

Heppner Gazette Times

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Official Paper for Morrow County



A Parity Price

NORTHWEST wheatgrowers recognize that a commodity loan of 60 cents a bushel on their product will not be the means of obtaining a parity price. A loan of 60 cents establishes at least that much value which must be obtained from some source if the loan is to be repaid. It costs at least 12 cents more to get the wheat to terminal which also must be realized from the wheat's sale. With market quotations at Portland below the 72-cent total, how, they ask—and correctly—is the wheat to move to clear the way for future deliveries?

These wheat men know that it costs an average of 66 cents a bushel to produce wheat in the Columbia basin counties in Oregon. (This figure was determined by a competent survey made by U. S. D. A. extension service last year.) And they are told that a bushel of wheat must bring \$1.15 to buy as much of other commodities as the income from a bushel of wheat purchased in the 1909-1914 period—the relative position expressed by the word "parity" which the agricultural adjustment act aims to attain for wheat.

What Northwest wheatgrowers are now asking of the crop adjustment control administrators is that the loan value on their wheat be reduced to 48 cents, and a compensating direct payment of 12 cents be made to cooperating producers under the adjustment program. The 12-cent payment would help guarantee them somewhere near a parity price while the reduced loan value would make it possible to place the grain on the market at a figure where it would move on through the channels of trade.

Cooperators under the control program so far are slated to receive 12 cents a bushel for 88 percent of their normal yield to compensate them for diverting 16 percent of their fallow or 12 percent of their planted wheatland from soil depleting to soil conserving crops (taking out of wheat and putting into crested wheat grass or other permanent forage crops). The additional 12-cent payment would also be on the 88 percent of normal production basis, making a total of 24 cents times 88 percent of normal production co-operators would receive in addition to the market return on the whole crop.

Recent market tendencies and the prospect for an extra large wheat surplus this year indicate that the market return will not be large in any event. If the 48-cent figure is established as the loan value in the Northwest, it is believed the total return to the grower will be approximately this amount per bushel on his 1938 crop plus the 24 cents a

bushel on 88 percent of his normal production, or a guaranteed return of 72 cents a bushel should his crop be just 88 percent of normal, a figure aimed at in the acreage diversion plan.

With 66 cents of this taken up in cost of production and 12 cents required to get the grain to market, the market price must still bring more than the 48-cent loan value if the producer is to realize a profit.

These are something of the mathematics the producer is facing under existing conditions. If he is to get the added 12-cent payment, it must come from congressional appropriation. And so long as Uncle Sam is attempting to regulate production and is, actually, pegging the price, the contention of the Northwest growers is just and fair. The habitual outlet for wheat of this section is through export channels. It must still so move, and Uncle Sam must see that it does, while making it possible for the producer of this section to retain the comparative status with the producer of other sections of the country that he held before Uncle Sam started to change the established order.

Qualified informants say that the crop adjustment control program has no connection with party politics, that it was conceived by farm leaders and is basically by and for agriculture, and as such should have the support of everyone who depends upon agriculture for a livelihood.

Certain it is, the wheat production of the country was too greatly enlarged at the time of high World war prices. The present program's effect will be truly beneficial if it results in bringing the production again to the more nearly normal basis that existed before the war without working undue hardship upon anyone.

The immediate concern of the Northwest must be, however, the marketing of its 1938 wheat crop at a profit if at all possible, and the growers' present plan should be given wholehearted support by all Northwest people.

Snell Thanks Friends For Primary Support

Secretary of State Earl Snell has issued a word of thanks and appreciation to his friends throughout the state, who brought about his nomination in the recent primary.

In addition to building a fine record for efficient and courteous administration of a big job, Snell's first term in office has been marked by the inauguration of a most successful and extensive traffic safety campaign. His work along this line has resulted in marked decreases in accidents, a steady reduction in fatalities for month to month, and placed Oregon in the first rank of the states of the union in point of accomplishment in this work.

In the recent primary, Snell polled the largest vote of any candidate running for a party nomination, his total being exceeded only by two justices of the supreme court, who ran on a non-partisan ballot and received votes from both parties.

LOCAL NEWS

Mrs. J. V. Crawford left this morning for Corvallis, driving down for her brother, Norton King, who is finishing his first year at Oregon State college. They expected to return Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller of Oregon City visited for several days this week at the home of their son, Dr. Dwight Miller.

Willie Hynd of Hynd Brothers company was transacting business in the city Saturday from the Sand Hollow farm.

La Verne Van Marter, Noral Osborne, Harry O'Donnell and Hugh Crawford have been spending a week's outing at Hiaway Springs. Bad roads delayed their return.

Wid Palmateer was in the city Saturday from the Morgan district, reporting crop prospects there quite favorable.

Mr. and Mrs. Pruitt Cox of Oregon City were Memorial Day visitors at the home of Mr. Cox's sister, Mrs. W. Y. Ball.

Tom Wells and Reese Burkenbine enjoyed a fishing jaunt to East lake over the holiday and report a fair catch.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Palmer were visitors in the city Saturday from their Lexington home.

Mrs. H. A. Cohn, Philip and Sally are visiting in Portland, having gone to the city Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Anderson of Gooseberry were Memorial Day visitors in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhea Luper and son Freddie were Memorial Day visitors from Portland.

J. E. Craber was transacting business in town Tuesday from the farm near Hardman.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Carlson were among Gooseberry residents in the city Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Denny of Lexington were Heppner visitors Memorial Day.

Jim Hams was in the city yesterday from the farm near Hardman.

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