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# The Athena Press

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## SECESSION TALK IS GROUNDLESS

### Canadian Farmers Aroused By Low Prices, and Huge Crops.

A United Press dispatch says the farmers of Western Canada who threatened to secede from the Dominion government and set up a separate government of their own, it developed Monday night, really did not mean it.

They talked about a revolution and saw that the talk got into all the newspapers of the United States and Canada merely to call attention of federal authorities to their plight, farm leaders in Winnipeg, wheat capital of Western Canada, agreed.

All is not well on the vast, rolling prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta where wheat is king and almost the whole populace labors in the monarch's service. World's wheat prices are out of joint. Canadian wheat prices are near the 50 cents per bushel level.

Farmers are making no money. Some of them produced their enormous crops this year at an actual loss. The wheat growers with bumper crops which are liabilities instead of assets, are holding meetings in cross roads halls, in village churches to discuss their difficulties.

At one such meeting in Wilkie, Sask., the assembled farmers announced they had decided the provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta would be better off if they seceded from Canada and set up an independent commonwealth with a central government of its own.

Other meetings have resulted in demands for dollar wheat, of threats to quit paying taxes until something is done by the government about the agricultural situation.

The irrigated farmers believe that the fiscal policy of the Dominion government is responsible for present conditions. The Canadian tariff, they hold, is such that in addition to increasing the cost of the goods the farmer must buy, it has had the effect of closing many of the markets of the world to the produce of the Western Canada farms.

**Burning Wheat For Fuel**  
Last week the East Oregonian reported that Pete Weidert was burning wheat for fuel at his ranch northwest of Athena, and that he contemplated replacing coal with grain to heat his residence in Walla Walla. Monday the Press man for the first time in his life saw wheat serving in the place of wood and coal for heating purposes. Down at Rogers & Goodman's hardware store two sacks of wheat that had been treated for seed and left over from planting time was burned in the stove as a matter of experiment. The grain developed a strong heat and burned freely.

**Informal Dinner Hostess**  
Miss Helen Hanner entertained a group of friends Sunday evening at an informal dinner. Red tapers suggestive of the Christmas season were used as table decoration. Preceding dinner, presents were dispensed from a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Those enjoying the hospitality of Miss Hanner included Kathleen Radtke, Jessiedean Dudley, Alberta Charlton, Lenore McNair, Dorothy Berlin, Mary Cameron, Howard Whitney and Roy DeFreese of Walla Walla; Dean Pinkerton, John Pinkerton, Fred Radtke, Leonard Geissel and George Gross.

**A Close Game**  
A closely contested game of basketball was played between the Athena Athletics and the Weston Independents on the local court, Saturday night. The Athletics nosed out in the lead by the score of 26 to 24. Eldon Myrick played in the last half for the Athletics. In the first half, Coach Pinkerton played his second stringers. The Athletics play the Adams league team in a regular scheduled game tonight on the home floor. A preliminary has been arranged between former players of the two towns.

**Former Weston Pioneer**  
The Weston Leader reports that Mrs. J. F. Killgore, former pioneer resident of the Weston community, died recently at her home in Cornelius, Oregon. Following the funeral, Mr. Killgore accompanied his son Robert to Hollywood, California, where he will reside during the winter.

**Drives To Hermiston**  
Mr. and Mrs. Sias drove down to Hermiston Tuesday evening to witness the Christmas operetta at the schools where their daughter Miss Gies, is teaching and handles the music for all the grades. The daughter returned to Athena with them for the holiday season.

## Grade Schools Give Pleasing Pageant Acts

If anyone was ever in doubt as to the existence of old "Santa Claus," the time, place and occasion to become converted was at the high school auditorium, Tuesday night. There the "Spirit of Christmas" and all her subjects held sway.

