

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

Moro, Oregon

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Official Newspaper for Sherman County

C. L. IRELAND, Managing Editor

FRIDAY.....October 19, 1923

The various reports of the government reclamation service show that crops grown under a system of irrigation average in value about twice as much as do the crops grown upon unirrigated lands. For example, in 1920 the average crops throughout the United States, including irrigated areas, was \$28.44 per acre; the average for irrigated lands alone was \$58.80 per acre, writes Edgar L. Hampton in Current History Magazine. A specific case of increased yield, for example in the Milk river project, Montana, an area of 24,323 acres, which under dry farming methods produced per year \$102,000, and as a result of irrigation produced \$780,000. Likewise, the Salt river project in Arizona (under the Roosevelt dam), produced last year \$96 per acre over 205,004 acres, a little more than four times the average for ten aggregate American crops. This aggregate crop, according to the 1920 census, was \$14,755,994,994, of which yield \$4,755,000,000 is credited to irrigation. The economic importance to the entire nation of this steady progress in western reclamation is also found in the various carefully compiled government lists covering the expenditures of the people, who reside in these various areas.

So long as Mount Everest's summit remains untrod, men will try to reach that altitude. That is man's way with things that defy. For years Everest's peak has dared humans to come on with threat of peril. And time after time they have stormed that height only to lose. But the scaling parties that have followed each other have pushed the mark farther and farther upward. Defeat has taught man the dangers to be guarded against, the mistakes to be avoided. And the more that he has learned of Everest's perils, the more able to deal with them he has become. Another party is being formed to storm the height next year. It may reach its goal or it may not. But be this as it may, it is only a question of time when man will plant his foot upon that mountain's crest.

Would you pound up and pulverize a ton of quartz, the rock so hard that it duffs a chisel, to get \$0.16? No? We agree. Money is not that hard to make. And yet the ore milled in the great gold mines of northern Ontario, Canada, during 1922, yielded only \$0.16 of gold for each ton of rock. Despite this, the average man yearns to join the boomers whenever he reads of a new gold stampede. Modern machinery can make a profit, under favorable conditions, from gold ore as saying only \$0.16 to the ton. But "modern machinery" means that it's a corporation game, not a one-man job as in the old days.

A distinguished British writer says most domestic trouble would be averted if wives learned cookery. A little more cookery by many wives and a little more workery by their husbands might help matters greatly and enable entire families to visit the movie once a week.

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Income Tax Will Not Reduce Taxes

In less than three weeks the electors of Oregon will have to decide whether they wish to impose another tax on themselves. The referendum election on the state income tax will be held November 6.

The proposed income tax is something new in Oregon and it will be a new tax, one in addition to other taxes now imposed. Under the provisions of the proposed law every single individual, man or woman, who is making more than \$1000 a year, will have to pay a percentage of this money into the state treasury. A married individual making more than \$2000 a year must likewise pay a percentage to the state.

Those who pay taxes now will have to pay more when the income tax law becomes operative. In addition to the tax paid on property they must also pay the state income tax.

The wage-earner and the salaried employe will be subject to the new tax. The minimum is so low that it will catch all but the most poorly paid workers. If a clerk or a stenographer makes a dollar more than \$1000 a year, and the clerk or stenographer is unmarried, the state income tax applies.

No more sweeping tax has ever been attempted on the residents of Oregon.

Bibles were first distributed in Japan by the American Bible Society in 1874. Since that date the Bible distribution among the Japanese has increased 874 per cent. From 1874 to 1922, the average distribution per year amounted to 46,849 Bibles. During the past decade the yearly average was 465,076, and during the last forty-nine years 10,922,179 copies of the Bible were scattered through the country. Voltaire prophesied the extinction of Christianity within a few decades. Within fewer decades than he had allowed, the house where he made his arrogant prediction was a center for Bible distribution. Truth will not down. Neither will it suffer defeat.

The men who pay for the tens of thousands of tons of propaganda carried by the mails are the most completely swindled people in this country. They don't even know that nobody reads the stuff, much less pay any attention to it.

It may become a delicate matter for a college to decide just where it must draw the line between an education which impresses basic principles and one which undertakes to give the student with a ready-made set of theoretical opinions.

We wonder how many of those eager young people who discourse regarding psychology, et cetera, have a vague idea of what they are talking about.

No doubt there is harmony between science and religion, but there are some religious men whose harmony with certain scientific men sounds like a discord.

Cuban murderer gets three terms in prison and two death sentences. It will make a good deal of difference to him which end of his punishments they start on.

Some persons stop working on Friday so they can get ready to loaf on Saturday.

County Tax Assessment Total Valuations Reduced

According to the summary of the assessment roll for Sherman county as compiled by Assessor Otto Peetz and published in this issue of the Observer a total reduction of \$68,380 for the year 1923 as compared with the assessment roll for the previous year, is shown. The total valuation of all property in the county for the year 1923 amounts to \$12,259,630, from which is deducted soldiers' exemptions allowed by statute amounting to \$4,540.

Increase of valuation are made on town and city lots; improvements on town and city lots and on lands not deeded; grain in warehouses; hotel, office and store fixtures; sheep and goats, and hogs. The number of

head of cattle has been increased, but the assessed valuation remains practically the same. Bees are assessed for the first time.

The assessment made by the state board of taxation against public service utilities—such as railroads, telegraph, telephone and express companies—was higher the past year than last. It will most likely be at a greater figure this year.

The work of Assessor Peetz in Sherman county must be satisfactory to the large majority of Sherman county tax payers. In all his many years as assessor there has never been an objection raised by a resident taxpayer, before the county board of equalization, to an assessment made by him. There has been a few objectors made by non-resident tax payers, but these have never been sustained by the board.

