

## EDITORIAL SECTION

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR MORROW COUNTY.



Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, August 16, 1917.

### A BILLION-BUSHEL WHEAT CROP.

David W. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture has outlined the war agricultural program for 1918. However, the program has already been initiated, and through the press, press bulletins, booklets and other publicity matter sent out by the department, America's great agricultural army is in active training. The program calls for a production of one billion bushels of wheat for 1918.

This vastly increased production of wheat, needed in any event, will be absolutely essential to prevent a serious shortage of breadstuffs next summer should the growing corn, now behind the season, be much damaged by early frosts.

The plan is to plant 47,337,000 acres to winter wheat and 5,131,000 acres to rye this fall. Before putting such a plan in operation, which will necessarily increase to a great extent the acreage given over to these crops in former years, scientific research was made into conditions in each state. Other questions determined were that there would be no shortage of fertilizer, no general shortage in the supply of seed or of farm machinery, and that transportation facilities will be provided, as well as a fair price for the wheat.

In this big program of increased production every farmer will be expected to do his full share. And it is expected that no farmer will fall short of his duty. The government will fix the price and the price will be a big inducement to many who will not be inspired through a knowledge of patriotic duty.

### THE FUEL SITUATION.

A local fuel dealer has made the statement that consumers in Heppner will be paying \$14 per cord for wood before the winter is over. At first thought it sounds like a hold-up, but upon later reflection and consideration we can plainly see where the fuel man has sound reasons for making such a statement.

At the present time there seems to be a woeful shortage of both wood and coal. One cause for this is probably due to the fact that the past three years there has been an enormous drain upon the coal output, without an appreciable increase in production. War has had its effect on the fuel situation, and especially in coal. England has had her great fleet of dreadnaughts under steam constantly for three years. The amount of coal consumed has been enormous.

So far as wood is concerned, the local fuel dealers say they have no trouble in placing their orders, but to get those orders filled is an entirely different problem. It is a big question right now, and fuel dealers are free to admit it, that Heppner is facing the worst fuel shortage in history. The same condition seems to prevail over the entire Northwest. The shortage is noticeable even now. As the months go by the situation will become more acute. Its time that drastic measures be taken to prevent real hardship and suffering, to say nothing of the inconveniences in industrial lines.

Senator Borah of Idaho would establish a joint purchasing agency at Portland and would make that city the main channel of trade for all food supplies and other necessities purchased for the United States and allied countries in the Northwest. His reasoning would seem logical from the standpoint of shipping facilities. He sees a car shortage ahead which he fears will hamper transportation to the Atlantic seaboard. From Portland, he would make the Panama canal and the high seas a channel of trade to eastern ports and to Europe.

Portland is, by its geographical location, the ideal as well as the most equitable outlet for the vast trade of the Pacific Northwest, comprising for the most part, the Inland Empire of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and even Utah. One of the most pleasant features of Mr. Borah's suggestions is the fact that he is able to recognize Portland as she really is. And again, it would be putting the Panama Canal to the use for which it was built.

### TORN 'TWIXT NEED AND DUTY.

A large portion of the Atlantic seaboard is keenly interested these drafty days by a touching case of extreme hardship

that has come to light with the operations of the selective service law. The case in point illustrates how the exigencies of the high cost of living may operate to thwart patriotic impulse. It is a noteworthy example of how a man may be torn between desire to serve his country in the tented field and the grim necessity of staying at home to keep loved ones from starving.

Among the men called for service in a New Jersey place not far from the city of New York was a young man of 30, of good family—a grandson, in fact, of Jay Gould, who is said to have been quite well to do and to have left a fair amount of money to his children. But apparently this modest competence has disappeared, for the grandson who was drafted told the exemption board that he must stay with his wife, as she is entirely dependent upon his labor for support. He was married a little more than a month ago.

