

# THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

S. A. PATTISON, Editor and Publisher

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### ANOTHER FREAK MEASURE

One of the freak measures proposed for submission to the people at the coming November election is the proposed constitutional amendment fixing the legal rate of interest in Oregon at 4 per cent except on contracts when a maximum of 5 per cent is permitted.

To the ordinary business man, and particularly to those who are obliged to carry on their business largely on borrowed capital the folly of such a course is apparent. While it would be very fine for those of us who borrow to be able to have our interest expense cut in two by constitutional amendment—if the thing would work out that way—it is not certain that such a utopian condition would result. The measure does not go far enough to insure relief to the borrowers of the state. Another section should have been added to the amendment making it compulsory on all persons within the state to loan their money here and prohibiting them from seeking a higher interest rate for their money in other states.

So long, as these money lenders are permitted to loan their money where they please this writer fails to see how Oregon borrowers will be benefitted by the enactment of such an amendment. So long as gilt-edged securities are bringing six and seven per cent people with money need not be expected to peddle their money out in small amounts on short time commercial loans at 4 or 5 per cent.

Should this amendment be adopted the only result would be that the loan business would go to other states. Oregon capital would seek investment elsewhere and Oregon borrowers would be obliged to follow them to other states to secure loans and they would have to pay the price demanded. This is one constitutional amendment that should be snowed under.

### THE PHILIPPINES PLANK

There is a plank in the national democratic platform which reads "We favor the granting of independence without unnecessary delay to the 10,500,000 inhabitants of the Philippine Islands". While a number of leading democrats have been favorable to Philippine independence for some time, the tide in the resolutions committee was definitely turned by an eloquent address delivered by J. P. Melencio, a 26-year old Filipino. So stirring was his appeal for complete freedom that a number of the members of the committee were aroused to cheers and William Jennings Bryan "smilingly asserted that he opposed Philippine independence if it was to deprive democratic national conventions of such representatives from the islands." Melencio praised the administration of America in the islands and said that his own education was secured in schools established there by the United States. The Philippines, he asserted, wanted independence "not because it complained of wrongs and abuses, but because its people were able to say with love and gratitude that under America's guidance they had grown to the full stature of national manhood." The Filipinos, he said, wanted to maintain their friendly relations with America, but thought they had demonstrated their ability to govern themselves. There have been some Americans who have thought the United States made a mistake to take over the Philippines in the first place. It has been the desire of many that the islands be allowed their independence as soon as they could be trusted to take care of themselves. Under the administration of the United States, the Philippines have made rapid strides. Fine roads have been constructed, an efficient educational system established, sanitary conditions greatly improved and the principles of democratic government inculcated in the people. It seems that the plank in favor of the independence of the islands is thoroughly justified.

### SHOULD RETAIN OUR SOVEREIGNTY

The time will come when there will be no sufficient support for newspapers so narrowly partisan that they refuse to publish both sides. The independent papers are the papers that are forging ahead, and they will continue to lead the procession. Thick-and-thin partisans will be fewer as time passes. To "belong to a political party", meaning by that to permit a party independent of the manner in which it is managed to be keeper of one's judgment and conscience, should be beneath the dignity of anyone born under the Stars and Stripes. Let us be Americans first. Let us "carry our sovereignty under our own hats."—Cannonsbury Notes.

The Cleveland, Ohio, Press is publishing a new style of editorials written in the form of open letters signed by "Moses Cleveland."

### OF IMPORTANCE TO GROWERS

#### Method of Figuring Dockage on Grain Under Government Standards.

Of prime importance to the wheat-growing farmer is an understanding of dockage as the term is used in Federal wheat grades, and how dockage in wheat is determined, since in grading wheat under Federal standards one of the fundamental principles is to determine the numerical grade on a dockage-free basis. With a few exceptions the dockage is first removed from the sample and the grade determined with the clean or dockage free wheat. Dockage is the foreign matter screened from a sample of wheat to be graded, by the use of appropriate hand sieves or other cleaning devices, and consists of sand, dirt, weed seeds, weed stems, chaff, straw, grain other than wheat, and any other foreign material. It also may contain finely broken or small shriveled grains of wheat, in cases where such material can not be separated from dirt and other foreign material by the use of appropriate sieves.

