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FIFTY-EIGHT

We are about to perform the last rites over another year, something we do with little sadness ordinarily. In fact, the wake is sometimes more hilarious than solemn.

And we needn't be sad about 1958. It was a pretty good year. The nation had a little depression that halted profits in some lines but which also served to halt the tide of inflation. Both profits and inflation seem to be back at year's end and we think some way to separate them is necessary.

But crops were good and the nation has its granaries full of food. We are the only people that has to worry about dieting, nearly the only one with serious traffic problems, the only nation where leisure does not endanger eating. What we have to fear is lethargy, not starvation.

Oregonians may be happy that the thinking of its politicians has finally caught up with its citizens about taxes. Voters were smart enough to defeat a few spenders. If they will do the same in another election the state can expect some badly needed economy.

Weather was good, the winter being mild and the hot days of summer being spread so as to do minor damage. The fall brought moisture, late but sufficient so that the spotted fields seem on the road to recovery. There were no serious storms that did damage over a wide area.

In fact, we can lay the passing year away with a bit of sadness. And in hopes that its successor will be as kind to us.

WHEAT PROBLEMS

The other day we read a letter in a newspaper written by a farmer in the middle west. He advocated a restriction on sale of grain and said, that, with modern methods, farmers could produce much more grain than needed and if the surplus was to be curtailed it would have to be by a different restriction than acreage allotments. That makes sense. However, farm organizations that have been meeting this fall have not expressed any enthusiasm for bushel allotments.

Farmers, of course, are primarily concerned with keeping up their incomes during any period of readjustment that may come. Most of them know that such readjustment is overdue. They oppose lower loan rates that would endanger income—a most natural attitude.

If bushelage allotments could be enforced (and we think it would be a big job) the price could be high enough to keep up farm income for the grain used as food. The remainder could go for feed at a cheaper price and thus effect a kind of two price system. It seems certain that a nation so well able to produce grain should have lower feed costs.

Wheat has a complication not found in corn, which is primarily a feed grain with a small proportion being used for human food. Because of high loan prices the production of wheat has been unduly expanded until the legitimate wheat growers are being crowded out. By legitimate wheat growers we mean those who regularly produce a supply for the market and who live in areas adapted to the production of wheat. Actually they are the only wheat growers the nation needs worry about; they feed the nation its bread and do so economically and efficiently. If the nation had to depend on its 15 acre farmers it would soon be hungry.

Floyd Root, president of the national wheat growers, enunciated the program of these growers on his return to Oregon. First was the maintenance of farm income. While we agree that this is necessary we do not think it is the exclusive problem of the government and that farmers could produce other crops or feed livestock to obtain an income.

Second was the stopping of the surplus and its gradual reduction. Sure.

Third, that reduction in wheat acreage must not be shifted to other crops. We don't know whether this is an accurate statement or not and we hope it is not. It may have resulted from protestations by growers of feed grains.

Certainly wheat growers cannot be expected to do nothing with their land. Fourth, increased yields must not be reflected in increased holdings of wheat by government. In other words farmers may not apply more fertilizer and expect the government to take up the big crops resulting. Out of these discussions and resolutions should come some changes that will be beneficial—and they are long overdue.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMP.

A lay committee has reported after some investigation into the problems of unemployment compensation in Oregon, a tax that is currently taking 2.7 per cent of payrolls from employers whether they have good records for continuous employment or bad ones. Furthermore, unless something is done about it, there seems to be no chance for the fund to ever get back to a normal basis. It has become a relief agency instead of what it was intended to be.

The recommendations are that all employers be put under the act except employers of casual labor, maritime labor not in interstate trade, should be included, hearings provided for employers who believe themselves exempt, that charity workers be included.

The committee further recommends division of unemployment and state industrial accident which have always operated under the same board. Also that unemployment be managed by one commissioner appointed by the governor, which would be good until it got into politics probably before the first commissioner was appointed. The committee thinks that the right to borrow funds from federal government should be given. The governor did borrow funds this year but the attorney general said it was illegal. We think it might be better administered without this right.

As a means of curbing the abuses of the fund by laborers the group asked that women who leave work because of pregnancy be ineligible, that persons who quit, if fired for misconduct or fails to seek work also be ineligible. There are other abuses that

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Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Blaylock, golden wedding celebration at Grass Valley December 14. Picture delayed.

he solemn, she gay, taken at their golden wedding celebration at Grass Valley December 14. Picture delayed.

It will take more than this to make unemployment compensation perform its proper function and not be a source of easy "rocking chair money".

