

Sherman County Journal

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Official County Paper

A column of news
About Government,
Politics and People
with especial emphasis
on the Northwest

Crop Good But No Bumper, Is Mid-Harvest Tale

3,000,000 Still
Expected But Quality
And Yields Not Best

Allocation of Pacific trade routes is attracting many shipping firms who will make applications. The Maritime Commission will take up the matter of assigning routes early next month. With the passing of the war, shipping companies are anxious to select a trade route and develop it as quickly as possible. The business of the Japanese passenger liners and fast freighters will not be available to American companies. When the Maritime Commission completes its work there will be a stream of American vessels plying between Puget Sound and Columbia river and Japan. Australia, the Philippines, Netherlands, East Indies and China. Companies desiring a trade route are expecting a large freight movement from the Pacific Coast to the Orient as the principal cities, from Tokyo to Manila and Shanghai, must be rebuilt. This means a tremendous quantity of building material and timber, cement and railroad equipment moving to the west, but there is little conception yet of what the return cargoes may be. From Japan it is known Christmas commodities and toys will be an early export, and from the Philippines copra and metals. What China will export will probably be its rugs, furniture and similar souvenirs. The shipping companies know that trade will open up rapidly and should continue brisk for the next few years as reconstruction and the building of industries should keep the trade routes busy.

Nothing has happened to the bill which would authorize the government to provide, free of cost, an automobile to any ex-veteran who is an amputee. The measure went into the house last year and was referred to the World War Veterans Legislation, but as the committee has not acted, a petition has been started to discharge the committee and bring the bill to the floor where it can be debated. The automobile would have to be especially equipped to serve some amputees and the price to be paid is fixed at \$500. It is expected that when congress reassembles after the Nov. elections, this bill will receive some action. The Veterans Administration has not estimated the number of cars that would be necessary.

The atomic bomb is not being kicked around recklessly in congress. It is nudged carefully, instead. Congress has not yet decided how to handle the materials which are used in the production of the bomb. S. 1717, approved by the senate, has abundant opposition in the house. Under the senate measure there must be no patents on fissionable material. It would prevent instruments devised to protect, measure or develop research from being patented. It would revoke such patents as have already been issued. The tree men who did most of the drafting of S. 1717 were an attorney, a scientist from Henry Wallace's organization and a Chicago scientist. Wallace's man was about to visit Moscow in a Russian plane when his visit was cancelled at the last moment. The Chicago scientist disapproves of the penalties in the bill he aided in drafting. Under his reported testimony, anyone with a knowledge of the bomb could inform anyone else in the world without punishment. House members, who dislike the senate bill, charge that it leans too much toward Russia and that someone was especially anxious to supply that country with all we know about the breaking of the atom. It further developed in the house debates that most of the young scientists working at Oak Ridge, Tenn., are interesting in making no secret of the bomb; they would tell what they know to the world as they are "one world" advocates, and one testified that the bomb has greater political possibilities than as an explosive.

What everyone in congress re-

Yields are not quite as good as hoped, and the quality, once well above par of 60 pounds, has dropped off slightly as the second week of harvest goes on. This is really the first week in which harvesting is general in the central section of the county. Northern part of the county has been at it longer and nearly everyone is getting started in the south section this week.

What happened to the wheat to reduce the expectations is not known, perhaps expectations were just too high. What happened to the quality was probably a few days too much hot weather.

It is still likely that the county will produce 3,000,000 bushels. That means an average of nearly 25 bushels which is still highly probable. Some fields have made 35 and over, some are going 22 and less. Reports have some grain down to 15 to 18.

Barley crops were generally good and most of it has been sold, reports Wendell Balsiger, Moro Grain Grower manager, who is awaiting cars to ship barley to market. Barley harvest is about over.

The price is inactive. Millers do not seem interested in wheat at \$1.87 and farmers do not seem anxious to bargain for much lower prices. Little wheat is moving although some was sold earlier at a higher figure.

Cooler weather has brought damper nights that handicap harvesters in the mornings and the wind has bothered some for several days this week.

County Official Reports Informative

In this week's issue of published the report of the county clerk for the tax year of 1945-46, which ended June 30.

