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**SCHOOL BILL REFERRAL**

There is some action in this county toward assisting the grange in referring SB 315, the school reorganization bill. The grange leaders have been accused of a lack of frankness or incomplete understanding about the provisions of the bill of which we have only to say that confusion about school bills is very common.

SB 315 was the most important of the Holy report bills because it was the one that contained the authority for action. This action was so well watered down to meet the demands of some groups that the bill as passed is rather weak.

It provides that the state board of education shall appoint a commissioner of school district reorganization who shall work under the board which must "give due consideration to the development or continuation of schools in rural areas within proposed unified districts, geographical of the state, size and assessed valuation of proposed unified school districts, available school buildings, school population, convenience of children attending school, economies of administration and transportation, needs and desires of rural communities and any other matters which it deems important."

There can be no criticism of the scope of the factors to be taken into consideration. All are important.

In each county there will be a reorganization board. As for Sherman county it is hardly necessary; Sherman county is already organized on as efficient a basis as possible without compete unification. The same is largely true of other adjacent counties.

It is not true in the Willamette valley. Linn county has 80 districts and 33 of them have less than 30 pupils. Sherman is the only non-county unit with no district having less than 30 pupils. In Linn county there is competition for high school pupils that is endangering the continued existence of some of the smaller high schools; for instance Albany is about to swallow Jefferson and Shedd. In Yamhill county the McMinnville district has been added to by various consolidations until it reaches nearly to the city limits of Sheridan. It is felt that these consolidations are helpful neither to education nor economy.

Within each county a committee of five or seven or nine, depending on the number of first class districts, will plan a reorganization of districts taking the matter quoted from the bill into consideration. When the plan is finished the people of the county must vote on its approval.

The purpose of the bill is the consolidation of such school districts as are no longer feasible. The people must approve any action taken by the local reorganization board. The state board has the right to suggest other action but the local board must approve.

Had the grange opposed the basic school bill, which has brought tax inequality to Oregon, it would be in better position to oppose the Holy bills. Having assisted in equalizing taxes it is not in good position to oppose the result of it.

In Sherman county we pay twice as much into the state fund as we get back. We are already organized, according to the standards of SB 315. If, through the provisions of this bill, money is saved by consolidations we stand to gain. Educators have claimed that a quarter of the school money could be saved with better organization. Whatever is saved—and it could be at least five million—should reflect in lower appropriations for schools or better schools. But it must be realized that the people have set the appropriations at their present size, not the legislature.

Leaders of the grange are by no means unanimous about the bill and a Linn county member did most of the opposing. It is likely that the grange will isolate itself from former allies with this bill, and that is nothing to bring tears to the eyes of

rural grangers. The whole matter is another example of the age old fact that when a governmental unit or a person takes money from a larger governmental unit, it starts on a long journey with the destination unknown.

**WHO'S JOB**

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) sends out mimeographed letters about conditions in all parts of the world. They are usually well written as some good writers and are engaged in the work.

A recent one tells of a poor Mexican fisherman who makes little money because he cannot read, and knows nothing about fish habits. He is ill and unhappy because he knows nothing about health. Every story is similar.

Only half of the people in the world can read, very few know anything about public health, most of them are easily influenced by charlatans. It is a pitiful picture.

The more sympathetic say that the United Nations and this nation itself should do something about all these things and are, perhaps, to be commended for their emotion. Practically it is impossible and even dangerous. Politically and economically we could not survive if all these people were suddenly clamoring for our standard of living.

We can, perhaps, elevate our science farther above the medicine man mumbo-jumbo from which it started; we can encourage the natives to help themselves. But we cannot do as much for them as they can for themselves. Civilization, for what it is worth, must grow. It cannot be forced.

**DOWSING**

A news story from The Dalles tells of local experiments with the "divining" rod, used for ages as a means of finding underground water.

Water witching is something about which people believe or do not. Few have a half way attitude toward it. More use it than pretend to believe in it.

An experienced water witch will use almost any kind of forked stick, preferences being individual. Some want willow, some fruit tree, and some will cut off a chunk of barbed wire from a fence and do just as well. The rod really turns down and is not hocus-pocus on the part of the witch.

A recent debate in Harper's magazine between a famous author and a famous engineer resulted in each writing his case and each retaining his beliefs; a common ending for public debates.

There used to be much more of this type of folk lore about. Some gardeners still plant their garden according to the moon. Also scientists are finding some factual basis form any of the old beliefs. But the believers in the old theories don't care about what scientists say, holding that science itself is merely beliefs strengthened by a patter called nomenclature.

Anyway belief in water witching has existed longer than has most of the present scientific theories and dowsers may be walking over a devastated earth searching for water after the scientists have destroyed themselves with their theories.

**MR. TRUMAN'S CANDIDACY**

The politically bent are wondering whether the president will run again in 1952 or retire to Independence to be independent. It is doubtful if anyone knows, least of all Mr. Truman. The nation will probably last a few years even if he does run—and get elected. He has almost no control of congress and therefore is doing little harm even with his appointments.

It does seem too bad for him

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to retire without letting the voters pass judgment on his theories. He has stood for war, for inflation, for slack political morality and has portrayed a certain flippancy toward national affairs somewhat below the average of his predecessors. Yet, Harry isn't a bad sort and would undoubtedly make a pretty good neighbor. He would lend his lawnmower, keep a full quart handy and sit in on the community poker game.

If another runs in his place the people will not get to decide definitely whether they like such policies as he followed or not. And we think that unfortunate.

**Rufus News**

Mrs. George Fox

The middle of the week really got warm here. The thermom-

ter read about a hundred degrees Thursday. On Friday a stiff breeze came along making it some what cooler for the weekend.

This week will see a good

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many farmers sending wheat to town in trucks. Most all the wheat is threshed and taken to town in bulk now. This saved the expense of a man to sew sacks as they used to do it in the old days, as well as the price of the grain bags. From reports heard there is a good yield of wheat from the fields, but also its noticed there's more smut this year than usual.

**NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County his Final Account as Executor of the Estate of J. M. Axtell, deceased, and that Monday, the 30th day of July, 1951, at 10:00 A. M., of said day, at the court room in the court house, in Moro, Sherman County, Oregon, have been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Account and for the settlement of said estate.

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**From where I sit... by Joe Marsh**  
**Might Say**  
**The Birds Got "Nettled"**  
Had dinner with Tik Bradley the other day, and over a frosty bottle of beer I found out about his job with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.  
"Now just exactly what do you do?" I asked him. "Shoot birds with a cannon" he calmly replies.  
Seems they actually do use a cannon—to shoot out a net over a flock of birds feeding on the ground. The birds start to take off at the sound of the shot, but the setting net brings them back to earth. Then they're banded around the leg so more can be learned about their migratory habits. Afterwards, they're let loose—and everyone's happy.  
From where I sit, it was a good example of how when you learn the real facts they're often not as bad as they may sound at first. Like with people. Get to really know your neighbor and chances are you'll be more tolerant of his preferences—even though they're not your own. Take a good look, before you jump to conclusions.  
Joe Marsh  
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