The adventures of two youngsters "Tommy and Alice Benson," charmingly impersonated by Teddy Miller and Gloria Garfield, were closely followed by the capacity house. "Snowman," Aaron Douglas, and "Jack Frost," Tillman Taylor, assisted by "Snowflake," Natelle Miller, and the "Snowflake chorus," directed the adventures to the forest where "Ice," Bonnie Johnson, and "Christmas tide," Barbara Lee, dwell.

"Wabasso," Wilbur Smith, the Christmas white rabbit and chorus of white bunnies with pink ears volunteered to guide the little travelers further into the fastnesses of the glistening woods. They were greeted by "White bear," Melba Montague and saw "Northern Lights," Jewel Pinkerton, who danced gaily, "King Winter," Vernon Lawrence, and "Queen December," Wilma McIntyre, assured the kiddies that their faith in Santa was well founded. "Christmas tree," Doris Jenkins with jolly "Sleighbells," Donald Jones and the chorus of Christmas Greens were also most encouraging. "Holly," Helen Johns, "Mistletoe," Marjorie Wilks, and "Poinsettia," Dorothy Martin, sang sweetly. "Christmas Bells," Helen Alkire, "Christmas Carol," Arleen Foster, "Christmas Candle," Beverly Barrett, "Christmas Pudding," Fern Carsten, "Christmas Candy," Ira Alkire, "Christmas Stocking," David Lowe, "Christmas Gift," Joyce Pinkerton, assisted by the Christmas Candy chorus prepared the way for "Santa Claus," Max Johnson, and the doubting ones were reassured that the old Saint really exists.

The stage setting was lovely with its glittering snow and the colorful costumes worn by the characters made beautiful scenes.

The music, directed by Miss Bryant and accompanied by Marjorie Montague was splendid. Miss Lee directed the acting and Miss Clara Schanep the dances. Miss Thorsen planned the costumes.

The debut of the high school orchestra was a high light of the evening's entertainment and much credit is due Dan Tilley, director.

Christmas carols and other numbers of the Glee Club, directed by Mrs. Bloom carried out the spirit of the occasion.

**Christmas Programs At Athena Churches Enjoyed**  
Athena churches were filled with interested audiences Sunday night when little tots appeared in programs celebrating the first Christmas.

Carols, pantomimes and recitations were features of the entertainment at the Christian church. A large Christmas tree with decorations accenting brilliant red and two smaller trees glistening with lights were the main features of decoration. Christmas bells and garlands of red and green lent a festive air.

The Baptist Church was filled to capacity and the program arranged by Miss Helen Barrett and Mrs. Emmett Lee was most enjoyed.

The little folks were assisted by the grown-ups and a number of solos, both vocal and instrumental were interspersed throughout the program. A beautifully decorated Christmas tree was the main decoration and a Santa Claus treat for all present followed the entertainment features.

The Press last week was unable to secure all numbers on the program offered at the Christian church for publication, and as a result it was published in part, only.

**A Successful Trapper**  
Wayne Pittman is proving himself to be a successful trapper. He has a string of traps in outlying districts from Athena and has been successful in taking quite a number of muskrats. His biggest trophy so far is a mink, large in size, with a prim pelt of fine, dark fur. Once in a while in his rounds, Wayne is fortunate in bagging a mallard duck or two. He is putting in the winter quite profitably, besides having a whale of a lot of outdoor fun.

**Beautiful Oil Paintings**  
Mrs. Dean Dudley, whose skill at painting has before been mentioned in The Press has recently completed three canvasses that rank well with her former productions. Lake Louise, one of the subjects, is profoundly artistic; a second, Sunset on Venice, is glamorously beautiful and the third, the ship Santa Marie, is skillfully blended in a riot of colors. Mrs. Dudley paints for pleasure only, and relatives are occasionally remembered with gifts of the pictures.



