

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

George Giddons of Ione was in Heppner last Saturday.

George Legler of Hamilton left from Heppner Monday to go to Portland on business.

Mrs. Dr. Gaunt's mother came in on the Sunday train and left with the Doctor and wife for Hardman.

H. Wigmore of Eugene returned Monday morning. He has been here visiting his brother and other friends.

Conductor Ward conducted some of the young ladies over the slippery boards on the Ione dance floor last Saturday night.

J. Putnam of Monument deposited thirty-five cents with our friend Mr. Wilkins for one of those meals he served on last Sunday.

T. A. Driscoll who lives at The Dalles and who has been in Heppner recently on business, left Monday morning for Lexington.

G. N. Peck of Lexington evidently likes the girls of Heppner better than those of Lexington. He spent Sunday with her and returned Monday morning.

Dave Rice who lives at Fox, Oregon, took his family to Portland on Monday. He has a large cattle ranch at Fox and says that prices are good. He recently sold 33 spring calves at \$30 per head to the local butcher.

FARMERS UNION PICNIC

(Continued from first page)

and enjoying good home life has no one to blame but himself. He wants men and women to make the farm their home, not a place to stay until they can move to town. He said that the railroad was ready at all times to assist the farmers in any way that they could. He said that the men at their heads were big enough to know that the road prospered only as the towns and farmers along the line prospered. His speech was full of interesting stories and incidents taken mostly from his own experience.

After Mr. Smith's speech the races were held in the road. The band played several pieces and the crowd began to drift away late in the afternoon. A dance was given in the hall uptown that night.

The first Farmers Union picnic was a success beyond the expectations of the men who had it in charge. It was decided to make it an annual affair and the place for the next meeting will be decided Saturday when the Union has its meeting at one o'clock in the County Court rooms at Heppner.

We print Mr. Shumway's speech in full as follows:

The Executive Board of the Farmers Union has divided the labors of its workers in the field. Some are organizers, some are lecturers, some are purchasing agents. But I was elected to represent the wishes of our organization at the Legislature. I belong to that inenviable class of people called lobbyists. I was not given a large purse wherein to purchase wayward legislators but I was supposed

to present the farmers views on matters pertaining to their profession and to urge it upon the legislature with all the eloquence at my command. I have now served two terms at this occupation and am elected to go again this coming winter. So I have gained some insight into the workings of this complicated machinery. But when first elected I had distorted views in regard to our law making body.

I had gathered these ideas from the newspapers. And newspapers are like physicians, not looking for sound and healthy tissues, but continually probing for boils, abscesses and unhealthy, diseased portions in the body politic. So that I imagined that the entire legislature was a mass of corruption. But when I arrived at Salem I was agreeably undeceived. I found a class of men above the average in intelligence, composed of almost every profession, but principally lawyers. And they were doing more hard labor for the least wages of any profession I have ever seen.

From my point of view they made mistakes and serious ones. But I think that our State Legislature which prescribes the methods of their procedure is more to blame than the individuals.

For I do think that of all misfit, out of date and unbusiness like methods of conducting affairs, our legislature is the worst I have ever seen. The farmer has been criticised for his lack of business methods. But were he to do business as does our legislature, he would be broke inside of a year. It is a copy, the original of which came into operation many hundred years ago in England, their Parliament, from which our Congress was copied and thence our State Legislatures.

A body of ninety men are elected with but little regard to their capabilities. And these are sent to Salem to make laws whereby we are to be governed for two years to come. They are placed upon a salary that would not keep them at a first-class hotel. And if they are unable to complete their labors inside of forty days even this pittance ceases.

In the meantime a perfect avalanche of bills, memorials, and resolutions comes pouring in upon every subject under the sun from crabs to children. Over nine hundred such were presented at our last legislature, and many of them conflicting with the Constitution and most of them poorly drawn so that they were ambiguous and uncertain in their terms. A first-class lawyer would have hesitated about giving an opinion upon many of them short of several days of research. But our legislature must pass an opinion upon the entire nine hundred inside of forty days, and then are roasted and the howl of graft goes up if a mistake is made.

Since it is impossible for all of the members to consider all of the bills, the work is divided among from twenty to thirty different committees. Such as Agricultural, Horticultural, Ways and Means, Fisheries, etc. And each subject is referred to its own committee. All bills carrying appropriations must go to the Ways and Means committee. And when the committees report whether favorable or unfavorable, the report is usually adopted by the legislature. Thus from two to five members comprising one committee does probably ninety per cent of the legislation upon their subjects. And we find at the final vote upon a bill many members voting that have never read it and were absent when many of the bills were read by the reading clerk. You ask ninety per cent of the members how they voted and they probably could not tell you of more than three fourths of the bills introduced.

