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SCHOOL LEGISLATION

So far there is little legislation about schools that is of major interest to Sherman county. There is still talk of some but no assurance that it will be introduced, passed, or even liked by a majority of local residents if passed.

Amendments to the basic school law will not be important unless the authority of the state department is made more far reaching. An increase in the contemplated transportation rate is being requested and has some support but mainly from larger counties with problems of long distance transportation. These are the counties which do not have a majority in the legislature.

The problems of Gilliam and Wheeler counties over the county high school law may come to a head this session as school board members are getting anxious to have some change made in that law. In those two counties, the only ones in Oregon, the county court with the treasurer and school superintendent are the school board.

Union high school districts may get outside the district although county court members are still elected from such areas. In Wheeler county two court members reside in union high school districts and have no immediate concern with the welfare of the county high school. It is proposed that the county high school board would be chosen in much the same manner as rural school board members, by zones, and thus remove one of the bones of contention.

At this time there is little chance that the legislature will approve the request of the state department and the teachers for an additional \$45 on the basic

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Winter time is reading time and we can take care of that with newspapers and a good supply of magazines.

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school fund levy for each census child. There just isn't that kind of money lying around. And there is also criticism of the efficiency with which schools are administered. Buildings cost too much money, it is said, and the districts that have built their own buildings and thus short-cutted the usual methods have saved many thousands of dollars.

There is talk of temporary buildings for some of the newer districts where the population cannot be very stable—lumber camps, etc. In fact unless the price of lumber goes up materially there will be no need of new buildings at all in some of these places.

There probably isn't too much of a hurry about it all and sentiment may change but right now it looks like schools will have to practice some economy.

WHEAT FROZEN

Possibility that the wheat crop may be frozen out here is subject for interesting speculation but is not so overwhelming as was the freezeout of 1924 when eastern Oregon farmers had to go to the legislature to get a state loan for seed, wheat because of a freeze in December. The mercury dropped fast and far that time.

Prices and crops have been good and banks are now anxious to make loans so such a problem will not appear this time, even if the crop is gone.

The small banks in existence in early 1925 were in no position to loan two or three dollars for a bushel of seed wheat to farmers who in most cases already owed all they were worth—and more. It will be remembered by many Sherman county farmers that representatives from the wheat counties together with bankers and the better financed farmers went to Salem with a plea for state loans. It was sufficient and the loans were made which saved the banks and kept the farmers in business. Furthermore the loans were repaid with losses so small as to be almost no account.

That was 24 years ago and most of those who obtained the loans are removed from their farms by either success or failure or transfer of allegiance from agriculture to some other pursuit. But it may be a bit of history worth remembering for it could happen again and there is no need of throwing the formula away.

FEPC BILL

Citizens of this county may be inclined to look upon the time given the FEPC bill as a lot of effort put on a minor matter. Perhaps it is and it may be that the treatment of minorities is a subject about which we are unduly concerned.

Congress has debated it long and loud, New York has a similar law, sponsored by Governor Dewey. Some other states have one, too. All of them have much more of a problem than has Oregon, where there are but some 10,000 negroes, only a third of the wartime total but five times the pre-war normal.

Democrats had a majority of names on the bill when introduced but over the nation it is Democrats who fought the bill. A

FEPC bill to a southern Democrat is like a red flag. The bill in the Oregon senate is a rather awkward affair causing the formation of a commission and permitting the expenditure of some funds. This should not be necessary for there will certainly be few cases under it. Any employer could find some reason for not hiring Negroes if he had any imagination at all and they probably would.

Enlisted in the fight for the bill are racial minorities which is a newspaper name for Jews, many ministers who may speak critically of the Jews in the pulpit on Sunday but who ask the legislature to defend them on week days.

Actually the trouble is that the minorities as to race, religion and color feel discrimination because of a feeling of inferiority in their own minds. No law is going to help the situation much.

INCOME TAX

Some news column concern over house tax committee discussion of new income tax rates is going on now with the introduction of a bill for some change in those rates.

Oregon already has a high income tax rate which would be the highest in the nation if the exemption for the federal tax was removed. Therefore it becomes necessary to reduce the existing rate if the federal exemption is removed. It is not the desire of the committee to increase the income tax rate.

However, if the rates can be readjusted so that Oregon income taxpayers paid more of their tax to Oregon and less to Uncle Sam it seems a change that a legislative committee could properly consider. Take the example of the man who has an income of \$1,000,000 of which there are only a few but who makes an easy example and a startling one. His federal tax would be around \$850,000. His state tax at 8 percent would be \$12,000. If the exemption were removed he would pay the state \$80,000 which when deducted from his federal tax as an exemption would make him pay 85 percent on \$920,000. His tax would be more in total but the state would get much more and the taxpayer might reasonably prefer his taxes to stay nearer home.