## CHRISTMAS TREE LAND

by MARJORIE BROOKS SHEPPARD

IT WAS early evening and the air was frosty in the forest. The full moon shed a white light over everything and the gay little frost-stars twinkled on every bush. Only the trees seemed alive; they stood sentinel-like, quiet guardsmen. A huge out-of-shape spruce on the right seemed to be the authority. To him the others all looked for wisdom. He had seen many, many winters come and go, he had been buffeted by the great North Wind until he was twisted and bent, he had felt the cold strike so deeply into his heart that he groaned every time a breeze swayed his branches. But still he survived, the greatest, the most powerful of the trees there.

Suddenly the winter silence was broken as a light wind rustled through the forest and the old tree shook himself awake. With the sound all the other trees bent toward him alertly. "Today," said the old tree solemnly, "is the first day of December."

The pine trees, both big and small, sighed in unison. Neither December nor any other month meant anything special to them. But the half-grown spruces were attentive at once. They were wise in the ways of the forest and they knew that the oldest spruce could be relied upon to keep in touch with the seasons. They knew perfectly well what his announcement meant and they waved their branches about merrily. Only the baby trees failed to understand and join in the glee with the others. Even the very beautiful, perfectly-shaped, large trees were moved to delighted expectancy.

"The first day of December," repeated the very littlest baby spruce. "What does that mean?" "It," cautioned the pines, and the

other trees nodded warningly. It did not do to interrupt when the old spruce spoke.

But the old spruce was kind, he did not mind a bit. "It means," he said, "that exactly twenty-five days from today is Christmas."

"Christmas?" again queried the littlest baby spruce, "What is that?" Patiently the old spruce replied. "Listen, and I'll tell you the story. In nearly all the Christian countries of the world one of the symbols of this day called Christmas is the Christmas tree. Now this Christmas tree is a plain evergreen tree, just like one of us, and on it are hung brightly colored ornaments, sparkling garlands and gaily wrapped gifts. So much happiness and peace does this tree bring that to be chosen for this purpose, whether it be for the richest or humblest home, is indeed a great honor.

"Sometimes soon, almost any day now, men will come into the forest and picking out the best, will take them away. Then the adventure begins. First the chosen ones will be tightly and very carefully rolled up and the branches tied to keep them from getting broken, and then they will be sent many, many miles away, probably to a great city. In that city they will be just as carefully unrolled and then stood up so that people may see.

"On Christmas eve they are set up in the homes of those who have chosen them and late that night the loving hands of one who loves the children will decorate them."

The pine trees sighed sorrowfully. "They never choose us," they said. "No, nor us," whispered the birches sadly.

The half-grown spruces and firs drew themselves up proudly. "We are pretty sure to be taken," said the

most graceful of these. "Look at us, all our branches are graduated so that they make a nice point on which to place a star. We all have straight trunks, too. We'll be taken, that's sure."

The littlest baby spruce had another question to ask the old tree, one about which he was not very clear: "Why weren't you ever taken?" he said. "Sh!" warned the tall pines once more. They were very much afraid that the feelings of the old tree might be hurt.

"Because," answered the old tree sadly, "I wasn't beautiful enough. I've never been straight like the rest of you and who would want a gnarled old thing like me to dress with bright ornaments? But I don't mind. I know there are a great many others to do their share toward spreading happiness so I am content to stay in the forest."

The littlest baby spruce was silent and all of a sudden he looked up, startled, as the big fir towering above his head began to speak. "I, too, may go this season," he said with pride, "now that community Christmas trees are getting so popular; even ones as big as I get a chance."

"Oh, my, oh, my!" wailed the littlest baby spruce. "Suppose I'm not chosen! Maybe they won't want such tiny ones!"

"Come now, never mind, don't worry," soothed the old tree. "The houses are so small nowadays that a great many people have to have table Christmas trees. Perhaps you'll be one of those. But I think we've talked enough for now. Let us all go to sleep, it's getting late. Tomorrow they may come to look us over and we must look our best."

