

Grass Valley

Mrs. A. P. Balzer

Divine worship at Grass Valley Methodist church next Sunday, January 1 at 3:00 p. m. Miss Ellene Lemley came home from Eugene to spend the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arzell Lemley. She is a student at the university. Miss Jaqueline Rust is home from Portland where she is

attending beauty school, to spend the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rust. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dennis of The Dalles, former residents of Grass Valley are the parents of a son born Saturday, December 24. Frank Lemley of Vernonia is here to spend the holidays visiting at the Arzell Lemley and Oscar Lemley homes. Ralph Rust was taken to a hospital in The Dalles last week for medical attention.

The Eastern Star sponsored a Christmas party at the Masonic hall Sunday afternoon, December 18, for Eastern Star and Masonic members, families and friends. The hall was decorated with a lighted Christmas tree and holiday candles. A program consisting of singing Christmas carols, recitations by Alice and Rosalie Esslinger and Mauna Eakin was followed by the Christmas story told by Mrs. Bud Brinkert and illustrated in lanterns. On the tables were dishes of candy and popcorn. Bags of candy and an orange were given to all the children by Harry Dean Eakin dressed as Santa Claus. Refreshments of cookies and coffee were served later.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Balzer had as dinner guests Sunday his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Balzer and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blagg to celebrate the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Balzer.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Koch were hosts at a dinner party at their home Monday evening celebrating the birthday anniversaries of Mrs. Koch and Ted von Horstel. Other guests included Mrs. von Borstel, daughter Marie, sons George and Carl, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Kulick and daughter, Joanne of The Dalles, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Pinkerton and son, Bruce, and Fritz Rohweder.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilke of Blingen, Wn., were dinner guests Christmas day at the home of his sister, Mrs. C. R. Andersen and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Olds had as dinner guests Christmas day Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ziegler and daughter Ina May, sons Herman, Robert, Jimmy and Carl, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Perry and daughters, Donna and Glenda, and John and Barbara Alley.

The Christmas program at the Baptist church Friday evening was presented to a large congregation. The program consisted of singing by the congregation, a recitation and song "Away In a Manger" by Karen Alley, a dialogue by the primary class, dialogue "Christmas Greetings" by the intermediate class, a drill "The King Raised" by the Junior class, duet, "Silent Night", by Barbara Blaylock and Margaret Baumgartner, a duet "That Wonderful Star" by Mrs. Ivan Blagg and Mrs. Charles Perrigo. Treats were given to all the children present.



DOUBLE-HEADER . . . Here is a couple of additions to the Philadelphia Athletics. Lou Brissie, Athletic pitcher, beams as happily as if he had just pitched a no-hitter as he looks over his brand new twins, Ronald and Robert, in a Philadelphia hospital. Wife, Mrs. Dorothy Brissie, looks over the new twosome just as proudly but more modestly than Lou. If the babies take the colic and cry at night, do you suppose the pitcher will issue a couple of walks? Or would you say Brissie now has two strikes on him?

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Reynolds and her mother, Mrs. C. H. Kellogg, went to The Dalles for the Christmas eve services at the St. Paul's Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Payne had as dinner guests Christmas day Mr. and Mrs. Ben Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Belshe and daughter from Moro.

Dinner guests at the Sam Holmes home Christmas day were Miss Cassie Holmes of The Dalles, Mabel Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Ted von Borstel and daughter Marie, sons Carl and George, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Kulick and daughter Joanne from The Dalles, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holmes and sons Robert and Sam, and Mrs. Venator.

W. C. Owens came down from Antelope Sunday to visit his son, Harold Owens and family.

David Bayer came home from Corvallis to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Bayer.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Reynolds had as their guests Christmas day his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Reynolds and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Kellogg and son Chester, who came up from Portland Saturday to spend the weekend.

A Christmas party was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Perrigo Thursday evening for the women's volley ball team. The evening was spent visiting and gifts were exchanged with refreshments served later by the hostess.

