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FARMER TAKES ISSUE WITH EDITOR

Those who think that Englishmen and Canadians lack a sense of humor will be disabused of that idea by the following dispute between the editor of the Saskatoon Star and a wheat grower reader. The editor doubts whether the farmer can improve his condition in any other way than by careful selection of crops. He says:

"The results of this year are going to be very like the results of other good crop years. The real farmer, who lives off the smaller produce of his farm and sells his grain as a surplus product, is going to be in a comfortable and secure position. Of the others, some of the lucky ones will turn the corner, while the unlucky ones will find themselves in the clutches of 'the interests.'

"The whole trouble with farming in Western Canada is that too many farmers are trying to raise money. Money is not a legitimate farm product, and the less the farmer has to do with it the better off he will be. More and more in Western Canada the man who does not raise his own meat and potatoes, his own horses, his own butter and eggs and small fruits and vegetables, is going to be crowded out. The successful farmer the world over is the small mixed farmer who raises the greater part of his living on his farm. Experience has shown that 'wheat mining' in Western Canada is a gamble, with the odds against the farmer. The money basis of the whole proposition is that the farmer both buys and sells at the other fellow's price. And the chances of changing that basis are remote, for they involve an upheaval of the whole financial structure of civilization. The individual farmer has only one way of beating the game, and that is to farm, in the true sense of the word.

"The farmer who farms with one eye on the city; with a feeling that it is impossible to 'see life' on the farm with a thirst in his heart for the show and glitter of 'civilization' is crippling himself; he is praying for failure."

One result of the editorial was a somewhat remarkable letter from Sydney Bingham, member in the Saskatchewan legislature. He wrote:

"My mind has visioned the kind of farmer peasant you want, the happy simpleton who will devote about five hours' overtime in mixed chores and train his family to patiently follow in father's footsteps. The family living of bare needs must be sweated out of the farm, but sweated of the income tax return. There are so many others, who look for support from the actual crop returns, he will gladly hand it over because 'money is not a legitimate farm product.' Before he goes to bed he will repeat a fervent prayer, 'God bless the squire and his relations, and keep us in our proper stations.'

"Mr. Editor, what is this doctrine you teach? That the real producers of wealth must calmly submit to economic and social subjugation, ignorant or indifferent to such things as cost of production, and selling efficiency. That the farmer cannot and must not be a business man. Well, I'll admit that the rest of the world should be glad he isn't. But the fact is he must soon be, because he must prevent that financial upheaval of which you speak. All the paltry, hopeless stuff you would now teach the farmer has been poured into the ears of labor in bygone years. But labor marches on to better things. The farmer must follow. He must organize and advance with the economic forces of the world, or go under in the pressure of modern conditions."

"It is strange, to say the least, that in these days when the business world is so intensely organized, when almost every device and service is charged up to overhead in the name of efficiency, when the spread between producer and consumer is ever widening and the law of supply and demand is for the most part ignored, or overridden, the farmer is told to avert his gaze from those things and seek happiness in natural and spiritual law. You promise that in some mysterious way the benefits of freedom from financial worry and greater leisure will come. How? I only know of one practical way and that is that the marketing of what promises to be our bountiful crop, shall be done in a way that will show a profit to the farmer. Every nerve and energy of the country should be brought into service to that end.

"The prudent farmer will introduce and maintain livestock, gardens, etc., on his farm where they fit in with practical economy, but no amount of mixed farming, or mixed theory either, will save this country, if the grain crop is thrown on the grain exchange at below the cost of production."

RED TAPE AND THE CRIPPLED SOLDIER

With an artificial chin, one lung and near blindness, Sergeant Dijon, hero of Cantigny, was found aimlessly wandering about at Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin.

At Cantigny, Dijon was conspicuous for bravery in the first battle in which American troops took part. In the face of terrible machine gun fire he leaped from a front-line trench, rushed across No Man's Land and captured an enemy machine gun nest.

