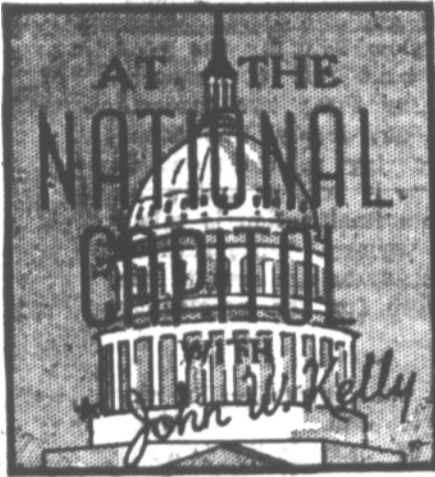


Sherman County Journal

Fifty-Second Year No. 17

Moro, Oregon, Friday, March 1, 1940

Official County Paper



Washington D.C. Feb. 29—Bureaucrats in the national capital direct the lives of an army of residents in the Pacific northwest by remote control. In addition to owning millions of acres not on the tax rolls (administered by bureaus) Uncle Sam, through bureaucrats, has the people well regimented. Here are a few things bureaucrats are doing.

Employers (except farmers) are told how many hours they can work their employees and how much an hour they shall pay. Employers are told what unions they must bargain with, and a non-union worker is practically forced to join the union having the bargaining agreement or go hungry. An employer is guilty of unfair labor practices if he voluntarily raises wages without first notifying the business agent of the union. Then another bureau taxes the payroll for social security benefits.

Farmers are told how many acres they can cultivate and what crop to plant. To coax them to agree to this remote control over their own acres they are offered certain benefits for conservation of soil. Treaties are made with foreign countries which injure the market of fruitgrowers, cattlemen and lumbermen without the producers being able to protect themselves.

There is a bureau which tells farm housewives how to run their homes: what to preserve, gaining this privilege because the farmer has been given a few hundred dollars to rehabilitate himself. Bureaus tell the stockmen what they can or cannot do on the range; how many head they can run on a range. A bureau bosses the national forests (18,800,000 acres in Oregon alone); another the national parks; another supervises wildlife; another regulates navigation and the men who go to sea; another sees that there is retirement fund for railroad men; another says what rates shall be charged for electric power. A bureau controls every acre of the reclamation projects, decides who can settle on these projects and how much money the applicant must have before he is permitted to buy a unit on a project.

A bureau decides whether a farmer can plant sugarcane and tells him what he must pay the workers at various periods during the season. There is a bureau that determines how many unemployed men and women in Oregon and Washington can be given relief on WPA; what they shall receive as wages. A bureau decides whether a family is sufficiently distressed to be entitled to food stamps.

The remote control by bureaucrats extends to white collar workers in the cities; to the callous-handed farmers; to the lumber workers, to the man who labor longshore; to the fishermen.

There is a good fundamental reason for each bureau, but once created a bureau becomes immortal—wishes to expand, takes in more territory, exercises greater control.

Here is the trick used by chiefs of bureaus when their funds are threatened: They announce elimination of an activity or service in a state, knowing that abolishment will start a local protest and the local people will call on their senators and representatives to save the activity and under this fire from back home the legislators become interested in seeing that necessary funds are provided. This may explain why announcement is made the radio beam at Fort Stevens, needed to guide vessels into Columbia river in foggy weather is to be abandoned; why many OOC camps are to be put out of commission; why experiment stations are to be eliminated and county agents fired.

Unless the senate is able to argue the house into making larger appropriations both Grand Coulee and Bonneville will have to proceed

Continued on Page Two

Reports Atrocities—Wages War—Heads Navy



Headliners in recent European news include three men whose activities are of world wide interest. Left: Cardinal Hlond, primate of Poland, who reported to Pope Pius that German authorities are extirpating the Polish people and the Roman Catholic religion in the conquered area of Poland. Center: Marshal Semion Mikhailovich Budenny, present commander of Soviet troops attacking Finland, who is attempting a more forceful attack than his disgraced predecessor, General Meretskov. Right: Sir Dudley Pound, admiral of the British fleet and head of the naval department, who is responsible for England's war at sea.

