

Oregon State News

Taxpayers of Sherman county will contribute a total of \$41,016.76 to ward the support of the state and its various activities in 1931, according to the levy promulgated by the state tax commission this week.

The total state levy for 1931 amounts to \$6,842,949.09 which is approximately \$40,000 under the 1930 levy. Of this amount \$2,250,321.18 is accounted for by the elementary school tax raised by a special two mill levy which is collected and retained by the counties.

The report of the tax commission on which the state levy is based shows that the estimated needs of the numerous state institutions, exclusive of those covered by special millages and containing appropriations outside the six per cent limit, totals \$5,810,144.99. Added to this there is a net deficit of \$2,319,212.21 carried over from the biennium just closing making a grand total of \$8,129,357.20 in outstanding obligations and estimated expenditures to be financed from fees and taxes within the six per cent limit.

More than \$25,000,000 in interest has been paid out to holders of Oregon state bonds since the state first launched out on its bonding orgy in 1917, according to the records in the office of State Treasurer Kay. Interest on highway bonds alone in the past 13 years has totalled \$16,478,435 while another \$8,570,445 has been paid out to holders of soldiers' bonus bonds.

When Governor Norblad promised that his administration would not include in any "pardon orgy" he evidently meant just that. Records show that only 13 men have left the prison so far this month and of these ten went out on paroles.

Chief Justice O. P. Coshow who retires from the state supreme bench January 5 will move to Portland where in addition to engaging in the practice of law he will serve as president of the United States Holding company.

Sherman county's share of the quarterly apportionment of automobile registration receipts as announced by Secretary of State Hess amounts to \$143.16. The amount represents one third of the \$597.15 paid in by motorists of the county for automobile licenses during the quarter ending December 15, less \$167.67 deducted for administrative expenses.

The total apportionment among the counties of the state amounted to \$75,465.68 with \$150,931.37 going to the credit of the state highway department. Multnomah county received \$26,109.42 or more than one third of the entire amount apportioned among the counties, the apportionment being based on the amount contributed to the total receipts by each county.

With seven lives already lost in fires in this state during the present month, December gives a new high record in human toll to the fire fiend, according to Clare A. Lee, state fire marshal. Six of the seven who lost their lives during the month were children.

Release of \$1,320,000 in federal funds for use on forest and post roads in Oregon will serve to stimulate highway improvement in Oregon during the next few months, according to Roy A. Klein, state highway engineer. This huge fund, highway officials have been advised, will be available on work done prior to September 1, next.

Business Review of the Past Year

Robert P. Lamont, United States Secretary of Commerce, in Response to Requests for a Statement of Conditions and Prospects for the Coming Year, Issued the Following Statement

(Direct Special to the Sherman County Observer)

Prior to the close of 1929 a world-wide decline in raw material prices and a collapse of security values ushered in a period of general business unsettlement. In the latter months of the year production was curtailed, building fell off, and industrial employment was reduced. But many evidences of business improvement appeared in the early months of 1930. Building construction increased and there was an upturn in the production of automobiles, steel and other basic products.

Toward the middle of the year, however, it became clear that production in certain raw material areas had been setting too rapid a pace and that economic disturbances in several quarters of the world would enforce further declines and lessen still more the purchasing power of important world markets. At home the early evidences of stability gradually began to disappear beneath the currents of world-wide depression, while a period of severe drought gave still greater momentum to those cumulative forces which were bringing heavy losses of purchasing power to a substantial portion of our people.

As the rate of decline in raw material prices became more highly accelerated industry confined its purchases more and more to current needs. The universal drop in industrial production was followed by increasing unemployment and a decline in consumers' demand in both foreign and domestic markets. Toward the end of the year these cumulative forces were rapidly running their course and the apparent retardation in the rate of downward movement in several basic indexes of business supports the belief that the elements of recession have now spent most of their force.

The effect produced by the world-wide depression can be seen in the year's indexes of business. The Federal Reserve Board's index of industrial production, which comprises all the basic mineral products and all important groups of manufacturing goods and which, therefore, is the most comprehensive single measure of industrial activity, fell approximately 20 per cent below the level of the preceding peak year. Compared with the highly prosperous year of 1928, however, the decline in production is slightly less than 13 per cent.

Exports of manufactured goods as well as total exports declined in value approximately 25 per cent, reflecting lower prices and the marked shrinkage in purchasing power abroad which followed upon the rapidly weakening price levels and the universal contraction in industry. Also significant in this connection is the fact that our capital exports during the second half of this year have shrunk to negligible proportions.