His gallantry and the honorable wounds that have reduced him to a wreck have had no recognition from the government. Army red tape charges that at the time of his act of gallantry he was on the records as absent without leave; that he went forward without orders, and incurred risks that could have been avoided.

A veterans' bureau in the East sent him to an army hospital at Prescott, Arizona, where he was refused admittance, and he tramped his way on foot to Fond Du Lac.

If Dijon is not entitled to aid, who is? Does not the chin shot away and an artificial one supplied by the surgeons, atone for the 'absent without leave'?

Does not the capture of the enemy machine gun nest wipe out the fact that he acted without orders?

Do not the one lung and the near blindness blot out the complaint that the risk could have been avoided?

Isn't the fact that he is a human wreck, a derelict, a shattered remnant of a man, and that all this came to him while fighting the best he knew under and for the Stars and Stripes, make him worthy, in the eyes of the nation, of being something more than a maimed wanderer on the face of the earth?

The people of the United States do not approve the rigid army ruling that gives this war wreck a stone as his reward for his gallantry at Cantigny, a battle that sent a thrill of encouragement into every home in America.—Oregon Journal.

OLD MORROW COUNTYITES HOLD REUNION

Last Saturday afternoon, at Laurelhurst park in Portland, some fifty former citizens of Morrow county held their seventeenth annual reunion.

The weather was perfect, the grub was "perfect" and in bounteous quantities. Everybody wore their pleasantest smile, the program was good but not long and surely everybody present enjoyed themselves to the full.

Election of officers resulted as follows: President, Geo. Horsman; vice president, Helen M. Warren; treasurer, J. W. Beckett; secretary, N. C. Maris.

Mrs. A. E. Binns gave a very able and entertaining address on the character and worth of the pioneer stock of Morrow county. Miss Lucha Van Winkle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Van Winkle, recited nicely "Little Orphan Annie. As usual W. L. Mallory gave a splendid talk, this time in memory of our departed members of the association. Mrs. Helen Warren gave a very interesting talk on the early history of Gilliam county (from which Morrow was carved), and some of her prominent pioneer citizens.

Renewing old acquaintances and talking over old times occupied the greater part of the afternoon and this feature of this annual gathering is the one most enjoyed and it was not till after nine o'clock that all had said good-night and left beautiful Laurelhurst for their various homes.

It was decided to hold next year's picnic at the same place, on the afternoon of the first Sunday following the Fourth of July.

The constitution of the organization provides for an official song to be sung at the opening and closing of each meeting, a matter which had been overlooked in former years. The following ode was adopted and sung at this meeting:

Heppner-Portland
(Tune, America)
My Heppner, 'tis of thee,
Place of nativity,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my children grew!
Land of real friendship true!
To thee my thoughts return
And pleasures bring.

Dear friends back there to you,
We sadly bid adieu,
To move down here;
Friends whom we can't forget,
Friends whom we're glad we met,
We welcome you to come
And make homes near.

Portland, our adopted home,
From thee we never roam,
Thy streets we love;
We love thy parks and drives,
That health and pleasure gives,
We love thy water pure,
Our home we love.
—N. C. MARIS, Secretary.

COMBINED HARVESTER CUTS OVER 32 MILES IN ONE DAY

As a tributary center of big wheat farms Arlington stands without a peer in either Oregon or Washington.

When a harvesting crew can travel 32 miles in a day on one field of wheat, and yet make scarcely an impression on it, one naturally concludes that it must be a field of anything but diminutive size.

Such, however, is the record made by a combined harvester crew last Saturday on Earl Weatherford's ranch on Shutler flat, 12 miles south of Arlington. Weatherford has 2500 acres in fall and spring wheat, all in one body.

Last Saturday a 20-foot cut Holt combine harvester, pulled by a 75 power Holt tractor, covered 32 miles of this field, or about 75 acres. The cut will run about two and one-third acres to the mile. The yield will average from 20 to 40 bushels per acre, depending whether it is fall or winter seeding.—Arlington Bulletin.

