

IF YOU WANT ALL THE NEWS OF MORROW COUNTY WHILE IT IS NEWS, READ THE HEPPNER HERALD. WE PRINT IT FIRST

# HEPPNER HERALD

VOLUME X

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## BUSINESS CONDITIONS SHOWING IMPROVEMENT

### FEDERAL REPORT SHOWS BETTER BANK CONDITIONS

Bank Borrowings Reduced. Wholesale and Retail Trade Better Than Year Ago

Production and distribution of goods in the twelfth district continued evenly at high levels during January, 1924, accompanied by further improvement in the already strong banking position. Reporting member banks in seven principal cities have increased their loans slightly in response to the credit requirements of customers, while at the same time reducing their own borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank.

All member banks, both city and country, were borrowing \$40,711,000 from the Federal Reserve Bank on February 13, 1924, compared with total borrowings of \$45,296,000 on January 16th. Since the holiday peak of December 26th such borrowings have declined \$2,244,000 or 37 per cent. A similar decline was experienced a year ago, but it amounted to only \$2,826,000 or 7 per cent. Deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities of the Reserve Bank were less by approximately \$7,000,000 on February 13th than on January 16th, total reserves increased \$12,000,000 during the four week period, and the reserve ratio of the bank rose from 77.7 to 82.7, the latter figure being the highest reached since the armistice.

Industrial production has been maintained at high levels. Lumber mills of the district cut 11 per cent more lumber during January, 1924, than during January, 1923. Both shipments and orders received exceeded in amount lumber cut during the month, laying the foundation for a normal seasonal increase in output during the spring. Production of the principal metals of the district (gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc) has continued large in volume, although slight declines in output of copper and silver are indicated by preliminary statistics for January. Average daily production of petroleum in California was 4.5 percent less in January, 1924, than in December, 1923, and 21 per cent less than in the peak month of September, 1923. Following this decline in production, which has materially reduced the rate of increase of storage stocks, prices of petroleum were advanced from \$1.01 to \$1.40 per barrel (oil of 35 degrees gravity and above) on February 5th. In October, 1923, such oil sold for 76 cents per barrel. The number and value of building permits issued in 29 principal cities of the district during January, 1924, was seasonally large, exceeding the number and value of permits issued during January, 1923, by 12.6 and 27 per cent, respectively. The employment situation may be characterized as normal, with considerable unemployment among workers in those industries which usually operate at a reduced rate, if at all, during the winter.

Normal growth of business activity, both as compared with one month ago and one year ago, is indicated by the amount of checks drawn against accounts at banks (bank debits) in 29 cities of the district during January. Gains of 1.2 per cent as compared with December, 1923, and of 5.8 per cent as compared with January, 1923, were reported. Retail trade has been seasonally active in most sections of the district, at levels slightly above those of a year ago. In the wholesale trade some lines were active and others quiet during January, but in general the volume of goods sold was greater than a year ago.

The general trend of prices of the principal products of the district has been upward. Advances and declines of crops still being marketed and in prices of livestock have been evenly distributed. Prices of the industrial metals, copper, lead and zinc, rose appreciably during the latter part of January and the early weeks of February. Lumber prices have remained steady at previous levels.

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## FOUR SECTIONS ADDED TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

At a meeting of the district boundary board composed of the county judge, the two county commissioners and the county school superintendent held yesterday afternoon at the court house sections 27-28-29-30 Tp 2 south Range 27 east, were taken into the Heppner school district, the action being taken upon petition of a number of citizens and no one appearing to remonstrate against the action. The property has not been included in any school district until this action was taken. It is valued on the county assessor's roll at \$13,238.00.

### Weather Dope

Bruce Kelly says: "I knew a month ago that we would have fine weather at this time for the almanac, the local weather prophets and the groundhog all predicted cold weather and lots of snow in February."

F. R. Brown says: "Now is the time to look out for snow and cold rains. I plowed my garden yesterday."

Vee Gentry says: "Gather buttercups while you may, there'll be plenty other flowers to pluck in March and April. Be an optimist."

