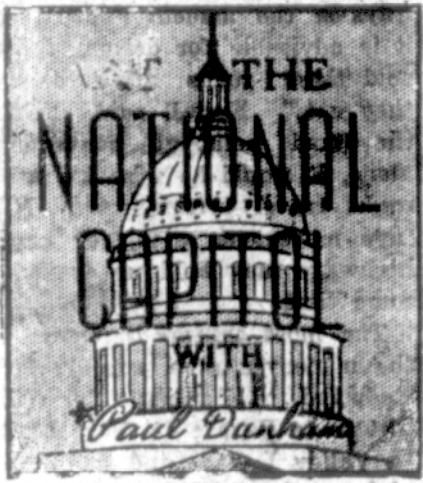


Sherman County Journal

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Washington D C—Rumor has it that Alvin J Wirtz, recently appointed by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes as a consultant on power matters, will put in considerable time in the northwest. Wirtz, who was an under-secretary of the interior in 1940-41, is a protégé of 'Honest Harold' who placed him in charge of the Bonneville power administration during that time. Mr Ickes believes Mr Wirtz knows as much as anyone about the electric power situation in Washington and Oregon. Among other things, the consultant will make a further report in the contemplated Umatilla rapids project, which has been in the blue print stage for years. Another look-see will also be made of Grand Coulee by Mr Wirtz.

The story goes that Secretary Ickes is not too well pleased with the progress made in the northwest by the public power advocates, who have been defeated time after time in their attempts to take over the private utilities. The voters in most all such elections have said NO. Another source of information says that ex-congressman Walter Pierce, who during his ten years as an eastern Oregon representative packed the torch for public power will join the Bonneville staff. Pierce, who is an experienced campaigner along such lines, also has a wide acquaintance in the north west and it is understood his talents will be used in that direction.

To the degree that agricultural conditions may be judged by a survey of conditions in 35 counties in various parts of the United States, just completed by the department of agriculture, the American farmer is far more prosperous than the attitude of farm lobbyists and farm bloc congressmen would indicate. According to this survey, northwest farmers are buying better food, better clothing and banking more savings than they did in the boom days of World War I, and this situation is said to exist nationally. Figures released by the federal farm loan bank show current payments have been met and considerable amounts of money have been deposited for future payments. One reason advanced for larger savings entering farmer savings accounts is that farmers have been unable to buy new machinery and in other ways have been forced by circumstances to limit their spending.

It should be understood, of course, that conditions in 35 counties do not necessarily present a true picture of the nationwide agricultural situation, but officials in the department of agriculture assert that with a national farm income this year greater than the 1942 record of \$18,628,000,000 there can be no question but that, in a broad way, agriculture is prospering.

The old story about the city slicker taking the farmer is working in reverse these days, according to high officials in the department of agriculture. Farm land prices have gone sky high and many farmers are unloading at unheard of prices. It is feared a price collapse will result after the war, unless steps are taken to curb the boom, such as happened after world war No. 1. After the last war flocks of insurance companies, mortgage loan associations, private investors and others were left holding the sack on farm loans from coast to coast, which resulted in serious losses and wrecked many financial institutions. A repetition of such a happening is the thing the department of agriculture wants to

Sherman County School Costs Association To Vary From \$226 To Over \$1350

The Sherman County Pioneers are going to meet next Sunday, August 15th at Laurelhurst park in Portland, according to a letter from J. J. Wiley, president of the association. Last year it was agreed that meetings would be held the third Sunday in August. The meeting was started by Sherman countians who lived in Portland and who desired to get together at least once a year for the purpose of renewing old acquaintances and talking over old times. Of late years many have gone down from Sherman county. All Sherman countians and all former residents are welcome to attend and take part in the picnic.

Oregon's Farm Income Now Highest Ever

Cash farm income in Oregon for 1942 reached approximately \$220,000,000, the greatest of record, according to estimates of the US Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Agricultural Extension service. This amount is nearly double the average from 1935 to 1939, before the war. For the first four months of 1943, furthermore, the cash farm income in Oregon from the sale of crop and animal products was nearly one-fifth greater than for the same period in 1942.