A family gathering was held at the home of Henry Peters Christmas day when a pot luck dinner was served. Those present included Mr. and Mrs. Fred Peters and daughter, Mrs. W. D. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Peters and sons Herman Jr. and Arden, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Owens and family, Mr. and Mrs. Olan Stark and son, Bill Barden-

Why Tinker With Farm Program

It is reported in the press and elsewhere that the Wheat League of Oregon, undertaking to speak for the wheat growers, contemplates urging the abandonment of its support of the present farm program and to support a new proposed measure which has to do with a two-price system and provision for the issuance of certificates from millers, dealers, etc. The writer has not seen this proposed measure; his only information is from sketches which have appeared here and there. Before the wheat growers accept this new measure and permit the Wheat League to advocate it in behalf of the wheat growers, it would be well for each wheat grower to consider this new measure.

It has some of the features of the McNary-Haugen bill which passed Congress twice and was vetoed by two presidents upon the ground that it was unconstitutional. It has some features of the Grange Debiture measure which was never passed by Congress. It is thus apparent that it is probable that the proposed bill is probably vulnerable because the courts would declare it unconstitutional.

But why should wheat growers be tinkering with the present measure and particularly, why should the wheat growers of Oregon be finding fault with it? A brief review of the efforts to secure a farm bill might be profitable. In 1923, a meeting of the wheat growers of Eastern Oregon was held at Arlington, Wasco, inclusive, were well represented. The writer had the honor of being chairman of that meeting. Some two-hundred wheat growers were in attendance. This was probably the first meeting in the United States of independent farmers seeking to have established a farm program that would put agriculture on a parity with industry and labor. Out of that meeting grew the foundation work for the McNary-Haugen bill. The result of the work of the committee appointed was submitted to Governor Walter M. Pierce, after his election, who in conjunction with President W. J. Kerr of Oregon State College, formulated the program as requested by the farmers and sent the same to Senator Charles McNary who later was the author of the McNary-Haugen bill which twice passed Congress and was twice vetoed because of its unconstitutionality. This bill provided for a domestic price fixed by law and an export price fixed by general market conditions and had other provisions.

The so-called farm board had theretofore been created by the national Congress with funds to stabilize the market. This had proved unsatisfactory and was abandoned. The Grange Debiture bill was urged in some parts of the United States. The result of the failure of all these early programs was a bankrupt agriculture through the 1920's; the destruction of the buying power of agriculture which resulted in the collapse of the banks and industry all over the United States which led to the depression of the 1930's.

In 1933 the AAA farm bill was passed by Congress and seemed a start in stabilizing agriculture when a year or two later it was, by a divided opinion, declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. Then was enacted substantially the program which is now in force. Its constitutionality has been accepted, the basic act has been re-enacted and amended from time to time, but the program has stood for some fifteen years as the farm policy of the United States. Walter M. Pierce, congressman from Oregon and then a member of the Agriculture committee of the House of Representatives, informed me that this measure passed that committee by only one vote. Hence, it was difficult at that time to secure the passage of the present farm bill. Since then it has been sustained by Congress by close majorities in many instances.

The present bill has become a part of the national economy. It not only has maintained a reasonable and parity price for wheat but it has done the same, among other things, for corn and cotton. After World War I, there was a depression which lasted, so far as the wheat grower was concerned, from 1920 to 1940. This resulted in the loss of farms, delinquent taxes, and bankruptcy everywhere. After World War II, the prices of all farm commodities have been maintained. It would be a bold and reckless person who would say that these prices have not been sustained by the present farm program. Agriculture is the most prosperous it has been in the memory of living persons. Why tinker with a program that has maintained the nation and brought prosperity to all during the readjusting period after World War II? Is it wise for the wheat growers of Eastern Oregon to now condemn this program and seek an untried, probably unconstitutional, program which will be turning back the clock to the year 1924? Why abandon all the good that has been achieved and start again experimenting with an untried measure which in all probability if passed would be declared unconstitutional and leave the country with out any farm program? This would be the first step towards another era of bankruptcy for wheat farmers. Why should the wheat growers of Eastern Oregon, who took the lead and pioneered a farm program in 1923 by the first to upset the applecart and bring about bankruptcy and ruin upon themselves and upon the nation? Do the individual wheat growers of Eastern Oregon desire the Wheat League of Oregon to say that they are empowered to represent them in taking this new course.

