their consideration of the following facts before they sign such petitions and thereby delay the operation of what we conceive to be just and necessary legislation.

Concerning the history preceding the enactment of this bill, do you know:

That only two of the sixty members of the House, and only one of the thirty members of the Senate voted against this measure after it was fairly presented to them?

That the membership of both House and Senate has a large number of men who are faithful to the principles of that organization and diligently assert themselves against any measure which they believe prejudicial to the interests of the organization, and that only two of these Grange members voted against the bill?

That the Governor did not sign the bill until after a thorough investigation of its necessity, and after consultation with representatives of the Grange and that this bill was one of the few salary bills which received his support?

That for the Grange to initiate referendum proceedings against the bill at this time is to repudiate not only

the almost unanimous judgment of the Legislature, its Umatilla County representatives in the Legislature, the deliberate judgment of the Governor of the State, but likewise the judgment of its own members, which constitute a substantial group within the Legislature?

That the last salary increase for any official of Umatilla County was nine years ago, in 1917.

That the present salary of the Sheriff was established thirty-three years ago?

That the present salary of the County Commissioners was established twenty-five years ago?

That the present salary of the Assessor was established twenty-three years ago?

That the present salary of the County School Superintendent was established twenty-three years ago?

Concerning the necessity and the circumstances which justify the increases provided by this bill, do you know:

That since the Assessor's salary was established in 1905 the valuation of the property in Umatilla County has increased 550 per cent?

That when the Sheriff's salary was established thirty-three years ago the county had a population of less than fifteen thousand, and an assessed valuation of less than Five Million Dollars?

That the work in the County Clerk's office has increased over eighty per cent since the last salary raise provided for that office, not taking into account the increases in work incident to the primary election laws?

That the gross amount of moneys handled by the Treasurer's office has increased over two hundred per cent since the last salary raise authorized for that office?

That even the City School Superintendents in Umatilla County receive a larger salary than that received by the County School Superintendent?

That on January 1, 1919, Umatilla County had a total of ten miles of improved highway; on January 1, 1929, Umatilla County had a total of 342 miles of improved highway, an increase of more than 3320 per cent?

U. of O. Merman



This is Johnny Anderson, leading college swimmer in the northwest, who will head the University of Oregon team that will invade California next month for dual meets with Stanford, California, Southern California and U. C. L. A. Johnny holds several Pacific Coast conference records.

consistently identified ourselves against unwarranted increases in taxes, but it is our honest opinion that the passage of this bill will not have this result. In this connection we ask:

Do you know that the aggregate increases in salaries provided by this bill is only \$4,300 annually, and that the last session of the Legislature also passed a bill which cuts flat mileage from the expense accounts of all county officials, thereby saving to Umatilla County, in terms of 1928 experience, an amount which is equal to, if not greater than, the aggregate increase provided by this bill?

That Umatilla County is now the second wealthiest county in the state and has the lowest rate for state and county purposes in the state, a tax of only 14.9 mills, against tax rates in other counties of more than double that amount?

That even if the salary increases were not offset by the saving in mileage, House Bill No. 363 would only raise the taxes .88 of a mill, or, resolved in terms of cents, eight cents on every thousand dollars?

That by reason of the full payment in 1929 of the bond issue referred to, there will necessarily be a decrease of 20 per cent in county taxes for the next assessment, and that the future discloses a sharp decline in county taxes and this notwithstanding the increase in salaries provided?

In view of the facts, it is hard for us to believe that any one seriously interested in increasing efficiency in our county offices can seriously object to House Bill No. 363.

That the laborer is worthy of his hire is a principle as applicable to the employment of our public officers as it is to our private employees, and that when the burdens and responsibilities of office increase, that a fair compensation should be made thereof.

If perchance, members of the Grange are disappointed with the actions of various county officials, then there is an appropriate way for them to register their objections directly against given officials through the polls. The present officials are only accidently beneficiaries of House Bill No. 363. It is intended primarily to fix rates of pay which will, in the future, induce persons of ability to seek the positions. Without this inducement, the taxpayers of this county will be confronted with the possibility of higher taxes as a result of the kind of inefficiency which always follows under-payment.

Respectfully submitted, ROBERT G. STILL, T. C. FRAZIER, W. S. MUNSELLE

Hatchery to Reopen The state game commission announces that the hatchery at Bingham Springs will be reopened at once, and by June first over a million eggs from Diamond Lake will be put in the troughs at Bingham hatchery.

Visitors Here Rev. and Mrs. D. Loree and children were Athena visitors Saturday. Rev. Loree was formerly pastor of the local Baptist church.

John A. Keller Dies At Pendleton Hospital From Heart Trouble

John A. Keller, well known in Athena, where he formerly lived for many years, died Monday night at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton, after a critical illness of several days from heart trouble.

Familiarly known to his friends as "Jack," Mr. Keller came to Athena in 1900 and worked for some time at his trade, that of stone mason. Later he engaged in farming west of Athena. Later he went to Portland, and returning to this county, he has been farming in the vicinity of Helix.

Mr. Keller was born at Nurstand, Minnesota, and attended Hamline University at St. Paul. On June 20, 1898, he was married to Miss Florence Smith, who with two daughters, one son, two brothers and one sister, survive him.

Funeral services were held from the Methodist church at Pendleton Wednesday afternoon, with Rev. Melville T. Wire officiating.

Members of the Odd Fellows lodge took charge of the funeral services after the services were held in the church, and his body was brought to Athena for burial. Mr. Keller was a pioneer member of the I. O. O. F. lodge and a member of the Masonic order.

