

# Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

## Britain's 'Rock' Under a Double Threat



An aerial view of Gibraltar, Britain's mighty fortress at the entrance to the Mediterranean, one of the key points of the European chessboard. Great Britain may be forced to defend Gibraltar against both Mussolini and Francisco Franco, who has been urged to repay Spain's debt to the Rome-Berlin axis by co-operating in an axis operation against the "Rock."

Washington, D. C., June 27—When President Roosevelt followed public opinion and was giving war materials to France and England, people urged him to give more and more. When France folded up, England's prospects were dark and the public discovered that almost everything had been disposed of until the army has only broomsticks to use in national defense. In response to the new public sentiment, congress inserted in the new defense bill that no more supplies can be sent unless the chief of naval operations or chief of staff notifies the senate committee on military affairs that the material is not required by army or navy.

Public sentiment shifts like the wind. People who have written members of the Oregon and Washington delegations to give assistance to the allies short of war, are now expressing their fear that the United States will become involved. They are taking up the cry that the president is the head of a war party—charge first made by the Democrats, by the way, in the senate.

With the intention of showing unity in national defense, the president appointed two leading Republicans to his cabinet, Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war, and Col. Frank Knox, secretary of navy. These appointments pleased neither Democrats nor Republicans and increased the fear that the administration is a war party because Knox and Stimson are avowed interventionists. Two days before his appointment Stimson made a radio speech demanding that the neutrality act be repealed and supplies sent to England in American vessels conveyed by the United States navy. Under international law, that would be the act of a belligerent and German submarines would be perfectly justified in sinking the merchant vessels and warships.

Because of their attitude of intervention, the selection of Knox and Stimson has resulted in an unfavorable reaction against the president. Another angle is that Harry Woodring is believed to have been kicked out as secretary of war because he opposed robbing the army of equipment to aid the allies. It is a fact that Woodring was told to obey the orders of the commander-in-chief, the president, and withdraw his objections. This he did with reluctance. Woodring's letter of resignation was so hot that the White House refused to make it public.

Before this appears in print the president may have asked for the resignation of Frances Perkins (Mrs. Paul Wilson) as secretary of labor, for he contemplates other changes in his cabinet. Labor, in the preparations for national defense will play an important role, and Madam Perkins' handling of labor and her condoning the sit-down strikes are said to make her unfit for dealing with the problem when so much is at stake for the nation. As a matter of fact the whole labor supply problem has been placed in the hands of Sidney Hillman, CIO vice president, as a member of the national defense advisory commission. Hillman was born in Russia. He has refused to join John L. Lewis, CIO chief, in opposing Mr. Roosevelt for third term.

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## Republicans Choose Walker County Chairman

Organization of the Sherman county central committee of the Republican party was done Monday afternoon in a meeting at the court house. Hugh A. Walker of Klondike precinct was chosen as county chairman and Mrs. Howard Conlee, of Monkland precinct, vice chairman. Mrs. Collis Moore of Moro is the new secretary and Mrs. T. M. Rolfe of Grass Valley treasurer. D. L. Reynolds of Rutledge precinct was named state committeeman and Wilford Belshe of Monkland, congressional committeeman.

## More Straw Scatterers Ordered

Straw scattering after combines by use of special scattering attachments will be more prevalent this year than ever before throughout the Columbia basin, according to extension and soil conservation men in that area. The attachments scatter the straw evenly behind the combines and make it possible to work the straw back into the soil by the trashy fallow method. The trashy fallow, in turn, prevents most wind and water erosion and helps preserve moisture and plant food for succeeding crops.

## Army or Navy Posts Open

Civil service examinations for entrance to West Point and Annapolis will be held October 5 at various post offices throughout the second district of Oregon, notifies Walter Pierce, representative from this district. Candidates must be between 16 and 22, in good physical condition, and able to pass an examination in Algebra, geometry, English, Literature, U. S. History for West Point and these and Ancient History and English Grammar for Annapolis.

Joe Belanger came back from Pendleton where he had been working with his erosion experiments for a few days. He expects to begin harvesting up there next week.

