

THESE THINGS WE NOTE

Continued from Page One
Wine growers complain most bitterly saying that the price of wine at the winery has declined from \$1.10 to 34 cents per gallon. They are all co-operatively owned and the Italian and Portuguese grape growers talk a very sad story. Bottlers and distributors get more of the wine drinker's dollar than the growers. Taxes in some counties are \$1500 on a 40-acre vineyard, it is said, and will now be higher.

Californians don't seem to drink much wine either. Many places have displays for it apparently is sold under the same license as beer. No diner was seen with a wine glass by his plate and dealers interrogated said the wine business was slow. The hardy men of other countries and other days who lived long and lustily on a diet of hard work and wine, dark bread, cheese and sausage are neither hardy nor so hard these days of machinery and they get their intoxication from grains instead of grapes. And even that old staple—bread—is not eaten so largely as before.

Perhaps no state in the union has so large a percentage of "bottom" land as has California. The great valleys account for most of it. And it is good, when it has water and the climate permits a great variety of crops but the boastful advertising has made the market for lots of it. Maybe Oregon could use a few of the uninhabited souls who advertise the best orange juice, the tallest Christmas tree, the biggest pageant, the deepest well, the highest peak.

LEGISLATIVE PROBLEMS

It may be noted that more and more legislators of Oregon are giving talks about the state and are being quoted as saying this and so about the coming session. There are problems to be considered.

Oddly enough the tax problem does not seem to be paramount although the taxation problem has been much in the public eye since the supreme court decision last summer and the election added to that interest.

Taking the limelight now is the reports of interim committees named to study two phases of Oregon politics: the highway committee and the game committee.

The highway committee is asking for an additional gas tax for highway purposes, without payment to users for non-highway consumption. There are some other recommendations that make for lively arguments. The important thing is that more money is needed if the highways are to be improved as fast as the people want them. Perhaps when it becomes necessary to pay for the extra speed in construction the people will prefer some delay.

The game committee, just now formulating its report, asks for larger license fees in an effort to get more money to produce more game. Some sportsmen's groups have been willing to pay more but it is entirely possible that sportsmen's groups do not represent all the hunters and fisher, merely the more financially able one.

As for both of the requests, however, it is certain that if government is to be asked to do more, or do more quickly, it must have more money with which to do it.

Just because there is less talk about taxes doesn't mean that it will not be a legislative headache. Oregon's tax system is perhaps the most involved of any state and nearly half of the legislature is composed of men with no legislative experience. They may get the notion that the legislature can do something important to Oregon's tax system. That would be wrong. Only the people can make important changes and they are seldom in the mood for tax changes, having learned, apparently, that any change eventually costs more money.

Probably most of the time of the legislature will be taken up with non-essentials, that being the custom of the people. Some very accomplished publicity seekers have been elected, men who will advocate the hanging of the governor to make the front page—with pictures. These will be heard from. The work will be done by some one else.

AID TO CHINA

Probably aid to China is no longer important. It may not do any good if so lately administered. Anyhow this administration seems unwilling to do more than token aid that has been given.

The communists did a good job on us in the China matter if one can believe the most likely stories told. We deserted Chiang Kai-Shek some months ago and the story told at that time that he was a bandit like all the rest of China's generals; that he had sold some of our equipment to the Japs and the Communists. That could be true. The ones most active in telling that story seemed allied in one way or another with communism, however.

So we let the Communists gradually take China and our position in Korea is untenable. Chinese have been driven out of Manchuria and northern China and the Chiang government is about through.

When this happens we will have Stalin to deal with and we may find his morals no more to our liking than we did Chiang's. There was no danger of the Chinese infecting Japan, the Philippines, Siam, Dutch Guinea with any communistic ideas but when the country gets under the hands of the Communists our position on the west shores of the Pacific will be very dangerous. Since we have already given independence to the Philippines we will have no sizeable place to work from west of Hawaii.

We have done some work against communism in Europe and it seems reasonably effective to date. There would be much more safety in this country if we had an administration, capable of watching both the front door and the back one at once.

GRASS VALLEY NEWS

(Continued From Page Three)
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rust and family spent Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vivian Rust at Wasco.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Alley had as dinner guests Christmas day Mr. and Mrs. Gus Smith and Mrs. John Hays of The Dalles, Mrs. Gould and son, Walter Gould of Portland, Rosalee Bladen also of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Alley and children, Mr. and Mrs. Don Smith and son, Larry, and Mr. and Mrs. John Block and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alley of The Dalles.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Bibby and daughter, Janice, were business visitors in The Dalles Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bayer and children, Julia and Byron, went to Tygh Valley Sunday to spend the day visiting Mr. and Mrs. Willis Brittain. Julia stayed over for a longer visit with her aunt.

