

EDITORIAL

Still a Good Producer

Ever since harvest time last year, when Morrow county experienced the greatest crop production on record, speculation has been rife regarding the prospect for 1944. All ready three record-breaking years had followed one after the other and now what would the fourth year bring?

Not a few of our wheat men guessed quite accurately on the 1944 outcome. Some were a little too optimistic perhaps, but on the average they came close to figures now being born out in the harvest. There were a number who were more conservative and placed the yield considerably lower than results are proving to be, thus bringing the average to a level very close to the actual returns. It is too early to estimate the county average, but 30-35 bushel yields are not uncommon in this season that has thus far been anything but moist. And strange to say, farmers report surplus moisture for this time of the year.

Where does this increase in yield come from? Part of it is carry over from previous unusually moist seasons, as predicted by the wheatraisers last year. However, without improved methods of farming made possible through mechanized equipment, much of that carry over moisture doubtless would have been lost. Our farmers have learned the art of preserving the moisture, be it great or small, and the results are being evidenced in greater prosperity throughout the wheat belt.

It is the belief of many of our farmers that adoption of the trashy summerfallow system has been a big step in the direction of more permanent yield. True it is that the one-time common expression "Morrow county really is on the move again" has all but lost its provocation, for one may ride through miles of summerfallow during a heavy wind with little annoyance from dust. That may not hold good over a period of several seasons of light precipitation but it is the rule this year when there has been little rainfall and quite a bit of wind.

There is general satisfaction among the wheatraisers this year for they not only have good crops but have been favored with continued dry weather to do their harvesting. A lot of good quality wheat is coming to the warehouses and elevators and Morrow county sustains its reputation as a heavy producer.

All Over But the Fighting

About two years ago the thought uppermost in the public mind was "When will we get started to fighting?" Then came Guadalcanal and we knew our boys were on the way to Tokyo—a long, hard battle but they surely would attain that goal even if it took years. Our forces landed in Africa and after a hectic campaign got the Heinies on the run, driving them across the Mediterranean to the confines of Hitler's Fortress Europa in Italy. Since that time progress has been slow in southern Europe, in fact, so slow that, as suggest-

ed by competent observers, it failed to click with the invasion of France which had to be launched as a separate drive rather than a fully coordinated plan.

So fast has been the advance of Allied forces in western France that there is evidence of a crumbling of German defense lines not dissimilar to that of World War I, and this has caused much speculation as to how long the war in Europe will last. Without disclosing reasons, Winston Churchill has stated that he now feels that the campaign in Europe will come to a close much earlier than he originally thought. This statement has brought cheer to the Allied cause and it may have prompted some relaxation of vigil which has been an essential part of backing the war at home. It is only human to relax a little when things are going good, although it most certainly was not Churchill's desire to create a feeling of too great security.

As long as the Germans can muster up munitions and provisions to fight on they will put up the best defensive they can, and past experience has taught the Allies that the foe is crafty, stubborn and capable. To cheat him of supplies is the job of the Allies and this appears to be the program of the air forces—demolishing factories, wrecking transportation systems and oil fields and any other sources contributing to maintenance of enemy activity. Once this is accomplished it is likely that a fairly accurate date for the end of hostilities can be set. In the meantime we are inclined to agree with the radio news commentator who closed his program with—"Remember, the war is all over but the fighting."

What's a Mere Million?

Here are two quotes lifted bodily from the Congressional Record to reveal the kind of thinking in which long-time New Dealers still indulge, although they are talking "economy" in speeches to their constituents:

"MR. BARKLEY: I hope the Senate will accept my amendment. The difference between \$15,000,000 and \$15,250,000 is rather inconsequential.

"MR. MCKELLAR: I know it is. . . .—Senate, June 20, 1944."

"MR. RUSSELL: . . . Not a great deal of money is involved in this amendment; only \$500,000 is involved, and that is a small sum of money.—Senate, June 16, 1944."

A Massachusetts editor reports that in the Bay State the slogan "Don't change horses in the middle of the stream" has been revised to read "Let's change horses and cross the stream."

"It is up to the American people to say when they have had enough pushing around by the bureaucrats."—James A. Farley. It looks like Jim still wants to help do a little of the pushing.



NO STATE PROPERTY TAX

Officials of the state income tax commission say the state property tax will again be eliminated for the next year, while the elementary school tax, included in the levy, will be paid out of the bulging surplus of state income tax revenues.

Last year's income tax payments were more than \$21, 000,000. This year's collections it is estimated will return \$10,000,000. The 1943 discount was made possible by funds accumulated over several years. The discount this year, estimated to be 30 percent, is made possible by the marked increase in revenues due to improved business conditions.

EMERGENCY CARE EXTENDED

The federal program which gives emergency maternity care without cost to the wives and infants of men in the four lowest pay grades in the army, navy, coast guard and marine corps has been extended to wives and infants of army aviation cadets. The extension is made under the new appropriation of \$42,800,000 made by congress for the next 12 months.

The money for care is allotted to state health agencies by the children's bureau which administers the program to provide free medicine, nursing and hospital care for a serviceman's wife during pregnancy, child birth and six months thereafter and for the infant during the first year of life.

MOTOR CARRIER FEES UP

Fees paid to the state by passenger and freight carrying motor vehicles reached an all-time high last month. With the extreme scarcity of tires and replacement parts, and the constantly diminishing number of these vehicles, the increase of fees can be accounted for by the fact that nearly every such vehicle available is being put to use. On August 1 of this year \$193,155.41 had been paid to the office of public utilities commissioner for carrier fees. This is \$16,091.97 more than for the same period last year, or an increase of 8.13 percent over the first seven months of 1943.

WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON

The Oregon state library has just been presented the authentic writings of George Washington from the original sources. There are 34 volumes in this edition which includes all the essential writings, public and private, excluding diaries, and general orders of the commander in chief, never before published as a whole. The illustrations are a definite collection. The gift to the library came from United States Senator Guy Corson.

HAS TONSILLECTOMY

Raymond Gonty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Gonty, submitted to a tonsillectomy Friday at Pendleton.



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