

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1924

HELPING THE FARMER.

We hear a great deal now days in the press and from politicians about helping the farmer through legislation. Very little we hear is based on economic facts and conditions and must be classified as merely "bunk," expounded for effect. The truth is there is no legislative way yet discovered to help agriculture, except temporarily.

As long as this country is an agricultural products exporting country prices will be fixed by the supply and demand in foreign markets over which we have no control. Therefore the tariff, except on a few commodities, fails and the farmer is not helped.

There is another way that has been tried by legislation. Disregard the hardship it may work on the consumer and fix the price of an agricultural product. What happens? Temporarily the farmer is helped. But since price is a comparative thing other products soon regulate themselves accordingly and soon the farmer is paying more for the things he has to buy and in the end the farmer is not helped.

There is still another way that has been proposed through legislation—The McNary-Haugen bill way. Under this proposed system the government would go into the marketing business and buy up the surplus agricultural products and dispose of them in foreign markets for what ever they would bring (likely at a loss which the nation would make good through taxation). The surplus removed, the law of supply and demand would push up the price at home and the farmer would be helped temporarily as we have no control over production. But as soon as prices went up production would increase far beyond the demand and the government would be compelled to buy more and more produce which it could not dispose of. Since the government is the people the farmer would be buying his own produce and in the long run the farmer would not be helped.

Then how can the farmer be helped? About the only way the government can help the farmer much is to help him to help himself. Encourage through legislation farm cooperative marketing organizations whereby the farmer can get more of the consumers dollar and be less subject to speculation in farm products. Through a bureau of information and census educate the farmers in what they should produce in order to get better prices.

If the country had uniform production the farmer would not starve some years and feast others. Every year there is a shortage of some crops and a great surplus in others. While this is partly do to climatic conditions a main cause is increased acreage or decreased acreage planted.

If the world's consumption of agricultural products could be estimated, (and it can,) and this information passed on by far sighted government experts in terms of acreage he must plant in order to assure himself of somewhat near a fair price, then the government might be helping the farmer. On a small scale we have seen this system worked out in a fairly successful way at home by the Eugene Fruit Growers association. Each year before the planting season, the manager spends several weeks in the east, forecasting market conditions. When he returns he tells the farmer members of the association what and how much of certain products should be planted in order that they might be sold at a fair price.

If the government can help the farmer to help himself, through reliable information instead of letting him sow and reap blindly without regard

to supply and demand in the market, then it will be performing a real service to him. And when the farmer prospers we all prosper.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ECONOMY.

Ever now and then someone breaks out on how much it costs to run the sheriff's office and proceeds to run down the sheriff, intimating that the job could be done a lot cheaper. Some people have fallen for this "line" but the majority still know its "bunk." The truth of the matter is that law enforcement and economy do not go hand in hand. Or in other words we can have one or the other but not both.

The way to cut down the cost of operating the sheriff's office is to turn out all the criminals in the county jail, fire the deputy sheriffs and let the sheriff devote his time in serving papers in criminal cases and collecting taxes. The way to increase the cost is to vigorously enforce the law, fill up the county jail with criminals and make the county a little safer to live in.

At the present time the sheriff's office deputies are underpaid when it is considered the hours they must serve, the dangers they must undergo and the responsibilities they must assume.

The thing that cripples the efficiency of the criminal department of the sheriff's office in Oregon is the tax collecting department. It divides the attention of the sheriff and really requires two different types of men. Rarely a good sheriff is a highly efficient tax collector and more seldom is an expert tax collector a fit subject for sheriff. The place taxes should be received is at the treasurers office. That is the method used in Washington and most other states.

A BUSINESS SUGGESTION.

There are 100 farmers, living on the west side of the river between the arth and Cottage Grove, who take the Springfield News. Assuming that each farmer spends \$100 a month, and he surely must to exist in these days, there is \$10,000 a month expended by people who read the News in this particular section. What are the majority of merchants of Springfield doing toward turning this business into their stores?

We congratulate the losers as well as the winners in the general election. They gave their time and their efforts freely and will receive no reward, but must be contented that they helped good government and democracy by manifest-sufficient interest to be candidates.