Light Company Building New Lines; Repairing

Reflecting the steady increase in the use of electricity in the areas it serves, Pacific Power & Light company in 1940 will spend \$1,051,700 in construction work on its system, according to R. V. Lockhart, agent for the company. The budget is the largest in ten years.

More than one third of the total amount, or \$377,000, will be devoted to a continuation of the company's policy of line extensions by which new homes and farms throughout the areas served by the company are supplied with electricity.

The bulk of the lines to be built from these blanket funds will be short additions to present lines. Each extension will bring electric service directly to one or more new users.

Other blanket sums totaling \$170,700 are set up in the budget to provide for service improvements, replacements and repairs to the entire system.

Typical of the type of improvement work done under this allotment is the recently-completed reconstruction of portions of the distribution system here, increase of transformer capacities here and at Grass Valley and Wasco and the installation of sectionalizing devices in the lines at all three places to effect improvements in service.

This improvement fund is in addition to \$175,000 the company plans to spend during the year on regular maintenance work.

Among the specific work items included in the budget is one for \$18,000 for rebuilding of the lone Heppner transmission line. This is an extension of the line which goes through Moro and branches at Olex.

To provide extra facilities for the growing load around Heppner, the rebuilt line will be operated at 22,000 volts instead of 11,000 as at present.

The power line crossing the Columbia between The Dalles and North Dalles will be replaced by a submarine cable. Another budget item calls for installation of a domestic water supply for the company's Tygh Valley generating plant.

Final rehearsals have been in progress this week for the presentation of "It Happened One Night" to be given on Saturday night, March 2nd at the Wasco Opera house under the auspices of the Wasco Garden Club. Miss Mary Fortner is directing the cast in this fast-moving, hilarious comedy. Also contributing to the evening's entertainment will be Gorrish in solo numbers, and the Girls' orchestra of Moro. The proceeds from the performance will be used for the maintenance of the Wasco city park.

Governor Finds General Obligation Bonds Sell Better Than Others

By A. L. Lindbeck

Salem, Ore., February 29.—The advantage of general obligation bonds in financing public power projects is urged by Governor Sprague in citing the recent experiences of two power districts.

In the case of the city of Monmouth, Oregon, the governor points out, a block of \$40,000 of general obligation bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3 1/2% and 3 1/2% was snapped up at par and accrued interest.

On the other hand the Grays Harbor County, Washington, Public Utility district financing its operations through revenue bonds was compelled to accept a bid of 95 and accrued interest on an issue of \$3,350,000 of its bonds bearing 4 1/2 percent interest.

The Monmouth bonds the governor pointed out, were sold on competitive bid while the Grays Harbor bonds were sold at private sale.

Forty percent of the patients admitted to the state hospital for mental cases are ultimately dismissed as cured, according to Dr. John C. Evans, superintendent of the Salem institutions.

Hugh Rosson, director of traffic safety in the state department has resigned to manage the campaign of Ralph Cate, republican candidate for national committee man. Rosson will go to Portland this week to open campaign headquarters. Present prospects are that Cate will be opposed by Harry Corbett, also of Portland, former state senator from Multnomah county.

Farmers who confine their hauling to their own produce are not required to display either a produce dealer's license or a PUC license, according to Frank McKennon, chief of the plant industry division in the state department of agriculture.

In spite of an increase in the volume of business handled during the year the operating costs of the public utilities department for 1939 were \$1089 under the costs for 1938, according to Commissioner O. R. Bean. Nearly \$4000 was cut from the traveling expenses of the department during the year, Bean said.

State Senator Dean Walker of Polk county has let it be known that he will not be a candidate for state treasurer, thus confirming a prediction made in this column last week. Instead he will concentrate his efforts on a campaign for the senate presidency for which honor, it is understood he will be opposed by Douglas McKay of Marion county.

Pedestrians continue to contribute the largest number of victims in the traffic casualty lists. Of the 18 who died as a result of traffic accidents on Oregon highways during January, 12 were pedestrians, a report compiled by Secretary of State Earl Snell shows. Only one fatality resulted from a collision between two automobiles.