It shows where each dollar expended by the county has gone. Also it shows how well the budget board of May 1945 estimated the expenses of the county, how much was spent by each county office and county activity. Taxpayers may learn from it where their tax money went as far as the county was concerned.

Last week's Sherman County Journal contained the treasurer's report giving a list of how much money was spent on each fund in the treasurer's accounts and how much remains.

FARM WAGES HIGH

Oregon's composite farm wage rate per month averaged 2.7 percent higher on July 1 this year than a year before, according to an analysis of USDA data by the O.S.C. Extension service. The increase was less than the national average of 8 percent during the year ending July 1, however.

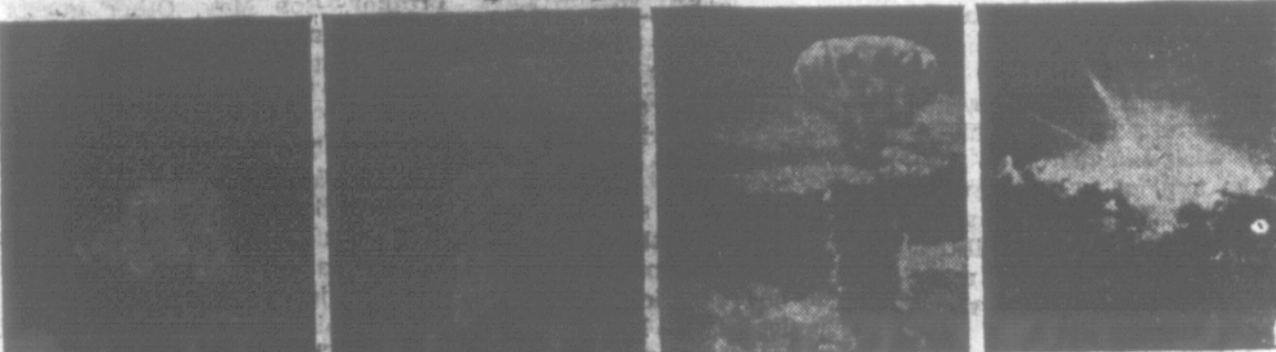
At 331 percent of 1935-1939, the United States average level of farm wage rates is now the highest on record. Farmers are also employing more hired workers than a year ago—7 percent more. About a million returned veterans are at work on farms.

After appearing to be slowing down the last part of 1945 and first months of 1946, United States farm wage rates advanced twice the usual seasonal rate months and the demand for hired help is strong. It was estimated from April 1 to July 1. Farm wage rates climbed along with increases in industrial wage rates.

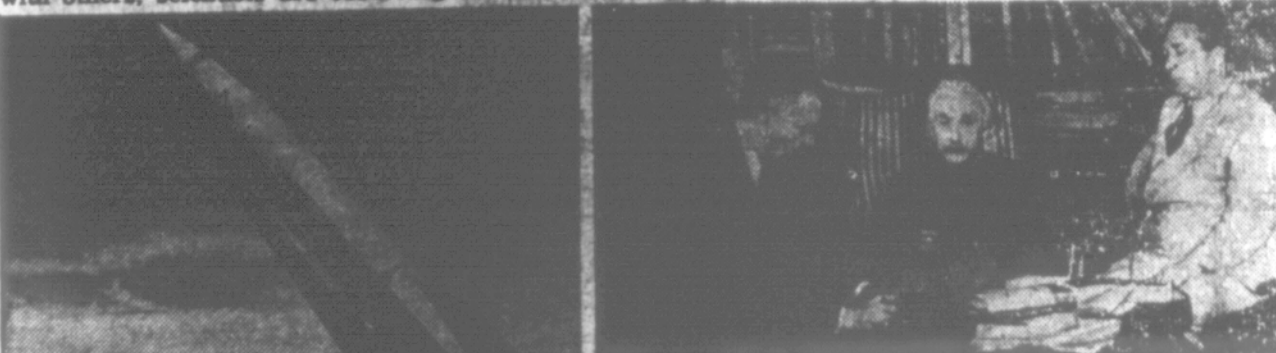
Although the recent advance in farm wage rates was greater nationally than in Oregon, the current level in Oregon is still relatively higher than in the whole country, both in terms of money wages and in relation to 1935-1939. The highest farm wage rates in the nation are being paid in Oregon, Washington and California.

