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The New Year

OLD FATHER TIME is slated to expire at midnight December 31. He has been badly battle-scarred in the last year, what with Japanese bombs and Spanish shrapnel peppering him almost constantly and Herr Hitler taking several good healthy punches at his chin, but in spite of this beating he will be fondly remembered for having bequeathed posterity with many spiritual values that will give the Babe 1939 a healthy start.

While minds of politicians are just now being keyed to untangle a bad economic mess, the minds of the public generally are still tuned to the joys of fellowship and giving predominating at the Christmas season. Ill will, generally, is at the lowest ebb of any time of the year, and the spirit of live and let live has scored a new high.

It is entirely fitting that interest in Morrow county at present is centering more in the fine group of young people home from college on vacation, in their accomplishments and in their promise for the future, than in next year's wheat crop. And it is encouraging to note that a local automobile firm has had the highest sale of new cars this month for any December since 1929—though the cost of educating the young folks and providing new cars (incentive in many instances being given by same) makes the low wheat price look rather ominous.

The new cars are an encouraging sign, for they indicate confidence in the new year. And so, also, is the general trend of improvement in homes, in town and on farm, in business establishments and in property generally. These are indications that our people are regaining confidence in themselves as well as in government, much of which was lost in years of depression.

The promise of the new year does not lie so much in betterment of economic conditions, however. The restored confidence which these bettered conditions imply, however, points to a more contented people who will think more of the higher values of life; who, through being released from shackles of hardship will have more leisure to devote to relaxing sports, to inspiring art, music and literature.

Such a people will have naught of war. For minds so occupied are not subject to avaricious thought. They may not envy, hate, nor care for greed. As one man wisely put it, "Peace can only be attained in the minds of the people."

Dog Fighting

CONGRESS convenes next week. Immediately it gets under way major issues will be turned into political footballs to shape election trends for 1940. Political dopesters are busy analyzing every prospective action to predetermine what these trends may be.

In view of the strong political pressure that may be expected, the peoples' interests may at times suffer, and "dog fighting" among groups interested in obtaining the same ends will do little good toward attaining those ends.

This is pointed out by leaders in the northwest wheat industry who recently got together and formed a

united front in protection of the present farm act principle while asking for such modifications as they believe will better serve their industry. With differences before prevailing among growers as to minor parts of the act, it was feared that should various factions within the industry make conflicting demands the way would be laid open for enemies to throw the act out in entirety.

The move of the wheat growers is wise, and should receive general support from growers and those dependent upon them.

While the farm act as now constituted may not be perfect, and while it may not be operating to the best interests of all the growers or of the public generally, it is tending to accomplish that which must be accomplished for this important basic industry to keep its head above water.

It is right in principle that acreage producing wheat should be reduced to a point where a great damaging surplus will not be direly depressing the market. It is right in principle that this acreage reduction be accomplished without working undue hardship upon any grower who is operating on an economical basis. And it is right in principle that the land taken out of wheat should be so conserved as to be of greatest general benefit. These things are striven for in a manner that cannot be unduly criticized.

It would have been impossible to make a perfect law to cover all angles at one writing. What has been attained, however, has originated with the farming industry. Every attempt has been made to keep the agricultural act from being made a political football. This is the spirit in which wheat growers of the northwest are approaching the problem of making the act work to greater benefit of everyone. Members of congress of both major parties should lend a sympathetic ear.

IRRIGON NEWS

Irrigon Homes Have Holiday Visitors

By MRS. W. C. ISOM

Mac and Daphne McCoy of Imbler visited relatives here Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kendler and daughter Yvonne of Grand Coulee, Wash., arrived here Tuesday. Mr. Kendler will return to Grand Coulee January 2nd and Mrs. Kendler and daughter will remain with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Isom, for an extended visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Jones of Rainier arrived Friday to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Beard of Lusk, Wyoming, visited their aunt, Mrs. W. C. Isom, and family Tuesday. They were enroute to Hood River to visit Mrs. Beard's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Cork.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Warner and family, Mrs. James Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Rand and Mr. and Mrs. Foster and family from Hermiston were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Batie Rand Christmas day.

The school gave a Christmas program Thursday evening that was enjoyed by a large crowd of local people. A Christmas tree and Santa Claus' presence made the small folks happy.

Members of the teaching staff are spending their Christmas holidays at their respective homes, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jones with his parents near Freewater, Miss Crooks at La Grande, Miss Bowling in Portland, Miss Clark in Eugene and Miss Dusenberry at Weiser, Idaho.

L. R. Smith of Wallowa is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Fred Dall and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Berry and family of Portland spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McCoy.

Rev. and Mrs. Harness and Mr. Sparks were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Steward Christmas.

Robert Smith and Clair Caldwell returned home for the holidays. Vernon Caldwell and wife of Portland visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Caldwell over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery Bediwell spent Christmas with their son and family at Sunnyside, Wash.