Employers would have to pay on \$4200 of wages instead of the present \$3600 and would have to continue at 2.7 per cent until the fund was up to six per cent of payrolls instead of the present three per cent. That would be a long time.

The committee was composed of representatives of labor, industry and the public in about equal numbers but the forest industry, which pays a large part of unemployment compensation, was not well represented. It is industry that pays the tax; labor pays none of it.

We doubt if the recommendations about administration would be very helpful, nor that the inclusions proposed would do much to build up the fund, nor that the restrictions on drawing from the fund would protect it very much.

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County Ramblin's

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Farm and Fertilizer

A minority of the farms in the United States—2.1 million—now produce 91 per cent of all our food and fiber, while the majority, comprising 2.7 million farms produce only 9 per cent. No wonder efficiency is now the key-word on the farm as well as in industry. The business farmer is interested in items that make each hour of labor and each acre of land produce more efficiently so as to cut his unit cost of production. This, of course, is why such farmers are the highest users of commercial fertilizer.

The latest figures, that I have seen, show fertilizer has gone up less than 10 per cent from the 1947-49 base. Other production items are up much more. For example, taxes per acre are up more than 60 per cent; farm real estate up approximately 65 per cent; motor vehicles up about 38 per cent; and hired labor up about 23 per cent.

Farmers Share of Food Dollar
Most changes in agriculture affect both consumers and farmers. So it is with the changes in our food dollar. The latest figures show us that in August of this year, 39 cents of the average dollar food shoppers spent at the grocery store went back to the farmer. The other 61 per cent went for marketing the food. These amounts have been shifting through the years. Just a year ago, farmers were receiving 41

cents of the average dollar spent for food. The high was 53 cents in 1945; the low was 32 cents during the depression years.

The smaller share going to the farmer is of real concern to him. But he's not criticizing marketing to combat the situation. He realizes consumers like more convenient forms of food; they like modern grocery stores, fancy grocery carts with ball-bearing rollers, new forms of packaging and special services offered by the retailer and these often add marketing costs.

The farmer realizes too, that about half the money which goes to marketing goes for labor. It's this money which makes good customers for the food he produces.

The farmer is combating his smaller share of the consumers dollar by making his farming more efficient. He must sell larger amounts of food. But, more than this he must produce the quality and type of food which consumers will choose for their market basket. This is a real challenge, as consumers make their choices from over 6000 items at the grocery store each week.

Right Kind of Fire Extinguisher

Having the right type of fire extinguisher handy is the best way to prevent fires from spreading.

Unfortunately no one kind of extinguisher will control all classes of fires. It pays to know which type of extinguisher is best to control each class of fire. Extinguishers should be provided in areas according to the following:

Class A fires: wood, trash, paper and similar combustible materials. These fires are best controlled with water or with extinguishers that use large amounts of water.

Class B fires: grease, oil, gasoline, and other flammable liquids. These fires are best controlled by smothering or blanketing to cut off the oxygen supply.

Class C fires: electrical equipment, motors and generators. For

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this class of fire it is important to use an extinguishing agent that does not conduct electricity or injure the equipment.

HARLANDVIEW GRANGE

Meets First and Third Saturday, each month at 8:00 p. m.

Helen Bruckert, Master
Florence Bruckert, Secretary

Ethlehem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S. Meets every second Thursday each month. Visiting members invited. Moro, Ore. Annabelle Kelso, W. M. Dorothy Heater, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Ann Miller, N. G. Helen Martin, Secretary

Moro LODGE No. 113 I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited. Floyd Haines, N. G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Taylor LODGE A. F. & A. M. Wasco, Oregon Meets each First and Third Tuesdays. Doug Shull, W. M. Carl Tuggles, Sec.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F.&A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Joe Heater, W. M. Clyde Gillmor, Secretary

WANT ADS

Custom Slaughtering by appointment only. Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon. Call ED 3-2345 for appointment.

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush. Phone CY 6-3977 or CY6-5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Or. 38th

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION PERIOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the period for redemption from foreclosure sales for delinquent taxes of all properties shown on the Sherman County 1953 Foreclosure List and included in the decree foreclosing tax liens as shown by said list entered on 31st day of December, 1957, in the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Sherman County, will expire January 5, 1959, and that any property not redeemed by said date which was included in said decree and order of sale will be deemed to Sherman County immediately upon the expiration of such period of redemption, and that every right or interest of any person in such property will be forfeited forever to Sherman County.

GEORGE GEISER
Sheriff and Tax Collector
7-8c

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