Agriculture is the principal basic source of income in Oregon over a period of years, but timber and lumber is a close second when the value added by manufacture is included in figuring income, according to USDA and OSC statistics. Mine and quarry products and fishery output are additional important basic resources. These four, with value by manufacture included, usually account for near one-half of Oregon's income, except during periods of economic depression.

Pamphlet Shows Government Units State Position

A pamphlet about units of government in Oregon has been issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research. Number of school districts under number other governmental units by a surprising degree. As of June 30, 1942 there were 1919 school districts levying taxes, 187 cities, 36 counties and one state.

The state has a population of 11.3 per square mile, Sherman county has 2.8; Harney 5, Multnomah 877.5. Although Sherman county is next to the smallest (Jefferson) in population it has a greater assessed valuation than Jefferson, Gilliam, Wheeler, Curry, Harney, Crook, Grant, and is nearly as valuable as Morrow or Josephine.

In valuation per capita Sherman county is listed as having \$3081.84 which is greater than that of any other county. Nearest is Gilliam with \$2500.12. Jefferson, Morrow, Umatilla, Lake, Harney, Wasco and Wallowa in that order. The average for the state is \$823.44 which makes the average Sherman countian worth about 3 1/2 times as much as the state's average.

For owning greater amount of property he pays more taxes, however, the county paying \$60.84 per person while the average citizen in the state pays \$38.22. While the state as a whole has 59 percent of its people living in incorporated areas Sherman county has but 35 percent city dwellers. In this county there is a population of 110 for each of the 21 school districts and an area of 39.5 square miles. The average for the state is 540.8 people for each school district and 47.8 square miles.

County Has Most Costly High Schools In State In Past School Year

The financial reports of the four high schools in the county have been compiled and returned from the auditor. They show some startling figures. Most startling is the per pupil cost. Without transportation the per pupil cost at Rufus was \$1150.03, at Wasco \$326.80, at Kent \$479.84 at Moro-GV \$226.60. With transportation the cost at Rufus went up to \$1355.19, at Kent to \$611.79. There was no transportation cost at either Moro or Wasco schools.

Daily Attendance Varied

Average daily attendance at Rufus was 5.4, at Wasco 25.6, at Kent 15.9 and at Moro-GV 38.5. Total cost was \$6210.16 at Rufus, \$8966.04 at Wasco, \$7629.50 at Kent and \$8792.13 at Moro.

Cost of instruction was \$1811.34 at Rufus, \$5596.37 at Wasco, \$2470.00 at Kent and \$5640.89 at Moro-GV. Supervision, which may be partly instruction, cost \$1496 at Rufus, \$1496 at Wasco, \$550 at Kent and \$1455.04 at Moro-GV.

County Highest In State

Greatest spread in costs comes under auxiliary agencies which means transportation in the main. Rufus spent \$1110.41, Wasco \$139.32, Kent \$2098, Moro nothing. The average per pupil cost of educating a high school pupil in the 1941-42 school year was \$138.23 according to the latest report of the state superintendent. Sherman county's cost at that time was \$309.74, higher than any other county by \$20.72. Gilliam county's cost was \$162.58, Morrow's \$202.80. For the 1942-43 school year the average cost in Sherman county will be over \$361.

100 Years Ago With The Pioneers

A good day's journey to the west was another great landmark known as "Split Rock." This giant sign-post can be seen for miles, its cloven figure rising eleven hundred feet above the waters of the river, like giant pincers reaching for the stars. At this spot the Sweetwater dashes through a canyon two hundred feet wide at its base, widening to five hundred feet at the top.

Dr. Whitman's medical skill was again called into service when the third Covered Wagon Baby joined the empire builders somewhere on the Sweetwater. As if to soften the grief of Joel and Sally Fembre over the loss of little Joel a girl-child was born to them on July 26. She was named Nancy Jane. The men in the train pretended to mourn over the fact that there was not an ox-driver born on the trail so far, all of the babies being girls.

Sweetwater river was crossed a number of times as the wagons followed its winding course toward the summit of the Rockies. The last crossing was at Burnt Rouch, later a famous Pony Express station.

The emigrants left the Sweetwater with regret for it had furnished them with wood, water and grass for many a mile through a treeless, inhospitable land. Oxen were leaning in the yokes, pulling a grade so gradual as to be hardly noticeable, leading to the famous South Pass over the Rocky Mountains.

