

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 1934

TO VOTE ON COUNTY UNIT

The county unit plan of school administration is to be voted on at the May 18th primary. It is too bad that it comes at a time when there are so many other issues at stake and will not receive a close study by the electorate. The county unit plan affords the basis for more economical operation of our schools, equal taxation throughout the county for school purposes and real improvement from an educational standpoint.

Under the county unit plan all one and two room school houses would probably be closed, except those in out of the way places, and the children transported to the larger centers. Here better plants and specialized teachers would be available.

Counties where the county unit plan is now in effect are reported well pleased with its operation. The district system is obsolete from a fair revenue raising standpoint. A district with 10 children often has the same or a greater valuation than one with 500, necessarily there is no equal tax base for school purposes.

All districts outside of Eugene would come under the county unit plan and all school properties would be turned over to the larger unit if the election carries. A board of directors and the county school superintendent, employed by the board, would administer all the schools. Teachers salaries and qualifications would be uniform and all parts of the county would have good schools.

MORE FARMERS THAN EVER

There are more people living on farms in the United States now than at any previous time in our history, according to the latest figures from the Census office. On January 1, 1934, farm population in America had reached an all-time high of 32,509,000; and this in spite of the fact that during the year 1933 more people moved from the farms to the city than back from city to farm. The difference is accounted for by the fact that nearly half a million more babies were born on the farms than there were deaths among farm people last year.

This increase in our farm population does not tally with the gloomy picture so often painted of the concentration of population in cities exclusively, leaving only enough people on the land to grow food for the cities, with the aid of improved farm machinery. That picture was based upon the notion that people prefer city life to country life. No doubt many do, but we still cling to the notion that the reason so many folks remain on the farms is because they find farm life more satisfying and secure than the life of the average person in the city.

We hear a great deal about distressed farmers, and we know a good many who have hard sledding. But we haven't yet heard of anyone starving to death on a farm. The idea that, even if it is not always a good business speculation, there is always food and shelter on the farm, is turning more and more city folk to this mode of living. We look for a real "back to the farm" movement.

EMPLOYMENT IMPROVES

A pickup in employment that would indicate business is actually getting better is reported by the department of labor.

Weekly industrial pay rolls increased \$12,000,000 from January 15 to February 15 and 345,000 persons were re-employed in industries, as announced by Secretary of Labor Perkins. Miss Perkins said figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a 6.1 percent gain in factory employment during the same 30-day period and a 12.6 percent increase in pay rolls. Reporting companies had increased workers 2,400,000 between February 15, 1933, and February 15, 1934, and pay rolls of the same concerns were \$67,000,000 greater on February 15 than for the corresponding period last year.

PORTLAND REMINDED

One pertinent fact stands out in the Oregon Milk Board's answer to the City of Portland on rates—if farmers are to buy they must also sell. The board pointed out:

"The dairymen surely could not, and cannot, continue to buy, at these greatly increased prices, the things that support the people of the cities and towns of the state unless they can get some increase in price for what they must sell. It is an important fact, that should not be obscured by a narrow, selfish city policy, or by short-sighted political expediency, that, so long as the farmers cannot buy the products and services which the people of cities have to sell, just so long will the streets of cities be filled with unemployed."

The liquor commission has turned \$44,971.33 profit to the state unemployment relief council. Thus the last provision of the Knox law has begun to function. With an understanding that the profit from the state liquor stores, agencies and license funds will be used for relief purposes there will likely be less demand for a reduction in the price of liquor.



Washington, April 12—The new "strong man" in the Administration is W. Averell Harriman. He is practically running the NRA now, and is slated to be its head when General Hugh Johnson retires or is moved out of his present post.

People always speak of Averell Harriman as "young" Harriman. He is 43, which is about the average age of the men who run things in Washington. He is the son, however, of the late E. H. Harriman, and old-timers who remember his father, the great railroad builder and financier, still think of the present head of the family as a boy. But before he was thirty he had proved himself a man of great administrative ability in his own right. The great shipbuilding plant which he constructed during the war was his first single-handed entry into the world of affairs. Since then he has proved himself a sound and far-seeing business man in many directions.

