

**SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER**

Moro, Oregon

Entered as second class matter at the post office at Moro, Oregon, July 25, 1931

Official Newspaper for Sherman County

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FRIDAY, February 22, 1934

Public health is purchasable, say health officers. By which they mean that if a community is willing to finance a sound public health program, disease may be materially reduced, public hygiene standards maintained at a high level and general health promoted to a high degree. Personal health is different. It is not so easily purchased. One may pay a doctor for a careful examination or a diagnosis of symptoms, or even a suggested remedy, but unless the patient follows the doctor's advice and unless he lives up to the laws of health, his money will bring him no return. Some money paid out by the community for public health work does help in the promotion and advance the health of individual citizens, for it makes expert information and advice more readily available to the individual. It frequently improves sanitary conditions to such a degree that individuals benefit. It provides nursing aid and clinical examination and other facilities for the individual's benefit. But in the last resort his own good sense and his own faithfulness to such health knowledge as he obtains are needed to prolong his years in health and efficiency.

Government statistics show that an increasing number of immigrants are finding their way to farms, instead of stopping in the centers of population. This is highly significant. It indicates that Europe is sending us more peasants and fewer proletarians, a type that is healthier in both body and mind and will develop a much better type of American citizen than we have been getting lately. And it will prove a good thing for American agriculture, for the European peasant is not the single-crop kind of farmer. He is not too proud to milk cows and feed chickens, and geese. He will turn his hand to any kind of work on the farm that will bring him money and he is in the habit of working all the year, instead of a few months. The man who is not afraid to bend his back digging potatoes or weeding onions is not likely to go hungry on the farm. Farming is a profitable job for the worker, not a bonanza for the capitalist, even in the deep, rich soil of America. The "bonanza farms" of the Northwest were but the exception that proves the rule. Their owners, habituated to bonanza farming, now are yalling their heads off for government help.

It is human nature for each man to think that he has more trouble in his calling, and that he receives less in the way of salary or wages than the man of any other calling. But nearly all men will agree that the preacher is about the poorest paid of all the professions, vocations and callings. In consideration of the important position which he holds. Many ministers receive smaller salaries for their services than the wages of common laborers in their congregation. And those same ministers are doing a work more important than any member of their congregation.

**McKee, Peetz and Dunlap Consent to Remain on Job**

The people of Sherman county have spoken in such positive manner at meetings held in the county at various places last 10 days that County Judge McKee and County Commissioners L. L. Peetz and A. A. Dunlap have consented to become candidates for re-election to the county offices which they now hold and which they have filled with so much genuine satisfaction to the people of the county at large.

Judge McKee and Commissioner Peetz for more than a year past have stated that they would under no consideration again be officers for the county when their present terms expired. Commissioner Dunlap is a new member of the county court, appointed to succeed J. M. Wilson, but he also had stated in no uncertain terms that he would only serve until his successor could be elected.

The meetings held this past week were called without the consent or knowledge of the three men concerned. They were called by a few men who had the interests of the entire county at heart and who considering that the people of the county did not realize what would be the result if these three men were permitted to discontinue their public office. With this in mind and considering that Mr. McKee could not be persuaded to again make the sacrifice he has in the past been willing to do as county judge to continue in office, petitions were circulated asking L. L. Peetz to accept the nomination for county judge. Within 36 hours more than 400 names had been secured and last Friday evening delegations from eight out of the eleven precincts in the county met at Moro to formally ask him to become their candidate for county judge. Probably the hardest thing L. L. Peetz ever did was to refuse to accept this honor, but he did say that he would continue to act as county commissioner if Judge McKee could be prevailed upon to again act as county judge for Sherman county.

To further this, a meeting was held on Tuesday evening of this week at Wasco at which time Judge McKee stated that if he could be convinced that the people of Sherman county wanted him again as county judge he would consent to serve them. To secure this endorsement was comparatively an easy matter. Within about six hours notice delegations met on Wednesday evening in the I. O. O. F. hall at Grass Valley and the enthusiasm was, if any thing, stronger for the present court to continue than was the sentiment that the proposed candidacy of L. L. Peetz for judge.

Delegations were present from Wasco, Moro, Kent, Monkland, Rutledge, and Michigan precincts, in all more than one hundred representative citizens of the county. When the matter was presented and a vote taken on the question, not one dissenting voice was raised. Every one present had the one thought that at this time Sherman county could not afford to lose the services of these men.

This result is not a matter of chance or whim. It is a clear cut endorsement from all over the county of the present road program of the county court and a definite and decided wish of every one that this road program be continued as mapped out just so long as the state market road law is on the statute books. No one

**Farm Bureau County Convention**

The annual meeting of the Sherman County Farm Bureau will be held in the county court room in Moro on Monday, February 26th. A representative of the state farm bureau will be present with a message about important work which is being done by the state and national organizations.