That night as they visited in family groups, they reviewed the events of the journey thus far, and wondered what was in prospect for them when they crossed the Great Divide and entered the immense Oregon Country where lay the land of their dreams.

One Axis Leader Down—Two to Go



The sudden political demise of Benito Mussolini makes him the first Axis dictator to fall under the military and intellectual might of the Allied nations. Left: King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy who accepted Mussolini's resignation and appointed Marshal Pietro Badoglio, center, as the new premier of Italy. Although Badoglio announced that "the war continues," as he proclaimed martial law, he has never been a member of the official high ranking Italian fascist group which surrounded Mussolini. He has been known to have disagreed with the former premier several times. Right: Benito Mussolini who took advantage of the unrest of World War I to create a dictatorship and now finds himself overthrown by similar forces in World War II.

Markers Received Dodd Says For Old Oregon Trail Memorial

Two temporary markers for the Old Oregon Trail have been received and will be placed along the route of the trail as soon as it is possible to obtain the attention of the public for such an event. As these cedar posts are hard to obtain only two are being placed in this county and these will be put along the route of the Oregon Trail across the north end of the county. At a later date similar posts will be set to mark the route of the Barlow cut-off on Grass Valley canyon to Snerar's.

The work of marking the trail and locating it is being done by the American Pioneer Trails Association which is selling memorial half dollars to raise funds for that purpose. These, together with a membership in the association sell for \$5.00. Locally they may be obtained from Gilles French.

Burt Snyder Urges Big Third Bond Drive

Burt Snyder, agricultural supervisor for the War Bond Staff of Oregon was in Moro Wednesday to confer with the local bond committee about the coming drive for war funds which will begin September 9th.

Arrangements have been made for distribution of War Bond Kits which have a budget form set out for use of bond funds as they mature for the various purchases the buyer might desire. Use of these will aid any farmer to plan his bond purchases and maturing funds in the best possible manner, he said. A meeting will be held, probably September 4th, for the purpose of final planning for the campaign.

FARM PRICE LEVEL 194

At mid-July the Oregon general farm price level stood at 194 percent of the 1935-39 average, as calculated by the Oregon Agricultural Extension service. Despite a 3-point decline since mid-May the general level is still 28 percent higher than a year ago.

Farm costs are higher than a year ago also, with the US index of prices paid for commodities interest and taxes up over 8 percent and the US farm wage index up 36 percent.

Average farm wage rates in Oregon per month with board are 47 percent higher than a year ago. Increases in the cost of hay and feed have also been greater in Oregon than in the country as a whole.

War Bond Sales Under July Quota

Sherman county failed by \$259 to meet its July quota of war bonds and ended with a percentage of 98. The entire state sold 99.4 percent of its July quota. Eastern Oregon counties were largely the cause of the failure although Lake county topped the list with 140 percent.

The county quota for August has been set at \$11,800 and with harvest on in full swing that month it may be as difficult to reach as was the larger July quota, unless everyone gives the matter of buying bonds a few minutes attention during the month.

September 9 the third war bond drive begins when the people of the United States are asked to buy \$15,000,000,000 in bonds. The banks will not be a part of this drive, it is learned, which means that regular purchasers will be given a chance to add to their investment by getting additional government securities.

Weather Good For Harvesting Now

Last week was an unfortunate one for those who were trying to harvest as .55 inches of rain fell Wednesday night and .14 more came Friday night. Farmers in the south end claim they were given more rain than the above.

This week the weather has been fine for harvesting with the exception that the wheat is still damp in the mornings because of the rains of last week. It is not hot enough to be uncomfortable, however.

The Moro elevator has been kept busy with around 150 loads or more each full day.

Mrs. Herb Willard Buried Monday

Mrs. Herbert (Alta) Willard died in The Dalles August 6th at the age of 49 and was buried in The Dalles Monday.

Mrs Willard was born in Nebraska December 22, 1893 and came to Sherman county when a child. She married Mr. Willard in 1920. She has been a constant resident of this county.

Surviving are the widower, a son, John in the navy, and a daughter, Mrs Iva Bishop of Biggs, her mother, Mrs Effie Lindeman of Biggs, two brothers, Clarence of Portland and Robert of Willy Knights, feeling the surge of youth in his veins again, went out to Dean Reynold's place this week to start harvest. Willy will drive truck.

