

**THE HEPPNER HERALD**  
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

S. A. PATTISON, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the Heppner, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class Matter

Terms of Subscription

One Year .....	\$2.00
Six Months .....	\$1.00
Three Months .....	\$0.50

**THE FARMER SEES SOMETHING**

When the cold snap that ushered in the new year was at its height there was considerable complaining among householders because they could not get fresh vegetables. Stores that had taken pride in supplying a large variety of produce suddenly ran out, and shoppers were told that things had frozen. There was plenty to eat, but it consisted mainly of canned stuff and persons who have not been converted to preparing their vegetables with can openers found their menus considerably disturbed.

All this was the result of one little storm, but there are signs of a bigger storm brewing that will have a more lasting effect upon the food market. The farmer is constantly being told that he is overproducing, but in the past he has continued to do so by force of habit and because to curtail production would not help unless it was generally indulged in. But something is happening now to the minds of those hard working men. If scattered instances are any indication of what is coming, the day is not far off when the farmer will get what is rightfully his.

Last week a farmer brought a load of wood to a valley town and sold it for a good price. All he had done to that wood was cut it up and haul it; nature had taken care of the planting and cultivating. He told his friends that it had brought him more than it was worth, and he has plenty more and knows that the demand is good.

The same man lost money on his wheat crop this year. He had worked early and late, plowing, sowing and threshing, and when he sold it he found that he would have been better off if he had simply sat in the sun and loafed instead of producing. He plans to cut more wood and plant less wheat.

Of course if every farmer with a wood lot did this there would not be much of a market for wood, but others are finding other ways out. Some plan on growing enough food to feed themselves this year and working in mills within flivvering distance of their homes instead of producing for the market. Others have decided that they might as well loaf and break even as work and lose money, while still others are leaving the farms entirely.

This means that many persons will lose their holdings, and as a matter of fact they have been losing them. One large land owner who had sold numerous Eastern Oregon

wheat farms on a part time basis reports that the buyers are accepting the loss of their first payments and moving off, and his experience is not unique. It is a story of shattered hopes and people tired of the struggle, but in it there is a bit of promise for the future. Overproduction may soon be a thing of the past. Then the farmers who have stayed on the soil will have their turn.

The psychology of overproduction is peculiar. It is not the physical so much as the mental effect of the comparatively small extra amount of food that does the damage. Everyone feels that someone will be struck badly and all race to avoid being that one. Consequently all are made to suffer for their eagerness to sell.

Co-operation and curtailment of production will remedy all this, and the chances are that the effect will be noticed before long. Economic conditions are bound to adjust themselves. People will not go on forever working at a loss; it is a physical impossibility for them to do so. The farmer was well off a few years ago and he will be again, and the sooner he organizes for concerted action with his fellows the sooner that day will be.—Portland Telegram.

**AMERICAN RAILWAY ASSOCIATION OFFERS PRIZES**

The committee of the American Railway association on prevention of highway crossing accidents announces a national contest open to all for the best design for poster and most suitable slogan for the 1924 campaign.

Prizes offered for posters are \$500, \$200 and \$100 for first, second and third prizes respectively and the slogan prize is \$100.

The poster design must be 21 in. by 33 in., in not more than four colors and must be applicable to crossing accident prevention.

The slogan must be applicable to crossing accident prevention, catchy, brief, euphonious and practical.

Should the slogan finally adopted be submitted by two or more persons, the suggestion received first will be declared the winner.

Exclusive title to accepted design and slogan shall become the property of the American Railway association. The right is reserved to reject any or all designs, suggestions, etc.

Selection of poster and slogan will be made by a committee composed of nationally known men, names to be announced shortly.

All designs and slogans to be forwarded to H. A. Rowe, Chairman, Committee on Prevention of Highway Crossing Accidents, 90 West Street, New York City, so as to reach his office not later than February 11, 1924.

**WHAT A FARMER SHOULD KNOW**

A lot of folks want to quit city jobs and be farmers. They have read and believed the rainbow gush of the literary back to the landers. So each mail brings letters to many leading farmers, asking what is required to succeed in the country.

Lee Mehler, an American farmer, was asked this question by a city bookkeeper. He took a lot of trouble to be specific and replied that a farmer must know about soils, soil drainage, soil chemistry, soil physics, the relation of crops to soil and climate, the rotation of crop fertilization, best way of handling and selling crops, how to feed and care for livestock, how to handle livestock in relation to soil and climate, how to repair broken machinery, how to handle various gasoline engine vehicles and power plants, how to do carpenter and plumbing and blacksmithing, must be a good buyer and seller, a good manager, should know enough about bookkeeping to compute costs, must have executive ability, should have the stamina to do fourteen or fifteen hours' work a day, and if frost or hail or drought or flood or high wind brings the year's work to naught must have the courage to take a drink of water and a cold bath and start over again.

And the above is only an incomplete list—a mere start toward what the farmer should know. Yes, it is a great life if you don't weaken.—Exchange.

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