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SUBSIDY IS OPPOSED BY GRAIN EXPORTERS

PROPOSAL IS DECLARED TO BE SAME AS PRICE-FIXING

Statement Asserts Move Would Result in Displacement of Private Dealers

(Oregonian)

The brief of the grain trade of Portland against the so-called American Wheat Growers' associated plan for an export subsidy to relieve the grain situation was presented yesterday to the agricultural and legislative committees of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

The committees, which are considering indorsement of the plan, will take a full week to make a study of the objections. The programme was originally presented to them by a special committee of the Oregon Bankers' association.

Briefly, what the plan proposes is the creation of a government export corporation, empowered to tax all wheat in order to create a fund to be applied as a bonus upon that portion of the wheat which, as a surplus, is exported. This, with adequate tariff protection, would raise the price of domestic wheat sufficiently to provide the farmer with an adequate return for his grain, it is contended.

Representing the grain trade, through the Merchants' Exchange, the brief was presented over the signatures of Frank Shull, W. H. Wilson, I. C. Stanford, A. M. Choy-stale and N. A. Leach.

Arguments Are Given

The arguments against the export subsidy program are discussed under two headings. They are:

"First—Under this plan is it possible to guarantee the producer of wheat a price for his goods, which will assure a profit?"

"Second—Can marketing through co-operative associations be more beneficial to the farmer than the present competitive system, and should co-operative marketing be extended?"

Discussing the first question, the brief declares that "this proposal is nothing more nor less than price-fixing. This statement has been and will be, most strenuously denied by the advocates of the plan. The sixth section of the proposed plan reads as follows: 'The tax and the premium to be subject to revision by the commission from year to year, depending upon the probable amount of the surplus, always so fixed that the price of wheat to the farmer will be maintained at a point equal in purchasing power to the pre-war value of the commodity.'

Price to Be Regulated

"The purchasing power of the pre-war value of the commodity is presumably a known, fixed quantity. The price is to be regulated from year to year to equal this known, fixed quantity. The American Wheat Growers Association, Inc., state that this is not price-fixing. They call it 'the reverse application of the tariff principle.' But the effect is the same. They propose to maintain the price at a fixed value, call it by any name that is desired.

"It is hardly necessary here to repeat the well-known arguments against price-fixing. Such must have been obvious to the advocates of the plan, for indirectly they admit such arguments and the impossibility of securing sufficient support to pass this measure if recognized as price-fixing. This they have done by their unwillingness to permit the proposal to be known under that name."

The argument continues to point out that even if the plan could be made to operate, it would be "objectionable for the following reasons:

Unsound, It Is Said

"The plan is economically unsound. It is an artificial means of stimulating an industry in which there is already overproduction.

"The effect of such a measure would be cumulative. The burden to be artificially borne due to overproduction would become greater and greater each year, and unless this plan was permanently adopted, all would end in economic disaster.

"The plan proposes class legislation. It contemplates an indirect

HERMISTON OIL DRILL BRINGS ARTESIAN FLOW

The well recently sunk at Hermiston by a local oil company struck a strong flow of artesian water and the city council of that town is considering taking over the well as a source of supply for domestic and other city purposes. The well flows 175 gallons per minute or about eight times the amount now actually needed for city use and it is said that under pumping pressure it can be increased to 600 gallons per minute. The oil company has offered the well to the city for \$8,000, the actual cost as it now stands, and if the offer is accepted they propose to at once start another and larger well in their exploration for oil.

Morrow county is interested in our neighbor's development, as either oil or plenty of artesian water would prove of great value to the "sand country" in the north part of the county.

tax upon the public at large of 23 cents per bushel upon each bushel of wheat produced through an increase in price to the domestic consumer. This amounts to a subsidy for the benefit of the people producing less than 12 per cent of the total value of the country's principal farm crops (from the final estimates of the United States department of agriculture, December 17, 1923).

Grain Dealers Would Go.

"The plan will result in the practical confiscation of private property. It has been proven in the past few years that the co-operative marketing associations cannot hope to displace the private exporter or grain dealer in fair and open competition. However, this plan proposes to legislate the private exporter and grain merchant out of business. It is stated in support of the proposed plan that 'it will greatly assist the growth of co-operative marketing associations.' It is also stated 'it will leave to the co-operative marketing associations the problem of controlling orderly distribution of the domestic consumption.'

"It is a further entry of the federal government into private business. The recent administration is pledged to stand aloof from the conduct of private business enterprises except for the correction of abusive tactics and illegal practices. There has been no claim made that such conditions exist in private and competitive handling of grain."

Discussing the second question relative to co-operative marketing, the brief says: "Co-operative marketing has never been able to displace the private and competitive system of grain handling in open competition.

Legislation Would Be Unfair

"To force the extension of co-operative marketing through legislation is not only eminently unfair, but should certainly not be accomplished until the co-operative associations assume the burden of proof and show beyond a reasonable doubt that they can operate for as low a cost per bushel handled as the private dealer who handles an equal quantity of grain. The human race is so constituted that men have always worked and accomplished more for their own private gain than in the service of the public.