Bill Stewart says: "I sold my farm last week so it makes no difference to me what happens, but," casting his eye skyward, "it's a safe bet we will have some sort of weather for the rest of this month and maybe up till after the 17th of March and then maybe it will get worse—or better."

John Kilkenny says: "I'm too busy hunting up stray sheep that get lost in the tall grass out on my range to worry about the weather. This suits me fine so why change?"

And Currier says: "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear and it's only 4 days until March, so look out!"

## DAME RUMOR CLAIMS HIGHWAY TO BE FINISHED

An unconfirmed story was going the rounds yesterday morning to the effect that the unfinished link on the Oregon-Washington highway between Jones hill and the completed work in Umatilla county this side of Pilot Rock is to be completed at once by the state highway commission in order that the travel can be diverted from the Columbia River highway between Pendleton and Heppner Junction and sent via the Heppner route. The reason given for this by Dame Rumor was that the Columbia highway is fast going to pieces and it is found impossible to keep it in passable condition even by expensive re-surfacing. It is said that some \$33,000 was expended last fall on the 23-mile stretch between Pendleton and Echo and already the comparatively light winter travel has played havoc with the repairs. This being the case, the report continues, the highway commission has decided that the only solution of the Columbia highway problem is to hard surface it the entire distance between The Dalles and Pendleton and the first step will be to complete the Oregon-Washington highway so that the travel may be sent this way while the other route is being paved.

County Judge Campbell and Commissioner Bengé had no information on the subject when interviewed yesterday by a Herald reporter. They were both inclined to be skeptical about the authenticity of the rumor for the reason that they accompanied Chief Engineer Klein and District Engineer Baldock on an inspection trip over the 3-mile stretch between Jones hill and Lena a short time ago when the matter of completing the highway to Lena was under consideration. No intimation of any such project as this rumor outlines was given by the officials at that time and there has been no subsequent meeting of the highway commission when any such a plan could have been considered.

Judge Campbell went to Portland today, however, to be present at the highway meeting tomorrow to take up the Lena-Jones hill project and if the bigger undertaking is in the air he will probably learn the details.

## Important Facts Regarding the County Unit System

(Mr. Myers, author of the following article, is school superintendent of Crook county and is known as the father of the County school unit plan in Oregon. He was invited to be present at the public meeting held here recently to explain the workings of the system, but was unable to attend and sent the article instead.)

In the early history of the colonies there could be little communication, little exchange of commodities and ideas. Every settlement was almost an independent republic, isolated from other settlements, with possibly hostile Indians intervening, and its law making body was the town meeting. Under these pioneer conditions the "district school" sprang up, serving the people as no other system could. Gradually the trails became roads, Indians were subdued and civilization spread.

It became apparent to those wise old patriots, who were fired with zeal for a democratic school system, that all children were not getting equal school opportunities. This became even more evident after railroads were built, factories established, and other corporations came in to develop the country. The children who lived away from railroads or other centers of great wealth often had the most meagre advantages, while those near the railroad, or other corporate property, received the advantages of the big tax which such corporations contributed. Under the district system, inequality in educational opportunities, as well as in the tax paid by individuals for the support of schools was inevitable. Therefore the states, which first started the district system, were the first to abandon it when it had outgrown its usefulness.

It is equally true, in the early times that all civic affairs were in control of small districts. Roads and bridges were built to serve the needs of the small district exclusively. Often petty jealousies prevented convenient connections. Every district had its own plans, its own designs. Some districts were compelled to undergo a heavy expense for costly construction while others had easy construction and hence a light tax burden. After a while these districts were formed into a township unit. As time went along these townships were formed into county units, not only for road and bridge construction but for all activities of the county. In this way the burdens of taxation were equalized, every taxpayer paying the same number of mills on the dollar for the maintenance of the county at large.

