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Official Paper for Morrow County

Community Stability

EMPHASIS is being placed by the United States Forest service upon the terms "social welfare" and "community stability" in connection with its policy of administering forest lands. Especially are these terms being brought to the attention of Morrow county people just now, with the coming of a new industry which contemplates cutting more of the timber in the adjacent hinterland.

The terms are largely self-explanatory. They mean that the forest administration contemplates getting the most value from the timbered areas over the longest possible time. They indicate that wholesale destruction of resources bodes ill for the future. As applied to timber cutting, they mean that only so much timber should be taken each year as will be replaced in an ordinary year's growth.

It is heartening that the Kraft cheese subsidiary which has announced intentions of starting the box factory here have signified their intention of operating under this policy of administration. They are coming to Heppner with the idea of building, not of destroying. In the cutting end of their operations, as in the operations throughout, they are advocates of stability as evidenced by past performance.

From expressions the officials have made on their several visits here, they have signified intention of operating on a basis wholly compatible with the policies of the forest service, as well as for the best interests of the entire community.

The company throughout its large operations encourages steady employment and discourages the opportunist worker. It has been the policy, as practiced elsewhere, of absorbing the slack in the local labor market so far as possible, giving preference to regular residents of the community if satisfactory help can thus be found. Through a compulsory insurance system, employees are forced to save five per cent of wages for the time employed. But, as compensation for such thrift the company gives each employee a bonus of fifty per cent of such savings at the time he leaves the company's service.

Such policies, certainly, are in the interest of social welfare and community stability. When such a company, with the reputation behind it of never having had any labor trouble and the further reputation of meeting every obligation promptly, signifies intention of operating in any community, that community, assuredly, can compliment itself upon the prospect of future stability insofar as the operations of that company may affect the community.

Heppner people are signifying their confidence in the new company and expressing the hope of future community stability by readily contributing to the site fund. The response has been generally 100 per cent as anticipated by the committee, and every indication is that Heppner will keep up its end in hastening the coming of the new industry.

But, again, whatever anticipation of new riches may be had by Morrow county people, the forest service words of wisdom should be heeded. The county's greatest resource is its timbered area. That the county is about to realize more income from the valuable merchantable timber in the area should not cause its people to lose sight of the fact that the forest's greatest value is in the watershed it provides. The conserva-

tion of moisture in this area and resultant precipitation over the lower, unwooded lands, is what makes these lower lands habitable and fertile. Thus the forest is primarily important to the large wheat and stock raising industries that will ever be the backbone of the county's economic structure.

In its several other phases, however, such as lumbering, scenic value and wildlife, Morrow county's timbered area stands much as a limitless bank account against which little has been drawn. There can be summer range for the sheep, game for the hunters, scenic attractions for the tourists, lumber for a stable new industry, and moisture for the lower country, all, if the proper policy of administration is heeded. Especially is this true if the arch destroyer, fire, is prevented from making trouble.

The dividends to be had will come in higher property values, more people and more income to help pay the now depressing tax burden and other necessary expenses of organized society.

SAFETY RECORD SET

A real safety record was set last New Year's week end, one which may be tied in the future but never beaten.

For three days, in spite of holiday traffic and bad weather, Oregon was free from traffic deaths. This was the only holiday period for three years during which no fatality occurred.

But the New Year's week-end was only the beginning of a five-month period during which the death toll at no time exceeded the monthly average of 30 fatalities. In February the total sank to nine fatalities for the state, the lowest monthly figure in years.

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LOCAL FOREST CAMP TO BE ATTRACTIVE; IMPORTANCE OF WORK EMPHASIZED

The first load of trees for Heppner's forest camp arrived Monday evening and landscaping will proceed immediately under direction of Dick Bowes, landscape engineer with the U. S. Forest service. Plans call for extensive beautification that should make the camp an attractive addition to the city, says F. F. Wehmeyer, local ranger.

Three camp buildings are now completed including a combination warehouse, a truck and machine shed, and gas house. Denver Edsen, construction foreman in charge since the beginning, now has a crew of 14 CCC boys leveling grounds and laying forms for concrete walls and a parabolic service court that lies between the buildings. Two more boys are expected to assist with the tree planting.

Construction of a three- or four-room office building facing May street beside Gilliam & Bisbee's store is expected to start soon after June 1. The office will be set back from the street to face upon a lawn court. An equipment storage building and a small residence are included in ultimate plans for the camp.

Along the Main street side of the camp, landscaping plans call for a row of maple trees. Lombardy populars will be placed between the office building and the Gilliam &

Bisbee building, black locusts will be used to border the property along the east side, while walnut trees will help break up the space within the camp. Shrubs to be placed where needed will include Oregon grape, sumac, mock orange and snowberry.

All buildings will be surrounded by concrete walks, and the center of the service court will be gravel surfaced.

The buildings are wood construction upon concrete base and covered with fire-proof, composition shingles. With wood stained brown, topped by slate-grey roof and a few small wood-carved trees painted green, the simplicity of architectural design, uniform throughout, blends attractively into the completed unit.

This camp will be headquarters for administration of the Heppner forest district, just now taking on added significance through greater timber-cutting activity. Under this administrative set-up comes two billion feet of merchantable pine, and 400 million feet of other species of timber. Of the pine timber included, 788,328,000 lies within the national forest itself and 1,212,409,000 feet is in private ownership, but in which the nation forest administration is no less concerned. It is the purpose of the forest service to protect all timber in the area to the end of fostering community stability and

social welfare, protecting so far as possible the greatest value of the forest, that of watershed, to conserve moisture for the lower agricultural country.

Already housed in the local buildings are a large fire truck, the local ranger's field car and a large amount of fire-fighting equipment that provides the nucleus for combating the forest's greatest enemy—fire.

Also under the wing of the local administrative office is the problem of range protection over the entire county—inside and outside the forest boundary. A recently completed map is on file in the local ranger's office which shows in detail all the range area in the county and setting out the types and carrying capacities of various range lands. This is the only map of its kind in the county, and it signifies the further importance of administrative work of the local camp.

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