"Since the days of the corn laws in England, there have been many periodic attempts, by legislation and otherwise to eliminate the private and competitive system of handling agricultural products. Such attempts have always been ended in expense, inefficient handling, and graft; and eventually the field has been opened once more to private and competitive handling. This is at least some evidence that in the long course of human affairs the problem can better be handled for the producer by private and competitive individuals under a small margin of profit.

Overhead Is Small

"There is little or no room for the reduction of expense in the handling of grain. It is handled at present by private dealers at as low an overhead cost that even were all this overhead eliminated it would not appreciably help the farmer.

"Co-operative marketing, if ex-

Californian Invents Sun Furnace



Dr. William Thomas of Hollywood, Calif., is shown above demonstrating a sun furnace he has invented which generates heat of 3,216 degrees. The device, a wooden structure, resembles a giant's cradle and contains an arrangement of long mirrors which throw the sun's rays on a spot six inches square. In the photograph Dr. Thomas is holding a sheet of lead through which holes were burned.

EXAMINATION FOR ARMY POSITION

A final competitive examination for appointment as Second Lieutenants in the regular army will be held throughout the United States during the week commencing April 14, 1924. Applications to take the examination should be submitted as soon as possible. Citizens of the United States who are single and between the ages of 21 and 30 years may compete in this examination. These examinations are always open to enlisted men of the regular army and national guard. For further information on this subject consult the authorities at the U. S. army recruiting station as follows: Room 201, New Post Office Bldg., Portland.

James Luper left for Portland and Salem Saturday evening to spend the holidays with his daughter, Mrs. King, and her family at Portland, and his son, Rheo Luper, at Salem. Rheo Luper now holds the position of state engineer at the capitol city.

tended, would open the door to still further class legislation and class evasion of monopolistic combinations prohibited by the Sherman anti-trust act. The proposed plan deals exclusively with wheat. Many farmers grow other crops such as corn, oats, rye, barley, flax and fruit. One farmer may raise but one crop and this of some commodity other than wheat. Every cereal mentioned is selling at a low price. It would not be long before we would be requested to fix the price for rye, corn, barley, oats, fruit and other commodities. When we have done this there are many branches of the milling business whose mills, idle since the war, may want a living price fixed for that commodity."

Included in the argument are a number of references to the part of the exporters in building up the port and the regulations which insure their efficient operation and prevent them from making exorbitant profits.

LEXINGTON HAS SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

Teachers and pupils of Lexington high school presented the popular comedy-drama, "Hand of the Law," in the school auditorium last Friday evening and the entertainment was said to be one of the best given in the county so far this season. A big crowd was present and \$59 was realized for the school treasury. So well received was the play that it will be repeated New Year's Night.

Jewell-Litten

John M. Jewell and Miss Edea E. Litten, both of Morgan, were married at the court house Saturday morning. County Judge W. T. Campbell officiating. Mr. Jewell is engaged in farming near Morgan, where they will reside.

THE INDEPENDENT WONDERS

We wonder who the guy is that has intentions of being a candidate for sheriff from Ione. He's as elusive as old J. Ambros Hepwing who is so badly sought for by Andy Gump. However, the guy will have to go some to beat George McDuffee.—Ione Independent.

In the study of the effects of hot-water sterilization on heat-cup rubbers of milking machines, the United States Department of Agriculture found that the life of these rubbers when regularly sterilized by this method varied from 6 to 17 weeks. It was also found that hot water gave better results in reducing the number of bacteria than did the use of either chlorin solution or salt and chlorine solution. The Bureau of Standards, co-operating with the United States Department of Agriculture, found that it is very important that these heat-cup rubbers be made of so-called pure gum compound, and that they should be thoroughly cleaned before sterilization, as a little butterfat remaining on them has a destructive effect in connection with the heat.

W. L. SUDDARTH HURT IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENT

W. L. Suddarth, who formerly taught the Pine City school but who has recently completed a course at the state normal school at McMouth, was very seriously injured last Friday when he fell from the running board of a swiftly moving automobile on the Columbia highway near The Dalles. Mr. Suddarth, who has a ranch at Irrigon, was on his way home to spend the holidays with his family, and was in company with some other normal students when the accident occurred. He stepped out on the running board to try to locate a knock in the motor, when he fell off, striking his head on a rock. He was taken to the hospital at The Dalles, where he is reported as being in a critical condition.

BETTER METHODS OFFERED IN DAIRY SHORT COURSE

Oregon dairymen interested in manufacture will have an opportunity to pick up the most up-to-date information in the short course at the agricultural college January 7 to February 2, 1924. Creamery operators will take into consideration the competition of today which cuts the profit to a narrow margin, and discuss the important problem of efficiency. "Increased efficiency and quality" is the short course slogan.

