

**The Athena Press**

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher

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Athena, Oregon, December 12, 1930

**THE WRONG DIAGNOSIS**  
(From the East Oregonian)

The first annual report of the federal farm board with accompanying advice that farmers cure their own troubles by reducing production would be more impressive were it not for the spectacle of wheat selling at \$1.78 a bushel in Paris.

France and the United States are in the same world and the French wheat growers face the same world conditions that our growers do and in proportion to population the French farmers raise nearly as much wheat as do the farmers of the United States.

But in France the wheat price is high, there is no unemployment there, nor is there any business or industrial slump. The nation is prosperous whereas in the United States the wheat price is very low, there is business depression and unemployment.

How does that happen? A report from Paris, from a reputable news agency, tells the story. When the French farmers had misgivings last year over their own large wheat crop and the large crop throughout the world they made certain suggestions to the French government.

The French officials had the good judgment to realize that the growers knew something about the farming game and listened to their story. They not only listened but they acted. A debenture was provided and the tariff duty on wheat was increased to 85 cents a bushel. The good results that have been achieved and the prosperous conditions of France indicate that the French officials acted wisely.

The United States government under the administrations of Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Hoover has not taken the advice of farmers with reference to the farm subject. Always the advice of other men has been taken. Doubtless the advice was sincere but it came from men who do not actually deal with the problem and whose fortunes are not directly involved. The course taken was faulty because it is based upon a false analysis of the situation and it is not possible to form correct conclusions when the diagnosis is wrong.

The American farmers are being treated for a trouble that requires no treatment from the government but the government has taken no effective steps towards correcting a wrong that the government itself inflicts upon agriculture and does so by legislation.

Were overproduction the cause of farm distress and indirectly the cause of the general business slump it would not be necessary to have a marketing act or a farm board. The farmers themselves are the best and most reliable doctors when that subject requires attention. As a matter of self interest they always try to produce such crops as will earn the most money and to abstain from growing crops that do not show a profit. They have good advice, too, from county agents and extension workers and other specialists whose reputations are at stake and who try to talk sense. Their advice is widely followed. Those who think the farmer knows nothing about crop control and the ups and downs involved grossly underestimate the farmer's common sense.

The real grievance of the export farmers, who comprise most of the agricultural productive forces of the nation, is that they have had to sell in a world market while their production costs are inflated by our tariff policy. That is an unfair arrangement. It means that their financial barrel has an outlet that is larger than the intake. No business can operate successfully year after year under such an arrangement. If the railroads had to run their business on such a system the carriers would go bankrupt and railroad service would be wrecked.

The farmers have a right to demand that the unfairness be eliminated and that if for reasons of domestic policy the country does not wish to do so that an offset be provided. There is a just claim for redress and a just claim should be paid and paid by those who owe the bill.

In a measure the farm board has recognized the soundness of the claim but they deal with it evasively, not candidly. They act like their job was to discount the claim as much as possible and talk the creditors into getting along without a fair settlement. That is not the way to settle a debt. The fault may rest with the president rather than the farm board members. Mr. Legge and his associates are splendid men personally and they are unquestionably doing much good. The Chicago price Saturday was nearly 20 cents above the Winnipeg price which shows that results may be accom-

plished under the marketing act but they are not doing enough. When wheat sells for but 57 cents in Pendleton and at \$1.78 in Paris there is a discrepancy that is noticeable.

When they advise farmers to cure the trouble by reducing production President Hoover and members of the farm board discuss a subject they are not familiar with and they suggest in effect that the people responsible for the injury that has been done should be absolved from responsibility and that the victims should crawl out of the hole the best way they can, if they can.

That is not correct dealing. It is not a good policy for this country to pursue and the whole nation has paid heavily for the mistake. With decreased farm buying power industry and business suffer, factories operate on a part time basis and men are thrown out of work. On top of that nearly eight million people have moved from farms to the cities in the last four years and those people swell the ranks of the unemployed. The scheme does not work.

