

Sherman County Journal

Sherman County Observer Est. 1888, Grass Valley Journal, Est. 1897, Consolidated March 6, 1931. Wasco News-Enterprise, Est. 1890. Consolidated March 4, 1932

SHERMAN COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Forty Fifth Year

Moro, Oregon, February 17, 1933

No. 15

FARMERS ORGANIZE TO RESIST INJUSTICE

Unwarranted Foreclosures To Be Opposed

WILCOX ELECTED PRESIDENT

County-wide Committee Named For New Group

A farmers organization designed to prevent unwarranted foreclosures of real and personal property in this county was started at the court house Monday afternoon by the two hundred farmers who came together to discuss their problems.

Formation of a county committee to attempt to mediate between mortgage holders and mortgage owners was consummated last week. At the same time the feeling was expressed that the farmers should be represented by an organization that would protect his rights in face of foreclosures even to a militant degree. That farmers were interested in such a meeting was amply demonstrated Monday when the seating facilities of the court room were crowded before the meeting started.

George Wilcox, Grass Valley, was elected president, W. S. Powell, Moro, vice-president, and W. H. Ragsdale, Moro, secretary.

The officers of the Wasco County farm protective association were present and gave their reasons for organizing. T. A. Sammis, president, opposed foreclosures in these times, tax foreclosures and the deficiency judgment law. C. A. Harth, vice-president, asked for popular support for the new organization. He also criticized the deficiency judgment law and explained that while the members of their association did not object to paying needed taxes they wanted them kept to a minimum. Martin Dolan, secretary, advocated a state-wide group of similar aims. John Davies gave some reasons why such organizations are needed.

J. M. Wilson, Kent, stated that in his opinion as much good could be

Southern Hemisphere Wheat Moving Rapidly

Continued heavy shipments of wheat from the Southern Hemisphere was a weakening influence in the general wheat market situation since takings by normal deficit countries remained relatively small. Shipments for the week from Argentina totaled 4,435,000 bushels and from Australia 7,168,000 bushels, making a total Southern Hemisphere movement since the first of January of 54,523,000 bushels compared with 52,574,000 bushels for the corresponding period last year. Trade reports indicate however that the peak of the movement has passed in Australia and that growers in Argentina are now inclined to hold for higher prices. Russian exports totaled only 328,000 bushels for the week, bringing the season's total to 16,712,000 bushels compared with 68,520,000 bushels for the corresponding period last year. Canadian exports have been nearly 50 per cent larger than last season and totaled nearly 151,000,000 bushels including flour as wheat during the period August through December. European imports this season to date have been only about two-thirds as large as for the corresponding period last year and requirements during the remainder of the crop year are estimated by the Agricultural Commission at Berlin to be only about half as large as last season's imports during that period.

done through working with mortgage holders as in preventing foreclosures.

In many cases, he said, the mortgagee makes it impossible for the farmer to continue operations by demanding all of the revenue from the farm. The same condition that makes it impossible for the farmers to pay the banks," he said.

A constitution and by-laws very similar to that of the Wasco county organization was adopted. These provide principally for the formal set-up of the group and give very little insight into the real object of the association. Dues will be fifty cents per year, but no members will be rejected because of the lack thereof.

A resolution asking for currency inflation, two per cent interest on farm mortgages and the repeal of the deficiency judgment law was passed after some debate about the propriety of asking for a mortgage moratorium instead of the repeal of the

Continued on Page Two.

R. A. C. LOANS DIFFICULT FOR MANY FARMERS

Stringent Waiver Regulations Cause Failure of Many Loans

SEED LOANS AVAILABLE AGAIN

Average Farmer May Seek Seed Loan Only

There is a tone of watchful waiting about the county that is not entirely hidden in groups of farmers lounging about the stoves on their infrequent visits to the towns.

There are few of them who still think that their wheat will be worth leaving when the frost is out of the ground and spring at last arrives. Therefore, the prime necessity is to arrange for seed wheat and some ready cash to put this seed into the ground. In the south end of the county some farmers have seed saved from Federation crops for the last two or three years. This is not generally true of the north end of the county.

Practically every farmer has applied for a loan from the Regional Finance Corporation, but few of them have as yet received any money from that source. This is largely due to the waiver policy of that corporation. Before a loan can be granted it requires waivers from every individual and company having a lien of any kind on the crop to be raised on the land. One familiar with the huge burden of debt now carried on nearly all wheat land can easily understand the mass of detail work involved in procuring these loans.