So perfect silence once more fell over Christmas Tree Land. The full moon, now low on the horizon, shed a light over everything and the gay little frost-stars still twinkled on every bush. Everything was in readiness and waiting for Christmas.

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**England Halted Christmas**  
For twelve years, from 1644, Christmas was not kept in England. The Puritans, deeming it a pagan festival, passed an act of parliament abolishing it, and directing that December 25th should be a day of fasting and repentance. Charles II restored Christmas.

## Oregon Leading Nation in Child Health Policies

Oregon mothers lead the nation in providing their children with cod-liver oil, a health factor so necessary in every state in the union, especially in winter.

More little Johnnies and Marys of the state are getting their daily "canned sunshine" than the average of the children in the country, according to the home economics department of Oregon State college.

A nation-wide survey reported at the recent White House Conference on Child Health and Protection at Washington, D. C., showed that approximately 50 per cent of the children in the United States are receiving cod-liver oil daily, a practice which health and nutrition authorities are agreed is essential to the best well-being of every child, particularly during the winter when sunshine is neither as plentiful nor as potent as in the summer.

A similar survey carried on in Oregon by the home economics department of the state college indicates that cod-liver oil is a part of the daily program of 63 per cent of the children in this state during the winter months, while 17 per cent also have this added protection during the summer, as compared with 10 per cent for the nation as a whole.

In recommending that every child be given cod-liver oil, the nutrition specialists of the department point out that it is not only, as most persons know, a rich source of vitamin D, the substance manufactured in the pigment of the skin when subjected to direct sunlight, and which is necessary for the proper development of teeth and bones, but is also the richest known source of vitamin A, which gives protection against such infections as the common cold, and sinus, bronchial and lung trouble.

### The B. B. Club

The B. B. Club was entertained at a Christmas party at the C. M. Eager home last Friday night. Guests were bidden for dinner and found their places at tables centered with miniature Christmas trees and further decorated with red baskets and cards suggestive of the holiday season. A Christmas tree laden with gifts was an interesting part of the evenings entertainment. At bridge, Mrs. Lloyd Michener and Chase Garfield carried off first honors and Archie McIntyre received the consolation. The club will next be entertained at the Chase Garfield home with the men acting as hosts.

### A Christmas Program Given at District No. 2

An appropriate and well rendered program was presented by the pupils of District 2 northwest of Athena, Tuesday afternoon. A beautiful Christmas tree and Santa Claus himself to distribute the gifts rounded out a charming entertainment. The program follows: "Song of Welcome," Roberta Cannon, Rachel Smith, Charlie Hoggard; recitation, "A Christmas Eve Thought," William Zerba; Christmas essays, "The Story of Christmas," Rachel Smith; "Christmas Customs of Other Lands," Roberta Cannon; song "Jingle Bells," school; story "Why the Cat Washes after eating," William Zerba; dialogue, "A Christmas Disappointment," Roberta Cannon, Rachel Smith; monologue "Learning a Piece," Charlie Hoggard; song, Christmas Carol, Roberta Cannon, Rachel Smith; pantomime, "On Christmas Eve," Rachel Smith, William Zerba; song, "Goodbye" school.

Others who had prepared numbers for the program were John Robert and Marion Stewart and who are ill and were unable to attend. School reopens January 5 Mrs. Dick Swift teaches the school and arranged the program.

Visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Jess Smith, Mrs. Roy Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Zerba, Miss Lois Smith, Mrs. L. D. Johnston, William Zerba, Charlie Hoggard, Roberta Cannon, Rose Marie Cannon and Rachel Smith.

### Well Known Basso

Everett Craven was one of four chosen as basso in the quartet of soloists to participate in the Portland Symphony Society's production of the "Messiah" conducted by Willem Von Hoogstraten, December 28. Athena people will remember Mr. Craven's promising voice in the Willamette Glee club, which appeared in concert here several years ago.