New York and environs are really distracted over this case. They dislike to see a young man like this, so eager to fight for his country, forced to stay at home, and yet they realize that it would never do for Kingdon Gould to go to war and leave Mrs. Kingdon Gould in danger of becoming a public charge. They hope that the exemption board which will pass on the claim may take into consideration the young man's distinguished family connections and his apparent lack of resources. It would be greatly regretted if this excellent youth were to receive only the scant consideration that ordinary people will get.—Spokesman-Review.

### HOOVER'S POLICY.

Obviously Food Administrator Hoover does not intend to ride rough shod over the food business of the country. He believes in the moral force of the federal food laws, for he says the very existence of corrective powers will tend to check speculation and price inflation.

The Telegram likes the spirit of Hoover's first public utterance after he received his appointment, and it believes the country will approve the way he approaches his task. Says Hoover:

"The business men of the country, I am convinced, as a result of many hundreds of conferences with representatives of the great sources of food supply, realize their own patriotic obligation, and the solemnity of the situation, and will fairly and generously co-operate in meeting the national emergencies."

Of one thing we may be certain: So long as Hoover is on the job, the price of no food is going to be fixed by the meanest and most grasping man in the food business, nor by any set of men who have the means to corner food. In these war times "fair and generous" is a good motto. Of course, there will always be a certain percentage of lawless speculators and dealers who may need discipline. Whenever such a case arises, Hoover may be entrusted to administer it. He has the reputation of being just that kind of a man.—Portland Telegram.

### FINANCING THE WAR.

The United States is financing itself in this war by loans and taxes. It obtains funds from the people, some by taxation and some by the sale of bonds, and then it goes into the markets and buys from the people what it needs. The people supply the government with money and the government with this money buys from the people what it needs for the war.

There are three sources from which the United States can draw the sinews of war. First is the fixed property of the nation. This represents our farms, factories, mines, railways and all other property including accumulated savings. From the corpus or body of none of these, except the accumulated savings, will the government obtain war funds, and even from the accumulated savings it will draw a relatively small portion. These accumulated savings are invested in industries and business which are necessary to the country's welfare and prosperity and it is only that portion of these savings which are seeking investment that the government will receive in exchange for bonds.

The second and great source from which the government is to derive its war fund is the wealth produced during the war. Part of this it will obtain by taxation and part in exchange for bonds. The annual production of the United States, from its farms, mines, factories, and other sources, amounts to fifty billion dollars a year and out of this fifty billion dollars will come the funds, part from taxes and part from the sale of bonds, with which the United States will finance itself during this war.

By taxation this generation will pay for its portion of the cost of the war. By the sale of bonds the next generation is called upon to pay its portion, and this last portion will be paid from the wealth production after the war.

By this method the capital of the country, its resources of income and wealth, are unimpaired. It is only the yearly increment of this property that is called upon to bear a portion of the cost of the war. Thus despite the waste of war and the destruction of property involved the country may emerge from the conflict stronger financially, more efficient and even wealthier than before. What the government receives it receives from the people without impairing the sources of wealth of the country, and passes it back to the people in exchange for the productions of the country. It is in a way only a shifting of credits.

The government collects the current taxes and by means of bonds anticipates taxes of the years to come, and all the money thus acquired passes back into the hands of the tax-payers. This is why governments which follow sound economic methods not only are not impoverished by wars, but sometimes emerge the stronger as England did after the Napoleonic wars and the United States did after our great Civil War.

### YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Your local newspaper is in no sense a special child of charity. It earns every dollar it receives and is second to no enterprise in contributing to the upbuilding and betterment of the town and community. Its patrons reap far more benefits from its pages than its publisher and in calling for the support of the community, it asks no more than what in all fairness belongs to it. Patronize your home paper as you would any other enterprise, as a matter of business, because it directly or indirectly helps you, and not as a matter of charity.—C. E. Miller in Apache (Okla.) Review.

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Mr. Slade, State Bank Examiner, accompanied by W. G. Scott and W. O. Hill drove up from Lexington on Wednesday and spent the evening with Hugh E. Bran, of the First National Bank.

The Misses Bernice and Elaine Sigbee returned home Wednesday from a visit of several days with Miss Cleone Andrews at The Dalles.