

OREGON'S FUTURE IN THE BALANCE

(Editor's Note:—This is the first of a series of articles released by the State Planning Board from its recommendations to Governor Charles H. Martin on "Recommended Policies for Sale of Bonneville Power." Others in the series will follow each week until completed.)

Progressive citizens who are concerned with the future of the state of Oregon should realize that two divergent paths confront the people of Oregon. One is the continuation of past trends, exploiting the state's resources of raw materials, with its economic life dependent principally on agriculture and lumbering. The other path, which would insure a more stable base and greater opportunities, is toward the development of diversified manufacturing to balance Oregon's present lop-sided economic structure.

From the beginning, Oregon's lands and waters have been used for extractive purposes. Farming, lumbering, fishing and shipping and some mineral production have been the chief occupation of the people. Manufacturing is below the national average.

The exchange value of Oregon's products is reduced through a double burden of transportation costs. The state's raw materials are sold on the outside at world market prices, out of which the producer must absorb transportation costs from Oregon to consuming centers. But when Oregon buys manufactured commodities produced outside the state, they must be bought at the market price, plus transportation charges to Oregon from the point of production. A million bushels of Oregon wheat will buy fewer automobiles for Oregon farmers than the same quantity grown in other areas situated nearer large centers of production and consumption.

A study recently made by the research staff of the Oregon State Planning Board shows that raw materials are sold under a yielding price structure determined by world economic conditions. Conversely, manufactured articles are sold under more rigid price structures maintained by each separate industry. Oregon is thus at an economic disadvantage compared with those areas having a better balance between the production of raw materials and manufactured commodities.

The nearer to their source that natural resources are processed, manufactured and consumed, the greater is the net economy to the nation. Moreover, the manufacture into finished goods of Oregon's raw agricultural and lumber products would provide other work to counterbalance the present fluctuating seasonal employment in agriculture and the forest industries.

More than anything else, this region needs increased population to consume the products of its resources and to provide markets for locally manufactured commodities. Already many immigrants from the drought and dust stricken regions are coming to the Pacific Northwest. These are Americans who should be given opportunities for making a living. Good agricultural land is limited, and comprehensive programs for irrigation, drainage and flood control improvements must be completed before any considerable areas of new rich land will be available.

Oregon is handicapped by absence of known commercial deposits of coal, petroleum and natural gas. This deficiency of available basic fuels has retarded Oregon's industrial development, so that the state lags behind the national average. It has also been a contributing cause of Oregon's economic unbalance.

However, Oregon has an inexhaustible source of energy in its falling waters. Development of hydroelectric power from its abundant streams will conserve unreplenishable fuel supplies, and enable the state to compensate for its deficiencies in other sources of energy. The combination of electric power at low cost on a tidewater ship channel at Bonneville, where raw materials may

be brought from and manufactured products delivered to the markets of the world without transshipment, is unparalleled, except possibly on the St. Lawrence waterway.

At the coming session of congress the policy and the rates for distribution of Bonneville power will undoubtedly be determined. People of the state of Oregon must do everything in their power to see that rates for electric energy at Bonneville are made as attractive to industries as possible.

Progress on Program In Oregon Reported

Further progress is reported on the 1936 agricultural conservation program in Oregon, although plans for 1937 have not yet been announced, according to N. C. Donaldson, executive secretary. The state committee has completed its work in setting the total county soil-depleting bases and forwarding its recommendations to Washington for the approval of the Agricultural Adjustment administration.

As soon as approval has been obtained, the state committee will certify to each county committee the total county soil-depleting base for the county. It will then be the duty of the county committee to adjust the individual farm soil-depleting bases to whatever extent may be necessary to make them balance with the total county soil-depleting base. When this has been done and the work checked by the state committee, the individual applications for grants can be made out.

Plans for the 1937 agricultural conservation program involve a number of problems. One of the problems, according to AAA administrator H. R. Tolley, is to get a plan which will fit in with the situation in the drouth states. Other problems have been presented in the suggestions made in community meetings held all over the country. These suggestions and problems are being threshed out in a conference with representatives from the states.

Some consideration is also being given to the 1938 program which should perhaps be referred to as the 1938 state programs. As the federal law now stands, each individual state will have to work out a plan for carrying on the soil conservation work after January 1, 1938, in a way which will meet with the approval of the secretary of agriculture.

O.S.C. Crops Specialist Appeals to Farmers

The help of farmers all over Oregon is being asked in the preparation of a new bulletin on weed control to be published soon at Oregon State college.

"Every year we get hundreds of letters asking us how to control weeds," says E. R. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops at O. S. C. "Now we would like to reverse the procedure momentarily and appeal to Oregon farmers to send in their experiences with all kinds of methods of getting rid of morning glories, Canadian thistle, evergreen blackberries, white top, quack grass, and other perennial weeds.