### The Girls' League

A very pleasant and successful affair of the holiday season was the silver tea given by the Girls' League at the home of Mrs. Arthur Douglas, Saturday afternoon. An attractive program was presented by members and the prettily appointed tea tables was centered with holly and red tapers. A representative group of ladies called during the afternoon.

## NATION'S JOBLESS GET A HUGE FUND

\$724,000,000 Will Be Spent During 1931—Roads To Get \$219,922,000.

A Washington dispatch says that moving to the aid of its jobless, the American government will spend \$724,000,000 on public works during the calendar year 1931, the largest peacetime construction program in its history.

The amount compares with the average fiscal expenditure of approximately \$275,000,000.

Figures announced by President Hoover showed the largest amount for any purpose was the \$219,922,000 to highways.

Running a close second will be public building construction with \$173,869,000 available. Rivers and harbors will receive \$159,857,000 and ship construction \$129,920,000.

Fifth on the list was an item which 20 years ago would have been considered an impossible dream. A total of \$30,882,000 will be used for building aircraft.

Of the \$724,000,000, a total of \$116,000,000 was made available last week by congress as an emergency unemployment relief measure.

In addition to the appropriations for public works the government will expend \$170,000,000 for agriculture relief, \$45,000,000 of which will be used for seed and fertilizer loans to farmers stricken by last summer's unprecedented drought.

### New Telephone Official

W. J. Dodge has been placed in charge of the business operations of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company in the state of Oregon, it has been announced by E. D. Wise, vice president and general manager. Mr. Dodge will report directly to Mr. Wise and will have the title of general commercial manager, a position held by H. H. Risley, who now assumes further responsibilities on the staff of Vice President C. E. Fleeger. A western man by birth, a Pacific coast man by education through both school and university days, Mr. Dodge comes to Oregon with an exceptional record of constructive achievement in telephone work.

### Weston-Athena Bank Messenger

Weston Leader: Banking in the neighboring town of Athena, three miles away, is made easy for Weston people by the appointment of E. C. Gentry of Gentry Motors as the local representative of The First National Bank of Athena. Mr. Gentry makes regular trips to Athena each week day, leaving his place of business at 9 a. m., and takes "over the hill" the deposits of the bank's Weston customers.

### A Social Dance

A group of friends residing near the La Fave ranch, southeast of Adams were entertained there Saturday night. The "Wranglers" orchestra comprised of Wayne Lafave and Rodrick Larabee, violins, Clyde Larabee piano, and Alva Potter banjo, furnished music for dancing. Square dances and other steps of by-gone days were much enjoyed by those present. Supper was served.

### "Has-Beens" Play Tonight

The "has-beens" basketball players of Adams and Athena will play the preliminary for the Athena-Adams league game tonight at Athena high school gym. It will be a scream to see in action, Lisle Gray, Jack Calder, Lawrence Pinkerton and others for Athena, checking Carl Christian, L. L. Liewallen, Paul Liewallen, Otis Liewallen and other Liewallens from Adams in the first game of the rousing doubleheader.

### Motor Fuel Taxes Huge

That taxes collected on motor vehicle fuels during 1930 will run well over \$6,000,000 is indicated in a report for the first 10 months of the year, says Secretary of State Hoss. For the period from January 1 to October 31 \$5,802,360.78 was collected, of which \$5,664,448.50 goes to the state highway fund. The 10 months' receipts were in excess of those for the full year of 1929 by over \$1,200,000.

### Wauna Camp Fire Girls

The Wauna group of Campfire girls was entertained at the home of Mrs. Bert Logsdon Monday night. The feature of the evening was a beautiful Christmas tree which fairly showered gifts. Santa Claus, himself, was present and remained as honor guest at the taffy pull which followed. Popcorn balls and other goodies were in evidence.

### Athena Beats Dixie

Athena high school defeated Dixie, Wash., high school at basketball on the local court, Thursday evening of last week. Score 28 to 17.