

HEPPNER HERALD

Volume 7.

Heppner, Oregon, Tuesday, November 30, 1920.

Number 31.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRICE OF WHEAT

LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND NOT FUNCTIONING

Figures From Highest Authority Are Quoted to Show Farmer Gets Bad Deal

(By L. A. Hunt.)

During the last two months we have heard every conceivable tale regarding the wheat supply of the world, and as a result the average citizen is—as was planned—very much confused as to facts, and is rather chary as to the existence of such an animal.

Early summer figures showing the world demand and supply estimates promised well for the farmers, and a price of \$3.00 was confidently expected. It is not too much to say that the latest revised figures agree very closely with the early season figures, but the price mark slipped woefully. Where is the trouble?

We believe that any good statistician can take the market reports and prove almost anything, and we purpose to state the figures as we find them quoted in the U. S. Market Reporter of October 23rd.

The average wheat yield for the last ten years in the United States has been 780,000,000 bushels, and the yield this year was 751,000,000 bushels. Last season due to the break in foreign exchange we had a carry over of 109,000,000 bushels, while a ten year's average shows an annual carry over of 82,000,000 bushels, and a flour carry over equivalent to 42,000,000 bushels, showing that we entered the 1920 marketing season with the equivalent of 902,000,000 bushels compared with a ten year average at the same period of 862,000,000.

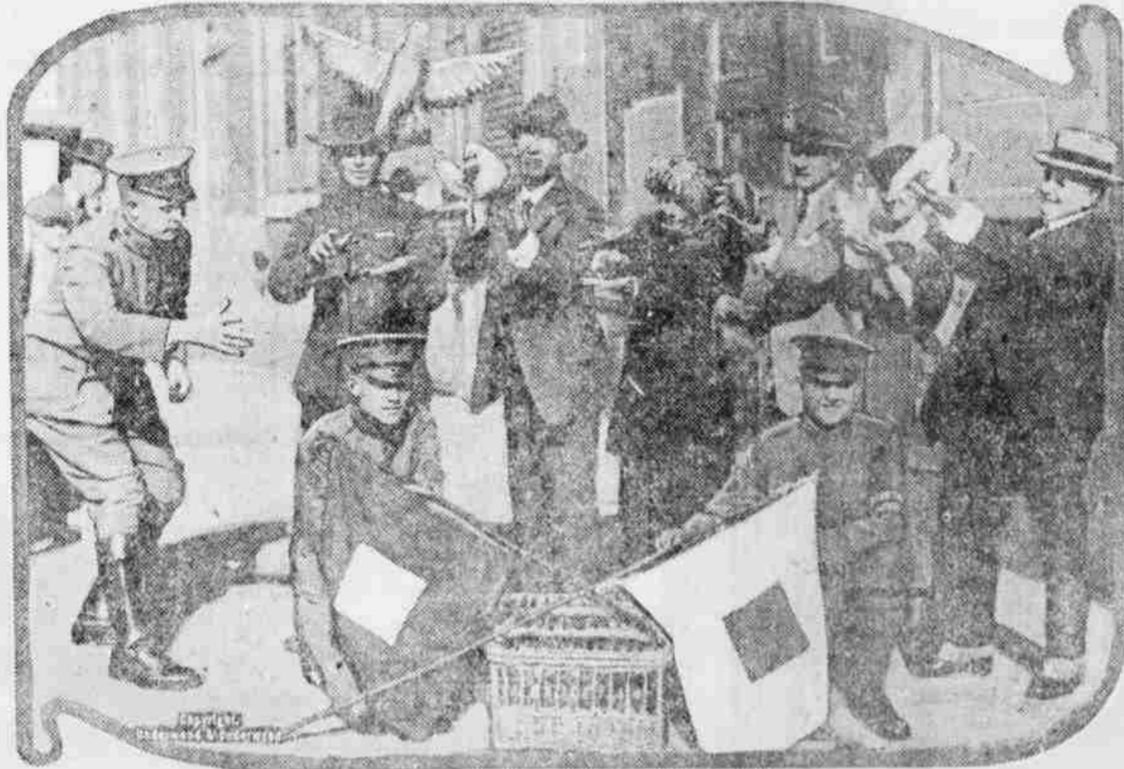
The recent report of the International Institute of Agriculture with headquarters at Rome showed the wheat available for 1920 in the great wheat sections of the world as 258,597,000 quarters, or 2,068,776,000 bushels, with a shortage compared with the last five year's average of 2%, or 42,000,000.

We have heard a great deal about the diminished buying power of Europe, and the reports of the sawdust bread, turnip soup, and other scumgullion mixtures in vogue in Europe, but nothing of the fact that Europe entered September first with the barest grain bins in her history, due to that same exchange break of last season. She had to buy. Did she?

Referring again to the U. S. October Market Reporter, we find that the average of ten years domestic consumption in the United States is 508,000,000, besides 90,000,000 for seed. Added to this is the 82,000,000 bushels average annual carry over, which seems to be a normal safety valve. This gives a total domestic disposal of 680,000,000 bushels.

