

EDITORIAL

Better Farm Telephone Service

Through a program of lending advice, giving aid in purchasing materials and in other services, the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company hopes to see a great improvement in rural telephone service within the next few years. Always a source of worry, the rural lines are undergoing a most difficult period during the war when scarcity of almost everything entering into operation of telephone systems makes carrying on more or less of a hazard. That has been true in this vicinity and doubtless is the case with most rural lines.

It will be the aim of the telephone company to lend assistance where possible. This will be done by offering advice of experts in maintenance, line erection and operation. The company may even go so far as to use its good offices in securing materials for lines badly in need of repair. A. M. Green district manager, stated here Monday that while some of the work has been held up during the war, the war activities of the telephone industry have produced new knowledge that will help to extend farm service, and that when war demands slacken, farm telephone research will be intensified.

Mr Green hinted at new gadgets that will make extension of service beyond present lines possible at low cost. Plans are in the making whereby power and telegraph lines will be used jointly. And there is a suggestion of radio telephone service All of which sounds interesting and gives promise of bringing remote areas next door to the urban districts.

A Worthy Enterprise

Few towns the size of Heppner can boast of an Elks lodge and none, we are sure, have lodges contributing more to community enterprises than Heppner lodge No. 358. No worthy call for assistance goes unheeded and more often than not the lodge is ahead of the call.

Latest move of the lodge to make use of surplus funds in promoting the welfare of the community is the appropriation of \$1,000 for the purpose of establishing a summer camp for youth. This sum is deemed sufficient to start a camp and the lodge plans to make appropriations from year

to year as necessity demands. Full development of the camp may have to await the coming of peace, but it is possible to make a start this year and build it up from season to season. This seems to be the purpose of the lodge.

While the Elks are taking the initiative in the movement, other orders and organizations are invited to participate. As a matter of fact, it would be a fine thing for others to join in and make it a community effort. More interest will be taken if all of us pungle up a few dollars and perhaps put in a few hours occasionally helping with the work. Such a camp has great possibilities if the community is willing to get back of it.

Much of the juvenile delinquency of the present day can be traced to a lack of directed play and recreation. Comparisons of undirected and directed youths facing juvenile courts find the former greatly outnumbering the latter. The old saying that "idleness breeds discontent" is pertinent in this instance for a youth—a Boy Scout, for example—who has his day's work and play outlined for him has something definite to do while the chap who just gets up in the morning and wonders what will happen today is quite apt to find lots of things happening.

The Elks are pointing the way. Will other organizations and individuals join in helping to make the youth of today the citizen and leader of tomorrow?

•Hitler's theme song: Don't Fence Me In.

It is gratifying to learn that the National Housing Administration has sensed the importance of this community as a vital industry center in granting construction of ten new residences. It took a long time to get the order through and in the meantime some relief has been obtained in the housing situation through reconversions. Ten residences will not make for a building boom by any means, but that many new homes will place Heppner in a position to offer good living conditions to a few families desiring to come here to work. Since the houses are to be built through private financing it will not be necessary to group them and follow one standard pattern. That, too, is worthy of consideration of prospective builders.

Giles French Gives News and Views Of the Legislature

This week the real business of the legislature gets under way as many big public hearings are held. It may seem odd that it takes so long and it is. It takes time to get the proposals in. They need not be bills, in fact, some of the ideas that will eventually become law are given to legislators, particularly committee chairmen, without benefit of written words. Ideas grow around a legislature as men conversant with public problems talk over the problem.

A bill, for instance, may come in on a subject. It has some support, but it doesn't seem to be just right. Large groups oppose it for various reasons, some of which are important. Interested ones discuss it and the proponents and opponents talk over the matter until finally the committee that has the bill can call a hearing that gives promise of achieving something besides a roomful of heated words. Then an amended bill is written and legislation is forth coming.

That stage has been reached. It takes so long because there are so many things for legislators to talk about and it takes time to get around to all of them.

This week is a busy one. Monday evening there is a house hearing on the county manager plan, about which there is some discussion and which will be amended in accordance with opinions sent the committee from all over the state after the original bill was written and sent out.

Tuesday night there are two hearings, one on the bill that would take the liquor fund from its present specialty class for pensions and put it in the general fund, from which it could be expended with less public vision. There is also a hearing on the eight educational bills or rather, bills that have to do with the tax for elementary educational purposes. These will follow a committee hearing on the so-called three-way bill before the Labor and Industries committee. This is an insurance bill to give the companies greater rights in the matter of insuring workmen.

Thursday night another hearing was held before the house Taxation and Revenue committee on the proposal to limit the power of the federal government to levy an income tax above 25 percent. The resolution is asking congress to submit such legislation to the states for changing the 16th amendment (the one permitting the income tax). It has considerable appeal as is shown by the fact that 18 states have already adopted it.

Although this legislature is far behind the one of 1943 there is little to worry about. The leaders of both houses feel that it is not so much the duty of the legislators to get done quickly as to get the work done in a satisfactory manner. Furthermore there is no doubt that many bills will still be in the desks of committee chairmen when the session ends. For instance the labor bills in the senate will probably remain there for a long time, few taxation bills can be passed out for so many amend the same sections of the law that some must be discarded.

It will be 60 days or more before the session ends and this is a fair average for recent sessions and not a bad time in which to arrange the affairs of a great state for another biennium.

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