## Third Year of Crop Insurance Promised Farmer

For the third successive year, Oregon wheat growers will be able in 1941 to protect themselves from crop hazards through the use of federal crop insurance, says an announcement by Will Steen, chairman of the Oregon state AAA committee.

Next year's crop insurance plan will be practically identical with the program now in effect, with the major exception that the closing date for accepting applications on winter wheat will be earlier. It will be necessary for winter wheat growers to apply for their insurance and pay the premium before the crop is seeded, or by August 31, 1940, which ever is earlier.

The closing date for spring wheat insurance applications again will be February 28, Steen said.

Administration of the 1941 program will be aided by the fact that more complete wheat production history for each farm will be on hand, Steen said. County committees are now at work computing yields which farmers may insure, and insurance rates, for the farms in their counties. The yield and premium rate is determined for each individual farm on the basis of its yield and loss experience for a 14-year period.

The 1941 wheat crop will be the third on which "all-risk" insurance has been available to growers. In the first year of the program, on the 1939 crop, 662 Oregon wheat growers insured their harvest. Due to crop damage 188 experienced losses, receiving 191,280 bushels of wheat or cash equivalent in indemnities.

In 1940, a total of 2011 insurance applications have been written in Oregon, which would guarantee growers a total of 3,700,000 bushels. Adjustment of early crop losses is now beginning in this state, although no actual losses have yet been paid.

## Women Drivers Have Fewer Accidents

The much maligned woman driver has finally found a champion in Yale University according to the Oregon State Motor Association.

Studies recently completed by that university among 3000 Connecticut drivers seem to contradict the belief held by many that men are better drivers than women. It was found that while women drive about half the mileage of men, they have less than one-third of the accidents.

It was also found that young drivers have more accidents per mile than older drivers. Motorists between the ages of 20 and 25 had three times as many accidents as drivers in their forties.

## Dads Dine With Sons; Women Plan Party

The Father and Son banquet, given by the ladies of the Community church, was a splendid success. Eighty three people sat down at the laden tables, and enjoyed the fellowship of the evening. Rev. Henry G. Hanson presided at the program which was given at the dinner. Carl Peetz gave a piano solo, Frank Sayrs a tuba solo, and Alan Fraser a vocal solo. The last two numbers were accompanied by Mrs. Carroll Sayrs at the piano. Vernon Miller very ably presented the viewpoint of the father, while Dean Pinkerton in a few words responded for the sons. The inspirational message of the evening was given by Rev. Edw. F. Ouellette of The Congregational Church of The Dalles. His theme was "Faith Words to Two Generations," which was treated in a pointed, practical, challenging manner, and was well received by both old and young.

## Power Company Issues Book

Designed to interest new capital in development of Columbia basin resources, a 48-page illustrated book "River of the West" has just been released by Pacific Power & Light company for distribution to leading industrialists and investment groups throughout the United States, according to R. V. Lockhart, agent for the company.

Text of the book was written by Robert Ormand Case, nationally known Pacific Northwest author, who has woven a wealth of factual material and historical background into a swiftly moving story of the opportunities that exist in the region.

More than eighth months of research and editing went into production of the book, which is being published as a joint project of Pacific Power & Light company and its sister company, Northwestern Electric.

"Need for a comprehensive book about this region has become more and more apparent as our industrial engineers have gone about seeking new industries," said Paul B. McKee, president of the Pacific company. "In the east, a big part of the job is to convince industrial prospects that the Pacific Northwest is a good place in which to invest capital. Few of them have any idea of the resources and productivity of our section of the Pacific Northwest until the facts are presented."

Copies of the "River of the West" are now being mailed to a carefully selected list of men in all parts of the country. Recipients of the book are invited to ask for detailed information about any specific subject that interests them particularly.

## Flax May Be Alternate Crop For Wheat

### Deficit Crop Instead of Surplus Crop May Be Demanded As Conditions Change

Sherman county farmers who attended the field day last Friday saw a field of flax growing for perhaps the first time although there was some of it on the station in 1939.