For taxpayers in the smaller brackets there is little difference at all as the federal government lumps taxes under the ten percent section figured in the short form.

The community property law permitting divided income between husband and wife has saved many thousands in taxes. The state will get a smaller income this year, for instance. It is generally easy to pass tax measures when someone else is going to pay them. This time it is the federal government.

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CHURCHES

"If You Had Known" topic at the Wasco Church of Christ, Feb. 13th.  
Church school 10:00 a. m.  
Morning worship 11:00 a. m.  
If you are not "stormed in"—  
Come, as all are Welcome!  
F. Claude Stephens, minister.

MOVIE AND CARD PARTY

The Harlandview grange will hold a movie and card party, Friday, February 11, (today) at 8:00 p. m. at the grange hall. Everyone invited. Come and have a good time.  
Harlandview Grange

Locals

Mrs. Howard Ross says now the paved roads are better than the country roads, for the Chinook's wind has made traveling an adventure in the mud. She stated it was a backing up job at first but when on the paved road spun merrily on to Moro.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McAlpine of Susanville, Ore., who were with Mr. and Mrs. John DeMoss at DePoe Bay last Saturday for Roseburg to visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barnum were here Tuesday from The Dalles. This is the first trip back for Hank since he entered the hospital in November. He looks well and says he is feeling fine.

Mr. and Ms. Howard Conlee and small daughter of Bend came Sunday for a week's visit with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Conlee.



POET'S BIRTHDAY . . . Celebrating the attainment of his 70th year of life, Carl Sandburg, noted poet and biographer of Lincoln, cuts into cake presented to him by students of Knox college at Galesburg, Ill.

Mrs. Edna Melzer and daughter, Priscilla, left Friday to visit in Pullman, Washington, with Mrs. Melzer's son-in-law and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund

Mrs. Richard Martin and small son of Rio Linda, Calif., are here visiting her mother, Mrs. Hazel Belshe and brother, Max.

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Cushing. They returned Monday and had little trouble traveling in spite of the snow.

Monday night the past Matrons' club, O. E. S. gave a benefit card party at the Masonic hall. Seven tables of bridge and ten of pinochle were in play. Mrs. Hazel Belshe won the door prize. In bridge Mrs. Omar Heltmeyer and W. W. Gearhart were high for pinochle. Mrs. John Reckman and Paul Fraser won high in the remaining play.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Duke Gets His Tractor

Duke Thomas bought a farm with the money he'd saved in the Service, but he couldn't get a tractor. He needed it badly, but was tenth on the local dealer's list.

"Tell you what," old man Peters says. "If those nine fellows ahead of you agree, you'll get the next one I get in." "No, thanks," says Duke, "I'll just take my turn."

But old Peters mails out the postcards. And the other day he tells Duke his tractor will be in next week. "I simply wrote the facts to the fellows ahead of you. They decided it."

From where I sit, it's that spirit of understanding that helps make our democracy so great. Understanding for the other fellow's problems and respect for the other fellow's rights—whether it's his right to earn a living, his right to cast his vote against your candidate, or even his right to enjoy a moderate, friendly glass of beer or ale—if and when he chooses. Let's always keep it that way!

Joe Marsh

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THANKS FOR  
TURNING THAT  
SWITCH TO "LOW!"

HERE ARE 4 OF MANY WAYS  
TO SAVE ELECTRICITY

Don't run your washing machine longer than necessary—7 or 8 minutes will usually get clothes sparkling clean. Don't overload the tub. Keep moving parts oiled.

If your electric iron has an automatic control, use correct temperature for material to be ironed. And don't keep your iron turned on when not actually in use. Save every bit of electricity.

Don't place hot foods in your refrigerator. Defrost regularly. Don't open the door any more than necessary. Constantly letting warm air inside makes the refrigerator work overtime.

If you run a business establishment, you'll find lots of ways to save electricity. Keep motor loads as low as possible and turn off any unnecessary lights. Help everyone by saving electricity.

It's Your Electric Service you're helping to protect when you Save Electricity!

It may be only a small saving, but every bit helps. When the kettle begins to steam, and you turn the element to "low" on your electric range, you're helping to save valuable electricity. Each kilowatt saved is important, because the power situation all over the Pacific Northwest will be "tight" until warm weather reaches high into the mountains to start streams flowing normally again. So keep up the good work . . . use appliances sparingly. Please continue evening peak-hour savings, but also save EVERY hour of the day and night.

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