In some cases where there are machinery companies, banks, landlords, mortgagees and landlord's mortgagees to be consulted and convinced of the necessity of growing another crop the job assumes gigantic proportions. Some quicker means of handling this mass of red tape would lessen the worries of the farmers in no small degree.

There is now a probability that the federal seed loan that was operated last spring will again be available. The government has appropriated \$22,000,000 for seed loans. While the details of the scheme has not been made known here it is presumed that \$400 will be the maximum loan this year as last.

Many farmers can get along with this sum at least until harvest, but unless other funds are forthcoming by that time harvesting will have to be on a credit basis and the credit basis is definitely out for that part of farming.

How it will all be done is still very much of a question and it is possible, if not probable, that many acres will remain untouched by farming tools until a more flexible credit policy is in effect or until prices are sufficient to warrant the production of wheat.

Grange Working Against Sales Tax Bills

Statehouse, Salem, Ore., Feb. 16.—Legislation alleviating the distressing conditions on farms caused by mortgage and tax delinquencies is being urged upon legislature by the Grange. A special committee has been appointed to prepare legislation to this end but is said to be meeting with difficulty in mapping out a program. Some type of time extension, arbitration, re-capitalization of farm debts must be worked out, Grange leaders state, if the farmers are to avert catastrophe. Abolition of deficiency judgments in foreclosures is advocated by the Grange.

It isn't so bad that the hard times came at the same time as the depression if the poor crop years hadn't arrived at that time also.

Barr Truck Damaged In Collision With Pole

Ferrel Barr stopped on the court house hill near the E. E. Barzee home Tuesday and left his truck. He thought he set his brake and left the machine in gear. A few minutes later the truck, loaded with empty gas barrels, struck a light pole at the Urquhart corner with the right front wheel and broke several very necessary parts.

The truck was the only casualty as the pole was undamaged and no one was in the way. However, had not the pole been just where it was the front of the Urquhart house might have suffered a change in appearance.

TAXES INCREASED BY STATE PROPERTY TAX IMPOSITION

State Demands One Dollar Out of Eight For Services

Examination of the tax abstract for this county for this year shows that county taxes have again been reduced by no small amount although the total tax bill is larger. The county, the cities and the schools reduced their total expenditures by \$17,000 or approximately 8 per cent from last year.

The state, however, levied a tax of 2.2051 mills against property in this county for state purposes. This is in addition to the tax of 1.538 mills which will be used for the elementary schools and remain in the county. With this addition the taxes will be over \$7,000 more than last year.

The special school taxes are slightly higher than in 1932 because several districts found it necessary to levy taxes that have had other sources of revenue for several years.

The cities of the county have shown the greatest reduction of any other units this year. Whereas the three towns levied taxes totaling \$18,411.70 for collection in 1932 this has been cut to a mere \$10,631.05 for this year. Total levies in the towns have been cut 7 mills in Wasco, 10.4 in Moro, and nearly 3 mills in Grass Valley. This in spite of an average increase

Continued on page 2

County Court Actions

FEBRUARY COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS

Clerk's annual report of disbursements for the year 1932, accepted.

Clerk's annual report of fees collected for the year 1932, accepted.

Report of Paul E. McCulloch, Wasco for "Relief of Soldiers Fund" for the year 1932, accepted.

Deputy Clerk's bond accepted and ordered filed.

County Coroner's bond accepted and ordered filed.

In the matter of allowing one-half of indemnity for slaughtered cattle of C. W. Johnson. The sum of \$15.00 allowed.

CLAIMS ALLOWED AT FEBRUARY TERM OF COUNTY COURT

Wm. Shiel, County Charge \$30.00

Mrs. S. L. Coats, County Charge 15.00

Mrs. Peier Fleck, County Charge 15.00

T. D. Hathaway, County Charge 15.00

Jess Steel, County Needy (Special relief) 20.00

Mrs. M. E. Clark, County Needy (Special relief) 10.00

Emil Anderson, care of W. J. Underhill, County Needy 20.00

Tum-a-lum Lumber Co., Fuel for County Needy 9.75

Mrs. S. E. Eakin, County Needy (Special relief) 10.00

John H. Wils & Co., supplies for Geo. Bernard (Special relief) 4.91

Pacific Power & Light Co., Court house light bill 12.75

Kendrick Dunlap, Work in

Continued on page two.

CONSOLIDATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS ECONOMICAL

Writer Gives Some Advantages of Larger Unit

BETTER EDUCATION POSSIBLE

Greater Variety of Courses Could Be Given

The high school students of Sherman county do not have the same educational advantages that are available to students in the larger high schools. There are several features of secondary education that could be greatly improved through the consolidation of two or more high schools and such advantages can not be brought about with the small enrollments now maintained.