On the basis of quantity our exports for the current year have declined about 20 per cent from last year's high levels. Imports, which fell off approximately 30 per cent in value from 1929, showed a drop in quantity of only 15 per cent. Thus our purchases and consumption of foreign goods have fallen but little below the levels of previous normal years. This great disparity between the value and quantity of our imports reflects the drastic price declines in raw materials, semi-manufactured products and food stuffs, which constitute approximately two-thirds of our total import volume.

While the forces of contraction were running their course the severity of the movement was happily tempered by certain ameliorative factors. Last year, immediately after the stock market crash, the President called a conference of business and labor leaders with a view to effecting the greatest possible degree of cooperation during the period of readjustment. The successful outcome of this and of later conferences is reflected in the almost total absence of industrial disputes during the present year and in the maintenance of existing wage levels.

Disturbances such as characterized previous periods of depression have not arisen this year, although the contraction of purchasing power and declining price levels have resulted in the curtailment of industrial operations and the consequent discharge of many workers. For the year as a whole factory employment was about 15 per cent below the high levels of the preceding year, but the decline in the number employed during the current year has been relatively far less than in similar preceding periods of depression. Employers have evidenced a conscious determination, so far as possible, to maintain their working forces by distributing available work through part time.

Building operations generally have been sharply curtailed along with the contraction of industrial activity, but the effect of this shrinkage in building has been tempered by a more than ordinary volume of construction on the part of public utilities and Federal, State, and local governments. In accordance with the plans brought to fruition by the White House conferences, railroads and utilities set out on an expansion program which called for the expenditure of nearly three and a half billion dollars. At the same time public works and highway construction undertaken during the year aggregated a similar additional amount. The increase in such projects, it is estimated, has provided employment for about 200,000 additional workers who would otherwise be unemployed.

Total new capital issues during 1930 declined approximately 25 per cent as compared with the previous year. Foreign issues were confined almost entirely to the first half of the year and their later decline has closely reflected rapid price recessions and attendant economic disturbances abroad. Furthermore, the year's decline in construction, amounting to approximately 20 per cent, was an important factor in the lower level of capital issues. The initiation of an extensive public works program during the last few months has led to a marked increase in state and municipal issues during the closing months of the year.

In the financial markets the past year has been featured by a substantial decline in security prices from the relatively high levels to which they recovered last spring. Brokers' loans have been liquidated since the beginning of the year by approximately 40 per cent. The Federal Reserve member banks have diminished their indebtedness to the Reserve Banks by almost 80 per cent, as compared with 1929. Although the effect of falling security price levels and unliquid portfolios have led to bank suspensions in certain localities, the banks of the country generally are in a strong position.

Considerable encouragement is afforded by the fact that consumer buying has held up to relatively stable levels. Sales of department and other retail stores for the year have fallen only 7 to 10 per cent below the large volume of 1929. About half of this decline in dollar volume is attributable to the lower price levels for retail goods, so that the quantity of goods purchased by consumers has probably been only 4 or 5 per cent less than the preceding prosperous year. Wholesale commodity prices, particularly prices of raw materials and agricultural products, have declined sharply during the past year and for the year as a whole averaged about 10 per cent under the 1929 level. Accompanying this decline the cost of living index has also fallen so that it is now about 6 per cent below the level of a year ago. Earlier periods of depression, such as those of 1893 and 1921, were characterized in their later phases by the reaccumulation of savings which had been expended in the preceding boom period and by the wearing out of previously purchased goods, which caused a general buying movement on the part of the consuming public. That we are now approaching such a period is indicated by several significant facts.

On the one hand savings deposits have been progressively accumulating while business written by life insurance companies has been maintaining a fairly even pace and has reached a total for the year almost equal to the high level of 1929 and above the total for 1928. At the same time stocks of department stores have been sharply reduced and there are some evidences of recent expansion of retail buying. While it is impossible to forecast at what time unmistakable evidences of improvement in business will occur, it is clear that we have reached a point where cessation of further declines and beginning of recovery may reasonably be expected.

In a review of business activity in 1929 which was issued a year ago, attention was called to the high level of industrial output for the year as a whole and to the fact that during the closing months activity in some lines of business was in recession. "It is impossible, of course," the statement concluded, "to forecast what temporary ups and downs may occur, but the future of the economic development of the United States is such that one may confidently predict for the long run a continuance of prosperity and progress." Despite the sharp curtailment of economic activity during the past year no evidences have appeared which would justify a revision of this statement. There can be no doubt that the inherent strength of our economic structure will enable our country to lead the world in a vigorous recovery from the present depression as we have done in the past.

The reader of advertisements knows that he has the most reliable guide to markets that exists in the world today.

