

Sherman County Journal

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State Affairs

By
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Budget Director Wallace Wharton proposes that relief profits be dumped into the state's general fund and that the counties match the state dollar for dollar in future relief expenditures.

If the budget director attempts to put this program through the next legislature as he now expects to do, county courts can be expected to interpose strenuous opposition. Mr. Wharton apparently assumes that the liquor profits belong to the state and that under the present program the state is bearing the big end of the relief load. In this assumption he errs. Seventy five per cent of the liquor profits belong to the counties by virtue of the Knot Liquor Control Act which reserved only 25 per cent of these revenues to the state.

After allocating the profits from liquor sales and licenses under the Knox act the legislature turned right around and impounded these same revenues up to \$3,000,000 increased to \$5,000,000 by the 1935 session—for relief needs. But this diversion was definitely understood to be only for the duration of the unemployment emergency. Once that emergency is ended—and Governor Martin insists that we are already out of the depression—the county courts can be expected to insist that the original provisions of the Knox act be carried out and liquor profits be diverted into the county coffers to relieve property taxes now being levied for mother's aid, old-age pensions and direct relief.

Added impetus was given to the new state building program this week when Governor Martin referred to the state planning board the problem presented by the need for an additional office building and a library building. While the probable cost of these buildings has been estimated at \$1,000,000 and \$500,000 respectively this is one of the features of the program which the planning board is expected to develop in its study of the state's needs. New buildings will also necessitate the purchase of additional land and in this connection Governor Martin will present to the next legislature the suggestion advanced by the capitol architects that the state acquire the four residential blocks immediately north of the capitol site, two on either side of Summer street. The governor, however, has declared that he will not recommend either the buildings or more land but will content himself with presenting the need of both to the law makers together with such suggestions as the planning board might work out.

Two hundred fire wardens and patrolmen, all seasoned veterans, are now in the field protecting state and privately owned timber from invasion by the fire demon, according to J. W. Ferguson, state forester. In the event of a serious fire 3000 CCC workers scattered about in camps over the state, all drilled in fire fighting, are available for instant duty. State laws requiring fire permits for logging operations and providing safeguards against careless campers and smokers will be rigidly enforced, according to Ferguson who warns vacationists to watch their step when entering timbered areas or traveling along highways bordering forest lands.

County courts may not compromise tax liens except where there is a real controversy as to the legality of the taxes Attorney General Van Winkle ruled in an opinion to B. R. McCabe, district attorney for Curry county.

There are now 369,594 licensed automobile operators in Oregon, according to Secretary of State Snell. There is also a better compliance with the law requiring permits for learners than ever before. So far this year 7183 of these permits have been issued compared to an aggregate of only 3497 for the previous four years.

Distribution of \$31,964 among the counties and cities of the state, representing 2nd quarterly allocation of beer and wine taxes, was completed this week by Secretary of State Snell. The little community of Cornucopia in Baker county received the smallest check, 34 cents. Portland's share amounted to \$10,114.68.

Sherman county's share amount

Wheat Certified On Several Farms In County

Certification of wheat was done in the county last week when Lawrence Jenkins, working out of E. R. Jackman's department at Oregon State college, looked over some of the fields.

Rio wheat that stood the test of certification was found on the Fred Hennagin and G. H. Root farms west of Wasco and Oro wheat of sufficient purity was found on the T. S. Reese and George McDonald farms. Peters & Ginn had some pure strain Meloy barley that stood the test for certification. No Rex wheat was found pure enough to be certified in this county.

Part Time Farming Beats Relief

The portion of rural families in Oregon on relief who had the best facilities for becoming self supporting with special help, still fell below in total facilities the average part time farmer in the state, according to a report of a special survey just established at Oregon State college.

The report tabulates the results of a study made of 1014 cases that had applied for rural rehabilitation, which was carried out as an FERA research project under the direction of C. S. Hoffman, assistant and L. R. Breithaupt, supervisor of rural research.

The 1014 cases studied were selected out of some 6000 rural relief cases in Oregon. The average total value of the farms included in this group was only \$1200, compared with an average value of \$2,142 for the part time farms recently surveyed, and an average valuation of close to \$7000 for all farms in the state.