We must not forget that the present program covers cotton in the South. Some may ask, why does that concern the farmers of Oregon? Prosperous cotton growers of the South mean a market for the seed crops of the Willamette Valley and some sections of Eastern Oregon. The present farm program has brought prosperity to all the farmers of Oregon and the farmers of the entire nation. Why tinker with a program well established and satisfactory to all concerned?

It is necessary to sustain the present price of wheat. The cost of farm equipment, including tractors, drills, plows, combines, and what-not, is known to every farmer. This high cost of equipment is brought about by the high cost of steel and high wages. The present wheat price is now on a parity with these high prices. The national economy is geared and functioning well to this high standard of living for all. Why should the wheat growers of Eastern Oregon tinker with a situation which is so satisfactory to them?

An injury to the farm program would of necessity destroy the farmers' buying power and cause the entire economic system to collapse. Why should the Wheat League of Oregon undertake to say that the individual wheat growers are in favor of a proposed new and untried program that could bring disaster not only to the farmers but to the whole country? Why tinker? It is suggested that those in favor of maintaining the present program sign the attached request and send it to the President of the Wheat League, Ione, Oregon. This article may not reach everyone and opportunity is made on the request for more than one to sign by writing his name. Those farmers who favor the program here suggested could get their neighbors to sign the same and send to the president of the Wheat League. The proposed move could be a most dangerous move for the farm program. Opponents of the farm measures in Congress could get much comfort from the fact that the wheat growers themselves had condemned the program that brought them prosperity. It is not safe for a single wheat grower to let the Wheat League undertake to state that the farmers are not satisfied with the present program and desire the proposed experimental change. Sign and get others to sign the following request and send it to the President of the Wheat League at Ione, Oregon.

Mark V. Weatherford
Wheat Grower of Arlington, Ore.

REQUEST

I oppose the proposed certificate wheat program and favor the present farm program.

Paid Advertisement by Mark V. Weatherford, Albany, Ore.

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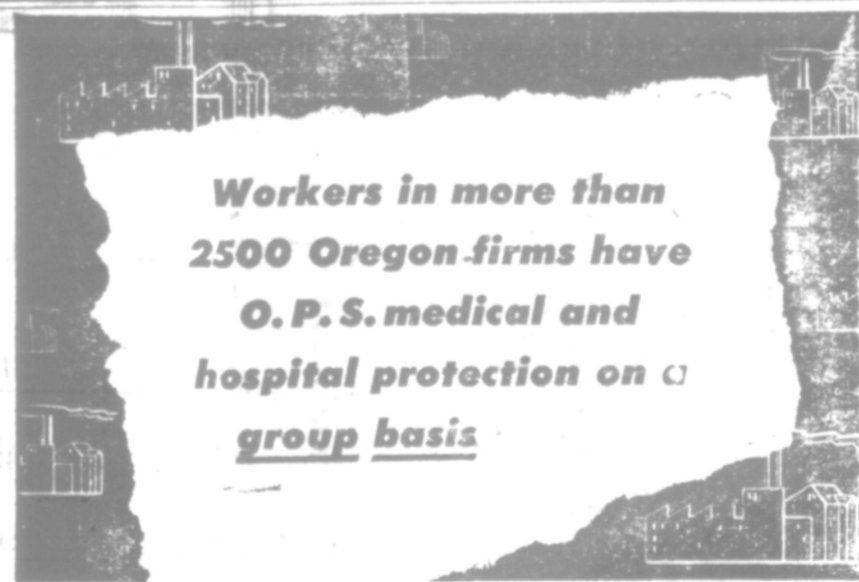
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