Already, under "young" Harriman's direction, the administration of NRA is shaping itself more to the likings of those who come under its jurisdiction.

Davis and Agriculture

Much the same sort of thing can be said for the new management of the AAA under C. C. Davis, successor to George Peek as the manager of the Government's relations with agriculture. Some of the agricultural groups, at least, seem better satisfied, though there still is the probability of some sharp clashes between the AAA and the milk co-ops.

There is an acute realization here, even among the President's strongest supporters, that the Administration's program is not quite as popular with everybody as the earlier absence of criticism led many to believe.

The first real show of opposition to the Roosevelt policies is beginning to make itself felt. The result of this, serious in some quarters, will be a letting-up in the pressure to put some of the more radical social reforms into immediate effect. It is also having an effect upon congressional thinking which will be reflected in congressional acts between now and adjournment.

Congress is far more conservative, left to itself, than the President is. So long as Congressmen got reports from their districts indicating that the people were unanimously behind the President, they felt that they were only doing their duty to their constituents in accepting everything that came from the White House without question.

The Picture Changes

Now many of them are getting a somewhat different picture from the home districts, and the tendency is to listen to advice from other quarters and make their own decisions as to what to do about such things as amending the securities act so as to make it easier for industry to finance itself, modifying the stock exchange bill so as not to cripple legitimate trade in securities, and scrutinizing such proposals as the compulsory five-day, six-hour-a-day proposed in the much-heralded Wagner bill.

The outlook is that the stock exchange bill and securities act amendments will be passed before adjournment, which is now tentatively talked of as around May 15. There may, also, come out of the legislative mill some new inflation-

ALFALFA, NITROGEN AND ROOT FACTORY FOR SOIL

Results of Experiments Reveal Value of Crop as Fertilizer For Farm Areas

Steady growth of alfalfa acreage in Oregon is convincing proof of the high esteem in which the crop is held by farmers of this state. Now Dr. R. E. Stephenson, associate soil scientist, has compiled some interesting figures from various experiment station studies showing some of the reasons why alfalfa is so beneficial to the soil aside from its crop yielding ability.

When an old alfalfa field is plowed under there are left in the soil three tons of roots, dry weight, per acre above plow depth. Below that there are 5 1/2 tons more left to decay. Thirty tons of stable manure would be required to add an equivalent amount of nitrogen or organic matter. This study was made in Colorado.

A New York investigator found that in eight years an acre of alfalfa gathered 200 pounds of nitrogen from the air and changed it into a form that crops could use. To get an equal amount from commercial fertilizers would require adding 16,000 pounds of nitrate of soda or 1200 pounds of sulphate of ammonia annually.

Alfalfa growing is one of the few ways of increasing the effective soil depth, which is limited by the depth in which humus is deposited by decaying roots. Stable manure can be mixed with the soil only to the depth of cultivation. Plowed alfalfa sod makes an ideal seed bed for corn, potatoes, or any crop which can use an abundance of fertility, points out Dr. Stephenson. It has also become the favorite cover crop for orchards in irrigated districts.

ALL O. S. C. DADS INVITED TO CAMPUS ON APRIL 14

The first Dad's day on the Oregon State college campus has been arranged for Saturday, April 14, when members of the Dad's club organized last June will go to the campus from many parts of the state for a program of sports, business, inspection and just straight visiting with sons, daughters, faculty, and each other.

Featuring the sports program arranged for the Dads is the closing exhibition game of the spring football training season. Coach Lon Stiner's 1934 varsity squad will be seen in action for the first time in a full time campus game starting at 3 o'clock. Earlier in the afternoon Coach Slats Gill will put his baseball team through their pre-season paces against Columbia university of Portland.

Climaxing the day's events will be a dinner in the evening for all Dads and their sons and daughters. C. E. Ingalls, vice president of the club, is to be toastmaster. Those in charge expect at least 200 Dads and possibly many more to report to headquarters in the Memorial Union building.