Another rate reduction, the second in three months was announced by the two big electric utilities serving Portland and the lower Willamette valley counties. These cuts are in addition to reductions announced by the two utilities last December.

The new rates, as well as those reduced in December, apply only to domestic lighting and heating. In the meantime the Oregon Hydroelectric company has been busy grinding out engineering reports on proposed peoples utility districts. Proposed districts now served by the two big Portland utilities on which reports have already been prepared preliminary to an election on the organization of peoples utility districts include Portland, Washington county, Clackamas county and Yamhill. Reports on other districts now being served by other private utilities released by the commission within the past few weeks include Benton county, Coos county, Lincoln county and the Nehalem basin, this latter involved from a collision between two automobiles.

Continued on page two

Peetz, Ornduff Running For County Office

Sheriff Announces Intent; Commissioner Reid Expected To File Soon; Others Asked

Interest in county politics has increased this week with more announcements of candidates. Only contest assured so far, however is for the clerkship, Ross Ornduff, deputy sheriff, having filed for the democratic nomination for that office Wednesday. Mr. Ornduff is a native of the county who lived for many years in The Dalles before coming here two years ago to take the job as deputy sheriff.

Mrs. Margaret Peetz, who has been assessor since 1924, has given notice that she will be a candidate to succeed herself for another term.

Charles Wilson, sheriff for the past four years, has said he would file for the position again although to date he has not put out his petitions or paid his filing fee. The final date for filing is April first.

Commissioner May Run

The commissionership attracted some notice this week when men from the south end of the county interviewed possible candidates in the central part of the county. Information is now that David Reid, present commissioner, will be a candidate although he has made no definite move to make himself one.

Wily Knighten, county school superintendent, has made no announcement of his intentions regarding continuance in that office, but his name is expected to be on the non-partisan ballot for the position.

Derry Speaks To Wasco Club

H. W. Derry, speaking before the Wasco Civic club Monday night showed himself well pleased with Oregon and its possibilities. For the short time he has been a resident of this state he has found it to have resources of great value. He told of them to his hearers.

He recited the industrial advantages of this area giving special attention to the production of cellulose which can be manufactured from Douglas fir sawdust or waste or from wheat straw.

Members of the cast of the Garden club play gave a short portion of one scene to interest the club in the performance.

Paul McCulloch and Glen Corey of The Dalles were present as visitors. The next meeting will be held March 25 at which time the speech class of the University of Oregon will give a program.

Elk Being Counted By Game Commission

Portland, Ore., Feb. 29.—A survey of the northeastern elk territory is being conducted at the present time by the state game commission, in cooperation with the United States forest service, by means of an airplane and ground crew. The plane is being used for the purpose of spotting the concentrations of elk herds for the ground crew, which then takes a count of the number of bulls, cows and calves in the herds, as well as gathering information on general food conditions.

Data so gathered will be used by the game commission as a basis for determining the elk hunting regulations for the 1940 season.

Room For Storage Of Clothes Provided

A room for the storage of used clothing has been opened in the Maxwell building above the shoe shop by the American Legion Auxiliary, the Red Cross and the Welfare committee. Those having clothing to give to any of these organizations can bring it in at any time and it will be cared for. There is need for hangers for the garments. It is also requested that the size of clothing donated be marked on it to make distribution easier.

Heads Land Bank



R. E. Brown (above) last week was elected president of the Federal Land Bank of Spokane, succeeding E. M. Ehrhardt. He will combine his new post with that of general agent of the Farm Credit Administration of Spokane, a position he has held since 1934.

New Head Chosen By Land Bank

Official announcement of the election of R. E. Brown as president of the Federal Land Bank of Spokane to succeed E. M. Ehrhardt was received this week by Jacob D. Stuart, secretary treasurer of The Dalles National Farm Loan association.

Mr. Brown was selected president of the land bank by the banks' board of directors following Mr. Ehrhardt's resignation. He has been general agent of the Farm Credit administration, and will combine that position with his new duties. The change becomes effective March 1.

