

Sherman County Journal

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Forty Third Year

Moro, Oregon, July 17, 1931

No. 36

DETAIL OF SHERMAN CO. TAX CUT SHOWN

Assessor's Figures Show What One County Has Done

ROADS STOOD LARGEST CUT

Other Counties Have Same Chance To Reduce Under Present Law

The agitation about taxes in this state at this time brings to the fore the question, Just what can the people do about taxes under the present system?

Before discussing what we can do about taxes it may clarify the matter somewhat if we talk about what we are doing now. The total tax against real property in this state is about \$50,000,000.00. It was \$50,794,633.14 in 1929 and has not changed appreciably since that time.

It has been frequently stated that of this amount the state only levies about \$7,000,000.00. This is true only as it applies to property taxes for the total sum that the state exacts from the residents is \$25,062,452.66 according to the report of the state treasurer. This includes direct taxation as well as the income from the innumerable fees and licenses levied by the different boards of the state government. These are just as much a tax as any other for they must be paid even if they are assessed through indirect means.

The following table prepared by the county assessor shows what the taxpayers of Sherman county have done to their taxes by using the power invested in them by the laws as they are at present:

COMPARISON OF TAXES

Rolls of 1929 and 1930. Collections in 1930 and 1931.

Special School Levy

1929	\$72,699.21
1930	64,870.99
Decrease of 10.77%	7,828.22

High School Tuition

1929	\$16,982.50
1930	14,355.69
Decrease of 15.46%	2,626.81

Cities

1929	\$26,254.61
1930	18,575.65
Decrease of 29.24%	7,678.96

General Road Fund

1929	\$34,203.81
1930	12,555.59
Decrease of 63.29%	21,648.22

General Fund — exclusive of State Tax and Elementary School Tax

1929	\$109,222.74
1930	85,367.55
Decrease of 21.84%	23,855.19

State Tax and Elementary School Tax

1930	\$61,114.38
1929	60,371.19
Increase of 1.21%	743.19

General Fund — including State Tax and Elementary School Tax

1929	\$169,593.93
1930	146,481.93
Decrease of 13.62%	23,112.00

Total Tax

1929	\$319,735.51
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WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 8

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
July 9	94	50	.00
" 10	80	62	.00
" 11	78	50	.00
" 12	88	64	.00
" 13	84	54	.00
" 14	89	50	.00
" 15	75	47	.00
Total for week			.00

1930.....256,844.53
Decrease of 19.66%.....62,890.98

When the State Tax Commission cut the Sherman county ratio from 84% to 80% they gave us a larger share of the state tax to pay, the only total showing an increase. If that item had not been increased the total tax decrease would have been 19.9%.

Valuation

1929	\$14,251,591.00
1930	13,950,660.00

Tax

1929	\$19,735.51
1930	256,844.53

Average Consolidated Levy

1929	22.44 mills
1930	18.42 mills

Margaret W. Peetz, assessor.

This is a decrease in county taxes of 21.84 per cent with the exception of the state tax. The state tax increased 1.21 per cent in this county last year which reduced our total reduction to 19.66 per cent.

This shows what the people can do when they decide to lower their taxes. The people of Sherman had the cooperation of the county court and all other taxing bodies who were anxious to assist. It is not a difficult task for the people to take as it merely requires study of the county's expenses combined with a determination to do without some of the things heretofore enjoyed at the expense of the county.

"To Lower Taxes, Spend Less Money"

is the slogan of the Sherman County Tax Reduction League and this trend of thought will make it possible for any county or levying district to reduce their taxes to the extent the people find advantageous to themselves, excepting, of course, those with unduly large bonded debt.

In Sherman county taxes will be smaller next year than this for the school districts have reduced their budgets, and it is almost certain that county taxes will be cut still further next fall. Our local valuation will be about twenty per cent smaller than this year because of a reduction in the assessed value of farm lands caused by the low prices of wheat. This may hold up the millage, but the taxes will be lower for the simple and all sufficient reason that less money will have been voted.

Wasco Youth Killed While In Army

Norman Woodward, a graduate of the W.H.S. class of '31, was killed in an automobile accident last Saturday. Woodward and twenty other fellows from Mathers Field were returning to camp from a swimming trip when the truck in which they were riding was struck by a train and Woodward and two others were killed and nine injured quite badly. Young Woodward had joined the army this spring after graduation.

