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The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY.....July 31, 1914

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Moro, Oregon, July 25, 1891.

C. L. IRELAND.....Manager.



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Church and Society notices FREE, except when for money making purposes. Such notices at regular rates at the option of the publishers.

At any time when requested to do so, the paper will be discontinued. But we expect that all arrears will be paid before such request is made. It is easy to ask us for a statement, which will be cheerfully rendered at any time.

The price of The Observer is \$1.50 per year, 75 cents for six months, 50 cents for four months—but if paid in advance we accept \$2.50 in full for 2 years. Shorter terms than one year 12¢ cents per month.

A Blue Mark here will answer an inquiry, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

Wheat Market Conditions.

A large number of our farmer friends are in the habit of saying: "When crops are poor we have nothing to sell, and when they are large we get next to nothing for them." This year the wheat crop in the northwestern part of the United States will probably be the largest ever known, and the indications are that the prices will be good. There seems to be a prospect that the demand will be unparalleled. The international agricultural bureau reports that the total wheat crops of the three largest early producers, Argentina, Australia and India, have fallen far below last year's yield.

One large determining factor, not fully credited by Sherman county farmers, is the freight rates this year being based upon the passage of the Panama canal by freighters with wheat for Atlantic, European and American ports. This reduction, we have been told, averages close to 12 cents a bushel, which means that Sherman county farmers would have to sell for that much less if the Panama canal were not in operation. Another factor that would have provided a better price for Sherman county wheat is the tolls exemption for American owned ships using the canal. Now our wheat comes into competition with wheat raised in the Alberta section of Canada, and Sherman county farmers have paid their part of the national debt caused by the canal and get no more benefits from the short commercial cut than does a Canadian farmer who uses it. That is one of the benefits of electing non-partisan national senators.

Another market factor is short crops in the European countries and the very large probability of a great European war, brought on by Austria in revenge for the murder of the heir to the throne by Servian agitators who owed him a grudge for the interest taken by him in parceling their country after the late wars.

There have been several attempts by American grain dealers to lower the price of wheat, but each time foreign buyers have quickly come into the market and checked any serious fall in prices. Another thing to be considered is that the moment wheat falls below 70 cents it comes in competition with other farm products for hog and cattle feed and will be used for that purpose rather than be sent to market to further force down the price. From every point of view it seems that farmers are to get a good price for their enormous crop of wheat. That means prosperity for every industry whose products the farmers purchase.

The holdover senators from Multnomah county are preparing a bill to consolidate about thirty commissions under five heads and save about half a million taxes annually.

Farmers Oppose Eight Hour Measure.

Resolutions opposing the initiative eight hour law have been adopted by farmers in various parts of Oregon. They take the view that it would work a hardship on the agricultural interest of the state if the measure should be enacted into law, as it would more than double, on the average, the cost of farming in Oregon, and also decrease instead of increase wages paid farm employees because of the impossibility of maintaining the wage and hour standard set by the proposed law.

Under present conditions farming is none too profitable, and these conclusions seem logical. There are considerable areas in Oregon that now just about pay the farmer the cost of producing the crop. In such a situation the farmer is trying to keep a home, wait for better times and the hope of building up a closer market by advent of railroads. A grave problem in Oregon, as well as in the country at large, is the finding of sufficient incentive to induce more men to go upon the soil. The country is importing increasing quantities of food products, a condition manifestly detrimental to national welfare. That evil will not be helped by laying rigorous legislation upon the producers of agricultural wealth. The truer policy will be to foster conditions that will make agriculture more inviting.

Some of our farmer friends have not taken the interest in this measure that they should. They rely on individual contracts with their employees; but they have not read the proposed law, which provides that the provisions of the law apply equally well to members of an employer's family. Not even a relative can work overtime, not saying anything about a stranger.

Schools of Sherman County.

Records in the office of the county superintendent show that for the school year just closed there were 31 organized school districts in the county, with an average day's attendance of 149 pupils. Of these schools, 17 taught a nine months' school course. There is reported to be 990 children of school age in the county; 694 are registered as attending school, and 95 per cent, or 661, attended regularly.

Each of the 31 districts has a school house, two new buildings being erected this year in the county, employing 55 teachers during the various terms. The value of all school houses in the county is estimated to be \$52,150; the furnishings are valued at \$9,973, with insurance of only \$29,950. The total indebtedness of all districts is \$15,278, of which amount there is warrant indebtedness of \$6,416 and bonded indebtedness \$6,900. Last year an average three-mill special tax was voted in each district.

During the year there was an enrollment of 90 pupils in grades above the eighth and 32 diplomas were issued to the students.

One of the most noteworthy features of the record were that 91 visits were made to 30 schools, with an average of two hours to the visit, traveling a total of 2800 miles to make these visits. Another interesting fact is that the various districts have a total of 3900 library books, 196 being purchased during the last school year.

Farmers generally receive the lowest price that their produce is ever sold for and pay the highest prices that their supplies ever command. This condition, according to economists at the Oregon Agricultural College, is but one of the evils of the present system of unorganized marketing. High prices charged to farmers are caused in part by the extravagant methods of trade, since farmers pay a share of the wasteful methods of distribution.

Among the surprises that the department of fine arts will give the world when the Panama-Pacific international exposition opens in 1915 will be the presentation of paintings by Samuel Morse, inventor of the telegraph; Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat; Col. Baden-Powell, warrior, and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. Engravings by Paul Revere, the famous patriot, will be displayed.

**Local Church Announcements
for Sunday, August 2.**

Methodist church:
Sunday School at 10 a.m.
Preaching at Spaulding 11 a.m.
and at Moro at 8 p.m.
All are heartily invited.
John Robertson, pastor.

Presbyterian church:
Sabbath School at 10 a.m.
Morning service at 11 a. m.
A. J. Adams, pastor.

Farm Bargain

The Henry Frock ranch of 960 acres, located four and a half miles from Grass Valley; 500 acres under cultivation; 200 acres extra good summer fallow; good orchard; deep well, with abundance of water and pumping engine; very good improvements. This property is well worth \$16,000.00, but my price is \$13,000.00. Terms: \$3000.00 down; balance to suit purchaser. For particulars address C. A. BUCKLEY, jy17td Grass Valley, Oregon.

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The Grain Growers Conveniences

Are not alone confined to Rural Free Delivery of mail and the Telephone. There is another convenience which all farmers should have — and many do have — a checking account with a good bank. The possessor of such an account avoids the risk of having his money on his person or about his home where it is in danger of fire and thieves.

His bills paid by check are not only a valid receipt, but also a convenience in his home transactions where very often the necessary change for concluding settlement is not at hand. Don't stop to think this over, but start an account now with

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