Practical work in buttermaking, ice-cream making and cheese making will be given. The afternoons will be spent in the creamery on work to demonstrate points brought out in the lectures. Lectures will also be given on factory management, judging dairy products, bacteriology and on testing dairy products.

The department formerly offered courses for inexperienced men.

John C. Brown, formerly engaged in farming in the Blackhorse district, writes the Herald from Redland, California, in which he sends Christmas greetings to all his old friends and neighbors. Mr. Brown says he has been in poor health for the past year but he likes the mild California climate, where he can go around at any time in comfort.

OLD SANTA ON WHEELS

"Mama, doesn't Santa Claus ever come to a railroad train?"

The innocent query, made by one of a number of children on the U. P. Los Angeles Limited last Christmas, gave some one a hunch and this year Santa Claus will make good on Childhood's fondest expectations.

For the announcement was made by William McMurray, general passenger agent of the Union Pacific system at Portland that every thru train on its lines is to have a Christmas tree, together with a full complement of candy, toys and all of the fixings necessary for a real Christmas Eve celebration.

And that means that the venerable saint will have to catch 25 different trains speeding at a mile a minute across widely separated portions of the West, bearing not only a big tree, but a huge pack that contains everything necessary to make it a treasure chest of real Christmas fun. On each pack will be the address:

"For the kiddies who have to travel on Christmas. With the holiday greetings of the Union Pacific System."

Both operating and traffic departments of the railroad are co-operating to see that Santa doesn't miss a single train that carries an observation car, and a large staff has been especially assigned to assist in seeing that the huge amount of presents and trimmings necessary are properly distributed and waiting at the various strategic points along the U. P. lines where the many trains can best be caught.

The Portland Limited will be started from Portland by Santa on the 24th and other trains will be met at Ogden, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Pocatello, Cheyenne, Denver, North Platte, Kansas City and Omaha.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS ABROAD IN HEPPNER

MANY ENTERTAINMENTS AND PROGRAMS BEING GIVEN

Churches and Legion Are Making the Children Happy With Trees and Treats

The Christmas spirit is abroad in Heppner just now and many excellent entertainments are being given in observance of the festive season.

The American Legion gave an outdoor Christmas tree and treat for the children of the community Sunday evening when a fine tree, ablaze with colored lights and appropriate decorations at the intersection of Main and Willow streets attracted a great throng of children and grown-ups. Santa Claus was on hand in his big fur overcoat and white whiskers which in this case were both real. Mr. Douglas, of pioneer ox team fame, impersonating the merry old giver of gifts. Some 300 packages of Christmas cheer were distributed to all children under 12 years of age.

The high school orchestra furnished music for the occasion and the weatherman withheld the rain until the affair was over.

At the Methodist community church an elaborate holiday season program was given beginning with a "White Gifts" program at the Sunday school Sunday morning. The program was an excellent one and the "White Gifts" will go to the Near East relief fund. Birthday boxes given by members of the school go to the relief of Methodist missions in Japan. Special service and music marked the regular church service at 11:00 o'clock and also at the evening service. The Christmas celebration of this Sunday school was held Monday evening at the church when a fine program was given, ending with a visit from Santa Claus and a treat for the children.

At Bethel chapel the occasion was observed with a tree, program and treat. The chapel also received as a Christmas gift from the ladies aid, a fine piano bought and paid for from the receipts of the recent bazaar held by the aid members.

Sunday morning the chapel congregation were favored with a sermon by Rev. Edwards of Walla Walla, and in the evening they were treated to a radio sermon delivered by Rev. Matthews, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Seattle.

At the Christian church an indoor picnic was held in the church parlors Monday afternoon under the auspices of the Bible School at which the children were entertained with a program, a treat and a general good time. In the evening "The Nativity," a very beautiful Christmas service was given in the church auditorium.

A turkey shoot was held at Gentry Field Sunday afternoon at which many fine Christmas dinners were won by the marksmen and Monday evening a big dance was held in the pavilion, given by the Rodeo committee for the benefit of the boys who were injured while entertaining the visitors at the Rodeo meet last fall.

Mac Smith is up from the Krebs ranch at Cecil, visiting his family and celebrating Christmas while nursing an injured hand. The member was caught between a wagon wheel and a post and was badly lacerated.

The creamery at Grove City, Pa., a privately owned plant, is used by the United States Department of Agriculture for experimental purposes under special arrangements with the owners. The management is under the direction of the Dairy Division of the department. This arrangement has now continued for eight years and the department has done much work of value to the dairy industry, while at the same time great progress has been made by the community as a result of the improvement in cattle and in methods of manufacturing and marketing dairy products. Butter is still the principal product, but a good trade has been built up in sweet cream and ice-cream mix. Butter and other products have been of high quality and have sold for more than usual market prices.

For the Holidays:

Best of everything in

Fish, Flesh and Fowl

Christmas Turkeys a Specialty

THE CENTRAL MARKET

G. B. SWAGGART, Prop.