

Heppner Gazette Times

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They're Still Plugging Along

Sometimes it develops that anticipation is worse than the real thing. When the OPA rationing program was in the formulative stage, numerous merchants here and there over the country said "this thing has gone far enough; there are so many restrictions and regulations now that we can scarcely keep our doors open. When rationing goes into effect that will be the straw that breaks the camel's back," or words to that effect. There were some closings but nothing of an alarming nature. Since institution of rationing of certain commodities, merchants and consumers alike have adjusted themselves to rapidly changing conditions and despite shortages here and there the stores are remaining open.

This fact caused Ex-Governor Charles A. Sprague of Oregon to point out that: "Retailers, despite curtailment in manufacturing in many lines of merchandise, despite annoying regulations and handicaps of lack of help, do manage to stay in business. Each fresh impediment is a challenge which somehow seems to be met."

Although it cannot be said merchants are operating under a system of free enterprise during this emergency, the training acquired under such a system has enabled them to master the difficulties with which they are confronted. It has enabled them to master the difficulties with which they are confronted. It has enabled them to handle the distribution of necessities efficiently, avoiding the chaos that has characterized government-controlled agencies. It has brought merchant and consumer into closer relationship despite broad hints by government agencies that retailers must be watched constantly or they will charge "illegal" prices.

The public knows, and it is time the government found out, that organized retailers are the strongest bulwark against chaos in distribution.

It Might Be Remedied

This paper has no quarrel with the rationing program. In truth, it realizes as does everybody that some kind of curtailment had to be placed on the use of gasoline and rubber to permit allocation of these necessities where they will be most effective in promotion of the war. To have done otherwise might have jeopardized the Allied campaign and lengthened the time our forces will have to fight to attain victory.

If there are weaknesses in the operation of the rationing program they probably are due to the fact that originators were white collared guys who scarcely know there is a country beyond the paved streets on which they have spent the greater part of their lives. Consequently they could not know that farmers and stockmen out here in Morrow county have to travel a good many miles every time they have to consult the local rationing board. And what goes for Morrow county goes for every other county in these big western states, many of

them far larger than this county.

In recent weeks, farmers have been confronted with the necessity of providing additional food for harvesters. Meat is one of the principal items, and while the rationing board cooperates with them in acquiring additional points there frequently is delay in delivering them which necessitates extra trips to town. That is the point some of them complain of. They say they have to come to town so much more now than formerly. One man stated he buys more gas now than he did prior to rationing. That may be an isolated case, but it is believable that others could relate the same story.

We believe in the integrity and honesty of our people to the extent that a lot of the red tape connected with administration of the rationing program could be simplified in the case of those living at a distance so that when a farmer has to have meat or other rationed commodities to feed harvesters he will not have to get in the car and drive to town, losing precious hours needed in harvesting his crop and burning gasoline which rationing is supposed to conserve. It may not be possible to make changes without abuses creeping in, but under the present system it appears that the rationing program is, in a measure, defeating its own purpose.

An Uphill Job

If there is anyone not satisfied with his or her present job, he or she should try assembling materials for the construction of a saw mill during these trying times. If advice is needed, Orville Smith and other officials of Heppner Lumber company could give plenty.

When fire destroyed the mill of the Heppner Lumber company last January, it was expected that the plant would be in operation in about 90 days. When the 90-day period was up the work had only fairly begun. The company had decided upon a certain type of mill to meet operational requirements and equipment was not available in any one section. Instead, the plant now in position and ready to start sawing within a few days was assembled over a wide area of the northwest and some of it came from the east. This all took time and reopening of the plant, at first thought possible sometime in April, has been moved ahead to the first of August.

Efforts of the company in rebuilding the saw-mill on a permanent operation basis are most commendable. The mill has meant a considerable payroll in Heppner and indications point to a larger participation in these benefits in the future.

Keep Oregon Green

Keep Oregon Green has become an accepted fact with most Oregon people and there is little doubt about the movement having aided in the reduction of man-created forest and field fires. Of course, Jupe Pluvius has played an important part in holding down fires and for this invaluable service it is proposed that he be given a 720-hour honor badge for the 30 days extra he worked for Keep Oregon Green this summer.

Warning is issued against too much optimism over the summer fire situation. The extra rainfall has created lush grass and fern growth throughout the state and when the hot winds of late July and August dry them up the fuel for fire will be heavy and plentiful. The next 70 days will be critical ones on the forest fire front, it is pointed out, and the people are urged to give every possible assistance to keep man-caused fires at the very minimum for the rest of the summer.

"The best way for you to Slap a Jap is to make sure your match, cigarette and campfire are not allowed to go out unescorted," is the way Steve Thompson, Morrow county Keep Oregon Green chairman, puts it.

INJURES HAND IN BINDER

E. C. Heliker of Lone was in town Wednesday evening getting his hand dressed following an accident at his ranch.

Heliker was binding hay when the machine became clogged. He was about through with the task when the binder was suddenly set in motion and he couldn't get his hand out of it. No bones were broken, but the back of the hand suffered a severe laceration.

AT BOYS' CAMP

Rev. O. Wendell Herbison and eight boys of the Church of Christ are spending the week at Anthony lake in a camp sponsored by the 99 Men's club. Boys accompanying Rev. Herbison were Junior Hughes, Jimmy Pettyjohn, Herval Pettyjohn, Charles Ross, Leroy Nikander, John Jepson, Jimmy Herbison and Bobby Bennett.

RETURN TO TUCSON

Tech. Sgt. R. F. Gallagher and wife who spent several days at the

home of Gallagher's mother, Mrs. Alex Wilson, left Wednesday morning for the army air base at Tucson, Ariz., where Sgt. Gallagher is a squadron inspector.

COMMITTEE TO MEET

Members of the committee for the Morrow county unit of the Blue Mountain Camp and Hospital council will meet at 3 p. m. Saturday in the office of County Agent C. D. Conrad according to Mrs. Ralph Thompson, chairman.

Payroll Savings Buys Comfort For Your Fighting Relatives

Not all of your payroll savings and other War Bond purchases are used for tanks, planes and gunpowder. A part of your investment goes for the comfort of your father, brother, son or friend.

Put your war bond buying through your payroll savings plan on a family basis to do the most effective job in providing for the care and safety of your men in the armed forces. Figure it out for yourself how much beyond 10 per cent of the aggregate income of your family you can put into war bonds above the cost of the necessities of life.

Remember a single \$18.75 war bond will buy for a fighting soldier on the front: Two cotton undershirts at 44 cents; two pairs of cotton shorts at 76 cents; two pairs of cotton socks at 34 cents; one pair of shoes at \$4.31; a cotton khaki shirt at \$4.64; pair twill trousers at

\$4.16; one web waist belt at 23 cents; two cotton neckties at 44 cents; 2 khaki caps at \$1.26 and one twill jacket at \$2.16. Total \$18.74.

An \$18.75 war bond should make a marine comfortable for the night with a 23-pound mattress at \$4.20; two blankets at \$13.54; a pillow at 56 cents and two pillow cases at 30 cents. Total \$18.60.

Or he could be provided with a rubber poncho at \$4.77; a helmet with its lining and other items of its assembly at \$5.62; a rifle cartridge belt at \$2.15; a marine corps pack consisting of haversack, knapsack and suspenders at \$5.10; a canteen and its cover at \$1.05. Total \$18.69.

Those of you who worry about the comfort of your boy in service can help insure his comfort by buying war bonds. And 10 years from now you'll take back \$25 for every \$18.75 you put in.

U. S. Treasury Department



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