The average acreage of places included in the study was only 35.2 acres, of which only 12 acres were in crops. 19 acres in pasture, and 4.2 acres waste land. Stock, tools and equipment were generally meager, the average inventory of livestock being \$113.04, equipment and tools \$58.27, and feed and seed \$25.12.

Average liabilities against the farms was \$673.78, so that the net worth was only \$539.06, this figure having fallen from \$852 since the properties were acquired. An educational study of the operators, about 79 per cent had finished grade school, 16.4 per cent had finished high school and less than five per cent having had any more advanced training.

Grass Seed Must Be Bought Early If At All

Perry Johnston, county agent, reports that the purchase of 3500 pounds of Crested Wheat grass seed has been completed but that it has all been ordered by farmers who have anticipated their wants for this fall. Those who have not arranged for grass seed for fall plantings under the SC & DA should do so at once as the supply is limited. Some of the seed may be obtained locally as several Sherman county farmers have been producing it for several years in small quantities.

Motorists Have Another Week

Motorists who believe themselves eligible for selection as Oregon's safest driver have an extra week in which to file applications, according to an announcement by the Oregon State Motor Association. Extension of the deadline until midnight, July 22, was made because of heavy last minute demands for application blanks.

Hundreds of aspirants for the all-expenses-paid round trip to New York late in August have registered for the competition, and with the extension of time hundreds more are expected to apply for application blanks in the next few days, the motor club said. Similar postponements of the deadline were made in every state in the Union, where searches are being conducted for drivers with long and unblemished motoring records.

"Every careful motorist in Oregon deserves an opportunity to make application," said E. B. McDaniel, president of the Motorists organization. "We want to be sure

County Schools Reduce Costs In Five Years

School indebtedness Reduced During Past Few Years Despite Poor Crops; Transportation Costs Growing Yearly

The school report for Sherman county has been compiled by school superintendent Willy Knight and it discloses several items of interest about the school system of the county, as it has changed in the past few years. This year there were but six schools in operation in the county, the five city schools and the Harmony district rural school.

The cost of the schools was \$69,300.03 in running expenses although \$114,789.34 was spent. The difference of \$45,489.31 went for debt service and interest and capital investments. In 1931-32 the cost of running the schools was \$97,777.53.

The indebtedness of the school districts has decreased considerably within the past few years and now the districts are bonded for but \$58,000 although there are some outstanding warrants of over \$10,000.

This year school districts paid \$31,253.52 on bonds and warrants and buses and they also paid \$3,816.62 in bonds and warrants and contract interest and allowance made to pay over \$5,000 of bonds in addition to this sum.

In the item of general control which is the first of the budget items in the classification generally used the total for the county was \$1419.26 which included clerk's salaries of \$800.

Under the classification of instruction supervision the schools spent \$3,860 although there was a wide divergence in the amount allotted to this item some schools allowing no part of teachers' salaries for supervision.

Teachers Get 46%

Teachers received \$31,539.76 in Sherman county during the last school period. Of this amount Moro paid, the greatest sum, \$7,483.15. Grass Valley paid out \$6,750 to teachers and Wasco paid teachers \$6495. The two high school teacher schools paid \$5670 for Rufus and \$4432.50 for Kent. Harmony paid its teacher \$675 for the year.

For the operation of the school plants the cost was \$8,728.96. This sum includes \$716.89 for light and power. Nearly \$200 was paid in some of the schools for this item. Heretofore the fuel costs have indicated that stokers were a good investment and Grass Valley and Moro have been low. For the 1935-36 year the fuel costs were as follows: Rufus, using oil, \$577.52; Wasco, using wood, \$347.20; Kent, using coal, \$540.06; Moro using slack coal, \$477.91; Grass Valley, using slack coal, \$398.10. Harmony spent \$129.03 for fuel.

The schools spent \$4,288.75 for maintenance and repair, the largest items being the repair of the Moro and Wasco school houses. The auxiliary agencies cost \$17,790.88 of which \$17,262.16 was transportation. This item has grown with the growth of the practice of moving children from one district to another. From the figures given it appears probable that transportation costs are higher per child than the teaching costs per child.