The Pacific coast states have a very large volume of farm work to be done during the summer that 708,000 persons were working on farms in the three states on July 1 this year. That is 34,000 more than at the same time last year and 110,000 more than the 1935-1939 July 1 average.

Pictures Show Highlights of Atomic Year One



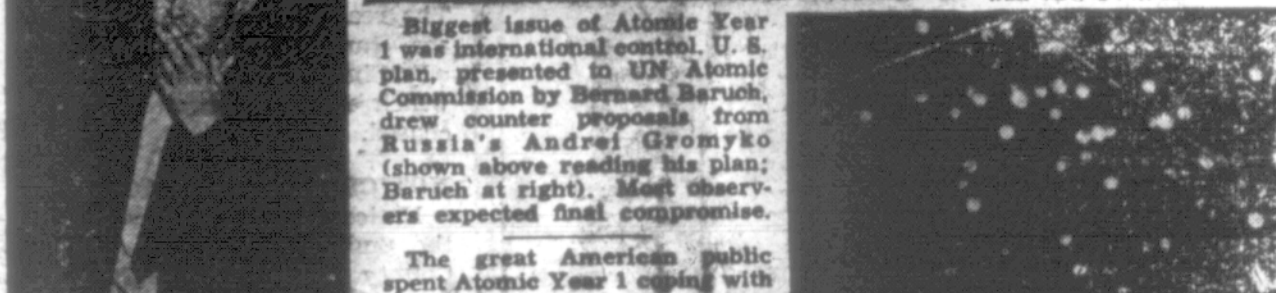
The atomic age opened July 16, 1945, with the New Mexico test of the bomb (1). A few hundred picked observers saw it. A year ago, at Hiroshima (2), the first war bomb left 100,000 dead and injured. At Nagasaki (3) a few days later casualties were 80,000. Only other atomic explosions have been in two Bikini tests (photo 4 shows first one), scored by atomic scientists as long on showmanship, short on science. Along with others, scientists are observing Hiroshima anniversary with pleas for controls to end all use of bomb.



All through the year scientists emerged from their laboratories to speak up on political aspects of atomic energy. Photo (from August March of Time) shows Albert Einstein with Harold Urey (left) and Leo Szilard, all active in fight to control the bomb.



The most lethal way to deliver an A-bomb is by rocket. Army trials of German V-2 type (above) brought assurances by the end of Atomic Year 1 that the day of long range atomic rockets is almost here. Scientists know of no defense.



Biggest issue of Atomic Year 1 was international control. U.S. plan, presented to UN Atomic Commission by Bernard Baruch, drew counter proposals from Russia's Andrei Gromyko (shown above reading his plan; Baruch at right). Most observers expected final compromise.

The great American public spent Atomic Year 1 coping with war, words, wonderment and new hopes. Scientists predicted blessings from the atom, but not if war strikes. Photo shows exhibit at New York Museum of Science.

Health Association Doctor Warns Oregon Veterans Of Water Contamination Danger

It is a curious fact that there is no such thing as pure water in nature. Even as rain drops fall, they absorb minute particles of soil and dust from the surrounding atmosphere. The very processes of seepage and drainage which create water supplies also act to gather bacterial pollution and bring it to those same supplies. Whatever the source of the supply, be it river, lake, spring, deep or shallow well, it is always in danger of contamination, and when it becomes contaminated, it becomes a possible source of epidemics of water borne disease.

Most of the bacteria present in natural water supplies, fortunately, are harmless. To the modern bacteriologist, the difference between harmless bacteria and B. typhosis, author of typhoid fever, is as great as that between a harmless garter snake and a cobra.

Typhoid Water Borne

B. typhosis and other pathogenic water borne bacteria enter the human body through the mouth, find their habitat in the intestines of the infected patient and are discharged in the body's waste. Capable of living for a considerable length of time outside the body, these germs often find their way into water supplies, thence to the drinking water of a non-infected person to establish again the cycle of infection. Some conception of the spread of these germs may be obtained from this fact: bacterial counts have demonstrated that the urine of a typhoid patient may contain as many as 500,000,000 typhoid germs per cubic centimeter of fluid.