In a letter to all persons connected with the Farm Credit administration, Mr. Brown said this week, "I want to assure you that I have no intention of proposing any changes in policies or personnel of the land bank except as the need for them is clearly demonstrated, and then only after full consideration and discussion."

Winter Wheat In Good Condition

Winter wheat apparently suffered no serious damage from the cold weather in January, according to the Weather Bureau. Rains and snow improved soil moisture conditions rather generally over the principal winter wheat belt during the week. Ten to sixteen inches of snow were received in Oklahoma and 1 to 7 inches in Kansas. Precipitation was rather general in Texas while melting snow benefited top soil in Nebraska. Practically all sections of the North Pacific states now have ample moisture and winter wheat is generally in good to excellent condition in Washington and Idaho. Little information is yet available as to crop conditions in Europe but the snow covers which afforded protection during the most severe weather is now disappearing in the Balkans and in western and southern Europe.

A feature of the domestic wheat situation was the award by the Federal Surplus Commodity Corporation of approximately 915,000 bushels of wheat to seven mills in exchange for flour for relief. The wheat award under this program was grain received from the Commodity Credit Corporation and represented wheat or which loans were defaulted. Another offer of about 900,000 bushels was made to the mills February 27. A feature in the English markets was the official order requiring millers to use a minimum of 60 percent of Manitoba compared with 40 percent previously. The export price of flour was fixed at a minimum of about \$7.42 per sack of 280 pounds net cash basis.

FAMILIES ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE

The widow and children of any worker in Sherman county whose death occurred after last December 31 are entitled to monthly insurance payments from the federal government if the deceased father had sufficient employment at jobs covered by the federal social security act with minimum earnings required by the law.

These payments are made regardless of the age at which the father's death occurred, according to John F. Richardson, manager of the La Grande office of the social security board, 201 Foley building.

The following requirements must be met to qualify for these monthly benefits: 1) the worker must have died after December 31; 2) the widow must have in her care a child or adopted child of the worker that is less than 16 or under 18 if in school and 3) the worker must have been employed at jobs covered by the social security act in at least six calendar quarters since January 1, 1937 with earnings of at least \$50 in each of those quarters from such employment. These federal insurance payments, Richardson explained, should not be confused with the state law in behalf of needy dependent children. Federal payments are made as a matter of right, and not based upon need, and can be paid only if the deceased worker's employment record shows that he has met the requirements of the social security act.

Continued Rains End Shortage of Crop Moisture

Normal for First Six Months of Crop Year Exceeded Through February Rains

The week just ended, the final week of February 1940, was one of the climatically perfect weeks this county has experienced. It brought 1.68 inches of rain, more than the entire summer and fall of last year could produce.

This sudden fall of moisture brought the precipitation to above normal at Moro although it failed to do so in other parts of the county. The average here is 7.60 from September 1 to March 1. This year we have received 8.15. February brought 3.32 at the station.

Wasco Below Normal

Wasco's normal is 9.04 and despite February rains totaling 3.62 the precipitation since September is only 7.54. The fall rains were lighter at Wasco and December and January brought less rain than at Moro although the February total was the greatest in the county.

The rainfall at Grass Valley during February is reported to be 2.83 and the total for the crop year 6.51. At Bourbon the February storms brought 2.77 and the total since September is 6.20. The Kent report shows 2.30 during February and 5.65 for the crop year.

There was almost no run off from tilled soil during the recent rains as most of them came at night followed by partially clear days, and the rain did not fall so fast but the ground could take it all. Water is running out of the draws and there was a little loss from steep sidehills, but hardly enough to be considered.

Crop Prospect Up

Now that the normal for the crop year has been reached, or nearly reached, over the larger part of the county, hopes for a good crop are much better. Farmers were even anxious for the rain to stop so seeding could begin, and a few dry days will see field work begin.

Report of what will probably be the finest week of the year:

Date	Max.	Min.	Prec.
Feb. 22	43	31	.24
23	47	30	
24	43	29	.07
25	47	35	.40
26	54	37	.18
27	53	37	.29
28	52	36	.50
Total 1.68			

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