The total amount available for 1920 marketing season was 962,000,000, which shows that in spite of every statement to the contrary we have available for export this year only 222,000,000 bushels. This statement was early anticipated and is verified by the latest government check upon the situation. We have heard much concerning the market breaks be-

Starting Homing Pigeons on a Long Race



Some of the army's best homing pigeons being started on a race from the Grand Central Palace, New York city, to Camp Vall, N. J. In the center of the picture is Mrs. Robert Loughry, coaxing "General Pershing" to leave her hands.

cause Europe was temporarily out of the market. As a matter of fact no one attempts to deny that, prior to October 15th, Europe had already bought over 250,000,000 bushels, not less than 30,000,000 bushels more than the export surplus of the United States. The figures are from the highest authority and are given with full belief in their authenticity. As the situation now stands the American Consumer must buy, from some source, either Canada or the British Embassy, 30,000,000 bushels. Then why did the market break?

Clearly the real reason is not supply and demand as they normally function; this clearly justified the market price of 1919 at least. If they served as a factor at all, which may be open to question, they have been grossly distorted.

Then who stole the farmers' money? The answer is quite clear. We think it is the man who sold futures to Europe on the stock exchange at \$2.60 per bushel, and who will profit by the difference between that figure and the price the farmer sells for.

A Pessimistic Democrat

Sam Hughes, who sells groceries as a vocation, and gives away good old democratic doctrine as a matter of principal, advises the Herald that the new word, normalcy, recently coined by Senator Harding, means a return to good old Republican Hard Times that will make most all of us weep bitter tears. "Sixty cent wool and \$2.80 wheat may not appear again for some considerable time," said Mr. Hughes, as he fumbled around among a lot of papers on his file, which was labeled "Bills Collectable."

Potatoes For Sale

Carload of strictly No. 1 Washington state inspected potatoes will arrive at Ione this week and will be sold at \$2.40 cash per hundredweight f. o. b. Ione. Bert Mason, Ione, Oregon. 31-11

Farm Bureau Met Last Saturday

The executive committee of the Morrow County Farm Bureau met last Saturday and transacted routine business.

A meeting of wheat growers from all parts of the state will be held at Portland or Corvallis early in January to consider the cooperative marketing of wheat, and it is expected this will be one of the most important meetings of farmers ever held in the state.

Reports from middle-western wheat states to the effect that arrangements are under way by which the federal banks will finance the wheat farmers to the extent of an advance of \$1.00 per bushel on their wheat will be

considered and an effort will be made at the January meeting to have such a policy adopted in the Pacific northwest.

The resolution adopted at the recent special meeting of the Morrow County Bureau to fix the annual dues of all members at \$5.00 was discussed and practically all the committee members reported that after conferring with their neighbors they found that the advanced rate met with general favor, and the former action was endorsed. The consensus of opinion was that if the farmers expect to get anywhere in the way of organization for their general welfare they must have a good strong fund for promotion purposes.

For Homeless Babies

Just think of it! Your baby is not homeless, friendless, nor abandoned to the rough edges of a cold and selfish world, but many babies in this fair state of Oregon are so abandoned.

To every true hearted citizen, man, woman or child, an appeal for help-less babies should get a response. Here's the situation: The new building for the Albertina Kerr Nursery at Portland is uncompleted. The present quarters are inadequate for present need.

To complete and properly equip the new building 35,000 more bricks are needed at \$1.00 a brick.

Heppner school children will put on a tag day Friday and Saturday of this week to help "buy bricks" to complete this worthy institution, and in spite of the fact that wheat is not selling for what it is worth if you can dig up a dime or a dollar it will help. W. G. McLaren is superintendent of this home. You know something of the work he is doing.

Elks' Memorial Service Next Sunday

Heppner Elks will unite in the regular annual memorial service in memory of departed brothers of the order next Sunday afternoon at the Elks' temple. Mr. Barnett Goldstein, United States deputy district attorney for the district of Oregon, and recognized as an orator of ability, will deliver the principal address. A suitable musical program is being arranged for the occasion.

A cordial invitation is extended to the general public of Heppner and Morrow county to be present at this interesting and beautiful service.

Jack O'Neil Returns From East

Jack O'Neil returned from Seattle, Wash. last evening, where he was called several weeks ago by the death of an uncle. Mr. O'Neil confirms the press reports recently published to the effect that the elder O'Neil left an estate valued somewhere around a million dollars and that he was named in his uncle's last will as the sole beneficiary. The estate consists mostly of lands and it will be several months before the estate can be probated and ready to turn over to the heir. Meantime, Mr. O'Neil stated,

NEW ELKS' BUILDING IS COMMUNITY ASSET

INITIAL DANCE MARKS ERA IN TOWN'S SOCIAL LIFE

100 Couples Celebrate Thanksgiving Tripping "Light Fantastic" in Splendid Hall

The value of such a building as the new Elks' temple to a community like Heppner was demonstrated on Thanksgiving evening when about 100 couples made up a dancing party in the splendid new ball room. The party, which was the initial social event to be given in the new building, was made up exclusively of Elks and their ladies, and the affair was a most delightful one.