Fixed charges accounted for \$1431.56 in the past year. A large part of this is insurance. Capital outlay was \$5,165.08 for the term.

The schools received \$146,934.76 although a goodly part of this amount was paid from one district to another for tuition or transportation.

Cash on hand at the beginning of the year was \$29,832.17; the special tax raised \$62,102.09; the county school fund brought in \$8,258.90; the elementary tax \$18,622.91 and the state school fund \$870.40. It seems likely that the several school districts have more money on hand now than at the beginning of last year from the above figures.

There is only one conclusion to be reached from a comparison of the audit for 1935-6 with the audit of 1931-2 or earlier and that is that the schools of the county are undergoing a transition period that will likely result in a much different system than was known a few years ago.

Visitors Tell Of Drouth Damage In North Dakota

First hand information about the drouth in North Dakota was brought to this county this week by C. E. Leighty, head of the division of dry land agriculture, in the department of agriculture of Washington D. C. and John Stephens, head of the station at Mandan, N. D. and brother of D. E. Stephens of the Moro Station, who were on an inspection trip of the north district. Mr. Stephens is assistant to Mr. Leighty.

Mr. Stephens stated that the crops in the region near the Mandan station were burned by a hot wind with temperatures of 110 degrees. Some of the earlier fields were just in the boot and the later fields were just starting to grow. He expressed doubt that there would be much feed in any of the crops.

In 1934 when cattle were shipped from that section, the inferior stock was moved. This time the better quality will have to be sold which will be a much harder blow to the country. Prices for feeder stock was holding up fairly well until the time he left, he said.

Farmers have not had an adequate yield for several years and this total failure of crops will cause financial distress to many. Thousands will go on government works of one kind and another.

Fruit trees on the Mandan station lived through the 1934 drouth, which was thought at that time to be severe, but many of them were killed by the recent dry spell. Records for cold weather, 49 below, for driest year and for heat were all broken this year at Mandan said Mr. Stephens.

The two men left Wednesday afternoon for Pendleton accompanied by D. E. Stephens.

Turpin Hill Laid To Rest At Grass Valley

Turpin Hill, who would have been 78 years old, August 25 of this year, died in Forest Grove last Friday and was buried in the Grass Valley cemetery Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Hill came to Sherman county in 1883 from Umatilla county where he had lived with his parents since 1872. He took up land south east of Grass Valley on which he lived and which he owned at the time of his death. He was married in 1884 to Mina Dennison who survives him. Two daughters, Mrs. Elsie Eslinger and Fay Hill also survive. Mr. Hill has lived in Forest Grove for about twenty years.

Minister and Wife Leave For Eugene

Rev. and Mrs. Lawrence Mitchelmore left Tuesday morning for Eugene where they are attending the annual meeting of the Synod of Oregon held in connection with the University summer school. Opening with the communion service and election of officers on Tuesday night, sessions continue until late this afternoon. Dr. Andrew Carrick of Portland is the retiring moderator. Each Presbyterian church in the state is expected to send one minister and one elder as commissioners. Moro has no lay representative this year. Mrs. Mitchelmore was local delegate to the woman's Synodical meeting held yesterday.

Equalization Board Meets August 10

Board of Equalization Meeting NOTICE. There will be a meeting of the County Board of Equalization of Sherman County, Oregon, at the Court House, Moro, Oregon, on the second Monday in August, that being the 10th day of August, 1936, to publicly examine the Assessment Rolls, correct all errors in valuation, descriptions of lands or other property assessed by me, and it shall be the duty of persons interested to appear at this time and place appointed (appearance is by petition.) All petitions must be made in writing and verified by the oath of the applicant and filed with the board within fifteen days from the time it is by law required to meet.

Margaret W. Peets,
County Assessor

Fair Board Arranging For Big Event

Stock Must Be Free From Disease and Purebreds Must Have Papers To Enter; Fair Book Will Be Distributed

Fair board members have been holding consultations with each other and other interested persons regarding the 1936 fair. Another stock meeting is scheduled for Saturday night. At this time the program will be decided upon it is thought. It will be determined whether or not there are enough Sherman county horses available to make up a good race program. If there are to few horses, racers or buckers will be brought in from outside the county for the annual frolic and fair.