Following is the official summary:

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SHERMAN COUNTY, OREGON

For the year 1923, as finally equalized by the County Board of Equalization

Classification of Property	Number	Value	Unit Value
Acres of all lands	438,106	\$9,650,040	\$22.03
Acres of tillable lands	273,752	8,993,560	32.85
Acres of non-tillable land	164,354	656,480	3.99
Improvements on deeded land		394,390	
Towns and city lots		120,450	
Improvements on town and city lots		397,740	
Improvements on land not deeded		1,400	
Grain		301,160	
Manufacturing machinery, etc		17,580	
Merchandise and stock in trade		212,170	
Farming implements, wagons, carriages, etc.		388,830	
Notes, money and accounts		184,200	
Hotel, office, store fixtures, etc.		30,790	
Horses and mules	6,014	389,340	64.74
Cattle	3,165	59,440	31.42
Sheep and goats	10,745	57,840	5.38
Hogs	1,066	10,910	10.23
Chickens	160	80	.50
Dogs	304	3,220	10.60
Stands of bees	19	50	2.63
Gross valuation		\$12,259,630	
Soldiers' exemption		4,540	
Net taxable property		\$12,255,090	

NOTE: This does not include railroads and other public service corporations which are assessed by the state tax commission, assessed at \$3,061,612 for 1922.

OTTO PEETZ, County Assessor
Moro, Oregon

Items of Interest From Every where

The citizens of Beaverton voted \$45,000 water bonds for Bull Run water at the special election. The water will be piped from Portland, and a big reservoir built immediately on the hill one mile east of town.

The city of Astoria tax budget, as submitted to the county tax commission totals \$579,935 against \$253,340.46 provided in the 1923 budget. Its final adoption would raise the city tax from 25.09 mills to 34.64 mills.

Claude W. Barrick of Tillamook was elected grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Oregon at the grand lodge, in session in Portland. Jay Upton of Prineville, president of the state senate in the last session of the legislature, was elected grand vice chancellor.

A fight is to be waged against gollers in the Roseburg schools. A canvas of the schools of the county is in progress to determine the number of pupils affected by gollers. As a preliminary step, Dr. Hoock examined 22 Roseburg high school students and 15 of those examined had gollers.

Complete abolishment of the present parole system, as it affects the state penitentiary, and repeal of the law providing for indeterminate sentences probably will be requested by Governor Pierce when the legislature convenes in 1925, according to announcement made by friends of the executive.

Johnson S. Smith, who was removed by Governor Pierce as warden of the state penitentiary, was presented by prisoners and guards of the penitentiary with a silver service, and Mrs. Smith was presented a necklace, when Smith turned over the affairs of the prison to his successor, A. M. Dalrymple.

There are 93,762 registered voters in Multnomah county who will be entitled to vote at the special election next month, according to figures issued by County Clerk Beveridge. This number is much lower than that for the election last year, when there were approximately 112,000 registered voters.

The deer season in district No. 1, including all territory in Oregon west of the Cascades, will close October 30, the same as last year, due to the injunction issued recently in Marion county restraining the game commission from enforcing its recent ruling under which the season would have closed ten days later.

Registration of non-resident motor vehicles in Oregon during the period May 24 to September 29, 1922, aggregated 21,557, according to a report prepared by the secretary of state. More registrations were made at the Medford station than at any of the other registration booths maintained in the state. Portland registrants ranked second and Salem third.

W. F. Barta, director of the bureau of public service of the Interstate commerce commission, with headquarters in Washington, has telegraphed the Oregon public service commission that it will not be possible to restrict the use of refrigerator cars in this state to the transportation of the more perishable products. The request was

made by members of the public service commission because of the apparent shortage of refrigerator cars.

Deputy Sheriff Al Huggins of Baker was instantly killed and "Dad" Griffith died as a result of a shooting scrape at the Central hotel in Baker. Huggins and Chief of Police Waldo Vaughn, called to quiet Griffith, who was shooting around the hotel lobby, threatening to clean up the police force after the arrest of E. M. Griffith, son of "Dad," and his wife, who were jailed on a bootlegging charge. Griffith shot Huggins as he entered the lobby, and Vaughn then shot Griffith through the abdomen. Griffith raised himself ready to aim, and another shot from Vaughn's pistol took effect in the old man's forehead, but he lived three hours afterward.

Despite the fact that the Jordan valley irrigation district recently authorized the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$700,000 for development work, actual construction of the project will be delayed until Rhea Laper, state engineer, can make a thorough investigation. A decision to defer definite action pending further investigation of the project by the state engineer was reached after a lengthy discussion by members of the state irrigation and drainage securities commission, receipt of statistical information from prominent residents of the irrigation district, and explanations by the prospective contractors with relation to the character of the improvements and the cost of the various items entering into the development.

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FOR SALE OR RENT—The William Schläse residence property in Moro, Oregon. Inquire of Roy Kessinger, administrator, or W. C. Bryant, attorney.

HOUSE FOR SALE—Good residence property cheap. See A. C. Thompson, Moro.

FOR SALE—Three disc drills. One 18-7 Superior; one 20-7 Superior; one 20-7 Kentucky. Write or phone O. G. Sayre, Moro.

FOR SALE—Saddle horse, with or without saddle; gentle enough for children. F. D. Platt, Moro.

Wanted women for work at Libby, McNeill & L'bbey Fruit Cannery, The Dalles, Oregon. No experience necessary. Several months steady work. Can also use a few more men.

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The price of the Fordson Tractor has been increased \$25.00, making the present price \$420.00 F. O. B. Detroit.

You can take advantage of these new prices through the Ford Weekly Purchase Plan

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