DEGREE TEAM PLANS FOR INITIATION OF THREE

Plans for the initiation of three candidates into membership of Juditha Rebekah lodge by the Progressive 22, degree team of the lodge, were made here Friday evening at the practice and social meeting. The initiation will be held Monday evening, April 26.

Members of the program committee Friday were Mrs. Wanda Barnes, Mrs. Bert Doane, Mrs. Harvey Eaton, and Mrs. Zella Cantrell. Mrs. Vern J. Daniels, Mrs. Helen Donaldson, Mrs. O. H. Jarrett, and Mrs. Sarah Johns will have charge of the May entertainment.

LUMBER BUSINESS DOWN; YEAR'S AVERAGE BETTER

Seattle, Wash., April 12—A total of 579 down and operating mills in Oregon and Washington which reported to the West Coast Lumbermen's association for the week ending March 31, produced 96,242,019 board feet of lumber. This was approximately 3,500,000 feet less than the preceding week. The average production of this group of sawmills in 1934 has been 84,831,300 feet; during the same period in 1933 their weekly average was 54,452,280 feet.

The new business reported last week by 568 mills was 94,373,453 board feet against a production of 95,716,394 feet and shipments of 97,354,278 feet. Their shipments were over production by 1.7 percent and their current sales were under production by 1.4 percent.

A lump of sugar kept in the tea or coffee pot that is seldom used will absorb any moisture and prevent rust or mildew.

SCHOOL DAYS

By DWIG



The FAMILY DOCTOR

by JOHN JOSEPH GAINES MD.

TOO FAT?
If you are too fat—and some are—don't forget the two outstanding causes of excess weight; they are:
(1) Not enough exercise—
(2) Eating more than you need.

These are first to be thought of. To correct either, or both, is a matter wholly your own. Nobody can take exercise for you, or cut down eating for you—you must do that for yourself. Do it under the counsel and advice of your best friend—your family doctor.

I talked this very morning with a stout, healthy country miss, who has literally made an invalid of herself, trying to take off weight; she is afraid to take quantity or kind of food that she really needs. She is unable to work, and her nervous system is torn to pieces.

It is quite possible for a state of confirmed invalidism to be acquired from constant dread of taking the necessary nourishment for the proper functioning of the body. I would rather be a trifle overweight—and happy—than to starve myself into a confirmed neurotic.

The normal human being must have a variety of food. We are not herbivorous, no more than we are canivorous; we are altogether different from the lower animals; and, it takes fuel if we would build a fire. We need, in proper quantity, meats, starches, vegetables, fruits and "greens"; some things raw, some well cooked, all clean. But not an over-supply.

I have a fat lady under my care—weighs 190. I try to diet her correctly. I happened into her hotel at dinner time the other day; she had a platterful and a dozen side-dishes! Enough for two or three meals! No, I didn't chide her then, but I'm laying for her. When I catch her away from the table. Well, she employs me.

PWA TO BE EXPLAINED OVER STATION KOAC

"PWA—Past, Present and Future," will be the title of a radio talk to be given Wednesday, April 18, over station KOAC, by Dr. James H. Gilbert, dean of the college of social science at the University of Oregon. Dr. Gilbert served as a member of the state advisory board of the PWA, and has been in close contact with the work of this group.

The talk is one of a series sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities and the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service of the university. It will be heard from 8:15 to 8:35 p. m. A talk on some phase of municipal government will be given over KOAC each Wednesday evening.

CREWS GET OUT NEW FISH RACK MATERIALS

Workmen have been busy now for several weeks cutting new poles for the fish racks at Hendricks bridge. Many of these racks were washed away a year ago during the late high water and they were repaired temporarily at that time. Now new poles are being cut near the dam and will be used in the building of new and stronger racks.

Visits Grandmother—Miss Jean Purcell left Saturday for Corvallis after spending several days here visiting with her grandmother, Mrs. C. E. Pettyjohn, and her sister, Miss Edna Purcell.

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