We could forgive the president and his advisors if they would recognize the situation and deal with it frankly even if they did not accomplish all that is hoped for. It is hard to forgive them when they camouflage the issue. When they pass up the true story and talk about overproduction they mislead the country, they delay application of the right methods and they delay the return of prosperity. In substance their story is that the trouble is due to the stupidity of the grower and that is a falsehood. If there is stupidity it is not on the farm but at Washington and the French situation proves it.

Nitrate of soda would be an excellent fertilizer for blue grass lawns according to the following statement made by Oregon State College: The application of 200 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre on the farm of R. E. Bates, Corvallis, has increased the carrying capacity of five acres of Blue grass pasture from 600 to 992 pasture days this year, according to records kept by Mr. Bates and the county agent, who were cooperating on the trial. The nitrate of soda was put on in two applications, the first one June 15 and the other August 15. The pasture was irrigated.

The first spark of humanitarianism evinced by the soviet rulers is given the world in the commutation of death sentences to 10-year prison terms of the five prominent engineers who confessed to plotting against the soviet government for intervention. The commutation was decided by the central executive committee of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, which declared that since the defendants had confessed and repented, the soviet power could not be guided by a mere desire for revenge.

Portland bakers have come to the assistance of Portland charity organizations by offers of bread contributions, one firm offering to supply 10,000 loaves daily.

Winter registered the lowest temperature in Athena for the season, when the mercury dropped to 22 above, Monday night.

Reflecting upon European conditions, we might say they could be worse.

**NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS MEETING**

The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Athena, Oregon, for the election of directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before it, will be held in its office, in Athena, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 13th, 1931, at the hour of two o'clock p. m. Dated December 12th, 1930.  
F. S. LEADOW, Cashier.

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Successor To  
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**NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT**  
In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.  
In the Matter of the Estate of Charles Norris, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed her final account and report in the above entitled matter and that the above entitled Court has fixed Saturday, the 10th day of January, 1931, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a. m. of said day, as the time, and the County Court room in the County Court house at Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon, as the place, for hearing of said final account and report. Any person desiring to file objections to said final account and report should do so on or before that date.

Dated at Athena, Oregon, this 12th day of December, 1930.

VELMA B. SCHUBERT,  
Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Charles Norris, Deceased.  
Watts & Prestbye, Athena, Oregon. D12J9  
Attorneys for Executrix.

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Dr. Sharp's Office  
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Phone 462. Office Hours at Weston 8 a. m. to 12 noon. Phone 83. Calls made day or night.

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**WATTS & PRESTBYE**  
Attorneys-At-Law

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**PETERSON & LEWIS**  
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**23 Years Ago**

Miss Ollie Key has accepted a position as saleslady in the Mosgrove Mercantile store.

Carpenters are at work making improvements on the Henry Dell cottage. The interior is being changed considerably.

Chas. Keen was in the city Saturday. He had recently been at Hot Lake, where he received a week's treatment for rheumatism.

Glen Saling is harvesting his potato crop on Wild Horse Mountain. He employs squaws to pick up the spuds and sack them.

Miss Millard, the accomplished instructor in vocal music at the Normal school at Weston, was in the city Wednesday evening, attending the Baptist reception.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Mansfield left Tuesday evening for the East. They will visit Mr. Mansfield's old home in Hopedale, Ohio. They will be absent from Athena for about a month.

Mark Moorehouse and Miss Blanch Horn, prominent young people of Pendleton, were united in marriage Saturday evening. The groom is a son of Major Moorehouse and the bride comes from a pioneer Umatilla county family.

Friends of Miss Dolly Bloch are in receipt of news from her at her home in Spokane, stating that she is gaining very slowly after the severe operation to which she submitted some weeks ago, in the hope of regaining the use of her limbs.

