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SOIL BANK

We are among those who feel that the soil bank idea is too new and so far too little criticized to be considered as a solution to the long problem of farm surpluses. There may be a germ of a good idea in it and, if so, it should be used, but the entire plan seems unworkable.

If it were possible to force every farmer to retire a fixed percentage of his acres it might help but the small farmers are so numerous that it is doubtful if they could, from a political standpoint, be included. The small farmers have so many tears on their side that they usually win all arguments despite their pitiful record of actual production of saleable crops. It is the big farmers who feed the nation—and cause many of the surpluses because they are more efficient.

The theory of retirement of acres as a way of curing the surpluses has had a pretty thorough trial already—and found wanting. This year we harvested only 47,000,000 acres of wheat, the smallest since 1934, and yet did not reduce the surplus. Better farming, more fertilizer, use of irrigation for small grain crops because of high price all work against success of land retirement as a means of cutting the surplus.

So far no administration has had the nerve to approach the problem by throwing out the controls and letting competition decide who will furnish the grain and cotton and rice. Such a move would surely reduce the surplus by making it available to stock feeders. This country could compete on that basis; it cannot compete as long as large farmers reduce their acres and small farmers do not. That isn't competition for us, it is suicide.

SIXTY-SEVEN YEARS

Last week without announcement or boast this newspaper completed its 67th year and started its 68th. Probably no one noticed it. In fact, we took little note of it ourselves for one week is much like the last or the next and the years are made up of weeks.

The Sherman County Journal, or, rather, its direct ancestor, was started in Wasco in November, 1888 and has been published 3536 times plus some 53 week years which would increase it to 3550. That would be quite a stack.

Not many are still with us who were here when the first issue was put out on a little hand press. There was no railroad and mail came into the towns of the county by stage from Grant which was the metropolis of the county then. It had a railroad and wool warehouses and the few farmers who were growing surplus wheat hauled it to Grant.

Times were more exciting then for local firms had all the business and the professions were represented in all the little towns that had not yet begun to aspire to incorporation and cityship.

There were doctors and lawyers and bakers and carpenters and blacksmiths galore. Implement dealers were selling farm machinery as fast as they could, and new farmers were buying wagons and Cassidy and Flying Dutchman plows and Monitor drills to say nothing of beans and flour and Arbuckles coffee and yard goods from the general merchants who had huge stocks bought and sold on a long time credit basis.

There wasn't much money but everyone was busy and eating. Idleness has always been a worse evil than poverty. Boosters claimed that the county had produced a million bushels of wheat and would produce an unlimited amount when a few little things were corrected. Yields were already as much as eight sacks to the acre. Little club and Red Chaff did best.

The Wasco county surveyor spent week after week between the Deschutes and John Day rivers laying out new roads for new settlers and already as much as 100,000 acres of the tall bunchgrass had been plowed up by homesteaders with their heavy wooden-beamed walking plows and their teams of wiry Indian ponies.

Land was going up and it was getting hard to find a quarter section at \$800 anymore. Interest

rates were ten per cent and the lender had to have a little bond to make a loan at all. Every spring farmers in the south end of the county put in their crops and strung out eight or ten of their horses to a couple of wagons and went into the upper county looking for a load of wool to take to Moody's warehouse in The Dalles before they returned to do their belated fencing and new land breaking.

First settlers were almost ready to prove up on their claims and a newspaper would be profitable for the notices had to be published in the nearest newspaper. And besides some far sighted citizens wanted a place to talk about a new county so they wouldn't have to pay toll to get to the court house.

DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON

The accident that took the life of young Billie Williams will be a total loss unless it serves as a warning to other drivers who have the same mania for speed. Williams was a good worker with a job in a garage and a store. He put his money into a fast car, made faster by modern gadgets manufactured for that purpose.

He had been warned and Sunday was arrested for speeding and warned again.

But young men too often brush off the warnings of their elders and rely on their over-powering confidence in themselves. While self-confidence is a fine thing, it can be overdone. There are limits to the ability of humans and machines made by humans to respond. He who exceeds these limits gets hurt or killed. Successfully growing up depends on learning the limits without exceeding them.

POLITICS

The other day the comment was made in conversation that the tendency was for office holders to become neither Republican nor Democrat but politicians. It is true and it is deplorable.

The first duty of an office holder or a candidate for office is to stand for something, to have ideas and ideals on which he is willing to rise or fall. By voting for such candidates the electors can choose the direction of the government.

When every candidate and every office holder adopts as his own the popular notions of the street corner the result is rule by the most vocal instead of by the most thoughtful. It may be democracy but it isn't good government.

If a man puts his election above his faith in his ideas and supports popular ideas in which he does not believe he deserves defeat because voters should know that he will follow the next wave of sentiment as unfaithfully. Candidates too often think more of the office than of the principles by which they should be guided.