- (a) Farm relief through the McNary-Haugen bill.
- (b) Shall we ship in fuel oils to combat present high prices?
- (c) A country wide picnic for late spring or early summer.
- (d) Do we want a county agent or are we better off without one?
- (e) Present and future activities to be considered.
- (f) Election of officers for the ensuing year.

**Vice Gang Leader Admits Guilt**

Edward Cummings, arrested last week by Sheriff Hugh Chrisman, pleaded guilty in the Multnomah court of domestic relations. At the time of his arrest Sheriff Chrisman had nothing more than his experience as sheriff to guide him in arresting Cummings. After the arrest he got in touch with the sheriff's office at Portland and surprised them with his news as they had thought the man had left the state.

Cummings was considered the leader of the vice ring in the wild doings they carried on in the Arleta and Lents district in Portland which embraced school girls of minor age. The entire gang of eight men and boys have been rounded up with subsequent sentences of varying length to exercise on the county rockpile.

In Sherman county wants to pay taxes into the state treasury to raise funds with which to build roads in other counties of the state and that is what will happen if Sherman county fails or neglects or refuses to take full advantage of the state market road law.

It was brought out at these meetings that many tax payers did not have complete knowledge of the workings of the law. Many did not know that Sherman county would continue to pay taxes if we did not build roads in our county, that we would contribute to build them in other counties. Many did not know that the standard of roads built, their location, and their grades were entirely out of the hands of the county court and in control of the state highway commission and the market roads department of the state highway commission.

**County School Heads Plan Varied Program for Pupils**

Contributed by A. M. Zevely, deputy superintendent. Assistant State Superintendent W. M. Smith is checking up on the high schools of the county this week, having been asked to come to the county to pass on the standardization of the Rufus and Moody schools. Mr. Smith is also visiting the other high schools with a view to ascertaining if these schools are maintaining the required standards.

J. E. Calavan is another representative of the state school department who will visit the county the last week in February. The purpose of this visit is to promote industrial work in the schools. Mr. Calavan will make a review of the work already done and will assist in the organization of the work for the spring and summer. In addition to this he will speak at the local institute at Wasco on March 1st, at which time he will give a special talk on boys projects.

The local fair committee and the county fair committee, appointed at the club convention last November will also meet at Wasco March 1st, to perfect plans relative to bringing about the best possible results through our fairs. On this same date, R. C. Byers of Moro will speak to the teachers of Sherman county on "The Parents Duty to the School." Judge McKee will speak on "The School Situation as I See It" and Roy J. Baker of Grass Valley will discuss "The Farmer and The Bank."

J. O. Russell, principal of the Wasco schools, who has charge of the high school department, has secured L. B. Gibson, superintendent of schools in Hood River county. Mr. Gibson's topics are: "Poetry in the School" and "The High School Boy."

The subjects to be discussed by the teachers in the grade department are; arithmetic drill, language in the upper grades, silent reading drill, citizenship and results of standard tests, as these are the subjects receiving special emphasis this year.

This institute has been planned to interest both teacher and parent. Luncheon is to be served by the Wasco teachers.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Sherman county athletic association was held in the county school superintendent's office last Saturday. Plans were perfected for the local tryouts and annual declamatory contest and field meet. Homer Sibley of Kent, Wiley Knighten of Grass Valley, J. O. Russell of Wasco and L. E. Webb of Moro represented their respective schools. It was determined, on petition, to organize Rufus into a separate contesting division. This will make L. W. Rakes of the Rufus school a member of the executive committee. Mr. Rakes will represent Rufus, Moody, Brock and Biggs.

The boys of the Biggs school are becoming interested in manual training. At present they are making bird houses and some very creditable work is being done.

According to Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn of the American Natural History museum, it is questionable if there has been much change in the human mind since the Stone age. Men had brains of good size at that period, and in his opinion the gain since then has been in knowledge rather than in intelligence. That is a rather fine distinction, but no doubt it is a real one, says the Indianapolis Star. Just the same, for most practical and immediate purposes, the ignorant man might as well be a stupid one. He is as much of a danger to himself and others, and his only chief superiority is the capacity to learn if opportunity and occasion serve. Possibly enough, the Stone age man, like savages now, was a shrewder and more capable fellow—more capable in the ability to do many things for himself and his family—than are the many moderns for whom civilization finds use though their health and minds are poor. To live in the wilds requires a close approach to physical perfection and not a little of mental power. The weaker strains and the incompetents are rapidly eliminated there in the stern struggle for a living. Society is kinder now, but that it is essentially wiser does not seem so sure.



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The psychologist who declares people prefer to talk of pleasant things evidently lives in a town without neck fences.

If, as a scientist has recently reiterated, the human race ultimately disappears from the face of the earth, the world will probably enjoy unwonted peace and quiet.

The city of Danzig will issue a new currency of its own. It has hitherto been using German marks; so the new kind will be an improvement, no matter what it is.

The biggest inconsequential thing yet recorded in criminal history was, no doubt, the recent theft of one hundred billion marks by a German robber.

Shortly, we may expect the usual announcement of mystical prodigies who will flourish for a time, and then for the most part return to their own places.



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