

Sherman County Journal

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SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Moro, Oregon, February 10, 1933

No. 14

Forty Fifth Year

MEETING OF FARMERS SCHEDULED MONDAY

Organization For Mutual Protection To Be Effected

MILITANT ACTION IS POSSIBLE

Meeting Plans Come Out of Mortgage Adjustment Session

A meeting called to appoint a group of representative citizens from which a state committee could pick five men to act as a mortgage adjustment board in this county resolved itself into a pep assembly for the organization of the county farmers into a militant group for protection against foreclosures, high interest rates and high taxes here Monday night.

The meeting was called by Harry Pinkerton at the request of the state mortgage adjustment board. Its original purpose was to nominate twelve men from which five could be picked. Even before the nominations were made there were speeches, short and impassioned, about the injustice of the conditions in which the farmer finds himself. When representatives of the different towns adjourned to caucus they talked about tax reduction instead of nominating. It was that sort of a meeting.

Finally the following twelve men were named as candidates for the positions on the county adjustment board: From Kent, J. M. Wilson, Corliss Andrews; Grass Valley: Geo. Wilcox, Roy J. Baker; Moro: W. S. Powell, W. F. Jackson; Wasco: E. D. McKee, L. J. Lucas; Rufus: C. A. Tom, Chas. Kuypers; At large: Fred Krasow, A. H. Barnum.

Following this brief attention to the business at hand several men claimed the floor to express themselves on the problems of the day as they affect farmers. George H. Wilcox, druggist and farmer, of Grass Valley said that farmers he contacted were becoming discouraged and disheartened over the injustice of con-

Wasco Masons Attend Meet In The Dalles

The Dalles lodge A. F. and E. M. entertained the Masons of 14 districts Monday night with a Bobbie Burns program. Rev. Hutchinson gave a talk on Bobbie Burns the poet and there was a scotch highland dance given and various other entertainments. About 150 Masons attended. Those from Wasco were Messrs. Burnett, Scott, Feldman, Nesbit, Everett, Peterson, Haven, McCulloch, Hilderbrand, Root, McDermid, Armsworthy, Van Gilder and Deputy Grand Master Homer Wall. At the close of the evening refreshments were served.

ditions. They were disappointed with the slowness of legislatures and congress to bring relief and were ready for more direct action. He finished his remarks by a pointed allusion to a national congress that in the midst of hunger and starvation concerned itself with a \$30,000 swimming pool in the White House.

The Robinson bill, the Frazier bill, farm interest rates were debated. Roy Baker, a farmer, predicted a return to the sort of life led by our grandfathers. T. M. Rolfe, W. H. Ragsdale and others spoke advocating an organization of farmers to do for themselves what they have failed to get from their government.

George Wilcox then proposed a general county wide meeting somewhat like the one recently held in Wasco county when farmers there organized a protective association. His suggestion was enthusiastically seconded and the following committee appointed to handle the arrangements: George Wilcox, J. M. Wilson, W. H. Ragsdale, Mrs. Marie E. Cooper and Leonard Maurus.

The meeting will be held in the court house Monday, February 13 at 1:30 in the afternoon. The officers of the Wasco association will be present to tell of their conclusions. Everyone is invited and urged to come, and to express their ideas of what should be done to bring about better conditions for agriculture. Affiliation with the farmers protective groups of the east is a probability.

In any event the meeting next Monday is going to be one that may make history in farm circles in this country. As one enthusiast remarked "No one who is tired of taking it on the chin is going to be absent."

HYSLOP BRINGS LATEST FARM INFORMATION

Economic and Production Topics Are Discussed

THREE TALKS MADE IN COUNTY

Advice About Fec seeding Brought To Farmers

Every resident of the county had an excellent opportunity to hear the latest information about the reseeded farm-crops on land that has been frozen out this winter when Prof. George R. Hyslop, of Oregon State College made a series of talks to farmers in this county last week end.

Mr. Hyslop talked in Wasco Friday afternoon, in Moro Friday night and in Grass Valley Saturday afternoon. In each case his talk was heard by an interested body of grain growers who came to learn about their problems both economic and productive.