CROPS HARVESTED VARY MUCH IN YIELD

Three To Thirteen Sacks Harvested In County Fields

WHEAT IS UNUSUALLY LIGHT

Price Is Most Discouraging Factor Of Wheat Situation

Since harvest has become general over the north end of Sherman county, it is possible to get a fairly good estimate of what the wheat will make in that part of the district. Practically no fields have been finished so far, but farmer's estimates are fairly accurate about lands and crops they have handled for years.

The best verified yield so far announced is one of 13 sacks per acre from 70 acres of Federation grown by Tracy Fields northwest of Wasco. Turkey Red wheat in that district is making from 10 to 12 sacks per acre with some of the poorer fields running from 8 to 10 sacks.

East of Wasco where the wheat is not so good yields are from 5 to 7 sacks. This is a little less than the pre-harvest estimate of crops.

East of Moro wheat that is being cut is making from 3 to 5 sacks per acre. This is largely wheat that suffered from drought or frost and was not helped by the rains. It ripened quicker than other wheat and will probably yield a little less.

In the country south of Moro that has not yet been touched with the harvesters estimates given by farmers run from 4 or 5 sacks per acre to sometimes an optimistic 9 or 10.

A large part of the wheat that has been hauled to warehouses is very light in weight and for the first time in many years there is much of the wheat in the county. These two factors will tend to reduce the price paid for the crop by buyers.

Wheat at 45 cents in Portland will make the price average about 34 cents in Sherman county for No. 1 Turkey Red sacked. When deductions have been made for bulk wheat, low grade, and perhaps smut dockage, it is plain to the farmer that he is going to receive the lowest price for his wheat in his lifetime, unless the price goes up several cents.

Fleck's Orchard Camp Visited By Fire

A disastrous fire visited Fleck's orchard camp grounds last Sunday afternoon and destroyed the power house and equipment and one string of cabins.

The fire started in the power house while the batteries on the Delco plants were being charged and burned it to the ground along with the contents which included two Delco light plants with 36 batteries and other machinery.

After this fire was out the cabins took fire from some sparks that had lodged in the shingles and they also were destroyed.

Drowning Accounts For Two Deaths

Death by drowning happened twice over the past week end to persons either in Sherman county or well known here. The first casualty was Billie Fritts, 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fritts, of Tygh Valley. With Ernest Taylor, his uncle, the boy went down to Tygh Creek near his home to learn to swim.

He dived into a pond containing between seven and eight feet of water and did not appear again alive. He was rushed to The Dalles but none of the ministrations of doctors was of avail.

He was buried Monday afternoon at The Dalles cemetery with the services held from Zell's.

Sunday afternoon about two o'clock a man from Yakima, Ray Munn, was drowned in the waters of the Deschutes near its mouth. With his brother-in-law he was wading in the current where he lost his footing and was carried down into the water.

He had come to Stiles to meet his sister and her husband from California and the two families were having a picnic at the scene of the accident. His body has not been discovered.

Water Meters Still Undergoing Inspection

The city council seem to be determined to get all the information about water meters before they finally allow the subject to be forgotten according to evidence brought out at the meeting of Tuesday night.

A. S. Johnson, who has been continuing the inspection of meters began by Marshall George Williams, reported that there are twenty users without any sort of meter at all and that there are forty-six meters still in bad condition. This is considerably more than was reported before.

According to an estimate made the city has been losing revenue of \$200.00 per month through faulty meters and this condition will be remedied as soon as possible.

Sam McDonald Buried In Hood River

Sam McDonald, who came to Sherman county in 1882 with the first rush of land seeking homesteaders, died July 15th and was buried by the side of his wife in Hood River Monday, July 13th.

The deceased was born in Monkland, Ontario, of Scotch-Irish parentage in 1867. When he and his family moved to Oregon and settled east of Moro they named their settlement after their old home town in Canada and the name still remains.

He is survived by four daughters and one son, Ralph, who operated the Maryhill ferry, three brothers, Niel of Moro, and John and George of Hardman, Oregon.

"Merrie England" The original meaning of "Merrie" was pleasant or delightful, and it is with this meaning, rather than jolly or full of merriment, that the phrase "Merrie England" originated.

OLD-TIME NEWS WILL APPEAR IN JOURNAL

Doings of 39, 29, and 19 Years Ago Will Be Republished

ADVERTISEMENTS INTEREST

Changes in County Business and Social Life Many and Varied

Going back to the long-ago seems pleasurable to the minds of the pioneers who settled this part of the state and for this reason we have opened up the files of the Observer for 39 years back and will print some of the doings of olden days each week.

