

THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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What have we had from the old year that came to an end last midnight?

What may we expect from the New Year that took up the burden at 12:01 this morning?

The past year has been rather uneventful in Heppner and Morrow county. It has brought the county perhaps the greatest crop of wheat ever grown here since the first furrow was turned. It has brought a measure of prosperity to the sheepmen both in increase and prices but the wheat farmer still finds himself in very straitened circumstances in spite of the wonderful yield from his acres, because of the low price which his product commands on the world market. Many farmers assert, and no doubt with reason, that the price is below the cost of production and they look into the future with foreboding.

The cattle industry is about on a par with wheat and when the herd owner figures interest, taxes, living cost, labor and other expenses that go into the beef animal before it is ready for market and sets the total opposite the price received he generally finds the balance showing on the wrong side of the ledger.

But in spite of these adverse conditions Morrow county has cause for congratulation when we compare our condition with that of many other parts of the world. We have no hunger here and our people are all comfortably clad even if some of us are not attired in the latest fashion. Our children enjoy the blessing of good schools—even if we think taxes are unreasonably high. Our churches and societies and amusements are all well patronized, showing that we are still able to partake of spiritual and social advantages—even if times are hard and money not plentiful.

The greatest degree of progress noted in the county during the past year has been in the continued building of good roads, the highway department having practically completed about seven miles of first-class market road on the Heppner-Hardman route, as well as several miles of well built macadam county roads in the north part of the county. The state has also completed 14 miles of standard highway on the O.-W. route.

It is true that to most of us the old world seems badly out of joint the past few years and whether or not the bottom of the valley of financial depression has been reached "no man knoweth."

There was a time when big crops meant prosperity but at present the rule seems to be reversed and the cry of "overproduction" is becoming a by-word. The world seems to be producing so much wheat and so many cattle that those who produce these commodities are trembling on the verge of bankruptcy while millions of people in other sections of the globe are facing starvation—certainly an anomalous condition.

But what may we expect from the coming year?

There was an old song, popular many years ago, a line of which told us that "The World is What You Make It" and that sentiment is just as true today as it ever was.

If this country of ours is what we claim it to be—a government of, for and by the people" then it must follow that the conditions under which we live are primarily the result of the past and present thought and action of the people as a whole. If the government is not just that then it must follow that the whole plan of Democracy is a joke, a phantasm, a will o' the wisp which, if followed, will lead us into the Dismal Swamp of national and individual failure.

The coming year may bring Morrow county another abundant crop—the prospects are now bright for such an expectation—but will such a crop help or hurt the farmer on whose prosperity depends the welfare of every citizen no matter what his calling?

One thing the coming year is sure to bring us is a national political campaign. Will the campaign and the election that follows with its attendant results help or hurt the country?

If Democracy is what we have been taught it to be, a form of government under which the people—you and me and our neighbors and all of our fellow citizens—really rule, then it would seem that it is "up to" the bunch of us, as citizens, to wake up and take some interest in things political and economic that have to do with our welfare or failure. Mass action on the part of the common people of the country is what is needed. Not mob action nor class action; but the orderly action of an aroused public intelligence—the action of a strong majority who will base their conduct on the principle of the Square Deal not only for the individual himself but for the entire mass.

Thought is the basis of all action. No man can raise his hand without first thinking that he wishes to do so and it follows that intelligent action—the only kind that can be expected to bring good results—can only follow intelligent thought.

What is needed then to bring a speedy end to all the financial and other knotty problems that have been confronting us during the past few years is a lot of intelligent thinking by the entire mass of the American people and that will certainly be followed by the intelligent action in overcoming our troubles.

We have been having too much jazz, too much speed, too much semi-insanity as a people and we need to get back to a measure of normalcy wherein we can do some clear thinking about the things that most affect our lives.

Then vale to the old year, hail to the new. Let us think righteously, act intelligently and expect much, for, after

CECIL

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all the readers of the "Cecil Items" and may we all faithfully carry out the good resolutions we have made for the year 1924 and last but not least, may all the bachelors of Morrow county become bachelors during Leap Year.

Mrs. Jack Hynd and Miss Violet and Master Jackie Hynd arrived at Butterby Flats on Saturday and will spend their vacation with The Mayor and will return to their Heppner residence in time for the opening of school.

Cecil was well represented at the dance given in lone on Saturday evening. It was also a Cecil young man who won the handsome blanket given by the American Legion. Frank Connor of The Last Camp was the lucky man. Frank has now passed on an order to Mac Smith (as soon as he is able to work again) to make him a "hope chest" and there the blanket will rest till the "lady love" names the happy day.

John Peterson was calling on friends in Cecil on Friday before leaving for his work at Sattle. John has been spending his vacation at his home near The Willows.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Farnsworth and children of Rhea Sliding spent Monday and Tuesday visiting friends in Heppner.

C. E. Barnett of Fournille was a caller in Cecil on Thursday.

Misses Annie and Violet Hynd of Butterby Flats were calling on Mrs. Georgia Summers on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Noble and

Johanie Shufeldt of Rhea Sliding spent the week end visiting friends in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis White accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Ison were calling on friends in Heppner on Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Ison are leaving for their home in Hood River on Thursday. Mrs. Ison has been spending a few days with her parents Mr. and Mrs. May of Lone Star ranch near Cecil.

Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Van Schloch and children, from their ranch above Heppner, visited with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Krebs at The Last Camp on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. J. W. Osborn and sister, Mrs. Weltha Combest, also Mr. and Mrs. E. Glac and son, Floyd, were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Streeter on Xmas day.

Oral Henriksen of Ewing left on Thursday for Walla Walla, where he will visit friends for a few days.

W. H. Chandler of Willow Creek ranch has been entertaining his daughters during the holidays. Mrs. E. Willbanks of Vernonia and Mrs. Clifford Davidson of White Salmon, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Krebs and sons and Miss Georgia Summers of The Last Camp, were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hynd at Butterby Flats on Sunday.

T. H. Lowe and son Bob and his pal Donald Reiser of Portland were calling in Arlington on Saturday.

E. Bellingier of Hermiston has been shipping several cars of baled hay from Cecil during the week. Hay baler at work again after the Xmas vacation.

Mr. Fletcher from Fournille, was a visitor at Dotheboys Hill on Friday and Saturday, while doing business with W. A. Thomas.

"Wid" Palmateer of Windybrook was in Cecil on Xmas day, enquiring after roast turkey, etc. after demolishing one big turkey at home). But he found the cupboards were bare and returned home "a sadder but wiser man."

Charlie Hynd from Hynd Bros. ranch at Ukiab, and two of his men arrived at Butterby Flats on Thursday with a large bunch of fine cattle which will be fed on Cecil's fam-

ous hay. Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Morrison spent their vacation with friends in Hermiston. A service will be held in Cecil hall Sunday evening, January 6th, 1924, by Archdeacon Goldie of Cove. Everybody welcome.

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