Markers Received Dodd Says For Old Oregon Trail Memorial

An improved outlook for feed supplies for livestock and poultry producers was disclosed by N.E. Dodd, national administrator of the AAA, at the recent meeting of the state AAA committee and Oregon state college staff men. The brighter outlook applies both to wheat and to high protein supplies.

Enough feed wheat to meet all normal livestock needs for an indefinite period will be available through the Commodity Credit corporation as a result of recent congressional action. Dodd announced. Cost may vary slightly, but is expected to remain near the present price based on the relationship to corn parity prices.

A probable solution of the shortage of high protein concentrates is seen by Dodd in arrangements recently completed with oil seed crushers. Under these arrangements the OCC will control approximately 25 percent of the country's total supply of vegetable protein concentrates in contrast to only 4 percent last year.

This reserve will be used as a pool from which to make allocations to different regions so that each state may receive supplies based on consumption in 1941 and 1942. Total supplies are expected to be enough to meet feeding requirements based on approved protein ratios.

Reserve Provided

Further to facilitate equitable distribution, handlers of soybean meal will be limited by the crushers to 15 days' supply to avoid accumulating stock piles. The War Food administration also has the right to cut in on any contract for the purchase of vegetable proteins if necessary to take care of deficiency areas such as the Pacific states have been recently.

While the new program will not be fully effective until about December 1, nearly half the mills are still crushing soybeans from last year's crop and some animal protein is being imported, so that even the outlook for the immediate future is improved, Dodd pointed out.

This was Dodd's first visit to his home state since he was made national administrator last spring. He is a farmer at Haines, who has worked up from a local AAA position to state chairman, western regional director and then national administrator.

Wheat Yields Running About 30 Bushels

Indication Are For A Crop Almost Equal That of 1942

This is the first week in which harvesting operations have been carried on this year in Sherman county and the results have been very satisfactory, although not quite as good as the more-optimistic have hoped.

Except for the small section on the north border of the county the wheat is making about 30 bushels, perhaps a little less west of Wasco, and a little more in other parts where harvesting is general. The extreme northern section is producing a crop of 15 bushel or less.

Around Moro wheat is making from 32 to 40 bushels, the average of wheat coming into Moro being 30 to 35 bushels and into Hay Canyon being 35 to 40. Several fields have reached the top figure and none are so far reported to be going less than 30.

Little cutting has been done south of Grass Valley and it is too early to tell how much the spring grain there will make although there is agreement that a large part of it is shrivelled. The loss is, however, undetermined and will certainly vary.

There is still many fields of Turkey Red around Wasco, but in the Moro section there is almost none of the old standby. Wendell Balsiger reports that there is as three times as much Federation as Rex coming into the Moro Grain Grower's houses.

In the south end of the county there is also a preponderance of Federation because of spring seeding. Barley is doing well, Flynn making well over a ton and the bald barley usually running under that figure.

Men From 47 States At OSC

Oregon State College—Every state except Vermont is represented among the 1341 soldier-students enrolled here in the Army Specialized Training program, a summary compiled by E B Lemon, coordinator, shows.

California leads with 225, but distant New York is second with 132. Other large numbers are from Ohio, 92; Illinois 89; Michigan 87; Missouri 55; Washington 51. Oregon 48 and Pennsylvania 45.

Of the total 894 have previously attended college, 274 of whom have already earned degrees but are here for training in different fields or for specialized additional training in their original field.

The ASTP students are in four units, with 688 in basic or lower division engineering, 425 in advanced engineering, 124 in language and area study and 104 in graduate engineering.

GOVT EXPENSES HUGE

Government budgetary estimates for the Fiscal Year 1944 estimate total expenditures for the year, excluding Debt Retirement and Trust Fund Disbursements, at 106 billion dollars, and net receipts at 38 billion dollars. The expected deficit of 68 billion will bring the public debt above 200 billion dollars by next June 30. In the Fiscal Year just ended, actual expenditures were 80 billion dollars, actual receipts 22 billion dollars, a deficit of 58 billion dollars. A hundred billion dollars will be needed for war expenditures during the Fiscal Year 1944, compared with 75 billion dollars actually spent for war in 1943. The War Department now is expected to spend less and the Navy Department and other agencies are expected to spend more for war than was estimated in January.