In an attempt to outline some of the advantages of such a consolidation for such a high school has been designated but there are no doubt buildings that would accommodate the enrollment. The economic depression has intensified the emphasis upon the reduction of costs. The real test of the worthiness of a consolidated school would be its efficiency educationally and economically as compared to the two or more smaller schools which it replaced. At once we can foresee the numerous advantages educationally and socially, as well as economically perhaps, in such a consolidation. Good roads and the advent of safe and comfortable conveyances have made it possible to bring pupils together from a radius of several miles and one bus would be sufficient to transport the entire high school enrollment of any school in the county.

Assuming that such a high school would have an average daily attendance between ninety and one hundred fifteen students the schedule could be so organized as to require only five full time teachers for the school. Such a plan would eliminate from one to three as under the present plan and the instructional cost per pupil would thereby be materially reduced. Because of the increase in the teacher-pupil ratio this economical working situation would increase the efficiency of instruction and enlarge the curriculum. Twenty one or more subjects could be offered annually as compared to about thirteen at the present. The high school student of Sherman county must necessarily follow rather a rigid course due to the small number of subjects taught each year and there is little choice or selection of subjects given. The quality of instruction would also be improved. The small school scatters the teachers' efforts by compelling her to attempt too many branches. Oft times teachers through necessity, must teach a subject they are not prepared to teach. The larger schools sometimes blunder in their attempts at specialization by doubling the number of pupils in the classes. In a school of the proposed size classes would ordinarily be neither too large nor too

Continued to page two.

Dunlap Appraising For R. A. C. Corporation

A. A. Dunlap is now working with the Regional Agricultural Finance Corporation as appraiser and inspector in this county. His duty is to investigate the financial condition of the applicant and his physical plant with which he is to produce a crop.

While many loans have been applied for in this county few have been completed. A large number are still in the process of investigation.

Auxiliary Asks Support For Child Welfare Work

Mrs. Arthur Osborn will entertain the American Legion Auxiliary at the McKean home on February 22nd.

This is to be an all day sewing meeting with a pot luck dinner at noon. All members and those eligible to belong are urged to attend.

The ladies of this organization are establishing a clothing supply shelf for local and satellite child welfare work as requested by our state auxiliary officers. Clothing from this shelf is to be available for children of our local community and if there is a surplus it is to be forwarded to the state child welfare workers for distribution.

Child welfare work in the auxiliary is not confined to the needs of veterans families and we as an organization are endeavoring to be of service to our local community. The time has come when each one can be of help to some one else, in some way, and these supply shelves are being established in nearly every community.

The Auxiliary is asking that the people of Moro and vicinity assist us in our efforts to make this project a success.

If you have some garment or garments your child or children have cut grown or if you have garments which can be made over for children, will you kindly leave them at the Thompson Hardware store or leave word with Mrs. Thompson that you have a package. The auxiliary president or child welfare chairman will call for them.

The auxiliary members will mend and make over these garments at their regular sewing meetings. When you give an article of clothing you may rest assured that we are thankful to receive it for our work and that it will help some family either in this community or through our State Child Welfare Committee.

Lila Bull, Child Welfare Chairman, Florence Martin, Unit President.

WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING FEB. 15

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
FEB. 9	10	-12	.00
" 10	15	1	.00
" 11	23	9	.08
" 12	20	7	.21
" 13	26	5	.60
" 14	35	13	.00
" 15	35	20	.40
Total for week			.69

GOLDEST WINTER WEEK ENDS WITH SUNSHINE

Little Snow Falls in Sherman County During Storm

LESS THAN 6 INCHES DEEPEST

Wheat Generally Conceded To Be Dead After Second Freeze

After that one drop of temperature that took the mercury down to 12 degrees below zero it took the benign rays of the sun several days to bring it back to above freezing. Tuesday of this week was the first day since the cold snap begun that eves dripped and snow packed into balls for the amusement of small boys.

While there was a fall of snow in nearly every place in the north west deep enough to be valuable to agriculture there was little here in this county and the largest part of that fell after the frost had hardened the ground beyond any possible chance of taking the moisture. Altogether 69 hundredths of an inch of moisture fell in the form of snow. Twenty-one hundredths fell Sunday as districts east of here were receiving a heavy coat of snow. Forty hundredths fell Tuesday as the weather turned warmer. The last snow was wet and heavy.