There is no feeling that flax will come to be a major crop in this county as long as conditions remain the same as at present. There are few farmers, however, who expect conditions to remain the same.

If, as freely predicted, there is no market for wheat, nor ships to move it in if a market is found it may be advisable to grow some flax in this country to make up a part of the national deficiency in that crop.

Flax will grow here and Bob Henderson of the station staff is trying to find a variety that will produce well and have few weaknesses. A short Indian flax called Bold, has been crossed with a tall South Dakota flax called Bison, in an effort to produce a flax that will be tall enough to harvest easily and produce good yields and be free from disease.

No real disease has been found in flax here but there is a condition of heat that is serious. When the ground temperature gets high enough, above 120 degrees, the plants fall over from a heat cancer that kills them.

Flax can be sown with ordinary implements used for growing wheat, can be sown with drills on summerfallow prepared in the usual manner. It can be harvested with the ordinary machinery. It is sown from 20 to 40 pounds to the acre at a depth of a half to two inches deep. Medium seeding at a medium depth with about a foot between the rows seems to be the most satisfactory method so far as is now known.

## HEALTH ASSOCIATION SECRETARY RESIGNS

The Sherman County Health association met Tuesday at the court house and heard a talk by Miss Elsie Wiltchen of the state association. The resignation of Miss Majorie Kunsman as secretary-treasurer was accepted. No one was appointed to the position as Miss Kunsman agreed to stay until another was named. The next meeting will be held in the early part of September.

## Tex Irzyk Hurt In Accident With Binder

Tex Irzyk, who has worked at the Eya ranch for some years, was seriously injured last Tuesday just before noon while working with a binder.

As the accident was reconstructed it appears that the main gripper of the binder became clogged and that Irzyk, alone in the field, went around the machine to start it again. He failed to throw the machine out of gear or the gear shift slipped. It was a motor driven machine.

In any event he was drawn into the reel and in front of the sickle where he was severely cut on his right arm and leg. The team did not run away but did start up a few feet.

The injured man started for the house, about a quarter of a mile away, but was not able to make it all the way. He was taken to The Dalles hospital by Mr. and Mrs. Eva where it is thought he will recover.

## Combine Adjustments May Help Grades

More careful adjustment of combines for this year's wheat harvest in eastern Oregon will pay big dividends in higher prices received for the grain, judging from reports from the grain inspection service at Portland. It seems that a large percentage of the grain from the Columbia basin is graded down because of M.E.O.G., as called by the inspection service. These initials stand for "material other than grain," or in even plainer language, cob, chaff and other matter left in because of poor cleaning when wheat is separated.

The speed with which money can be lost is indicated by the fact that much of the grain received at Portland contains from 2 to 3 per cent M.E.O.G. Only one-half of 1 per cent is allowed for No. 1 grade, 1 per cent for No. 2 grade, and 2 per cent for No. 3. Where the grain is reduced to No. 3 because of excess M.E.O.G., the price is reduced two cents per bushel.

Ordinarily a little less cylinder speed and use of a little more air will eliminate the difficulty, according to those who discussed the situation at the last meeting of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League. Fairly low cylinder speeds are also favorable for another reason when threshing Rex wheat, as it is inclined to crack considerably when thrashed at high cylinder speeds.

## Wheat Prospect About Normal; 1,850,000 bus.

### Less Than 108,000 Acres In Wheat; May Produce Average Yield

From now on the condition and probable yield of Sherman county's wheat crop will be an absorbing topic of conversation for all those men and women who have a primary interest in the income from that wheat.

There seems to be general agreement that the 1940 crop is not to be a record breaker of any kind, neither much better than the average or much worse, particular fields excepted, of course. There are some very good ones, and some very much the other way.

As a general thing the grain appears to be proportionately better as one travels from the north to the south until the Kent plateau is reached. Much of the winter wheat is weedy, some of it is frosted, and now and then a field is very good, but the average will not be far from the county average of 18 bushels.

Spring wheat because of some poor stands brought about by crusting of the ground after seeding and the lack of June rains will probably yield less than the average for the county.