The board wishes to make some points doubly clear before the beginning of the fair. One is that no cattle will be permitted to show that have not been tested for abortion and that have not the government tags indicating abortion free cattle, in their ear.

Registration Papers Needed

Another rule that will be strictly obeyed is the one that makes it mandatory for all stock entered in the purebred classes to have the registration papers with them. Observance of these rules can be made before fair time by those contemplating entering stock.

Fair books will be available to exhibitors next week and general distribution will begin at that time. The 1936 books will be smaller than those of 1935 as there was some consolidation of items in the livestock classes. The new book will contain 40 pages and be bound in red.

Work at the grounds has gone on steadily all through the year and the track is expected to be in good shape for the races and other events that will be listed for the entertainment of fair visitors.

20,000 Work Sheets Filled In Oregon

County and state committees in charge of the agricultural conservation program are now busy checking and listing more than 20,000 work sheets which were turned in by Oregon farmers in preparation for applying for grants under the program. All work sheets must be checked and the data on them totaled in order to proceed with the assigning of final farm yield factors on which class I payments are based.

Close to 3000 more work sheets were turned in than were expected in early estimates made by the state college extension service which was in charge of the organization and informational work in connection with the program. While Umatilla county continues to lead in the number cooperating as it did under the old programs, a far greater number of western Oregon growers have indicated intention to cooperate than were included in all of the former AAA projects.

Following are the latest county totals turned in to the state office on numbers of work sheets filed by the closing date July 3:

Baker, 600; Benton, 337; Clackamas, 1160; Clatsop, 65; Columbia, 497; Coos, 400; Crook, 218; Curry, 185; Deschutes, 800; Douglas, 800; Gilliam, 400; Grant, 140; Harney, 25; Hood River, 350; Jackson, 700; Jefferson, 235; Josephine, 315; Klamath, 375; Lake, 142; Lane, 1305; Lincoln, 290; Linn, 1305; Malheur, 652; Marion, 1318; Morrow, 650; Multnomah, 255; Polk, 900; Sherman, 550; Tillamook, 437; Umatilla, 1620; Union, 700; Walla, 540; Wasco, 440; Washington, 800; Wheeler, 124; Yamhill, 900.

WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

| DATE | MAX. | MIN. | PRECIP. |
|----------------|------|------|---------|
| July 9 | 77 | 58 | .12 |
| " 10 | 73 | 64 | .00 |
| " 11 | 73 | 49 | .00 |
| " 12 | 80 | 48 | .00 |
| " 13 | 79 | 54 | .00 |
| " 14 | 73 | 52 | .00 |
| " 15 | 81 | 43 | .00 |
| Total for week | | | .12 |

Crested Wheat Grass Seed In Demand Now

An exceptional demand for crested wheat grass seed to be used in connection with the agricultural conservation program, together with the largest Oregon crop of this seed yet produced is reported by E. R. Jackman, extension agronomist at O. S. C. who has recently checked on the situation both in this state and nationally.

Planting crested wheat grass on summerfallow this fall is one of the main ways by which farmers in the Columbia Basin will cooperate in the soil conserving program. Early indications were that there would be a large available crop of this seed nationally, but recent drouth conditions have changed the situation so that fore-hand growers are losing no time in obtaining their required seed, Jackman says.

Many growers are pooling their orders thru arrangements made with county agent offices or other wise, and already some 50,000 pounds of old seed carried over from last year, or this year's seed contracted for fall delivery, have been arranged for. The Oregon crop of seed this year promises to be especially good with around 100,000 pounds now in sight, judging from reports from various eastern Oregon counties.

This grass, an introduction into the state by the state college, continues to show the greatest promise of all dry land grasses for grazing purposes in the dry land sections.

Farmers Signing Up Says Charley Smith

Charlie Smith, assistant county agent leader of Oregon, was here Thursday to confer with Perry Johnston. Mr. Smith states that about eighty per cent of the farmers who have signed work sheets under the soil conservation plan will carry out their intentions and put in some other crop than they normally raise.