There is still a few men who believe that they may have some wheat left with life enough to grow, but they are now in a decided minority. Some of the farmers who seeded winter wheat a day or two before the last freeze-out may be able to harvest a crop without spring seeding.

According to the annals of the county as kept in the memories of old timers 1905 in March was the first freeze-out of wheat in this county—the first anyway that affected a large part of the crop. Then twenty years later in the winter of 1924-25 a complete destruction of the crop by frost occurred. Now a mere eight years later the wheat has been frozen twice in one winter.

Read the ads in the Journal

Personal View of Legislature In Action on State Problems

Beset by bills, reports of bills to be letters and resolutions from home districts, lobbyists and a knowledge that time is fleeting, the Oregon legislature works on trying to finish the job.

Lawyers, always a majority apparently, talk and argue about legal points more important to their profession than to the general public. Few of the present legislators are able talkers. Voices are too low for the high ceilinged rooms. It is seldom that one puts his words together to make an effective, convincing argument.

They seem to be serious men intent on making the best laws or changes in laws possible. That they often disagree is merely evidence that they have done some thinking. There are few among them whose associations appear doubtful.

Lobbyists fill the domed lobby between the two houses. They lean over the brass rail and look down on the state insignia patterned in the tiled floor and talk and confer and watch for legislators to persuade to their way of thinking. They are the busiest of men. Many of them are among the ablest in the state.

The ways and means committee feels that it has done a good job. They point to the fact that never before has this committee reported its findings in so short a time and never before has it cut so much from the printed budget. They admit that they have been hampered by certain con-

ditions that cannot be changed until another election, but all in all they feel satisfied with themselves. Whether they will feel so sure of themselves when their revenue bill comes before the house is something else again.

Someone is lobbying for every group but the taxpayers. Resolutions do little good for they are based on an understanding of actual conditions and necessary procedure of law-making. No one man can put over a bill unless it appears to be of aid to a comparatively large part of the state.

The sales tax bills were in disrepute last week end. They may become more popular before the session is ended, but grange opposition is strong. The utilities, the chain stores and the administration are reported to be working for them, enough reason why many conscientious legislators feel they should oppose them.

Legislators are a group of ordinary men trying to do a herculean job. A forty day meeting of a board of directors that sets the policies for spending forty million dollars within two years is entirely too short. Needed information about the state, state government, state bureaus, former policies, social theory and practice cannot be learned and put into effect by ninety men in so short a time. Legislators should begin the study of government the day after their election.

Items That Were News In Cleveland's Administration

From the Observer February 15, 1894

On Wednesday the 14th Rev. J. M. Morrison tied the nuptial knot that made M. A. Leslie and Miss Pearl Rust one. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents south of town.

Another election was coming and parties were talking of candidates, state, county, and national. Grover Cleveland was president, Sylvester Pennoyer, governor; G. W. McBride, secretary of state; Phil Metchan, treasurer; Mitchell and Dolph, senators; Binger Hermann our one congressman; W. W. Steiwer, joint senator for this district which included Wasco county; Bradshaw was judge; Fulton was county judge, with John Moore and D. H. Leech county commissioners; S. S. Hayes was clerk; E. M. Leslie was sheriff, Wm. Henrichs assessor, and Hiram Tyree, school superintendent.

The populists will meet the 17th to elect a county chairman and precinct committeemen.

C. E. Jones was up from Emigrant Springs on business Thursday and reports himself as pleased over the mildness of the winter his cattle and horses requiring but little feed so far.

From the Observer February 19, 1904

About three days ago the Gordon bank in this city faced about and now

Manager S. S. Hayes gives the public the benefit of the entire front of his office.

Johnny Barnett, son of Jesse Barnett, died near Rutledge on Sunday, February 14th and was buried at Grass Valley the 15th.

Emerson Barzee has his team out daily to a four passenger sleigh and treats nearly everyone to a ride behind his spirited horses.

Snow fell last Sunday from 7:30 a. m. to 9:15 p. m. continuously. It is beautiful, white, clean snow, 12 to 15 inches deep, covering the hills with its mantle.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mowry celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary at a dinner prepared by their daughter, Ida, on St. Valentine's day.

From the Observer February 20, 1914
Mrs. Eunice Messenger and Aunt Sally Huff were visitors with Ed. Lewis, at Kent last week.

Ground hogs are apt to be persecuted with coal shovels if the zero weather continues.

At the meeting of the city council it was decided to place the street crossings on First and Second streets at Scott with lumber and wait for more favorable weather to have the balance constructed of concrete.