

THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

S. A. PATTISON, Editor and Publisher

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THE FARMERS' DOLLAR IS WORTH 70 CENTS

In the last few days the East Oregonian has made diligent inquiry as to how much money wheat farmers of Umatilla county will make this year. One banker says that the majority of farmers will actually lose money on a basis of present wheat prices. Another declares they will make little if any profit, while a third banker takes the view that careful farmers who have held expenses down closely will make small profits. He gives illustrations to show that in some cases at least this will be true.

Yet many farmers have sold some wheat at \$1 per bushel or thereabouts. In prewar days that would have been considered a splendid price. So would 90 cents have been so considered. Why then is not wheat growing profitable at present prices?

There is but one answer. The dollar the farmer gets is not worth enough. Otherwise all would be lovely. The facts are that the price of wheat has been deflated but the farmers' living costs have not been deflated proportionately. According to the department of agriculture the farmer's dollar is worth 72 cents and its value is falling. There seems no escape from this conclusion and also from the conclusion that the buying power of agriculture cannot be restored until a greater equilibrium is provided. Since the west is primarily an agricultural country business revival will have to be slow under such conditions. No amount of optimism can make good times when a farmer cannot make a good profit on \$1 wheat.

It is unfortunate that the downward sweep in living costs was checked. If it had continued all would be well and the farmer would have come into his own. So would labor for the worker does not object much to reduced wages if living costs come down proportionately.

There have been forces at work to "stabilize prices" and they have met with too much success. They have worked in different ways. In the case of sugar the Cuban sugar growers have presented unquestionable evidence that they were commanded to restrict their production or face a tariff that would almost bar their production from this country. They would not or could not reduce production so the new tariff provides the highest duty on sugar known in 50 years. That will be a good thing for the beet sugar manufacturers but they provide only 15 per cent of the sugar used in this country. The result is that in order to provide a higher price to those who produce this 15 per cent the American people must also pay a higher price for the 85 per cent not produced by the beet sugar men.

What is true of sugar is true of innumerable other lines. It is frankly admitted by all irrespective of partisanship that the new tariff bill is a price boosting agency—but it does not boost prices to the farmer. The wheat price is governed by the export demand. The new tariff may be a good thing for the manufacturing sections but it is hard to see where the American farmer can get any joy out of it.

The foreign debt question also offers some interesting features. Many advise that we cancel the debt of \$11,000,000,000 owed to the United States by European countries. That sounds like a peculiar request, and what is back of it? The East Oregonian has a theory the demand comes largely from interests that know that the debt if paid must be paid in goods, not in money. They don't want foreign manufactured articles brought to this country because that would deflate the price of American goods.

But is not such deflation just what the country needs and particularly what agricultural regions need? Would it not make the farmers dollar worth more and thereby provide the remedy we seek for present conditions? In other words if we would let nature take its course conditions would right themselves, but we are not letting nature take its course, except in spots. In many lines we retard nature's process with the result that a few benefit but the majority of people are victimized.—East Oregonian.

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CECIL

Miss Ethyl Davis, of Portland, arrived in Cecil on Saturday and was week end guest of Miss Minnie H. Lowe before leaving for Morgan where she will spend her vacation at the home of Mr. Fred Ely.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henriksen were doing business in Arlington on Saturday.

Mrs. George Krebs of the Last Camp spent the week end with friends in Arlington.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henriksen, accompanied by Herbert and Annie Hynd and Mildred Henriksen and several other friends were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. N. Lee at their home at Alderdale, Washington, on Sunday. Misses Bessie Yocum and Isabel Wilson of Heppner accompanied by several of their friends visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Funk at Morsel, near Cecil on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Mahoney and daughters, Doris and Pat accompanied by other friends and also two persons who represented two souls with but a single thought, spent Sunday as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hynd, of Butterby Flats.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and daughter and Miss Gladys Medlock all of Morgan were calling on Mr. J. W. Osborn on Friday.

Miss Esther Logan, of Fourmile, left Monday for Portland where she will visit with her grandmother for a short time before returning to her studies at Ione high school.

Traffic Officer Licuallen was seen in the Cecil district on Tuesday, but whether arresting speeders or heart-breakers is not known at the time of writing.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Streeter and family visited with Mr. and Mrs. J. Hardesty at Morgan on Sunday.

Mrs. Bob Roberts was called on

Wednesday from her parents home at Lone Star ranch where she was visiting, to Spokane where her husband was seriously injured when his airplane took fire.

Editor S. A. Pattison, of the Heppner Herald was calling on his friends in Cecil district on Wednesday and Thursday.

The following citizens of Cecil are spending the week in the mountains: Mr. and Mrs. Zenneth Logan and Misses Doris Logan and Minnie Lowe, Jackie Hynd, Walter Pope and Bob Lowe. We expect to hear some wonderful bear, deer and fish tales and are also patiently waiting for huckleberry pie when the travellers return to Sunny Cecil.

Misses Doris and Pat Mahoney, of Heppner are spending a few days at Butterby Flats.

A. Troedson, of near Ione, was calling in Cecil Friday and says Morgan will have to wake up and get busy for he sees some improvement in Cecil every time he calls, but has not seen a corner stone laid for the county seat in Cecil yet.

Miss Dana Logan, of Cecil spent Wednesday and Thursday with Miss Pat Mahoney at Butterby Flats.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Henriksen who autoed to Portland some time ago, returned home Wednesday. Mr. Henriksen is delighted with the results of the sale of his cattle while in Portland.

Mrs. Ista Bauernfiend and son who have been visiting in Morgan, called on their Cecil friends Thursday before leaving for their home at Corbett.

Road work is going ahead near the county line. A little while longer and we will be able to use the new road through to Heppner Junction.

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