A short perusal of the pages shows one the changes that have come over the county in those years. The advertisements proclaim the virtues of merchandise that has long since been replaced with other styles and fancies.

D. McDonald and R. J. Ginn were just dissolving partnership in the implement business at Biggs and Mr. Ginn was moving to Moro. They sold the famous Cassidy plow and Monitor drills.

Jim Tomlin advertised himself as a wagon maker. W. H. Williams had the Moro Hotel. Moore Brothers were selling the famous Oregon Haines Header according to other advertisements.

Harrison was president; Sylvester Pennoyer was governor; John Fulton was county judge and John Moore and D. H. Leech were county commissioners. S. S. Hayes, clerk; E. M. Leslie, sheriff; Hiram Tyree, school superintendent; H. A. Thompson, treasurer; Wm. Henrichs, assessor; Jas. Belnehe, surveyor; W. H. Moore, coroner; Alex. McIntosh, stock inspector were other county officers.

J. B. Hosford and C. E. Jones had just dissolved partnership in the ownership of the Observer and Mr. Hosford was the sole owner and editor.

From the columns of the Moro Observer dated July 15th, 1892, we find the account of the following happenings:

Mrs. Laura Moore and Miss Mabel Moore were callers at the office last publishing day and saw our Washington press in operation.

Miss Belle Coleman concluded a very successful term of school in district 16 (Erskineville) the 9th inst. We learn from her report that the pupils not tardy during the term were Emma and Anna Peetz, Ivrand Opha Sayrs; not absent, Maggie Farra.

Elwood Thompson this week purchased a quarter section of fine farming land adjoining his claim in Upper Hay Canyon from John Morrison of Umatilla county.

A. E. Lake's mill at Wamiq was destroyed by fire the 4th.

Frank Sayrs was busy heading this week. He cut some grain for J. J. Schaeffer that will probably average 10 bushels and H. A. Thompson's also promised a fine yield.

Thieves broke into Mike King's house in Ferry Canyon and stole

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Orville Barnum Pays Visit In Aeroplane

Those who heard or saw an aeroplane swooping down close to some of the houses in town Sunday morning were not surprised to learn that it was a local flier giving what may be termed an aerial salute to friends and relatives. Orville Barnum, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Barnum, was the driver of the plane.

He is now engaged in different sorts of flying activities in Portland from aeroplane mechanic to pilot and was making a trip from that city to the Burns country with Thomas Bil-yen, owner of the plane, and stopped Saturday night with his parents.

Sea Gulls Land In Sherman County Fields

Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Hendrichs saw something Monday morning that might have caused them to wonder whether they had been transported to the coast over night or that their ranch had settled to sea level.

Fifteen or twenty seagulls, blown inland perhaps by the heavy wind, flew around their place for a few minutes before striking back to salt water.

Their place is almost 200 miles from the coast in a direct line and it is not often that seagulls are to be seen that far away from their native habitat.

Power Company Begins Frost Area Work

Work on the power lines of the Pacific Power & Light Co. began this week with the arrival of a large part of the linemen who will do the wire work. All of the material has arrived and been hauled to the job with the exception of the poles which are expected any time.

The company is placing an intermediate pole between each two along the lines wherever frost conditions interfered with service in the past. A crew of fifteen or sixteen men will be needed for about six weeks and with the exception of linemen these will be recruited locally.

H. S. Whitbeck is in charge of the work.

Figures On 1929 Production Given

The total production of wheat in 1929, when the same fields were in crop the last time, was 1,838,317 according to the report of the census bureau. Of this amount 1,780,216 bushels was winter wheat.

It is very probable that this year will record a lower figure for winter wheat and a much larger one for spring wheat due to the fact that a large part of the south end of the county was seeded in the spring.

There has been argument among every group of farmers and business men for the past month on the question whether or not we will exceed the figure for two years ago and now with harvest generally started in the larger part of the county it will not be long until it is settled.

The closest observers and the majority of the farmers seem to incline to the belief that the county as a whole will harvest more wheat than in the year 1929 off the same ground.

MILDRED GINN TELLS OF INDIAN PEOPLE

Story Told Of Native's Troubles In Finding Salvation

PARSEES ARE INDIAN JEWS

Trip Home To Quillon To Be Made By Different Route

June 8th, 1931.

Dear Mother and Daddy: I had expected to be on my way this morning to Quillon, but the time has again been put off—till Wednesday this time—but perhaps later.