While the county allotment in acres for 1940 is 107,727 acres; not all of this has been sown to wheat because farmers must be under the limit. There is 107,266 acres of wheat now waiting for harvest. Of this 38,642 acres are winter wheat and 68,624 acres of spring wheat.

On this basis it seems safe to conclude that weather conditions being normal from now on until after harvest, the county will produce 1,850,000 bushels of wheat this year. This is very good considering that less than 108,000 acres are permitted to be sown out of the 290,000 acres available for crops in the county.

There are many thousand acres of barley and oats in the county this year and much of it looks very good assuring feed for livestock probably much for sale.

## WEATHER FOR THE WEEK

Date	Max	Min
20	71	43
21	75	43
22	82	52
23	92	43
24	100	51
25	98	61
26	80	46

## Prison Population Drops As Parole Regulations Are Put In Force; Building Program Needed

By A. L. Lindbeck  
Salem, Ore.—The population of the state prison which stood at 1102 a year ago is now down to 1035. This reduction of 69 inmates is due in part at least to the operation of the new parole provision for supervision of parolees and the more liberal parole policy established by the new board.

Records of the parole board at the end of its first year show that it had 582 former prisoners under its supervision, compared to 178 men and women who were reported to the state parole officer a year ago. In addition to 280 parolees from the state prison, 79 low violators who are at liberty under bench parolees and 37 who are out on conditional pardons, the field men of the new parole set-up are also checking on 79 persons who are at liberty under probation.

The next legislature will be asked to provide a new 300-bed treatment hospital for the state hospital for insane at Salem, according to Dr. John C. Evans, superintendent of the institution. Pointing out that more than 600 of the 2700 patients at the hospital are physically ill in addition to their mental ailment, Dr. Evans declares that the present 160-bed treatment hospital is entirely inadequate to the needs of the institution. Other improvements to be sought for the state hospital will include a new chapel with recreational facilities, Dr. Evans said.

United States Senator Rufus C. Holman has appealed to Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian, for advice and help. Senator Holman is somewhat of a farmer on the side. He owns a sizable farm near Molalla on which he has a large herd of registered dairy cattle. But, he explains in his letter to Dr. Lytle, it begins to look as though his dairy herd is headed for the rodeo. Of the last 26 calves born at his farm 20 were bulls. He wants to know of the state veterinarian if there isn't something that can be done to equalize this unbalanced sex ratio.

Discovery of an unexpended balance of nearly \$6000 in the state library building fund has revived discussion of a flag pole for Oregon's capitol building. It will be recalled that the state house architects had provided for two flag poles, one at either end of the building at a cost of \$6000 each. Funds available for use on this building, however, were exhausted before the flag poles were reached. The state emergency board, called into session to provide the necessary funds approved the expenditure of \$500 for this improvement but so far the Board of Control has not availed itself of the opportunity to spend this sum, apparently regarding the amount as inadequate.

The board is now considering the possibility of using the \$6000 surplus in the library fund in providing the flag poles for the capitol.

The war in Europe and Uncle Sam's rearmament program was brought home to Oregon this week in an increase in the cost of the 1941 license plates, with the low bid approximately one-half cent higher on the pair than that of last year. This means an increase of nearly \$2000 on the 400,000 sets of plates required to license Oregon automobiles this next year.

Another hike in liquor prices was reported to be in the offing following a conference between members of the Liquor Control Commission and of Governor Sprague this week. Members of the commission reported that liquor profits for the current fiscal year would closely approximate the \$3,250,000 estimated as necessary to meet relief needs for this year.

The solitary cell adjoining the lethal gas chamber at the state prison received its second occupant since its establishment three years ago when Claude E. Gline, 46-year old Fossil prospector was brought in this week under sentence to die for the murder of his mining partner, George W. Chetty. So far the only use made of the gas chamber since its substitution for the gallows three years ago was in the execution of 26-year old Hershel McCarthy of Portland, in January, 1939, for the slaying of a gasoline station attendant.