Detection in a water supply of typhoid, dysentery, and other micro-organisms is tedious and difficult. For every pathogenic organism, there are thousands of harmless ones. Consequently, the search for specific pathogenic bacteria is not often successful, and the actual or apparent absence of these organisms is not a good indication of the quality of the water examined. A relatively easy test organism to detect, however, is B. coli. one of the ordinary intestinal bacteria found in large numbers in the intestines and in sewage. Water contaminated with sewage always contains the common intestinal bacteria, and may also contain the organisms of any intestinal infection such as typhoid, paratyphoid, dysentery, or cholera. Thus the standard test established by the U. S. Public Health Service for portable water is based upon the existence of the water supply at the time the sample is taken of the common intestinal bacteria. It is, however, often helpful to the sanitary engineer to have the further information of the total bacterial count as a measure of adequate construction of the individual water supply to eliminate as far as practical all harmful or surface bacteria. There is little question that many instances of ill defined stomach and intestinal distress occurring during seasons of greatest migration are due to ingestion of water with a high incidence of bacteria generally considered to be harmless. When traveling therefore, make it a point to inquire at all rural restaurants as to the safety of the drinking water supply.

New Manual For Drivers Published

An entirely new edition of the Oregon Driver's Manual has just been released by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr. In more fully illustrated format, the manual is intended primarily to give new drivers the rules of the road. Like earlier editions it will be issued to all those who desire to be examined for driver's licenses in Oregon. Farrell is urging all highway users to study it, however.

"It is hoped that the material will serve a far broader purpose by encouraging among drivers and pedestrians alike a desire and an ability to assist in the promotion of greater safety for all on the streets and highways of Oregon," Farrell said.

Oregon Veterans Prefer Jobs

Oregon veterans, realizing that readjustment allowances are poor substitutes for jobs, have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, according to Silas Gaiser, Administrator of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

Acting as agent for the Veterans' Administration, the Oregon Commission has paid out nearly seven millions since V-J day to former service men and women unable to find suitable work, but even this total is well below the national average.

Of approximately 100,000 veterans discharged in Oregon, about 46,000 have filed claims, but thousands never have drawn a check and only 5,600 were paid last week, Mr. Gaiser pointed out. A steady decline in allowances has been noted since the seasonal peak of nearly 5,000 in February.

About 1,750,000 veterans are being paid the weekly \$20 readjustment allowance and in some states, particularly in the south, the rate is two and three times Oregon's, according to the state administrator.

NEW HUNTING REGULATIONS ISSUED BY STATE

The 1946 hunting regulations were finally adopted by the Oregon State Game Commission on July 27.

The general deer season will extend from September 28 to October 25 inclusive, with a bag limit of one deer having not less than forked antlers. Five special antlerless deer seasons have been authorized on problem ranges.

The general elk season will extend from October 29 to November 20 inclusive in Eastern Oregon and close one week earlier in Western Oregon. The bag limit differs by areas.

The Upland Game bird season will extend from October 19 to 27 in most counties with a bag limit of 3 cock pheasants and 5 Valley Quail. The season will extend to November 2 in Malheur county and will not open in the Willamette Valley counties.

Wheat Sales Few No 1946-47 Tax As Millers Wait On Property For the State

The wheat prices have declined sharply at Portland during the week ending July 25, brought about largely by the lack of interest on the part of the grain trade at prices which had been prevailing in the markets and the pressure of new crop wheat. Harvesting of new crop in Oregon and Washington has become more extensive, and the prevailing dry hot weather is ripening the wheat rapidly in the later districts so the harvesting of winter wheat will soon be general throughout the entire Northwest. Good yields of high test weight wheat are being reported from practically all districts where harvesting has been underway, but protein tests appear to be lower than from the same districts last year. Wheat is moving rapidly to interior elevators, but shortage of suitable cars is delaying movement to terminal markets are greatly increased over the previous week with 160 cars reported at Columbia River terminals and 460 cars at Puget Sound terminals compared with 100 and There were no bid prices on the Portland Grain Exchange on July 23, respectively, a week ago. 25, but nominal prices for Soft White wheat were around \$1.85 per bushel.

Tax Commission Gives Good News; No Refund On Income Either

Good news for property tax payers was announced Wednesday when the state tax commission stated that there would be no state property tax for the coming tax year. Taxes, if levied, would be due November 15.