From knowledge gained through years of working with farmers in the field of crops and economics the speaker reviewed the history of farm relief legislation from the inception of the McNary-Haugen bill down to the present session of congress and their discussions of the proposed domestic allotment plan. He stated that the farm board had been of material assistance to wheat growers of the Pacific northwest.

In explaining the new plan Mr. Hyslop said that it was designed to make the tariff effective on products used domestically. At present it is thought that the processors tax on wheat would be 42 cents or the equivalent of the tariff and that the plan would raise the price of wheat by that amount less costs of operation less losses entailed through shipment of the surplus to other lands. Just how much would be gained through his scheme is problematical until tried.

Making the allotment for the nation and state would be comparatively easy, he stated, because the production of these units is known for long periods past. However, making the allotments for counties and individual farms will cause considerable work and can best be done through authorities.

Allotments should be made on a bushelage basis is the opinion of Mr. Hyslop because production of acres varies greatly over small areas. The allotment should be made to the land instead of to the farmer so that there could be no switching of allotments from good land to poor to use the entire crop produced.

In case this plan is put into effect by the government it is probable that some changes will have to be made in production methods in the wheat country, in the opinion of the speaker. If, under the plan, it is necessary to abandon some land, temporarily at least, some other crops may be grown on it to keep it in cultivation so that it may be used later if conditions justify. Some sort of forage crop may settle this problem in semi-arid districts, such as Sherman county.

It is possible that diversion of land to other uses may seriously affect other industries and cause suffering

Council Sees of More Prompt Collections

A reading of the names of the delinquent water users in Moro was sufficient impetus to make the city council determine that times were as hard for the city as for any person within the boundaries. No small part of the entire revenue of the city from water is still tied up in delinquent water accounts and with a payment coming due in May it is absolutely necessary that the city fathers collect some hard cash.

This being the situation it was decided to instruct the city Marshall G. A. Williams to collect the current months bill from all users of water and to also demand a payment of at least 10 per cent on the delinquent account. Failure to make such payment will result in the water being shut off. During January the water fund collections were not large enough to pay the running expenses of that department.

Street lighting was another problem before the council and further information will be gathered before the question is settled.

Farmers Hauling Gas From Portland

Almost every farmer who owns a truck and has a few dollars in pocket is making trips to Portland after gasoline to use this spring in reseeded and plowing. Gas, the first necessity for a tractor farmer, can be bought in Portland at 7 to 9 cents. One little station is selling the fluid for 7 cents.

The farmer receives a rebate on his gas used in farming operations of 4 cents. If he can haul it from the city for a cent a gallon he can buy fuel for what is really a very nominal figure. And does that help?

Income Tax Deputy To Be Here

For those who have worries about the payment of their income tax this year the internal revenue department has made the services of a deputy collector available.

A man from the Portland branch of the department will be in Moro February 21, and he will be in Wasco February 22 to assist those who have problems regarding the payment of internal revenue.

Elmer Nelson who finished Moro High School the first semester of this year has joined the navy and will begin his enlistment in a week or so. He was here last week end disposing of his property. Lloyd Johnson and Richard Barne accompanied him to his home at Carson, Wash., returning Tuesday night.

among those engaged in them.

While the college has advocated the seeding of barley for several years they do not favor it for this spring. For there is a production of 80 million bushels more of this crop than in pre-prohibition days. Not much of the barley grown in this country is valuable for malting purposes. For use in this country headless Meloy barley and Mariton oats were advocated as feed grains.

Due to the fact that the freeze has already reduced the amount of smut in the ground if it hasn't killed it all this spring the farmers have a better chance to raise a smutless crop than for several years. Mr. Hyslop stated that extra care should be taken to treat seed this spring. Some of the standard varieties of wheat should be sown instead of some new and untried kinds of wheat.

Flax has not been a successful crop in the dry land areas of the northwest and field peas are the most successful of the alternate crops adaptable to this country. It was urged that copper carbonate be used for wheat treatment and that formaldehyde be used for barley. Marquis is better adapted to seeding with turkey than any other spring wheat.

TAX LEAGUE MEETS; PROTESTS EXPENSE

Well Attended Meeting in Wasco Is In Favor Salary Cuts

STATION BUDGET EXPLAINED

Retention of Normal Schools; Passage of Sales Tax if Needed Advocated

That farmers are interested in tax reduction was conclusively proved last Saturday when nearly a hundred of the wheat growers from the Wasco vicinity met at the school house in that town at the behest of the local branch of the Sherman County Tax Reduction League.