It is true that a political party is a vehicle with which to obtain power. Yet, the voter is entitled to know what the party or the man will do with that power.

Aldal Stevenson is reported to have said that 90 per cent farm parity is not the answer to the farm problem and within a month made a speech advocating 90 per cent parity. It appears that the lust for office has affected his integrity. Both parties are fumbling for popular issues, both want credit for tax reduction, which would be a mistake without corresponding reduction in expenses.

We do not like that. We want to vote for a man or a party with full knowledge of what he or it will try to do if elected. We can stand less than full agreement but not less than full frankness.

J. BRACKEN LEE

J. Bracken Lee is governor of Utah and he is as unreconstructed and as independent as can be. He is short, alert and positive. This is his second term so some of the voters of Utah like him well enough.

Mr. Lee is always on a campaign. Right now he is trying to get a decision made by the supreme court as to the right of the congress to appropriate money for foreign aid. He says that he will not pay his taxes for that purpose and hopes to get a decision that way.

He should know better—and probably does. So far no one has been able to get into the supreme court on a big tax measure. The government always stops the suit before it gets far. Remember when that militant lady from Connecticut, Vivian Kellems (used to live in Oregon) who tried to get a court test on the right of the government to make tax collectors out of employers.

Apparently the government is afraid to let such things go to the supreme court. If it can be put off long enough the court will make such taxes valid as a matter of public policy—probably would now, in fact.

Just the same we have a great deal of sympathy for Miss Kellems and Mr. Lee because we think that the right to tax has been carried too far by an avaricious government.



Unemployment Law  
Changes Coming Up

Changed benefit rights of Oregon's unemployed claimants for the first half of 1956 will be available at 26 local offices of the State Unemployment Compensation commission November 14, it was announced today by Administrator Silas Gaiser.

New determinations for the last half of the 1955-56 benefit year were made necessary by the amended law adopted during the closing hours of the 1955 legislature. More than 32,000 claims have been filed since last July and the total may reach 50,000 before January 1, 1956.

Only about half of these claimants have drawn compensations, it was pointed out, and those still working should wait until

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mid-December request their new determination. Early distribution of the new determinations is designed for those unemployed and now drawing benefits.

Although over two thirds of the unemployed workers will be entitled to larger weekly benefits under the amended law, a preliminary study indicates that from 12 to 15 per cent of the claimants will be eliminated and nearly as many more will get smaller checks. Most of these are seasonal workers, including many women employees of canneries, stores, and service lines.

Maximum weekly benefit will be increased from \$25 to \$35 in 1956, while the minimum will be

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Vada DeMoss, N. G.  
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Meets 1st and 3rd  
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cordially invited.  
John Shipley, N. G.  
Leo Watkins, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78. O.E.S.  
fourth Thursday in each  
month; visiting members  
Meets every second at  
invited. Moro, Oregon.  
Catherine Thompson, W. M.  
Naomi Van Gilder, Secretary

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M.  
Meets on the 1st and  
3rd Thursday evenings  
each month. Visiting  
members cordially in-  
vited to meet with us.  
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WANT ADS

LOST: Chev. truck spare wheel with tire between Condon and home. Earl Gentry, Moro 2p

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon Ph. 242 47fn

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone 3977 or 5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Oregon 38fn

FOR SALE: Used Oliver 77 tractor with scoop. Grass Valley Equip. & Repair, ph. 141. 46cfn

FOR SALE: Tamarack fence posts Priced reasonably, best of quality. Must see to appreciate. Good road. Homer E. Davis, Lone-rock, Oregon 48-3c

FOR SALE: Deep well pump jack, 3/4 horse electric motor. Ernest Esslinger, Moro. 51-1p

Wilson, executrix of the estate of Jerry M. Wilson, also known as J. M. Wilson, Deceased, shall file same before the 23rd day of November, 1955, at the hours of 10:00 o'clock a. m., which is the time fixed for settlement of said account and the County Court Chambers at Moro, Oregon, is the place fixed.

LEATTITIA WILSON  
Executrix  
DICK & DICK  
The Dalles, Oregon  
Attorneys for the Estate 51-2c

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
All persons having claims against the Estate of W. D. Fuller, deceased, are hereby notified to present them, with the proper vouchers and duly verified, to the undersigned, the duly appointed, qualified and acting Administratrix of the estate of W. D. Fuller, deceased, at the office of T. Lester Johnson, attorney at law, Moro, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this Notice, to-wit: November 11, 1955.

Eunice L. Fuller  
Administratrix  
T. Lester Johnson  
Attorney for Administratrix  
Moro, Oregon 2-5c

CURTIS A. TOM  
Executrix  
of the estate of William Franklin Bartholomew, also known as W. F. Bartholomew, deceased  
J. Tracy Barton  
Attorney for Estate  
The Dalles, Oregon 51-2c

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNTING

All persons having objections to the final accounting of Leattitia



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