The statement gives no assurance, however, that this happy condition will long prevail for decreasing income from corporate excise and income taxes is foreseen and many expenses are growing to cut down the surplus that makes it possible for the state to waive property taxes.

In addition to the six percent increase in state expenditures permitted under the state six percent limitation there will be \$8,300,000 that will have to be met. Largest item is the \$5,000,000 voted by the people in June of 1945 for buildings at the schools and public institutions. Higher education millage and veteran costs make up the remainder.

Not all of the state expenses that can be paid out of income and excise tax will be met this year. The county school fund can be paid out of state taxes but not enough money is available for the coming year. Unless income and excise taxes are larger than expected next year, it is likely that there will be a state property tax, especially if additional expenses are voted either by the people at the November election or by the legislature in the coming session.

Fred Peetz Funeral Held Here Wednesday

Funeral services for Hans Fredrick Peetz were held from the Moro Community church Wednesday morning.

Mr. Peetz was born a Tacoma, Washington and came to Sherman county when a boy. He lived here and farmed for many years until recently when he has been living near Madras. For a time he worked in the Cherry Creek mine and later at McDermott, Nevada, for the same company. He became ill last week and his brother, Ben of Portland, went to Madras to be near him. Sunday night he went to sleep but was found dead in his bathroom in early morning.

Survivors are a son, Chester of Seattle, Washington and two brothers, Louis of Moro and Ben of Portland. Interment was in the I.O.O.F. cemetery at Moro.

Sheriff's Posse To Ride Sans Dust

The Sherman County Sheriff's Posse will meet again next Sunday at two o'clock in the afternoon to try and perfect some drills for the fair program. Some simplification has been worked out in the drills that will make them easier and directions have been prepared for the riders. It is hoped that at least 32 riders will be out Sunday as that is the number required for the drills.

Better riding conditions are assured as Sheriff Fields has used the county tank and truck to make a sprinkler with which to dampen the parade grounds preparatory to drilling.

Game Commission Releasing Birds

Liberation trucks of the Game Commission now are busy distributing the first of the approximately 60,000 pheasants to be raised this year at the four game farms. The birds are being released in suitable habitat throughout the state on sites selected in advance by the game biologists. In western Oregon the Willamette Valley seed stock refuges, which, through agreement with the landowners are closed to hunting for a period of five years, will receive a liberal stocking. At the present time the refuges cover approximately 30,000 acres in strategic locations throughout the valley.

Observations during the past two months indicate a poor upland game crop in most of the Oregon counties. This condition is attributed largely to June and July storms.

One Million Acres 1947 Oregon Goal

A production goal for Oregon of one million acres of wheat for harvest in 1947 has been announced by E. Harvey Miller, state director of Production and Marketing administration. The goal was approved by the secretary of agriculture on the recommendations of the Oregon USDA council and the state production adjustment committee.

The 1947 state goal is almost 8 percent less than the 1,081,000 planted this year, but still 1 percent more than the 1937-41 average of 992,000 acres. Nationally, farmers are asked to plant 71,700,000 acres for 1947 harvest, 1 percent more than this year.

In setting the state goal, the world food situation and the present low level of food supplies were weighed against land use and other considerations, Miller reported. One million acres is the maximum acreage while maintaining summer fallow and without planting wheat on land to which it is not suited or which should be kept in grass, he pointed out.

In addition to reasons of land use, the goal setters considered what any increase above the goal would result in a reduction of other crops, such as barley and oats, which will produce more feed to the acre on the land involved than wheat.

"Even with the reduction, the 1947 goal represents a larger acreage than can be safely maintained under the present emergency," Miller declared. "Since this is 'short fallow' year, normally we would plant considerably less than the million acres. So the million acre goal means another year's delay in returning to the peacetime pattern of production and a better balance between soil-depleting uses of our cropland."

As to outlets for the 1947 crop, the department of agriculture assumes that a smaller volume of exports will be offset by increased domestic uses of wheat above the quantity being consumed now because of famine emergency restrictions, plus the need for building up end-of-year stocks to a safer working margin.

Dr. O. J. Goffin, an early day doctor of Moro, died in Portland the first of the week after a long illness. The Goffins, both physicians, were in Moro over 30 years ago.

(Continued on Page two)