Mrs. Marie Barnett Cooper, actual farmer of many acres in the Klondike section, opened the meeting and acted as chairman. W. F. Jackson president of the league spoke briefly on the need of tax reduction and W. H. Ragsdale, secretary, seconded him with a like expression.

The repeal of the deficiency judgement law followed in which it was explained that the present law was unfair in that it often led to foreclosures against those financially able when those with no other assets than the property involved were allowed longer time to pay.

The cost of the extension work in the state followed. The budget for the Moro station was read showing that of a total estimated cost of approximately \$13,600 per year, the state of Oregon will contribute \$6000 and receive nearly a third of it back unspent. The remainder of the expense is borne by the United States government as the station was established as a federal station and is under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture.

Employees of the station are under the civil service act and their remuneration is based on the regulations if that act. These salaries have been reduced by congressional action and may be further reduced. Any changes that are made will be by the federal government instead of the state. The budget for the Moro station shows a directors salary of \$4500 per year and traveling expenses of \$600 only a part of which has been used this year.

Ex-judge E. D. McKee moved the adoption of two resolutions that met with the approval of all those present. In one motion Mr. McKee advocated the closing of two normal schools because there is no demand for the teachers graduating from them and the expense was unnecessary.

Another resolution advocated by the ex-county judge asked that the legislature be implored to remove the direct property tax, cut all state expenditures to the lowest point possible with out impairing efficiency and pass a sales tax or some other form of taxation to make up the deficit.

Those present were asked to write letters to their legislators asking the repeal of the deficiency judgement law, the reduction of state salaries and the elimination of two normal schools.

J. E. McClure acted as secretary of the meeting and forwarded the resolutions to the representatives of this district. A county wide meeting of the tax reduction league will be held some time early in March for the election of officers.

The Grass Valley high school basketball teams were defeated by the Moro teams by a narrow margin in the games last Friday, February 3, at Moro. The final score in the boys game was 17 to 18 and that of the girls was 8 to 11.

Both teams showed a great fighting spirit throughout the games and great excitement prevailed from the beginning to the final whistle.

Moro Woman's Club Study Indians

The Moro Woman's Club met Friday afternoon February 3 at the home of Mrs. Ragsdale for a most enjoyable program on "The Indian from Hunting Ground to Reservation."

Mrs. O. L. Belshe as director, departed from the usual custom of reading a poem for the first part of her program. Instead she asked twenty questions on "Are You Really Honest?" These were taken from the February issue of the American Magazine, and proved to be very interesting to the club members.

Mrs. L. V. Moore then read a paper on the work being done by missionaries on the Indian reservations of Oregon. This paper was prepared by Mrs. Moore ten years ago for a club meeting, but was so interesting she was asked to read it again. Mrs. C. P. Moore then discussed the causes of Indian wars.

Little Miss Mary Lou Says entertained the club with a pianologue "The Movie."

Marjorie Byers followed in a pleasing manner with two songs "Smilin' Through" and "Trees."

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. John Foss.

Rufus Boy Scouts Organizing

"Two Days to Marry," a comedy play, will be featured by the Lettermen's Club at Rufus February 11, in the high school gymnasium at eight o'clock. The admission will be twenty five cents for adults and ten cents for children.

A boy scout club of ten members has been organized with L. W. Rakes as scout master. Mr. Simmons has been chosen assistant scout master. All boys are working for the Tenderfoot and Second Class ranking. W. A. Morris, R. N. Gullford and M. L. Burnett have been recommended as committeemen for the boy scout troop.

Thirteen girls with Miss Duval as their leader are organizing a girl scout troop. No committee has been appointed for this club.

Jean Morris, Sec. of Rufus School

Items That Were News In Cleveland's Administration

From the Observer February 13, 1914

While painting in the Moro meat market Roy Axtell fell from the scaffold catching the palm of his hand on a meat hook resulting in an ugly wound and a sore hand.

D. E. Stephens and family returned Tuesday from Washington D. C. Where Mr. Stephens has been consulting with the department of agriculture regarding the work at the Federal experiment station at Moro.