On Oregon Farms

From College News Service, O.S.A.C.

Dallas—Interest in irrigation is increasing rapidly, with 2000 acres already under water or being prepared for it, reports J. R. Beck, county agent. Most of this will be devoted to pasture crops for dairy cows in the interest of more economical production.

Tillamook—More than 300 acres of Bortfield turnips, a new variety recently introduced into the coast section by the John Jacob Astor experiment station at Astoria, were planted in Tillamook county last year. Yield checkings made by County Agent W. D. Pine on six plantings showed that the average yield for bench land was 26.4 tons per acre, and for bottom land 40.9 tons.

Corvallis—Experiments to settle the old question of how much time should elapse after a chick is hatched before it is fed are being carried on by the Oregon Experiment station. While the investigation is not yet complete, indications so far are that chicks may be fed with good results at 24, 48 or 72 hours from time of hatching. The general practice among poultrymen has been to wait 72 hours.

St. Helens—Austrian winter field peas, of which a considerable acreage is now being grown in Columbia county, have been tried out by the Oregon Experiment station and by various farmers and found satisfactory as silage, according to George Nelson, county agent. This crop is being used to replace vetch and oats to a limited extent, as the yield is from 10 to 20 per cent higher.

The Telephone Business, A State Basic Industry

Has Large Annual Oregon Pay Roll Disburses Large Sums for Wages and Taxes

The telephone business is one of Oregon's basic industries. It is also one of Oregon's largest employers. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company, directly serving 98,430 telephones in Portland and 151,725 in this state, and connecting with 40,563 Oregon telephones of other companies, has 2,287 Oregon employees, 1,580 of whom are Portland people, one person for each 67 telephones directly served. The annual pay roll for Oregon in 1930 is \$3,818,281. Annual taxes paid in Oregon exceed \$900,000. The investment in plant, equipment and working assets to furnish service to the people of Oregon exceeds \$36,000,000. The above facts are contained in a statement issued by E. D. Wise, vice-president and general manager of the Oregon Area.

The telephone business in Oregon started at Portland in 1878—only three years after the telephone was invented—with an exchange of 12 subscribers. That exchange has grown to one of almost 100,000 telephones today. One of the company's valued employees, J. H. Thatcher, retired only a year ago; he was in the telephone business in Oregon at its beginning. Patrick Bacon, Portland district manager, began as a boy operator more than 40 years ago. Many of the people of the company have records of 20, 25 and 30 years of uninterrupted service, all of it in Oregon. These people have long played their part, as citizens, in the upbuilding of their city and state.

It is the constant aim of the company to provide adequate, dependable and satisfactory service efficiently and economically operated, declared Mr. Wise. These objectives have their basis in the company's responsibility to the public served, the owners of the securities of the business, and the men and women employees who are devoting their lives as public servants. Upon these obligations rests the company's policy to furnish the most telephone service and the best at the least cost to the public consistent with financial safety.

That this service may continue to grow in usefulness it is essential that the telephone business have the confidence of everyone served, and to that end it shall continue to be the aim of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company to keep its customers fully informed about its policies and progress.

Feeding Reduces Surplus

A total of 236,000,000 bushels of wheat will be fed to livestock this crop year, compared to 90,000,000 last year, if the intention of farmers, feed manufacturers and commercial poultrymen are carried out according to reports to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is the first survey to include wheat fed by non-growers and used in the preparation and manufacture of feeds, in addition to that fed on farms where grown. It is based on the answers obtained from 190,000 questionnaires sent to farmers and 63,000 sent to mills and elevators, commercial poultrymen and other users of wheat. Should farmers carry out their present intentions in feeding wheat, the carry over at the end of the present season is likely to be lower than on July 1, 1930.

Reading of advertising is worth while.

Oregon Cans Most Berries

Study Reveals Salient Facts About Various Branches of Berry Industry

Oregon now leads the nation in output of canned berries, with Washington close second, and the two states together are responsible for 74 per cent of the berries canned in the United States today, according to George Sulerud and Dr. Milton N. Nelson of the agricultural economics department of the Oregon Experiment station, who have just completed a comprehensive study of the small fruit industry of Oregon.

The superior quality of the berries grown in Oregon and Washington, together with the fact that much of the berry output of other districts is consumed in the large population centers as fresh fruit were the factors advanced to account for the leading position of these two states in the canned berry industry. A definite and continued shift in the canned berry production from other states to the Pacific northwest has been noted although nothing was found to indicate that the industry will move elsewhere in the near future.