The purpose of the dockage provision in the Federal wheat standards is to enable the person grading the sample to determine the approximate amount of easily separated foreign matter that is in the lot of wheat. Therefore, dockage is approximately the percentage of foreign material which can be easily removed from the lot of wheat by the commercial types of cleaning machinery commonly found in grain elevators and mills.

The dockage test is described in Farmers' Bulletin 1118 entitled the "Dockage under Federal Wheat Grades", which has recently been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture to aid wheat growers and others in understanding this important feature of wheat grading as provided in the revised Federal grain standards for wheat, which became effective July 15, 1918.

The dockage test is made ordinarily by weighing 1,000 grams of wheat (about 2 1/4 pounds) which constitutes a representative sample. Grams are used instead of other units for ease in determining percentages.

The dockage is separated from this 1,000 gram sample by screening with pan sieves of specified types or by using a cleaning device which has been officially approved. The dockage so separated is weighed and the percentage is found, based on the total weight of the sample including the dockage. If the amount of dockage is below 1 per cent, it is disregarded. For example, if only one-half of one per cent of foreign material is separated by the means described above, no dockage is assessed. This one-half of one per cent, however, should not be returned to the sample used in determining the grade. If one and one-half per cent of dockage is separated, 1 per cent of dockage would be indicated in assigning the grade. Thus it will be seen that the fraction of a per cent of dockage is considered as a "tolerance" in the standards.

After the dockage is removed the clean sample is used in determining the grade, save in a few exceptions. Dockage does not affect the grade assigned to the wheat. If one per cent or more of separable foreign material is found, dockage is assessed. In the inspection certificate the amount is indicated immediately after the grade designation, as for example No. 1 northern spring, dockage 1 per cent.

If the wheat seed used is carefully selected, cleaned, tested and treated before planting, if care is exercised in cultivation and crop rotation, and if the wheat is carefully thrashed and cleaned, there should

be, ordinarily, very little foreign material present when the crop is marketed. The foreign matter in wheat may seriously affect its value in that it often increases the cost of milling and causes injury to the baking qualities of the flour. Thus, the amount of dockage present has a direct bearing on the commercial value of a lot of wheat.

Two terms in the Federal wheat standard apply to foreign material—"dockage" and "foreign material other than dockage." The former is foreign material that is separated from the wheat by the proper use of appropriate hand sieves. "Foreign material other than dockage" is the foreign material not separated in the screening, and remains in the dockage-free sample. Foreign material other than dockage on the other hand, is a factor in the grade and definite percentages are permitted in such numerical grade. Details regarding the grading of wheat, including the manner in which "foreign matter other than dockage" enter into the calculations, are given in the Dockage bulletin under Federal Wheat Grades.

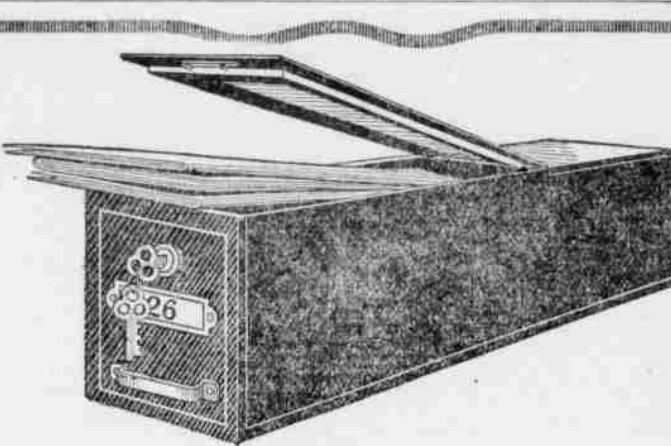
Ordinary dockage can be removed from quantities of wheat with comparatively simple cleaning machinery such as is installed in many grain elevators and mills, or it can be removed on the farm with ordinary portable fanning mill equipped with a screen having perforations like those specified for the dockage sieves.