Hanging does not invalidate a man's insurance policy courts have ruled. Policy holders are now relieved of one source of worry.

A woman who can't make dough like her mother did can content herself that her husband does not make dough like her father did.

If you didn't vote you have no right to criticize the election.

The stuff that dreams are made of is found in the vanity case.

Editorial Comment

TEN WAYS TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION.

- 1—Don't come out to meetings.
 - 2—If you do come, come late.
 - 3—If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.
 - 4—Find fault with the officers or members in their work.
 - 5—Never accept any office, on the basis that it is easier to suggest than do things.
 - 6—Nevertheless, get dissatisfied if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, don't attend the committee meetings.
 - 7—If asked by the chairman to give an opinion regarding some important matter; tell him you have nothing to say, and after the meeting tell everyone how the matter ought to have been handled.
 - 8—Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly and unselfishly pitch in and make things hum, complain that the board is run by a clique.
 - 9—Hold back dues as long as possible, or don't pay at all.
 - 10—Don't bother about new members; "let George do it."
- The DeMolay Councilor.

MUCH MOLASSES IS STORED AT PORTLAND

Portland, Oregon, No. 12.—October marked the completion of three additional tanks for the storage of molasses, coconut oil and other Oriental oils and use was found for them almost immediately. The American steamer Los Angeles, under charter to the Matson Navigation company, entered Portland October 17 with 4750 tons of molasses from the Hawaiian Islands. This was pumped from the vessels to the tanks and from there will be loaded into the tank cars for delivery to the consignees as required. There are now 14 tanks at Municipal Terminal No. 4. Much coconut oil as well as other oils and molasses has been stored there during the past year.

Exports of dried prunes and plum during October were very heavy with 4,127,096 pounds of this product lifted by vessels for foreign ports. When it is considered that this is one fourth of the entire shipments for the year and for this one month nearly as much as for the entire year of 1923 the volume becomes more noticeable. These were delivered in 9 countries the bulk, however, going to the United Kingdom. Domestic shipments also were heavy with 4,172,000 pounds placed on board ship for delivery in eastern United States cities.

The movement of canned goods also was heavy last month with exports of 2,450,768 pounds. The distribution of this was not so wide being delivered to 4 countries with only small shipments to other than the United Kingdom, which is a very splendid market for Oregon dried and canned fruits. Domestic shipments of canned fruits during the last month amounted to 9,076,620 pounds which is probably a record month. The bulk of this went to eastern and gulf United States ports but with very large shipments to California ports. During the last three months of the year shipments of dried fruits and canned goods are very heavy and figures for the year 1924 will be several times as large as those for 1923.

Cooked Food Sale.

Ladies Aid of Thurston church will hold a cooked food sale Saturday, November 15, at the Long and Cross Plumbing shop, Springfield. N-13.

BORN—At their home at Nimrod, Saturday morning, November 8, 1924, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Head, a daughter, weight 7½ pounds.

"YOU'LL BE SURPRISED"



Good, wholesome food with a real honest-to-goodness taste to it is what we enjoy, as well as the kiddies. Every one is entitled to the best when it comes to baked goods—you'll get when using—

FEATHERFLAKE FLOUR

"Makes Bread Light as a Feather!"

You get more quality in this flour and yet it costs no more than ordinary flour. FEATHERFLAKE is raising the standard of family flours, for it really is different—"You'll be surprised" how good it is.

Try a sack today.

"YOU'LL BE SURPRISED"

Start Your Boy or Girl on Our Monthly Investment Plan

Character-building gifts mean a lot for the future of your children—and at the bottom of character must rest the foundation stone of thrift.

You cannot find a plan which better teaches the value of saving, the earning power of money and the principles of sound investment, than exists in our Monthly Investment Plan.

The expenditure of a few dollars will enable you to present a child with a lesson in thrift and investment which he will never forget, and which will help him mightily in his preparation for the problem of life.

Safe—dependable—satisfactory—these three words sum up the chief points commending an investment in this large service organization.

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FOLKS IN OUR TOWN

Oh, So Dumb

By Edward McCullough