After trying for over an hour I attempted to do some studying, but it made my head hurt so I decided it would be better to write to my folks. No letter last week from home and none this week so I shall be expecting a nice surprise when they do turn up. Heard from L. A. yesterday.

I thought I might go to church both morning and evening yesterday as it would be my last opportunity but eventually I did not go to either. We had a little informal service at the house in the evening.

Read a book by Amy Charnichael yesterday—about an hour's time—"The Widow of the Jewels" is the name of it and I found it especially interesting as it brought in scenes and places with which I have become somewhat familiar in South India. It is an encouraging little story of what God can do with a broken life.

Several days ago we had such a sweet interesting lady for tea. She works in the Church of England mission in Madras. She told us a wonderful story of a life she had recently come in contact with. "Twas a man she met when visiting the hospital. He had been falsely accused of murder, his medical certificate taken from him and the death sentence passed. The days preceding the carrying out of the sentence were spent in prayer to all of the Gods he knew—and an Indian knows of many—but there was no reversal of the verdict. Almost in despair as the appointed day was very near, he wondered if there might be another God—a God that could hear and answer prayer. So he prayed to that God if He was God and if He could help to send help, and the remainder of his life would be spent in worshipping and serving this God. God heard prayer and the day before the appointed day for sentence the man was acquitted, but his medical certificate which gave him the right to practice medicine was not returned. He was told that only the King of England could restore it to him.

Altho it was impossible for him to see the king, he was not in despair for he had learned of a King who was above the King of England and could answer prayer. So again he prayed. A year later he was in Africa. The Prince of Wales came to Africa and he was employed as a servant to the prince. Thus he was able to have an interview with the prince who promised to carry a letter to the king in person. A few months elapsed before the prince returned to England, but in due time the king heard and returned the certificate.

The Indian told Miss Beaver that there was one prayer the Lord hadn't answered, though he had prayed just

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Uncle Emmett Discourses

On Fleeting Troubles

It was dreary around Valley City with the young men away to the camps, branding calves, or chasing lambs and the few elders who stayed behind were hard put to amuse themselves.

"I was readin' in a book of Doc Davies' last night about a feller name Malthus," said Uncle Emmett to Lem Bushby, the postmaster, as they sat in the sun in front of Uncle Sam's office building.

"Who's he?" inquired Lem, unconsciously starting a discourse he was unable to stop.

"Yu'd think, Lem, that all the fellers that lived a few hundred years ago would like to come back for a month or so to see what the worthless young people had done to the world, now wouldn't yu?"

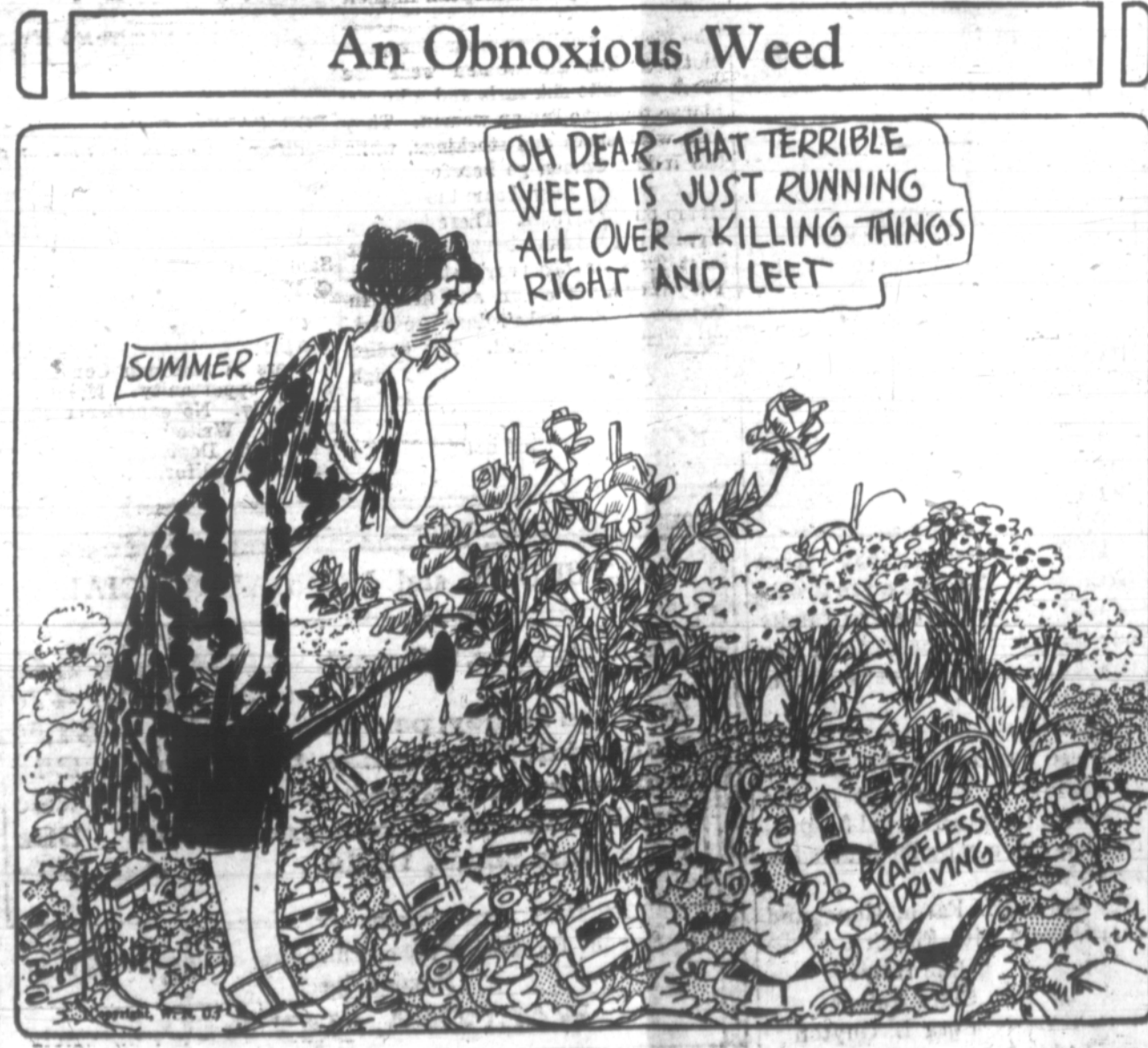
"I reckon they would be some surprised," said Lem.