This committee rule gives Multnomah County, which elects about one fifth of our legislature, a very unfair advantage. She is usually organized and the farmer counties are not. This enables her to elect the Speakers of the House, and the President of the Senate. These in turn appoint the different committees, a wonderful advantage. But the last legislature was very kind to the Grange and Union representatives and passed all three measures which Brother Davis introduced. One forbidding the use of the word Co-operative for organizations which were not and the other

for establishing demonstration farms and for sending two delegates to Europe to study Rural Credits. And we were able to cut down appropriations several hundred thousand dollars. One measure alone, the Panama Fair Bill, the Grange and Union saved \$125,000 by threatening to use the Referendum.

Many plans have been formulated at different times and by different people to bring our legislature to an up-to-date business way of making laws. Some propose to cut down the membership, the Grange proposes to abolish the Senate, and some propose doing away with the legislature entirely and go to the Commission form of government. The latter plan seems to me the most feasible. Because it has been tried by many cities, such as Portland, with almost universal success.

Suppose we were to elect nine capable men at a salary of \$3000 a year, to be on the job, not forty days, but 365 days every year. And these with the Governor, the Secretary of the State, and State Treasurer, to constitute our law making body.

There would be no more loose-drawn, unstudied laws passed. There would be no evading responsibility as may now be done, the House shifting the responsibility upon the Senate, the Senate upon the House and both upon the Governor.

It would be a more economical plan because nine members at \$3000 a year would be but \$54,000 every two years, while our last legislature costs us \$60,000. Besides we have thirty odd different commissions etc., most of them carrying large appropriations, some with large salaried officials and most of the official duties could be performed by our Commissioners.

But Farmers of Morrow County here is another subject which I wish to speak of today—Organization. For it is upon this that we must depend for any radical changes we may hope to make in our legislature or in any other conditions which bear heavily upon the farmer's life. The history of organization is the history of the world. From the dawn of creation when our rude forefathers organized to protect themselves from the fierce cave bear and saber-toothed tiger, to the present time when more than a million different organizations exist in the United States, organization had meant civilization.

The farmer has ever been the first to organize for government, or religions, and has shown his willingness to shed his life's blood to sacrifice his all to maintain these organizations but when once firmly established, he calmly relinquished the control into the hands of those who used it to enslave his fellow men. But in these organizations, Commercial ones organized to acquire wealth, the farmer has seldom been a part. But he has been oppressed by them and has paid tribute to some organization of this kind in every action and in every stage of life. At the dawn of his creation, when he was first ushered into this world, he paid tribute to the Physicians organization, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes that paid tribute to the cotton trust, rocked in a cradle that was made by the lumber, paint, glue and steel trust, and at last he lies down to his last rest and passes to that bourn from which no weary farmer has yet returned, he sleeps in a bed furnished by the coffin trust.

He wakes from one to the other paying his tribute to each in turn and so nicely in each organization controlled that after each has taken his toll the farmer will have just enough to keep body and soul together until he can produce another golden harvest. Then again they take his crop, put it into useless sacks for which they have fixed the price, weigh it upon their own scales and frequently they have fixed the scales, put it in their own warehouse at their own price, freight it, put it over the docks into ships that take it across the ocean and the farmer has nothing to say about the transportation charges, and as we would naturally expect they hand back just barely enough to keep the farmer alive long enough to produce another crop. Which averages to each farm in the United States about \$200, or \$60 to such man, woman or child upon the farm. Farmers, remember this, and it is born out by the history of every nation in every age, opposed by Organizations, Unorganized people will either be enslaved or perish. Is not this slavery?

The farmers in the United States produce thirty billion dollars of farm produce every year, which price the consumer pays. But the farmer only receives six billion or less than one half. This divided among the farmers after paying their expenses, leaves them the \$200 of which I spoke. And the organizations are after this \$200 and since an American farmer won't live on less than this, they intend to supplant him and put on his farm the cheap foreign laborer. The dregs of all the nations of Europe, Asia and Africa. The Dago, the Hungarian, and the Turk of Europe, the Coolie and Hindu of Asia and the Negro of Africa.

