



Washington, D. C., April 1.—Under secretary of war writes to the Oregon delegation that the war department has under consideration the publication of an army-wide policy to encourage local commanders to permit soldiers to assist in harvesting crops in off-duty hours when it will not interfere with training. This is the latest statement of the war department regarding the employment of soldiers in gathering crops and it follows the permission to use troops to pick cotton, an order which was rescinded before a soldier could climb the fence into a cotton field.

Under the plan "in contemplation" groups of troops would go under their commanders, but there is nothing said about what the farmer should pay for this aid. The question of employing soldiers who are on furlough and paying them for their work is proposed by orchardists of the Rogue river valley. In the military encampment near Medford there are thousands of soldiers undergoing a most rigorous training, and it is believed that these troopers would appreciate the opportunity to work in orchards on their days off.

The director of the budget has turned thumbs down on S. 65, offered by Senator McNary, which provide a federal annuity for the blind instead of the cooperation of federal and state. The director considered it too heavy a burden for the federal government to carry alone. This is the second time the budget director has objected to the measure.

Rep. Lowell Stockman of the second congressional district evidently intends remaining in Washington, D. C., for some time. He has bought a house in the suburbs under a grade and a high school, which is convenient for the Stockman children.

Albany disposed of the Lewis & Clark college to the government for use as an electro development laboratory at a price which is a sacrifice, but expects to see the laboratory grow into the leading institution of its kind in the United States. The bureau of mines, which will operate the laboratory, is delighted with it, for everything is ready for occupancy except for the installation of electrical furnaces; administration buildings, dwellings, heating plant, etc., are all in shape for the scientists to move in. Albany won the laboratory away from Spokane and Pullman for while neither of these Washington cities could make the offer that Albany did of a complete college plant they were banking on the son-in-law of the president getting the institution for Washington. The son-in-law did his best and pulled every political string, but eventually it was left to Secretary Ickes of the department of the interior to decide, and he selected the Oregon community. The success and growth of the laboratory will depend on congressional appropriations.

Rep. Harris Ellsworth of the new fourth district received an unusual honor. He attended the first together meeting of new congressmen with President Roosevelt. The next morning he, being a newspaperman and publisher, was requested by the Associated Press to write a description of the meeting. This Ellsworth did and it was telegraphed to every AP paper in the country. The account was so factual that no one would suspect that Ellsworth was a Republican and not a new dealer.

War department wanted 10 square miles in which to locate a

project. It had surveys made of the most isolated sections of Oregon and Idaho but finally settled on 200,000 near Priest Rapids, on the Columbia river in Washington. All the settlers, possibly less than 2,000 in that area are being ordered to move. The reason the project was not located in Oregon, in the Deschutes canyon, in Harney or Malheur counties, was that in each case something was lacking. On the Deschutes was water, but there was a railroad and highway and it was near The Dalles. In the waste region there was everything exactly as the engineer wanted, but no water.

On the upper Columbia river the engineers found almost ideal conditions, after they had modified their plans. It is estimated that the project (the details have not been announced) will cost about \$50,000,000, or more and employ 10,000 people or more, and these workers will be housed on a government building project far from the place where they will work.

Bureau of mines has issued a printed pamphlet on "The Possibilities of Coal Production in the Coos Bay Field."

Hay, Potato Crops Sown by Farmers

By Mrs. J. A. Shoun
Alfalfa is being seeded north-west of Irrigon. J. O. Swearingen and Avery Shoun are putting in new seedings. Among those putting in early potatoes are Frank Fredrickson, H. H. Whipple and J. O. Swearingen, and almost every one here is adding potatoes to his garden.

Mrs. Bertha Leicht Ames and Johnny Fredrickson were Heppner visitors Tuesday.

Earl Terry is to report to Yakima for his physical examination for the army April 14.

Lee Larson bought the Turn-A-Lum building on the railroad lot and will move it to the Coulter lot he recently purchased.

Mrs. Rathke of Umatilla was a Saturday visitor at the C. D. Whittneys.

Lois Markham is working at the ordnance depot on Saturdays.

Clarke Stephens is doing the chores for the Jack Smiths while Mr. Smith is in the hospital. He suffered a broken bone in his leg in a truck accident. The family all have the chickenpox.

Mrs. Molly Smith of Hood River is visiting her sister, Mrs. Wes Lyon. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Allen and

small son have moved their trailer house to the H. W. Grim place so they can have a garden and help with the farm work. H. W. Grim is also quitting the ordnance depot work to spend his time on the farm. They have almost two and one-half acres of asparagus that will soon be ready to harvest.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Isom and daughter Donna arrived home after about two years spent in California. They have their home here and are moving into it soon.

Billy Norcross is leaving for Portland to finish the school year there with her mother. The high school children gave her a farewell party on the school house lawn and then moved to the Columbia to toast and eat wienies.

Clara Frazier is helping with the work at the Coulters and Mrs. Coulter works at the ordnance depot.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston of California are visiting their daughter, Mrs. M. C. Gans and family.

Mrs. Wilbur Wiegand and small daughter Theresa Joy are visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith.

Rev. Hazelrig was gone over the week-end so there was no preaching in the Pentecostal church Sunday.

Mrs. James Henderson has arrived home from a two weeks visit in Lewiston, Idaho. She brought her sister, Mrs. Riley, who will visit at the Henderson home and with another sister, Mrs. Kenneth Frazier.

The Presbyterian Sunday school had a rally and a good attendance. Mrs. J. K. Walpole was leader, with Mr. Walpole assisting.

The high school had a series of moving pictures and a pie social Friday evening. They were making money to finance the sneak day trip. They made \$38. Jean Brown won the prize of a glass-ware set for the nicest looking pie with three men being the judges.

Paul Haberlein and daughter Paula are moving into one of the Leicht cabins. They gave up the farm home to Floyd Sparke as he bought it and has taken possession.

Bill King left Saturday for Fort Douglas, Utah. He has been accepted by the army.

Clyde Caldwell of Umatilla is spending some time in Irrigon looking after the Fred Caldwell estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Swearingen and little daughter spent the week-end with the J. O. Swearingens.

La Vern Duus, student nurse of Pendleton spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Duus.

Mr. and Mrs. Adren Allen took their baby to Hermiston Monday to a physician. The child is quite sick with asthma.

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U. S. Treasury Department

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