A letter received from George DeMoss who is touring Iowa and Missouri with the DeMoss Lyric Bards said that the company was entertaining good sized crowds each evening.

From the Observer February 12, 1904

Mrs. N. W. Thompson has three stands of Italian honey bees which she wishes to sell.

A Nish met with a smash up Saturday en route to Moro from his farm. The team ran away and into a barb wire fence with disastrous results to the rig.

Wm. Wallan has been appointed deputy sheriff to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of C. N. McCaleb. Mr. Wallan has been the local agent for Balfour Guthrie & Co. in this county for four years.

Charles Nelson has taken the 20 acre tract east of town owned by Mrs. Anderson and will establish an incubator hennery there.

Quoted from a Pendleton paper in the Observer. Grass Valley is to

EAST WIND; COLD HURTS SICK WHEAT

Twelve Below Zero Recorded Here Wednesday Night

WHEAT RECOVERY DOUBTFUL

Second Freeze of Winter Worse Than First One

A piercing east wind accompanied by a light snowfall swept over this section of eastern Oregon Wednesday and lowered the mercury to the twelfth mark below the zero point on the official thermometer at the experiment station.

Not only did it chill the mercury to a greater extent than any cold spell this winter, but it also chilled the hearts of the optimists who thought their winter wheat was alive. There will be no doubt now in many minds at least about the condition of the wheat. It is as dead as the dodo.

The wind that struck this country was apparently the tail end of the disastrous storm that struck the eastern states causing the death of 28 persons. It blew fiercely here for about twelve hours Wednesday during which pipes were frozen, houses were chilled and life was miserable to all humans and stock. Wednesday evening the wind died down and the thermometer dropped to 12 degrees below mark. It is fortunate that the wind did not continue or the wreckage of broken pipes would have been much greater.

Only nine hundredths of an inch of moisture fell and the wind whipped that from the grain fields as fast as it fell. Had the grain not been frozen by the earlier storm it would probably have been killed by this one for it was colder and there was insufficient moisture in the ground to keep the soil temperature from dropping below the danger point.

After the cold night Thursday dawned with bright sunshine and warmer atmosphere as if nature was attempting to make up for the misery meted out the day before.

County Unit Amendments Remove Objections of Many Opponents

The discussion of the county unit school system is more pertinent than was at first thought for if a bill now before the Oregon legislature passes, each county in the state now subject to the provisions of that act will vote on it the day of the annual school election in 1934.

The bill that they will vote on, however, will create a slightly different county unit plan than the one known to the state heretofore. Amendments have been provided in the pending bill that will require any district heavily indebted to pay its bills and bonds by a special tax on the property in that district in addition to the costs of school.

This provision removes one of the greatest objections formerly held against the adoption of the county unit plan. Districts that are out of debt will not have to pay the debts of other districts.

As in the present law the local school board will be retained with only a change in name. They will be called school committees. They will have the power to object to any financial adjustment that in their estimation is unfair to their district. They may refuse to hire any teacher appointed to their school by the county board.

The State Taxpayers Equalization and Conservation League has made a study of this school plan and has prepared the bill that is before the legislature.

A report prepared by the Univer-

sity of Oregon after an analysis of county schools in Klamath and Lane counties states that while Klamath county, managed under the unit plan, has a cost \$5.29 lower than Lane county it has better schools, more adequate equipment, better transportation and had better teachers with training. The average pupil in Klamath county was more than half a year ahead of the average pupil in Lane county.

School districts are not divided to give equal opportunity to all children for often the smallest and poorest districts have the most children with units will make changes of local school population less important.

It is the purpose of the county unit system to equalize educational opportunity as well as taxes. Larger

One large family can under the present system materially change the necessary millage in some districts. In our own county problems of transportation of one or two children in a district are often a source of ill feeling and unnecessary expense. Such questions can be better settled by some unprejudiced board.

(Editor's note: This is the third and last of the articles about the county unit school system. An attempt has been made to appraise the system without prejudice either for or against. We welcome letters or questions regarding it from interested persons.)

WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 8

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
FEB. 2	40	28	.00
" 3	44	24	.00
" 4	38	26	.00
" 5	43	28	.00
" 6	40	28	.00
" 7	41	19	.00
" 8	34	04	.00
Total for week			.09