Will Observe Mother's Day, On May 12th

Sunday evening in the Christian church auditorium, the combined congregations of the Baptist and Christian churches will give a suitable program in honor of Mother's Day, to which all are invited. The program follows:

- Trio, by the Orchestra.
- Hymn.....Congregation
- Scripture Reading.....Louis Stewart
- Prayer.....G. R. Gerking
- Solo.....Kohler Betts
- Reading.....Esther Berlin
- Quartette.
- Talk.....Rev. Dow
- Piano Solo.....Marjorie Douglas
- Reading.....Mrs. C. M. Eager
- Pagant, Mother's Day, with special songs by Mrs. Reeder, and Mrs. Stone and music by orchestra.
- Hymn, "Blest Be the Tie".....Congregation
- Benediction.

UNION COMPANY ENTERS ATHENA

The Union Oil Company was granted permission to establish a distributing station in Athena at a meeting of the city council, Monday evening. The consent of the council was necessary for the reason that the station will be located inside the city limits.

The location selected by the Union people is opposite the Standard Oil plant, south, across the road and just inside the city limits. The location is on Northern Pacific property and on the west side of Northern Pacific tracks.

The entrance of the Union in the Athena field increases oil distributing plants to three. The Standard and the Continental oil companies already have stations here, the Standard being the first to enter local territory, followed by the Continental.

In other sections, producing companies are acquiring service stations. The Shell company having purchased a service station in Pendleton this week. The Continental owns the Athena Service Station under lease to Bryce Baker. So far the Standard has no down-town service station of its own, and it is not known what the Union's intentions are relative to a service station here.

Athena Mothers Entertained

About sixty-five Athena mothers were entertained in the Christian church reception room last Thursday afternoon when the Etude club gave a most pleasing and appropriate program. A pageant depicting five stages of life, beginning with the child and ending with old age, was carried out with music and readings, with Mrs. Laurence Pinkerton at the piano. Many old-time melodies were used, the whole being keenly appreciated by the guests, young and old. One special feature was a wedding which was carried out in an impressive and realistic manner. The entire membership of the club participated in the program, and all deserve special credit. Each mother was presented with a pink carnation, and pink tulips centered the table where later, Mrs. D. A. Pinkerton and Mrs. Laurence Lieullen of Adams cut cakes and poured coffee.

Weston Won From Athena

Weston defeated "Pike" Miller's Athena team in a closely played game at Weston, Sunday, by a score of 7 to 5.

RATE SITUATION IS MAJOR ISSUE

Cheap Lands In Canada Are Challenge To Food Export Markets.

In a letter addressed to farm officials of Oregon, Idaho and Washington, Arthur M. Geary, attorney for the farmers in the grain rate cases has explained the present status of the case and the lines he will follow in carrying the fight through with the interstate commerce commission at Washington. Mr. Geary's letter in part, is as follows:

The nature of the proposed report in the grain case as it relates to Washington, Oregon and Idaho has two possible explanations. One is that in the maze of contentions and counter-contentions of railroads, market and milling interests throughout the country the prime object of the investigation under the Hoch-Smith resolution, namely, to bring relief to agriculture has been overlooked. The other is that the proponents of the report feel that the time has come for the forced reduction of wheat acreage in this country to a basis that will no more than supply the domestic requirements.

What ever the explanation, there is no side-stepping the issue raised which the farm organizations of Washington, Oregon and Idaho must face.

With about 90 per cent of the wheat of Washington and Oregon and the soft grain growing sections of Idaho now going into export, there is no use in minimizing the seriousness of the situation.

Our problem appears in large part to be the gaining of the attention and the ear of the eleven commissioners long enough for them to understand the true facts as they affect a great industry in these states of the northwest.

The viewpoint of the examiners appears to be exactly the opposite to the Canadian commissioners as expressed over a year ago in their decision under the Canadian "Hoch-Smith resolution." To quote from one of the Canadian commissioners: "Canada must place her wheat on the world's market at a price that will compete with the offerings of other countries. If she cannot do that she cannot sell, and if she cannot sell—and at a profit to the producer—she cannot produce for export. * * * The national interest imperatively demands that production shall be increased * * * to the limit that the world market will take at a price that will meet costs of transportation and enable the farmer to successfully continue and to extend his operations."

By their cheaper and newer lands and lower freight rates obviously Canada has issued both a challenge and an invitation. The challenge is to flood the world markets with wheat at prices under what Washington, Oregon and Idaho wheat growers cannot operate at a profit. The invitation extended by extensive advertising and colonization offices in this country is for the grain farmers in increasing numbers to continue to expatriate themselves and to become growers of grain on the Canadian prairies.

By excepting brief and oral argument it is my intention to drive home to the commissioners the basic fact that the Canadian competition entitles Oregon, Washington and Idaho—and for that matter, Montana growers—to the lowest possible legal freight rates over the price fixing routes to the North Pacific ports; also, that the more of this wheat that is diverted out of the country the better it is for the grain growers of the other sections.

Wheat Farmers Meet

Wheat farmers of Umatilla County will have an unusual opportunity to get first hand information on the market outlook for future wheat crops if they attend a wheat growers' meeting which has been arranged to be held at Pendleton today. The important subject of grain grading, how it is done and what it means to the producer will also be featured on the same program. The combination offers one of the most attractive sessions held in recent years for grain growers of this county.

Dry At Yakima

F. S. LeGrow of the First National Bank, made a business trip to Yakima a few days ago. On his return Mr. LeGrow stated that the alfalfa crop and pasturage in the Yakima valley had been greatly retarded by dry weather. Lack of moisture had the effect of drying up the soil to the extent that in some localities it was barren of vegetable growth almost entirely.