In various counties of Oregon all affairs of the county are on the county unit basis except the schools. As the grouping of the various districts into larger units in civic affairs began to work out so advantageously, several of the Atlantic coast states adopted the township as a unit for the support of schools in place of the district system. This was the natural unit as the township organization of government in eastern states was much more prominent than was the county organization. Southern and some middle western and western states gradually changed from the district to the county unit system.

Ten states have the pure county unit system, that is supported financially by a tax on county-unit valuation and managed and controlled by a county board of education. Ten states have the semi-county-unit system, that is, supported financially by the unit but more or less controlled and managed by local boards. In a number of states there are individual counties which have the county unit, working under a state optional law.

A year ago only sixteen states in the Union were left under the pure district system. In many states county unit was first introduced as an optional measure. Then after the most progressive counties introduced it and proved its success the legislature passed a law making the system required. As far as can be found no state or county that has adopted the county unit plan has ever been made to return to the district system after trying out the county unit system.

The county and township unit systems are the only democratic plans that have ever been devised to equalize educational opportunities for children and the burden of taxation for the taxpayers. A system that has proved its superiority in so many other states ought to work in Oregon, especially Crook County, Oregon. It will come in every county but the time will depend upon the progressiveness of the people and the vision and aggressiveness of the leaders.

The efficiency of the system has been tested in Utah since 1905. It was adopted at first by two counties under an optional law such as we are attempting to adopt in this county. By 1914 the entire state was county unit. Reports from the counties in this state indicate many desirable results, among which are:

1. A uniform distribution of educational advantages. Every child in the county given an equal opportunity with that of every other in

2. Equalization of school tax.

3. Raised the efficiency standard of the whole teaching force. Better articulation and uniformity attract better teachers.

4. Brought first class schools to country children. Enrolled a higher percentage of the school census.

5. Increased percentage of attendance and promotions. Reduced percentage of retentions and failures more than one-third.

6. The board elects the county superintendent. This keeps the office out of politics and insures the selection of a competent person of prescribed professional and educational qualifications.

7. Teachers are selected upon their merits. Recognition of specially meritorious service.

8. It injects business methods into the management of the schools. The clerk of the consolidated county district prepares all reports, keeps all records, etc. A county system can offer to the people at large facilities that no other kind of a system can offer.

Andy Rood Starts New Industry

Andy Rood, Jr., has started a new industry in Morrow county, having devised a machine for pulverizing manure from the sheep sheds of which there is said to be almost an unlimited supply in the country. The machine is fashioned from an old threshing machine, is equipped with a self feeder and delivers the product in 80-pound sacks ready for transportation to market. The outfit is driven by a Fordson tractor and will handle about 2000 sacks a day. Mr. Rood has contracts for 40 cars of the product and ships direct to coast and interior distributing points, some going to the Hawaiian Islands.

Commission Davidson, who was in town yesterday, is undecided as to whether he will enter the primary or not. He will make a decision in a few days.

County Judge Campbell left for Portland this morning to attend the highway commission meeting tomorrow. It is expected the judge will be a candidate to succeed himself, although so far he has made no definite announcement.

Church Wedding This Morning

Immediate relatives and a few close friends were present at St. Patrick's church this morning when Miss Rose Doherty, of Lexington, and Mr. Wm. T. Doherty, of Ione, were united in marriage. Rev. Father Cantwell performing the ceremony.

The groom is a well known farmer residing near Ione and the bride is a sister of Mrs. James G. Doherty, of near Lexington. They will reside on their farm north of Ione.

## ORDER EASTERN STAR CLUB GIVES PLEASANT PARTY

Members of the Eastern Star social club to the number of about 40, enjoyed a pleasant afternoon last Saturday at the lodge hall in the Masonic building. Mesdames Prun, Richardson, Shurte and Launtz were hostesses for the occasion and served dainty refreshments during the afternoon.

A new game called Travel was introduced and furnished the principal entertainment during the session. The occasion was in the nature of a Washington party and the prizes and decorations were in keeping with that day.