Oregon and Washington also pack 85 per cent of the nation's frozen strawberries, and an even higher percentage of the other frozen berries, the study shows. A continued growth of the cold pack berry industry is confidently predicted in the report.

Important Meeting Called

A state wide meeting of all people interested in agricultural standardization has been called for January 10, in Portland. Sessions will start at 10 a. m. in the Multnomah Hotel. Producing and marketing groups from all parts of the state will be well represented. Laws of adjoining states governing the handling and marketing of farm products have been digested for use at the meeting. The value of standardization laws and other modern arrangements will be presented and discussed. The State Chamber of Commerce aims to make this a most important gathering for the betterment of agricultural conditions in Oregon.

Piano keys can be kept clean and white by rubbing on a little alcohol with a cloth.

Read the Observer for county news.

WANT ADS

RELIABLE MAN WANTED to run McNeess business in Sherman county. Wonderful opportunity. Make \$8 to \$20 daily. No experience or capital needed. Write today. FURST & THOMAS, Dept. F, 426 Third St., Oakland, Calif.

GOOD USED 60 Caterpillar tracks, Cheap, A. B. Loud, Eugene, Ore.

WE PAY parcel post one way on all shoe repairing. Good quality work and leather. Joe Amore, The Dalles, next door Pacific Power & Light Co., opposite City Hall, The Dalles.

WE CAN fit all kinds of people. Any size or weight. Crippled or deformed feet. Wernmark's Shoe Store, The Dalles.

CALLAWAY'S FUNERAL CHAPEL

Funeral Directors and Embalmers Union and Third St. The Dalles, Ore.

New! 3 choices in ONE-WAY FARES EAST

LOW: Tickets good in Standard Pullmans on payment of usual Sleeping Car charges.

LOWER: Tickets good in Tourist Sleepers on payment of usual Sleeping Car charges.

LOWEST: Tickets good in Coaches and Chair cars only.

Write or call on Local Agent for full particulars regarding—

SPECIAL REDUCTIONS

—in One-Way Coach and Tourist Sleeping Car Fares to points East, effective January first.

UNION PACIFIC

A. Rose, Agent Moro, Oregon

Bank Hotel

The Dalles' Newest and Best Hotel Centrally Located Sherman County Headquarters EDW. BALL, MANAGER THE DALLES, OREGON

NEW PERKINS HOTEL

Washington at Fifth Street, PORTLAND, OREGON

Our usual pre-war transient rates still prevail. Special Rates to permanent Guests



UNDER THE PERSONAL MANAGEMENT OF Edward C. Holt

RATES Room with bath privilege, \$1. up Outside room with private bath, \$1.50 up Special rates where more than two persons occupy one room. Let us show you our Accommodations

R. & K. Produce Co

(12 years on Front Street) Owners of Portland and Salem Piggly-Wiggly Markets. 128 Front Street, Portland, Ore

Ship us Your Turkeys, Ducks, Geese, Capons, Hens, Roasters, etc.

Write us for prices and other information

Reference: U.S. Nat'l Bank, First Nat'l Bank, Portland; and Salem U. S. Nat'l Bank.

When in The Dalles HAVE YOUR Lunch or Dinner 35c (Full Course) at the

WHITE RESTAURANT

408 E. 2nd St. The Dalles, Oregon

We also serve, at usual prices, Lunch and Dinner combinations that are said by our patrons to equal Home Cooking.

People who use the advertising columns of the Sherman County Observer invariably say that they get the very best of results.

SHIP BY TRUCK

IT IS QUICKER AND MORE CONVENIENT

Daily Deliveries -- Storage for Small Lots

Freight accepted for all points in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California

Bucholtz Confectionery Phone 412 MORO, OREGON

LOCAL AGENTS FOR THE GILPIN TRUCK LINE

Notify Bucholtz Confectionery for all local pick-ups

WHEN YOU TRAVEL

BY AUTO AND VISIT THE DALLES

STORE YOUR CAR

In the concrete, fully equipped, roomy garage of Walther-Williams Company. Competent workmen always ready to help you in any way they can at least expense to you. For any service rendered the charge will always be reasonable.

WALTHER-WILLIAMS GARAGE

THE DALLES, OREGON.

A Home Paper

That Carries All The Home News

Have you ever noticed how completely the news columns of this paper covers all of the various sections of this community. It reflects in condensed form all of the social and business activities which have transpired during the week. If you have a neighbor who is not subscribing, you will do him a favor to tell him about it. And we will thank you for your interest.

Sherman County Observer

Sherman County's Leading Newspaper



A "WANT" ad in THE MORO OBSERVER will reach more people in Sherman County than by any other medium available.