Mrs. Frank Bayer, David Bayer, Mrs. Charles Perrigo and Mrs. Hary Stark were business visitors in The Dalles Wednesday.

Mrs. Keith DeCoursey and infant son came up from The Dalles Sunday to stay at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted von Borstel.

Mr. and Mrs. James Easter and sons, Larry and Roy, left Thursday for Portland to spend Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Nurer. Larry stayed with his grandmother a few days and Mr. and Mrs. Easter and Roy came home Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Balzer and son, Clair, and Marie Blagg of Grass Valley, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Bruckert of Moro, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bruckert of Klondike, C. R. Bruckert and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hartman of The Dalles enjoyed Christmas dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hartman, at Wasco.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilke of Bingen, Wash., arrived here on Christmas morning to spend the day and night at the home of his sister, Mrs. C. R. Anderson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Bibby and daughter, Janice, were shoppers in The Dalles Thursday.

Mrs. Jerry Coyle and daughter, Verna June, left Thursday for their home in Lebanon after spending over a month here with her daughter, Mrs. Ivan Blagg and family. Mr. and Mrs. Alton Coyle and sons accompanied them to Lebanon where they will spend Christmas with relatives.

Christmas dinner guests at the Sam Holmes home were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Holmes, Mabel Holmes, Miss Cassie Holmes, of The Dalles, Mr. and Mrs. Ted von Borstel and family, Mr. and Mrs. Donald von Borstel and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. William Holmes and family and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Kulick and daughter of The Dalles.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Holmes, Mabel Holmes and Miss Cassie Holmes were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted von Borstel.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Bibby and family spent Christmas day in The Dalles at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Woolwine.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Reynolds were business visitors in The Dalles Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Newcomb and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Fields and daughter, Susan, left Friday for Portland to spend Christmas and

New Hospital - Medical Plan Known as OPS

Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Wheeler, and Gilliam have been added to the list of Oregon counties in which individual and family coverage under Oregon Physicians' Service is now available, according to Drs. Herbert D. Lewis, Hood River, and Victor Mills, The Dalles.

This action followed recent approval of the plans by the Mid Columbia Medical Society of which Dr. Lewis is president and Dr. Mills secretary.

The society officers announced that employed individuals now are offered the choice of two O. P. S. plans through individual enrollment: semi-full coverage and surgical-hospital-limited medical coverage.

The semi-full coverage plan provides the following benefits: medical and surgical services anywhere in Oregon; emergency services anywhere in North America; services of specialists; complete medicines for hospitalized cases; complete hospitalization service in a ward or equivalent up to 60 days of full coverage and an additional 60 days at half cost; ambulance service; special nursing and private room services up to 15 days in any serious case; x-ray service; physical therapy service; and refractions.

The surgical-hospital-limited medical plan provides these benefits: surgical service for major and minor operations; medical services for cases requiring hospitalization; treatment of fractures and dislocations; pre-natal, obstetrical, and post-natal services; surgical and consultation services of O. P. S. specialists; hospital care up to 21 days full ward service, plus an additional 90 days service for which O. P. S. defrays one-half the cost.

Now, more than 1,000 Oregon physicians, surgeons, and specialists are cooperating with O. P. S. About 90,000 employees in more than 2,500 Oregon firms have O. P. S. coverage and more than 15,000 additional family members are protected. O. P. S. maintains regional offices in Portland, Salem, and Medford.

In 1940, the Oregon State Medical society approved the state-wide plan and O. P. S. was incorporated in December, 1941.

NOTICE OF MEETING
The Harlandview Grange will meet, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 1, 1949, at 2:00 o'clock. This meeting will be preceded by a pot luck dinner at noon.

Formals have been added to the Value Bar — Greta, The Dalles

Wishing a
Happy New Year
To my many friends in
Sherman County.
Paul R. McCulloch

When you come into town
you'll see a sign saying
Ed's Place
that's Beef's Eating and Drinking
Place and he'll welcome and feed you
OPEN SUNDAYS
CANDY CIGARS ICE CREAM
Lunchs & Dinners

Federal and State Income Tax payments paid before December 31, 1948 can be deducted in the 1948 calendar years' return. We suggest that our clients take advantage of this savings.

GEORG WERNMARK
INCOME TAX CONSULTANT
Suites 506-7-8-11-12
U. S. National Bank Bldg.
The Dalles, Oregon

Eighteen Years Experience in Income Tax Procedure. Admitted to Practice Before Treasury Department.

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Announcing
Appointment of
MR. DANIEL A. SPOONHOUR
as Implement Sales Manager
and Field Service Man

Mr. Spoonhour has been sales manager for The Vaughn Company for the past year. He will be calling on farmers in this area soon. We hope you will extend him the usual Sherman county courtesy.

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BUSINESS NEED

Sherman County Journal



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