Dockage found in wheat in many cases is of value, while in other cases it not only may have no value, but may contain ingredients positively harmful if ground with the wheat. Dockage frequently contains quantities of other grains and weed seeds, such as mustard, flax seed, oats or other cereal grains. Much of this can be used to good advantage as poultry or stock food. Mustard and flaxseed can be removed from the dockage in practically a pure state by special cleaning machinery sometimes found in terminal elevators and the larger flour mills. When so separated, it will command a good price. The farmer, of course, should receive a reasonable return for this valuable dockage.

It should be understood that it is optional with a farmer whether he remove dockage or not. The point with the U. S. Department of Agriculture officials emphasize is that it is to his advantage to understand dockage, and, in many cases, to remove it himself. If the dockage system is not employed, the foreign material in the wheat may cause a lowering of the grade. If no grading system is employed (grading usually is not compulsory for the farmer in selling wheat at country points, though all shipments to terminal markets are graded) and the country miller or grain dealer buys wheat as delivered at a flat rate, or on the basis of the average quantity delivered, the price paid usually is sufficiently low to protect the buyer from loss caused by objectionable foreign material delivered with the general run of grain.

Under the dockage system of the Federal standards, however, the amount of such foreign material separated and considered as dockage is deducted from the weight of the wheat purchased and in any event, does not affect the grade of the wheat after it has been cleaned. This results in a higher grade, and the price paid is on the basis of this grade. In other words, the grain dealer does not pay wheat prices for dirt, etc., under any system of grading. On the other hand, where the flat-rate method of purchase is followed the farmers, with little or no dockage in their grain, are often obliged to sell their wheat at the same price as wheat containing dockage.

The bulletin referred to above describes how to properly secure samp-



## WHAT NO MAN CAN AFFORD

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If you own a life or fire insurance policy, deeds, notes, abstracts, mortgages, a will or any papers of value, you should from this day on see to it that those papers are safe in a private compartment in the vault of the First National Bank for you will then have at low cost the security you need for your personal papers and valuables.

## FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Heppner, Oregon

lots of grain for inspection, whether from carload lots, bulk shipments, canal boats, barges, or other vessels, grain in sacks, elevators or warehouses, it describes "the wild-oat kicker", a device commonly used for removing barley, oats, wild oat, pieces of straw, and other coarse matter from wheat. It also describes the set of perforated metal hand sieves for separating dockage.

After the dockage is removed from the original sample and the test weight per bushel has been determined the sample is then examined to ascertain whether an analysis is to be made for any other factors which determine the grade.

Various satisfactory methods of handling dockage may be employed in normal times. Were wheat is cleaned on the farm or at the country elevator and only the screened wheat is delivered to the local buyer, there is less possibility of difference of opinion regarding the grade of wheat delivered. Such an arrangement tends to establish greater confidence in the grades given by the local buyer. When noxious weed seeds are present it is advisable to have the removed dockage ground before feeding to prevent the further spread of these weeds on the farm. In many cases such material has a relatively high feed value and often farmers will find it to their advantage to remove the dockage themselves or have their local buyers do it for them.

Further information as to the correct method of determining dockage in wheat may be obtained by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or by writing or visiting the nearest office of Federal grain supervisors. Such offices are located in the large grain markets. A farmer or country grain dealer may also mail it to the nearest licensed grain inspector and receive for a small fee an official certificate showing the grade and dockage on that particular sample. This sample should be 2 quarts in size, of which at least 1 1/2 pints is enclosed in a clean, air-tight container. The remainder, if any, should be placed in a clean cloth sack. The address of the nearest licensed grain inspector can be secured by writing the department of any supervision office.

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