

# SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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Editor and Publisher

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## Applied Experience is Topic For Class Sermon

Rev. W. L. VanNuy of Portland, preached the baccalaureate sermon last Sunday evening in the Presbyterian church by invitation of the graduating class of 1925 of Moro high school. The theme of the sermon was that every person started in life equal to each other; that it was through experience that we progressed as the years passed; that this experience could be secured by personal observation and direct personal experience or be secured indirectly through the accumulated experience of others as recorded in books and history of the world in which we live.

The sum total of the sermon was that school and college and university were maintained for the purpose of imparting this accumulated experience to others by educating the use of this knowledge in place of learning a demonstrated fact thru personal and sometimes painful experience.

A \$2,000 gift, the income of which will be used each year as prizes in campus public speaking contests, has been made to the University of Oregon by a Eugene donor, whose name is being withheld by request. The income from the fund will be used to foster speaking contests in connection with class work in public speaking. At present only one such contest is held annually, the extempore contest among students in the extempore speaking classes. The gift will increase interest in this work, according to members of the public speaking department faculty. In addition to the \$2,000, \$100 has been made available this year for contests in argumentation and pre-legal English classes.

Mrs. Ludwig Oetting and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gooley were motor visitors in Moro on Monday from their homes at Portland. The party made the trip from the Rose City in four hours. Mrs. Gooley will be remembered by many as Miss Clara Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Thompson who at one time lived just on the southwest edge of Moro. Mrs. Oetting will be better remembered as Miss Gertrude Harwood who, with her sister Lillian, taught in the Moro school several years ago. The party made the trip just to see Moro again but when they drove into town saw such a complete change in every thing with which they were at one time familiar they felt entirely lost. The party returned to Portland that same afternoon.

## Price Fixing Committee Explains War-time Acts

A report by Dr. Frank M. Surface, an economist of the United States grain administration, made public today reveals for the first time a chapter of war history which is of special interest to the American farmer.

Because of the persistent misrepresentation that the price of wheat, determined by the committee appointed by President Wilson, was not in the best interest of the farmer members of that committee had requested that a full report should be issued on the subject.

A new item in war history is revealed by the fact that without the action of the American officials, the farmer would have received only about \$1.50 per bushel for his 1917 crop of wheat instead of the \$2.20 determined by this committee as a fair price. It is now shown that this action was taken solely to protect the American farmers and resulted in a gain of millions of dollars to them.

### Farmers in United States Gain by Price Set

The report states that, in the spring of 1917, the allies, by bidding against each other, had forced the price of wheat from \$1.50 to over \$3.00 per bushel. In order to abolish this competition between themselves the allied governments, before we came into the war, had consolidated their purchasing of world wheat into one buying agency. Through the control of world shipping and the blockade against the enemy, this agency was the sole buyer of export wheat.

### Allied Nations Pool Their Wheat Buying in United States

The domestic price of wheat to the American farmer was fixed by the price which could be realized for the export surplus. As export buying was all in one hand, the operation of the law of supply and demand had been abolished and the price of wheat to the American farmer, therefore, would be determined by the price which this buying agency determined to pay. Price fixing for American wheat was thus already under way in foreign hands. Congress had provided a minimum price of only \$2.00 per bushel for the 1918 crop, and it had made no provision for the 1917 crop then being harvested.

The allied governments had fixed prices of wheat in their own countries at about \$1.80 per bushel, and in order to lay down American wheat to their people at this price, they considered that they should pay the American farmer about \$1.50 per bushel at Chicago for the 1917 crop. In the support of this contention, their agents felt that any higher price to the American farmer would require an increase in the price of bread in the allied countries; that the American farmer had realized only about \$1.30 per bushel for his previous year's wheat, despite the \$3.00 corner on the Chicago market which occurred after nearly 95% of the wheat had left the farms. They also

## ALONG LIFE'S TRAIL

By THOMAS A. CLARK  
Dean of Men, University of Illinois  
(© 1924, Western Newspaper Union.)  
BUTTONS AND BADGES

MY FRIEND Gordon was wearing a parti-colored button in his lapel the meaning of which was unintelligible to me.

"Just joined the 'Boosters' club," he explained. These badges of accomplishment are as numerous as flies around a can of maple syrup; they decorate all sorts and conditions of men; they reveal the most personal and intimate relations of life. We conceal nothing in these days of what we have done, or of the organizations to which we belong, or of the activities in which we are engaged.

The conductor who received my fare as I rode home on the electric cars was wearing on the lapel of his coat a huge gold-plated atrocity announcing that he had secured membership in some secret industrial or fraternal order with whose insignia I was unfamiliar. The professor who occupied the seat with me announced by the button on the lapel of his coat that he had been in the Civil war and by the keys dangling from his watch chain that he had accomplished so little in a scientific way and that while in college he had maintained a scholastic average of 90 or above.