For a time last week Marshal Gholson was engaged in the sheep business. Some thirty odd head were driven to this city from Walla Walla by a young man named Wilder, who was in the employ of Reinhold Harras. It appears that a party other than Harras was on a deal for the purchase of the sheep and succeeded in buying them. The young man was arrested here on the charge of stealing sheep, and taken to Walla Walla. Later the matter was compromised, Wilder was given his liberty and Mr. Gholson released the stock on order from the sheriff of Walla Walla county.

The Manasse stock has been all marked and packed for shipment to La Grande, by Mr. Wood. Several young ladies have been employed during the present week to wrap the goods for shipment.

James Henderson, of the Mosgrove Mercantile Co., will spend six weeks at his old home in Brooklyn, New York. Thos. Armstrong of Milton, will take his place in the store until he returns.

Venard Bell of this city and Miss Verna Vanslyke, of Weston, were married in the latter city yesterday, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Vanslyke. The young people will make their home on the Bell farm on Wild Horse creek.

Wednesday the record run was made at the Preston-Parton company's Mill B. in this city, when 727 barrels of flour was ground. During the 24 hours in which the run was made, Manager Watts says nearly 3500 bushels of wheat was consumed. The mill is grinding an export flour, and the company has so far experienced no trouble as a result of the financial crisis.

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The installation of an Electric Stereotyping Machine makes it possible for us to accommodate our merchant advertisers and others in the matter of making printing plates from matrices. It means a valuable addition to our equipment in the matter of serving our patrons.

**Tum-a-Lum Tickler**

Published in the interests of the people of Athena and vicinity by  
THE TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO. Phone 91

Vol. 30 Athena, Oregon, December 12, 1930 No. 47

**Something new for your Christmas Gift**

Buy it at the Tum-A-Lum. Paint it yourself.  
Put up in 10 minutes.

"On-the-Wall"  
IRONING BOARD CABINET  
\$8.00

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\$8.40

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"On-the-Wall"  
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\$4.00

Screws up quickly

Editorial  
Please Mr. Santa Claus visit the Tum-A-Lum. This year, you can take Mother home a nice new ironing board cabinet or a medicine cabinet for the bath room or a new phone cabinet a shelf or a mirror for the door.

Then Father can set it up in a few minutes and Mother will take lots of delight painting in nice colors. Maybe you might want a can of our fine paint and a brush for her. Of course we want you to come right away or we might have to deliver it after Christmas.

A. M. JOHNSON, Editor.

Unfinished  
(Knock-down) Furniture  
Smoking Stand .....\$1.20  
Sewing Cabinet .....\$2.15  
Magazine Rack ..... .60  
Drawer Chest ..... 2.75  
Book Case ..... 2.25  
Students Desk ..... 3.50  
Card Table ..... 1.10  
Sewing Stand ..... 2.15

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Many other useful articles

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**The Military Bird**

The wild geese and ducks are arriving on their annual migration from the great north.

The goose, the noblest of all game birds, is the only bird who conducts his affairs in military order. He flies in perfect formation, wears a beautiful uniform and places sentinels when in camps. He is a wary fellow and it is the keen sportsman who can out-general him.

For the accommodation of the particular and discriminating hunter, we carry a stock of U M C Ammunition. Our Remington long range loads will out shoot, shell for shell, any make or brand of heavy, long range loads on the market.

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**Reduction In Electric**  
Light Rates

The following reduction in Electric light rates will be in effect on and after March 15, 1929:

**Residential Rates**

First 30 KWH hours used, per month.....10c per KWH  
Excess over 30 KWH used, per month.....3c per KWH

The above rates apply when bills are paid in full within 10 days from date of bill. Otherwise, the rate will be increased by 10 per cent on each item.

**Commercial Rates**

First 100 KWH used per month.....10c per KWH  
Next 200.....7c per KWH  
Next 300.....6c per KWH  
Next 400.....5c per KWH  
Next 1000.....4c per KWH  
Excess over 2000.....3c per KWH

The above rates apply when bills are paid in full within 10 days from date of bill. Otherwise, the rate will be increased by 10 per cent on each item.

Preston-Shaffer Milling Company