### Army Recruiting Officer Here

Corporal John Fisher, from the regular army recruiting office, Pendleton, Oregon, is here on recruiting duty and will remain until Thursday. Corporal Fisher is authorized to make enlistments for practically any camp or station on the Atlantic or Pacific coasts, Mexican border, Philippine Islands, Hawaii or Panama. The corporal is making special effort to secure men for the 16th infantry, which is stationed at Governor's Island, Statue of Liberty and Fort Wadsworth, all in New York harbor. Five cents car fare from any of the stations to 42nd street and Broadway, New York City. The 16th infantry was the first regiment of infantry to go to France during the World War and the last to return.

Men enlisting for the 16th infantry and other organizations on the Atlantic coast will be sent from San Francisco, California, by Transport through the Panama to New York City.

## UNION OIL COMPANY TO ENTER THIS FIELD

Heppner is to have another wholesale oil station in the near future, according to information given out by L. E. Van Barter, who is handling the sale of a tract belonging to the McHaley estate to the oil company. The deal was started last May but has been delayed while having the title looked up and the property abstracted. The tract lies on the highway near the mouth of Hinton creek and contains about two acres and it is understood the consideration is around \$2000. According to information received by Mr. Van Barter it is expected construction work will begin on the new plant at an early date.

### County Politics Still Quiet

Not much excitement is yet apparent in county political circles the only new developments of the past week being the announcement made today by Sheriff McDuffee that he will be a candidate to succeed himself in that office. No other aspirants for the place have yet appeared. There was considerable talk for a while that H. J. Biddle, of Ione, might make the race on the Democratic ticket but it is understood lately that he has declared he is not a candidate for any office.

Ralph Bengé, present county commissioner, is much talked of for county judge on the Democratic ticket and it is believed he will make the race. Mr. Bengé stated to the Herald Monday, however, that he was not yet ready to make a definite announcement but admitted that strong pressure is being brought to bear to have him take the nomination.

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## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GIVE TARKINGTON PLAY

### "CLARENCE," CLEVER COMEDY, MAKES BIG HIT

Much Real Ability Shown By Youthful Actors in Producing Popular Play

Booth Tarkington, much loved writer of stories of adolescent youth, was at his best when he composed the comedy, "Clarence," which was produced by high school students at the Star theater last Wednesday evening and it is not saying too much to assert that the youthful actors came mighty near constituting an all star cast.

The story was woven around the adventures of Clarence, a returned soldier, and the Wheeler family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, their flapper daughter, Cora; their very modern son, Bobby; Miss Pinney, Cora's governess; Mrs. Martyn, Mr. Wheeler's secretary; Della, the house maid; Dinwiddie, the man servant; and Hubert Stem, a grass widower with whom Cora was madly in love—or thought she was. There was love, laughter and ludicrous situations a-plenty all through the four acts, none of which were lost on the audience which packed the house to the doors.

Elmer Bucknum took the title role in the play and it's not too much to say that the part was created for him and Dorothy Pattison, who took the part of Cora, was really quite at home in that character. Bruce Spaulding, as Bobby, also portrayed the part of the modern youth to perfection and as Mrs. Pinney Elaine Sigbee came off victoriously in capturing Clarence for her very own. Bernice Woodson, as Mrs. Martyn, made an ideal secretary to Mr. Wheeler, who was depicted by Carl Cason, and Bernice Sigbee, as Mrs. Wheeler, took her part exceedingly well. Kathleen Mahoney, as Della, made the cutest kind of a pretty housemaid and Leonard Schwarz, as Dinwiddie, carried his chin as high as the very best type of English butler. Guy Hall, as Grass Widower Stem, also took the part well.

The play was one of the best ever presented by high school students in Heppner according to the opinion expressed by many of the audience.

# LOOK!

## SMOKELESS SMOKER

But Lots of Steam

A Program of Good Clean Amusement, Including Some Good Local Talent That Will Be of Interest to Everyone

See Posters for Main Events

THURSDAY, FEB. 28 7:30 P. M. SHARP

## Basket Ball Hall

Everybody Come (:) Admission 25 Cents

LADIES ESPECIALLY INVITED