The traveling man facing me told his business by the organization badge on his coat, and the number of degrees he had taken in Masonry by his watch fob, his signet ring giving away another series of facts concerning his fraternal affiliations. It was as easy to pick out the college boys and girls as to tell a policeman by the star that he wears.

We take no stock these days in not letting our left hand know what our right hand is up to. Instead, we shout it out until every individual in the neighborhood knows fully our comings and goings, and where our money has gone. If we give a quarter to charity, we announce the fact with a button; if we join anything we publish our membership through the medium of a pin or a watch charm.

I have wondered sometimes if the widow spoken of in sacred writ who dropped her farthing into the contribution box at the temple asked for a button when she was leaving the building, or if the Good Samaritan ultimately dangled a Carnegie medal on his shirt front or from his watch chain. It is quite possible if it was the style in those days.

pointed out that they could purchase abundant supplies of wheat in Argentina and Australia at \$1.50 per bushel or less, and that the only reason they were prevented from availing themselves of such cheaper supplies from these more distant markets was because of the demand of the American government for the use of their shipping for transporting our troops and supplies.

### Hoover Forces Action That Protects U. S. Farmers

In the face of this situation, it was clear that unless action should be taken, the American farmer would receive \$1.50 per bushel for his wheat, and the price was already falling rapidly toward that level. To prevent this, Mr. Hoover took the matter up with President Wilson. "In order to do justice to the producers who have shown great patriotism in special effort to increase production," Mr. Hoover wrote the President in July, 1917, "it is absolutely vital that we shall protect the farmer from a slump in price this year due to glut or from one buyer."

Acting on this recommendation, President Wilson appointed an independent committee which comprised 6 farm representatives, 2 consumers representatives, 3 economists and business men. This committee determined on \$2.20 at Chicago as a fair price and Dr. Surface in his report, states that it is obvious, that had it not been for this decision by the committee, the American farmer would have received far less for his wheat than was the case. The report shows that Mr. Hoover, then food administrator, took no part in the committee's determinations, thus disposing of the myth that Mr. Hoover fixed the price.

With the advantage of the perspective which can now be gained, Dr. Surface has examined exhaustively the justice of the committee's award, showing statistically that the price realized for wheat during the period of government marketing was higher than the relative prices of other farm produce where there was a free market, and also that the minimum price of wheat was fixed by this committee at a higher relative level than the prices fixed by the government for steel, copper, and Government borrows millions with which it stabilizes prices.

other commodities. It appears from the report that the maintenance of the minimum price was accompanied by a great many hitherto undisclosed difficulties. At one time the food administration grain corporation was compelled to invest nearly six hundred millions of dollars to maintain the price. Nearly four hundred of this had to be borrowed from banks and elsewhere. It also appears that the price of wheat was maintained by the government for a year after the armistice in order to enable the farmer to liquidate his war production. Dr. Surface also observes that the war action of the government obviously had no re-

## The Senior Class Play An Unqualified Success

The class play put on at the Moro opera house Monday by the senior class of Moro high school has been placed by those who delight in attending entertainments other than the silent motion picture presentations as one of the best, if not the best, that has been presented at Moro by any aggregation of players, professional or otherwise.

We are told that Miss Helen Idleman is responsible for the easy action of the play from start to finish, but this she disclaims by saying that altho she had charge of the work done at rehearsals the credit lies with those who participated in its actual presentation and the previous stage experience they had attained through similar work in the past.

Let that be as it may. The action of the comedy from start to finish shows exceptional team work by both Miss Idleman, teacher in Moro high school, and the class members who succeeded so well in their efforts to entertain the public and uphold the best traditions of Moro school.

Comparison of any one member of the cast or praise other than as previously stated would be invidious and detract from the splendid work of the class as a whole. We can only say that each one was a credit to all and each character depicted by the players was best suited to the one taking that part.

## Sherman County Fields Soaked by Big Rain

Up to and including Thursday noon, the government gauge at the experiment farm registered 2.1 inches of rain fall since the last general precipitation began descending upon the wheat fields of Sherman county last Saturday. Of this amount .86 of an inch was recorded up to and including Tuesday afternoon, the balance of more than 1.44 of an inch coming in a genuine deluge on Wednesday morning following a rain of usual size during Tuesday night, and a final rain storm on Wednesday.

As a result of the rain storm farmers are well satisfied with future prospects of a wheat crop to be harvested from the fields of Sherman county this season. The wheat sown this spring upon the areas frozen out last winter are showing every indication of an early harvest. In fact nearly every farmer now reports that wheat sown this spring is beginning to head out and this condition seems to prevail in both the early sowing and what may be termed the late sown grain.

Before the rain of this week the farmers were of a mind to complain the growing season was tending to bring heading of the grain in too much of an advance stage of growth and before the stalks had grown to any appreciable height. This condition has been changed by the rain fall of the current week and farmers now join in saying that short grain stalks will be forced into growth by the added moisture and that these will also make heads that will carry a larger proportion of wheat to the acre than was considered possible before the storm visited Sherman county.