The Pentecostal church members put on a Christmas play Friday night. A large crowd was present

CUTSFORTH ADVANCES FACTS AND ARGUMENTS ON SCHOOL PLANS

A misstatement anent the county school law, proposed for adoption in Morrow county as a means of effecting more efficiency in operating county schools, was given at the Lexington meeting last week as reported in these columns, says Orville Cutsforth, chairman of the committee making a study of proposed plans.

The county school law definitely provides that local school committees have power to reject teachers not to their liking. It was reported that local committees had only advisory power in this connection with final decision left to the county school board.

Answering one argument that danger under the county school law lies in the possibility of an unsympathetic board majority unduly hurting a particular school, Mr. Cutsforth said that investigation reveals that in very few instances in counties operating under the plan have any decisions been made that have not been unanimously approved by the entire board.

That teachers' salaries might be unduly lowered, another fear advanced, was refuted by quoting from a statement published in the Oregon Journal last Friday, which showed three counties operating under the county school law paying higher av-

erage salaries than those prevailing in Morrow county. The fourth "unit" county, Lincoln, is paying only slightly lower average salaries.

Morrow county, paying an average of \$823.75 in the grades and \$1290.43 in high schools, was shown to be under the state averages of \$930.25 in grades and \$1314.96 in high schools. Eight counties were shown to be under the state average.

Mr. Cutsforth said an argument had been advanced from the Boardman-Irrigon section that adoption of county school law would cut revenues received from tax on railway property. He said it was true that under the county school law, based on current expenditures, the railroad tax would be cut about 8 mills but that the rest of the county would match funds with the north end to the tune of about 30 per cent to compensate for this factor. And he pointed out that people of the Boardman-Irrigon section would enjoy like cut to that received by railway property.

As to the possibility of consolidating districts rather than going under the county unit law, Mr. Cutsforth said three districts now transporting pupils into Lexington are about to be abandoned, leaving very few, if any, districts with which Lexington might consolidate.

and treats of candy and nuts were given the children.

Mr. and Mrs. James Arnbey were guests of relatives at Pilot Rock on Christmas.

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(Crowded out last week)

R. M. Boyd of Longview, Wash., skidded his car on the highway east of town, striking Mr. Anestes, a section man. He was taken to Hermiston for medical treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell McCoy and family arrived the last of the week to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emmett McCoy. John Volle, Chas. Acock, Harvey Warner, Carl Knighten and Prof. Ralph Jones were Heppner visitors Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Batie Rand, Mrs. Tom Caldwell and Mrs. Robert Smith were among the Christmas shoppers in Pendleton last Wednesday.

Miss Elizabeth Gentry returned from Centralia Tuesday and will remain over the holidays with her daughter, Mrs. Don Isom.

Miss Florine Brace spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. Brace.

Irrigon high school basketball team played the Boardman team at Boardman Wednesday night. The score was 5 to 10 in Irrigon's favor.

Miss Hayes of Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, was a guest of Mrs. Tom Caldwell Sunday night.

Mrs. Robert Smith was an overnight guest of a friend in Hermiston Monday.

Mrs. Earl Leach and sister Lucille and brother Willard Jones were shopping in Pendleton Saturday.

Calomel on Seed Tried As Maggot Control

The use of mercurous chloride, commonly known as calomel, as a seed treatment to prevent the damage from onion maggots, will be given thorough field tests this coming season as a result of promising results obtained by the OSC experiment station in plot trials last year.

Plots where treated seed was sown produced 70 per cent more onions than adjoining plots untreated. Various spray tests were also made and a few looked promising, but more hope is held out for success with the seed treatment as it would be lower in cost and easier to apply than either spraying or dusting.

Studies on the control of onion maggot, the most serious pest of this crop, and of several onion diseases were conducted under the terms of a special appropriation provided by the last legislature. Preliminary results are given in the recent illustrated bulletin, "Special Agricultural Investigations."

Henry Peterson was in the city Tuesday from Gooseberry.

Yield of Ponderosa Pine Stands Studied

The yield of Ponderosa pine, most important lumber tree of eastern Oregon and Washington, is the subject of a new technical bulletin just published by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The bulletin presents the results of a study of the yield of Ponderosa pine in even-aged stands, made by Walter H. Meyer, formerly silviculturist of the Pacific Northwest forest experiment station, and now on the teaching staff of the college of forestry, University of Washington.

Ponderosa pine, Meyer says, is one of the most important trees of the western United States, growing on more than 50 million acres in a range extending from the western border of the great plains to the Pacific Coast ranges. The wood is commercially valuable throughout its range. He presents numerous tables, including increment tables, stand and stock tables, from which predictions of future sizes of trees can be made; height curve graphs useful in calculating volume, growth and yield; and volume tables in cubic and board feet.

Copies of Department of Agriculture technical bulletin No. 630, "Yield of Even-Aged Stands of Ponderosa Pine," can be obtained for 15 cents per copy from the superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C.

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