"This guy Malthus would," answered Uncle Emmett, "he spent the best part of his life telling the people that in a couple a shakes folks was goin' to get so thick they couldn't find nothin' to eat, no place. Them was the days, Lem, when the women wore long skirts an' was modest an'

had lots of kids. Malthus wouldn't know the female homo nowadays. She's neither so modest nor so prolific and along with other things she's done, she's made a monkey out o' Malthus."

"While Malthus was doin' his stuff, along come George Washington and made a public benefactor of the man who made two blades of grass grow where one had growed before and then some later agin' along come Mrs. Sanger and made a public enemy of the woman who made two kids grow where one should be. The people who worried about what Mr. Malthus said would sure enjoy an hours confab with an American farmer this year."

"Mebbe folks believed him, Uncle Emmett," interposed the postmaster. "Looks like it, Lem, they always got to have somethin' to worry about. If the greatest pleasure is in anticipatin' the worst, miseries are the same. If evry buddy starved this winter that's worrin' about it, there wouldn't be anyone left but a few trusted employees o' the government like yu an' Andy Mellon."



Government Sends Botanist To Study Poisonous Plants

"Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small," and it seems that the Federal and State governments are attempting to emulate this record in some respects at least. For the first of this week, three years after the serious cattle illness of this county, the government sent W. W. Eggleston, a botanist and student of poisonous plants to study such vegetation in Sherman county.

Mr. Eggleston says that there are six or eight poisonous varieties of Lupine on the ranges of Eastern Oregon and that two of these are very common. The common wooly Lupine that is well known in this county is not so likely to be the one that poisoned stock here as is the lesser known Lupine with a much thinner stalk, pea green in color.

However, Mr. Eggleston does not say that Lupine or anything else poisoned cattle and horses in Sherman county. He has been a botanist since he was a young man, which was quite a few years ago, and has been in the government service studying danger-

ous plants for nearly twenty five years. These years in scientific pursuits have made him chary of saying anything as a positive fact unless he has the facts at hand.

He does not have much faith in the theory some had in this county that the water was polluted in the pastures. In all his experience he has not found a place where water has poisoned stock. Neither is he satisfied with the results of autopsies performed on cattle which have died from supposed poison. Some times the cause can be positively found and other times, even when the animal has been fed a poisonous weed to cause death, the weed cannot be found in the animal's stomach.

It takes patience and care to determine the causes and results of different plants on different animals, one learns from talking to Mr. Eggleston. And, also, one gathers the impression that he has developed the patience to look for years for a solution to problems and has the careful application to make the solution correct when it is announced.