Early Day Social Events Retold By C. W. Barzee

"They were married and given in marriage until the day Noah entered the Ark." Cupid knows no dates, seasons or times. China Hollow school house soon became a social center for distances as far as 12 miles southeast and south and to 7 miles west. In the summer of 1881 the writer taught a singing school class at this place. Soon after, there was a Sunday school organized that met regularly and still later a Good Templar's Lodge was organized. Also frequent irregular church services were conducted among the incoming settlers, by transient ministers.

The Singing School terminated in its usual young peoples' weddings either directly or indirectly as time grew apace. Five weddings resulted from these gatherings. The Teacher became interested in his leading soprano, a settler, with a young lady of the class, my leading bass met with his choice in a young lady living near and another of the class became interested in the public school teacher who had recently closed the first term of school taught in the district. This last named was the first to wed. I always believed this man student was more interested in the Miss Teacher than in the lessons of the class. Still another from choir practice became interested in the alto of my class.

Those school house doings brought the early settlers from these distant points to this first general social center.

There had been, hitherto, private schools taught at the Price place by whom I do not know. A Mrs. Walker (widow) taught at the Eaton place and Miss King at that time taught at Mr. Pierson's place in the lower Grass Valley. Later my sister, Miss Barzee taught a private school at Mr. Mercer's place in a farm settler. Suffice it to say the residents of this scattered community

(Continued on Page two)

Sherman County Wheat Crop Up To Estimate

District Yield of 6,580,000 May Be Exceeded; County Wheat Holding Fairly Well In Most Sections

The department of agriculture has issued its July crop report and for Oregon it prophesies a crop of 20,690,000 bushels of wheat. For district 2, which includes Gilliam, Hood River, Morrow, Sherman, and Wasco counties the anticipated yield is 6,580,000 bushels.

The report gives the spring wheat acreage as 277,000 which compares to 231,000 in 1935 and 219,000 in 1934. For winter wheat the acreage is given as 712,000 whereas only 647,000 were harvested last year.

Acreage Increased It is estimated that the acreage of wheat is 12.5% more than in 1935 and 18% more than in 1934 and only 2% less than the five year average. The 5-year average for the second district was 451,000 acres and the department expects 426,000 to be harvested this year.

The five year average for this district is 7,375,000 bushels and 4,037,000 bushels were harvested in 1935. As this district includes Gilliam, Morrow and Wasco counties as well as Sherman it is most likely that the report is not excessive in its anticipations.

Sherman Crop Looks Good

The Sherman county crop has matured very satisfactorily during the past week in most instances although there have been reports that some of the spring wheat in Kent district would not make as much as at first anticipated because the kernels were shriveling. Other reports are that this condition is not general. However, a few warm days would certainly reduce the yield in that section seriously.

Some Wheat Shattering

Farmers in the north end of the county are hoping for some warm days so that threshing can begin. Winds and cool days have held off the harvesting unduly long, they say, and the heads are reported to be ready for threshing while the straw is still tough. Wind has also shattered some of the wheat.

William Roos' wheat is being threshed by Bart Burrell and is said to be very fine looking wheat although too little has been harvested to give a very clear indication of the yield. Others in the section east of Moro are starting this week but harvesting will not be general for another week at least.

115,000 Acres Estimated

It is presumed that the county will harvest 115,000 acres of wheat this year, both fall and spring. The normal total acreage is between 130,000 and 135,000 but some has been left out for allotment or sown to oats and barley and a few thousand acres were plowed under for soil conservation payments and as there is more stock in the county a few more acres may go into hay even though horses are scarcer than in the twenties.

Athena Unit Controls Erosion

Striking results in controlling and correcting soil erosion are being shown in the Athena project of the Soil Conservation service, reports Wm. A. Schoenfeld, dean of agriculture at Oregon State college, who recently visited the work there in connection with a tour of eastern Oregon branch experiment stations.

Under the general direction of C. E. Hill, state coordinator with the Soil Conservation service, a plan of handling the deep gullies with tractors and road scrapers has been used with great success. Instead of building more or less expensive catch dams, the policy has been followed of filling in the gullies enough to that they can be farmed over, and then seeding them down to grass. This tends to halt further erosion and makes possible farming the land on both sides by methods which still further control the difficulty, says Schoenfeld.