Do you think this a false alarm? Listen! Over one half of the farms of the United States are operated by renters. In the last five years nine billion dollars have been invested by our money barons in land—175,000,000 acres owned by 63 owners. This is competition enough to force the rest of the farmers to compete with cheap labor as soon as they can secure cheap foreign tenants. The East is being inundated every year by a horde of ignorant foreigners whom our politicians fear of losing a vote are afraid to keep out. And the completion of the Panama canal means that the West must face the same and compete with the same class. We have one of the three courses to take, submission, revolution, or organization. Submission is what we have practiced in the past and it has placed us between the upper and nether millstones of graft and predatory organizations. And they have ground us finer than the millstones of the Gods, which grind exceedingly fine. Revolution is horrible to contemplate, yet the peasants of France were compelled by starvation to rebel and one of the cruelest wars of history was the result. Our forefathers by unjust taxation and oppression were compelled to rebel from England and for eight years gave their lives freely and died

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from bullet, hunger and cold for that liberty that we are indolent to go to the polls or organize to sustain.

And again our country called the farmer in her dire need and again his blood flowed in torrents across the plains. For four years he bared his breast to the storm in the Civil War. While the money barons, traitors to their country, their God, and their fellow man, took advantage of their country's dire need, took advantage of their country's travail, and coined her hearts blood into golden eagles, which enabled them to form these gigantic trusts and accumulations of wealth, by which we are enslaved to-day. Twelve men control one third of the wealth of this beloved land, and one fourth of a million men control three fourths of the wealth of this country.

Since we must either submit, rebel or organize, and submission means slavery, and rebellion is too horrible to contemplate, why not practice the methods followed by all other professions and organize. Not indeed in a predatory organization, such as have been enslaving the farmers bringing the stoop to his shoulders, tearing the bloom from his daughters cheeks, and filling the asylums and silent sleeping places of the dead with his wives. A food trust is the worst trust upon the earth, and starving millions would curse us with their dying breath. But such an organization as is the Farmers Union, which declares that we would garner the tears of the distressed, the blood of martyrs, the laugh of innocent childhood, the sweat of honest labor, and the virtue of a happy home as the brightest jewels known.

We have been organized only about twelve years yet we have done a wonderful work. Let me tell you a few things we have accomplished here in the Northwest, and have done it without adding one cent to a sack of flour or a bushel of potatoes.

We have reduced the price of sacks five cents, thus saving the farmers of Oregon, Washington and Idaho one and one half million dollars annually. We have raised the price of wheat five cents a bushel and saved three million dollars. We have built a chain of several hundred warehouses and weigh our own wheat and have reduced the price of storage from 75 cents a ton to fifty cents. We have reduced the price of binder twine five cents a pound and many, many other things.

Now lest this be considered the ravings of a fanatic, I have brought my evidence. This is prepared at the request of our State Secretary, Brother Sikes, who says, "Two years ago there were two large locals organized near Soldier, Idaho. The local dealers were asking fourteen cents for sacks but these locals contracted their sacks with our Terminal to be delivered at 8 1/2c. Not twenty miles in an unorganized place, sacks sold the same year for 15c. Morrow County was not organized until 1910. But Gilliam County west and Umatilla County east, were organized in 1908 and 1909. In 1909 these two counties bought their sacks through the Farmers Union dealers at 6 1/2c delivered, while

Morrow County not yet organized paid 8c for sacks, not five cents higher but would have been only through fear of the Union."

Mr. Sikes again says, "Jan. 11, 1913, I stopped in Madras, Cook County. The prevailing price of wheat was 65c and had been for some time. I telephoned to Curry, our terminal agent and found the true price to be 70c. The next day five miles from Madras with no Farmers Union, I found the price to be 64c. Brother Crow, State President of Washington, cites case after case of a difference from three to seven cents less being paid where the farmers were not informed of the price that was being paid by our terminal stations with the same freight rates to Tacoma or Portland."

The fall of 1912 our Ex-State President, Fred Krusow, made the old line buyers come up 4c in one day in Sherman County and bought 55,000 bushels at 70c when the corporations were paying but 66c. I could continue and pile proof upon proof but this is sufficient. We have already accomplished this and only partially organized. If all the farmers within the sound of

my voice and those within the three Northwestern states will join our union, we will eliminate the price of sacks entirely and we will raise the price of wheat fifteen cents a bushel, and not affect the price of flour. We will take charge of the legislature and reduce taxation, we will regulate freight rates and control the corporation.

And what does the Union exact in return for all this? Three dollars a year in dues, attendance at our meetings, a loyalty to our order, no more. We do not seek to control your actions nor shape your creed. You do not have to buy your sacks of us nor sell your wheat to us. We try to make it worth your while, that is all. The price is not high but the returns are inestimable.

But ever remember, you have one of three roads to travel, slavery, revolution, or organization and if you elect to travel either of the two former you drag us with you to misery and woe. But if you will take us by the hand we will lead you to green pastures and pleasant meadows where our sons and daughters will enjoy a second paradise without the se-

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