"A new bulletin on weeds is being prepared at the college, and we want to include in it actual experiences of farmers all over the state. Report of success or failure will be welcomed. Each letter that comes in may be of tremendous help to some other Oregon farmer—perhaps in the writer's own county, perhaps 400 miles away."

Mr. Jackman wants letters telling of experiences with such methods as cultivation, smother crops, pasturing, chemicals—everything that experimental minded Oregon farmers have ever tried.

"A man's experience may seem commonplace and of little interest to him," Jackman points out, "but it may be of vital interest to someone else who has the same problem."

HOLIDAY MAIL ADVICE.

Business mail users are advised by Postmaster C.B. Cox that it would be helpful to the postal department in giving expeditious handling of such mail if long envelopes were used for business correspondence during the period from December 15 to 25 inclusive.

Better Use of Land 1937 AAA Program

The 1937 agricultural adjustment program will place added emphasis on permanent rather than temporary soil conserving uses of the land and will pay at higher rates for such types of soil uses as establishment of perennial grasses and legumes.

This much advance information on the nature of the new program was given by Dr. E. J. Bell, assistant to the director of the western region of the AAA, in an address at the Eastern Oregon Wheat league annual convention here last week. Dr. Bell came to the meeting directly from Washington where conferences on details of the new program have been in progress for several weeks.

"The program under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment act has as its objectives more than merely control of soil washing and soil blowing," said Dr. Bell. "The program embodies the economic use of the land, sound farming practice, and restoration of the income of farmers."

Dr. Bell added that estimates indicate that about 30 million more acres than desirable are being devoted to soil depleting and export crops. It is the purpose of the program to help the market situation and the future welfare of the country from a land resources standpoint by encouraging the increasing use of soil conserving crops to this extent.

"In accordance with these objectives the 1937 program is being designed to make a permanent rather than a temporary adjustment in the use of the land. . . . The general principles of longtime adjustment from soil depleting crops to permanent conserving uses of the land has been adopted as a national policy.

"The rate of payment for establishing permanent stands of perennials this year will be somewhat higher than it was a year ago, and considerably higher than the payment for such practices as trashy fallow, plowing under green manure or other short-time uses of the land."

Oregon Boy New U. S. 4-H Club Champion

An Oregon 4-H club boy was again declared the best in the United States this week for the fourth time in the past 10 years when H. Clayton Fox of Imbler in Union county was named as the outstanding club boy in the nation and the winner of the famous Moses leadership trophy, according to word received by the state club leader at Oregon State college.

The National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work meeting in Chicago, informed the club office at O. S. C. just in time for young Fox, a 1935 graduate of Imbler high school, to catch a train for Chicago where all of his expenses to the fifteenth annual National 4-club congress will be paid as an additional reward.

Fox joins two other Oregon boys and one girl as national 4-H club champions. Alex Cruickshank of McMinnville first won the Moses trophy in 1927 and Edgar Grimes of Harrisburg repeated in 1928. Lois Bailey of Eugene was the first Oregon girl to win the coveted prize in 1929.

Fox, who has made a remarkable record in his eight years of club work, was selected by a state committee as the Oregon representative in the national contest after his record as a county winner had been carefully studied along with those of other county candidates in the state.

As the winner of second place in the national Thomas E. Wilson meat animal project contest last year, Fox won a \$200 scholarship and added another \$100 toward his college education on the \$100 Union Pacific scholarship awarded by President Gray. He expects to enroll at Oregon State college in January and pay for his entire college work from his premium winnings, his scholarships and his earnings from his present livestock ownings which includes 150 sheep, 61 hogs, five dairy animals and one beef steer. These have been conservatively estimated in value at \$3000 by County Agent H. G. Avery of Union county, who

has worked with Fox in all of his projects.

During his eight years in club work, the new national champion has made a total of 332 entries at 32 fairs and received \$1100.07 in premiums. His leadership has been outstanding. He has been a president five years, vice president four years and secretary three years in the various sheep, pig, beef, dairy, poultry and farm accounting clubs of which he has been a member.

TOY CIRCULAR READY.

Simple toys that can easily be made at home often prove the most intriguing to small children, who spend countless happy hours playing with such things as a can of painted spools, spool dolls, decorated clothespins, and similar things, says Mrs. Maude M. Morse, extension specialist in child development and parent education at Oregon State college.

Items such as these often make inexpensive but very acceptable Christmas presents for small relatives and friends. Directions for making those mentioned and many more are found in a circular just prepared by Mrs. Morse, entitled "Directions for Making Homemade Toys." The number is HE 925, and it is available free from home demonstration agents or from the college at Corvallis.

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