The Pendleton orchestra rendered excellent music, and in every way the party was a success.

Many ladies present expressed their appreciation of the new club rooms and ball room, and declared it to be a decided asset to the community.

McDuffee Captures Another Moon-Shine Plant

Another citizen who has been trying his best to meet the demand for a staple, if illicit, commodity, was caught in the act by Sheriff George McDuffee yesterday when the sheriff and his deputy swooped down on the homestead of Enoch Cave while the fire was burning and the precious white liquid was dripping from the still.

A gallon of finished product and a barrel or two of prune and rasin mash was found and confiscated. Cave and the important parts of his outfit were brought to town and are now in custody at the sheriff's office.

Cave was fined \$300 and costs this morning by Judge Cornett.

Oregon Cranberries Best

"The biggest, brightest, best-looking cranberries ever set on our table, and just as good as they look," was the verdict of the agricultural college press editor's wife on a sample of the "Sellmoor" fruit supplied by the grower, J. S. Dillinger, editor of the Astorian. The college man had inspected the Dillinger berry moor in mid-August, and was so impressed with the lustrous look of the berries that he thoughtlessly expressed the wish that he might have the pleasure of eating some of them when ripe. Mr. and Mrs. Dillinger heard so many like remarks from the editors and their wives then in attendance at the State editors meet, that they volunteered to send a sample to all visitors leaving their addresses. The samples came duly to hand a few days before Thanksgiving—and all recipients had still another reason to be glad that they had attended the meet. In size, color, soundness, aroma, and flavor, everybody agrees the Oregon cranberry excels.

P. A. Mollahan, well known sleep-walker, is recovering from a serious illness at the Moore hospital.

MORROW COUNTY SHEEPMEN WILL MEET

At this time of year, with congress just convening and tariff schedules in the air, there is more than usual interest in the Morrow County Annual Meeting of the Wool Growers.

This meeting will be held at the I. O. O. F. hall at 2:00 P. M. Saturday of this week.

The Pure Fabric Bill and the New Tariff Schedule are both due for a good discussion.

Delegates will be elected to the State Convention.

Plans will be laid for the extermination of coyotes, and the wage question from the sheepman's standpoint will also come on the program.

Several outside speakers are expected to discuss various phases of the marketing of wool, and the state secretary will speak on the further plans of the State Association.

There will also be the annual election of officers for the coming year.

A good lively meeting is anticipated.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER RELIEVED OF DUTIES

JUDGE CAMPBELL'S APPEAL TO BALDOCK GETS VINTON AXE

Failure to Build Specific Mileage Within Contract Price Cause of Protest

A rather important change in the management of state highway affairs in this county was reported yesterday from County Judge Campbell's office to the effect that Mr. Vinton, resident engineer in charge of the work on the Oregon-Washington highway in this county, has been relieved of his duties by District Engineer R. J. Baldock. Mr. Vinton's successor has not yet been appointed, but it is understood that a Mr. Smith, who has been connected with the highway commission in other parts of the state will take charge of the work here.

According to information given out at Judge Campbell's office the change was made because of a complaint made by Judge Campbell that the work had not been satisfactorily handled in this county inasmuch as the estimate of \$146,000 made by the engineering department as the amount necessary to complete the grade from the Gilliam county line to Heppner, and for which Oscar Huber, the contractor to whom was awarded the work, accepted the contract, failed to complete the grade.

Judge Campbell claims that the county court was given to understand that \$146,000 would complete the grade and upon that assurance, the county turned over to the state highway commission that amount of money, and allowed the commission to let the contract. Judge Campbell claims that because of inefficiency on the part of the resident engineer in handling the work that the appropriation fell far short of carrying the work to a successful conclusion.

The contract, as let by the state commission, called for a grade sufficiently wide to accommodate a 16-ft. macadam finish, but it now appears that the matter is in such a tangle that the best that can be hoped for by Morrow county taxpayers who will finally put up the money to pay for the highway construction, is an 8-ft. macadam finish the entire length of the road, and this because of the friendly attitude of Commissioner Kildie, who finally put through an arrangement with the other commissioners whereby the commission will put up enough money to complete the grade as far as the Beymer ranch, three miles below Lexington, in consideration of the commission being permitted to finish the road with an 8-ft. macadam instead of a 16-ft. finish as per original agreement with commission and contract with Mr. Huber. Even when this agreement is carried out by the state there will remain a gap of about ten miles—from the Beymer ranch to Heppner—with no improvement whatever.

Mr. Vinton was out of town yesterday when the Herald tried to reach him, and a statement from him could not be secured.

Concrete Houses Built in Two Weeks



An experiment is being made in Buckinghamshire, England, of building attractive houses with concrete. Constructed as bungalows, the interiors present a cozy appearance with vaulted roofs which will make them delightfully cool in the summer and warm in winter. Absolutely water-proof houses can be constructed within two weeks.