### Committee Claims Minimum Set Price to be Fair

Dr. Surface also clears up the misrepresentation that the price determined by the committee was a fixed or maximum price. He states that the result of the committee's decision was not only protection for the 1917 harvest but in reality was a revision upward of the congressional minimum from \$2.00 to \$2.20 for 1918 wheat. In a foreword to this report, Mr. Hoover notes that the economic fact must not be neglected that any minimum price automatically tends to become the actual price during the period of surplus marketing in the fall, and that the subsequent reselling of the accumulated surplus at the same price automatically makes it the actual price during the period of distribution, but that nevertheless, the price, after these periods of support, rose above the minimum each year without restraint, except in the spring of 1918 when, after the farmer had disposed of his crop, measures were introduced to prevent profiteering in flour and bread.

Dr. Surface shows that by the elimination of war speculation the retail price of flour was reduced to the consumer from \$18 to \$13 a barrel while at the same time the farmer received much more for his wheat than in the speculative period.

On account of the forced postponement of the Sherman county field and track meet, because of the heavy rainstorm on Wednesday, the scheduled day of the track meet, the meet will be held at Moro on this Saturday, May 23rd. The declamatory contest will be held in the opera house at Moro also on Saturday evening, at which time diplomas will be awarded to graduates of the 8th grade who have successfully passed their final examinations.

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## Hilton Jury Disagrees Grand Jury Indicts 4

Circuit court was opened in Moro by Judge D. R. Parker on Monday morning. After the usual number of motions were disposed of by the court the trial of the State vs. A. H. Hilton was placed on trial on an indictment returned by the grand jury charging statutory rape, with the following jury: Chas. W. Kenny, Dayton Henrichs, Jesse Martin, Ray Ragsdale, Joe Peters, Walter Medler, Jack Morrissey, Alex Macnab, Malcolm Neal, J. J. Miller, T. M. Rolf and W. A. Morris. Trial of the case occupied the larger part of two days, being given to the jury at eight o'clock Wednesday evening. The jury was out all night and at 11:20 Thursday morning were dismissed by the court when the jury had convinced the court that there was no possibility of reaching an agreement.

We understand that at first the jury stood six to six. Later this was changed to seven for acquittal and five for conviction. Hilton was remanded to the custody of the sheriff with bail at \$2500, the same as before his trial. The date for the second trial of Hilton has been set for June 22nd.

Thursday morning a case in equity, Jack Gibson vs. Shelton Burres, occupied the attention of the court. Gibson is foreclosing a mortgage against Burres, who is claiming that the debt is partly or wholly paid by a counter claim against Gibson for pasture. After presentation of evidence by witnesses, the case was continued under advisement and the attorneys to submit briefs.

The case of the State vs. Clarence L. Gibson, indictment for horse stealing, was to come to trial at this term of court, but Gibson has failed to appear. He is at liberty on \$500 bonds, a surety bond of \$250 and cash bond of \$250, which most likely will be declared forfeited.

Before adjournment, Gibson notified the court that he would appear on Friday. Bail was continued and Gibson notified to appear for trial on June 22nd.

The grand jury returned four indictments. One against A. H. Hilton, which has been tried with the resultant disagreement of the jury; an indictment for attempted burglary, and two indictments for forgery. The last two concern two different persons.

Judge Parker on Thursday adjourned court to meet on June 22.

Appeal from the ballot title prepared by the attorney-general for the referendum measure attacking the so called tobacco tax law enacted at the last session of the legislature was filed in the circuit court in Salem by C. C. Chapman, editor of the Oregon Voter, and W. S. U'Ren, both of Portland.

**OBSERVER WANT ADS**  
Rates: Under 15 words, 35c  
15 to 30 words, 50c  
Over 30 wds., 1 1/2c per wd.

**BROWN LEATHER** hand bag, medium size, last Friday, May 15th on 2nd street in The Dalles or between there and Moro. Reward if returned to W. C. Bryant's office, Moro.

**FOR SALE**—One McCormick combined harvester in good repair; also a few cows, fresh milk cows. H. B. Belshie, Moro.

**REWARD** for information or return of pair tire chains, taken from my car several weeks past. Rev. Feenstra, Moro.

**HEMSTITCHING**—Mail orders filled promptly. Mrs. H. A. Woodruff, 704 East 3rd st., The Dalles.

**IOWA CREAM** Separator in good condition for sale cheap. Phil Starr, Moro.

**WE PAY** parcel post one way on all shoe repairing. Good quality work and leather. Joe Amore, The Dalles, opposite the post office.

### Sherman County Field and Track Meet and the Declamatory Contest Because of Rain was changed to be held on Saturday, May 23, 1925 at the County Fair Grounds and at Moro Opera House



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