HERMISTON PICTURED AS AN IDEAL OREGON COMMUNITY

An interesting article written by A. C. Volker and printed in the latest number of Commonwealth Review of the University of Oregon, is devoted to the town and community of Hermiston, in Umatilla county and shows what can be accomplished in eastern Oregon by the application of water to the sandy soil of the lower levels of the Columbia basin.

After giving a brief history of the earliest attempts to put water on the land by private individuals and corporations and of the subsequent taking over of the project by the United States government as a federal reclamation project, the writer tells us that the first ground broken or sage brush grubbed was in August, 1904, just 19 years ago.

The first crops produced were potatoes, alfalfa and watermelons, all of which grew in such abundance as to fully demonstrate what the land was capable of when watered and cultivated.

The town was started in 1905 and 1906 a school was organized with 12 pupils. A 4-room school house was built and in 1910 an 8-room addition was added and in the term of 1921-22 the total enrollment was 350 pupils.

The town claims to be the smallest place having a Carnegie library which is supported by taxation and



a salaried librarian is in charge.

A spirit of co-operation pervades the community and farmers, when help is scarce and high priced, exchange work in the harvest and other busy seasons. The community also has a Jersey association, a Hay Growers' association, Apple Growers' association and Potato Growers' association, all of which are said to be excellent examples of co-operative endeavor.

The town has the usual number of churches and lodges, a picture show and a lyceum course is maintained during the winter months.

The article shows what is possible in Oregon community life if the people who make up the community have the ambition to get together and do things for themselves.

FOOD PRICES AND FARMER

The price of food, according to the Department of Labor, averages 42 per cent higher now than it did in 1913. The Department of Agriculture reports, however, that the farmer is receiving less for the staples like wheat, corn, barley, hay and livestock than he did in 1913. What causes the difference?

Higher wages in every line except farming account for the discrepancy. Miners, steel workers, railroad men, labor in packing, milling and canning plants, all are receiving more money with the result that the cost of transporting and transforming the farm output into finished products has greatly increased. These increased wages are a distinct economic

benefit—except to the farmer. The size of his compensation is fixed by the price his surplus brings on the world market. The world market is low, hence the farmer gets less for his work than he did in 1913.

The situation can be remedied in two ways: An effort can be made to lift the world market price by improving world conditions, or the American farmer can reduce his output, thereby forcing the price up. His chances of improving world conditions are microscopic, but he can reduce his output. In fact, he is almost compelled to produce less. He is doing it. He is cutting down. Pretty soon food prices will go up. When they do, don't howl. On the contrary, be thankful that for the last three years the farmer has been working for you for less than nothing. He is entitled at least to the wage of a day laborer.—Sunset.

FARM REMINDERS

Copper carbonate dust treatment of seed wheat has been found by the Oregon experiment station to be effective in smut control, to aid rather than harm germination, to reduce the amount of grain seeded after liquid treatment 25 per cent, to reduce losses from holding treated grain in bad weather, to produce good healthy plants under otherwise unfavorable conditions.

A profitable type of feeder lamb is one that is thrifty, blocky, and about 55 pounds in weight. This type when fed good feed will make a gain of a quarter of a pound a day and will be fat in 80 to 100 days. Good quality feeds must be supplied to obtain these results. This is the season to be spotting the lambs wanted for feeding purposes.

The dairy industry in the state is increasing at the rate of 1,189,794 pounds of butter fat annually, which is worth about \$500,000. This industry is enabling the farmer to change his labor from a loss to a profit.

It is economy on the part of all farmers who raise stock to pasture the stubble field with hogs or sheep. The grain shattered or lodged will be readily gathered by them and placed in a marketable form. This season in western Oregon there is considerable grain that has lodged. If there are hogs available use them. If not, sheep are a good substitute.

Economy the Spirit of the Times

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK WHAT YOU PAY FOR FANCY CONTAINERS?

COFFEE

IS A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THE FACT. YOU PAY FROM 7c to 8c PER POUND FOR THE LITHOGRAPHED CANS

WE CARRY A LINE OF BULK COFFEES AT

33½c - 35c - 40c

PER POUND

Phelps Grocery Company