

# EDITORIAL



## Let the Landlords Help Pay

From Ed Lawrence's column in the Waitsburg Times comes a lot of wisdom relative to the loss of top soil under commonly accepted practices of farming. We don't know just who Ed Lawrence is, although his material has been appearing in the Times for a number of years and there is always something worth thinking about in what he has to say, but he must be a "son of the soil" judging from the following comment on a problem that is engaging the attention of soil experts everywhere. Says Lawrence:

"It has long been the history of farming in our hills that in the beginning a farmer came along, hocked his worldly goods, and bought a ranch. He got a corral full of mules and worked like a horse until he got enough in the village vault to build a two-story house in town and spend the winter in Long Beach, Cal. Then he would rent to his son or some other beginner and he too would start on a shoestring. So he, in turn, would give the land a good working over to get out of debt and pay up his old age annuities. Around and around it went, with whoever was on the place farming the hell out of the acres with no thought for the future.

"Now where there were once about 18 inches of fertile top soil there are now about six inches and that is heading for the exit at an alarming rate. So of necessity conservation is going to be brought into play or we'll give the land back to the coyotes. But starting with a soil saving program is going to cost some extra money. And in many respects therein lies the rub.

"Probably half the land in our counties is owned by absentee landlords. A great many are benevolent lessors who are aware of the need for a shift in our mode of farming and are anxious to do all they can to keep their ranches fixed up and productive. Unfortunately, there are others who sit in their faraway homes and expect a fat wheat receipt to come in annually without having to fork out a cent for permanent improvements. Some farms are overrun with morning glory because the owners wouldn't buy the weed-killing chemicals. On others the buildings are eye-sores and the fences are falling down. And now with experiments in sweet clover, sub-soiling, terracing, sodding down ditches and strip farming, all involving added expense to the operator, it becomes essential for all land owners to take more interest in their investments.

"The renter, with perhaps a year to year lease, is in a poor condition to make these permanent improvements on someone else's land. It is therefore only fair that the owners should share generously in the extra expense. It is their land and solving erosion is going to give them a constant stream of good crops.

"This erosive problem has reached the stage of an emergency. To lick the problem is going to take the cooperation of the landowner and his renter, not only in sharing the added outlay, but

in insisting that some sort of soil-saving practices be tried.

"Conservation is going to cost plenty of money and extra work—but in the long run it is going to be dirt—cheap!"

The above article follows closely a line of thought expressed by O. W. Cutsforth two or three years ago. Cutsforth used the term "mining the soil," which seems most apropos, for when some of the farmers get through with the land it is about as productive as a worked-out mine. Perhaps if the absentee landlords were to put some of their earnings back into rebuilding the soil the cause of soil conservation could be advanced at a more rapid rate.

## Where New Deal Spending Has Led To

Oregon's per capita share of the requested \$39,669,000,000 budget for cost of Federal government for fiscal 1949, now before Congress, is \$366,852.820, or \$276.66 for each man, woman and child in Oregon, according to 1945 Oregon population estimate of 1,362,066, and 143,382,000 United States population.

A breakdown of this state's per capita portion of the proposed Federal government cost for year ending June 30, 1949, shows that Morrow county's share will be \$1,137,349.

These figures have been released by Oregon Business & Tax Research Inc.

On basis of 1947 Federal taxes paid in Oregon, the state's pro rata portion of the requested 1949 Federal budget, is about \$337,000,000, according to figures supplied state taxpayer associations by Senator Styles Bridges, (R-N.H.) chairman of the Senate purse-strings Appropriations Committee of which Senator Guy Cordon is a member, according to the tax research organization. This is at rate of \$247.71 per Oregon inhabitant.

For each \$1 of state taxes collected during 1947, \$4.50 will be spent as Oregon's share of the proposed 1949 cost of Federal government, according to Senator Bridge's analysis.

Oregon's per capita share of the proposed 1949 spending budget, or \$366,852.000, is a little more than one-quarter of the state's assessed valuation, and the total proposed budget is equal to one-fourth of the 1946 national income, Oregon Business & Tax Research pointed out.

"This tremendous burden on Oregon taxpayers, and everyone is a taxpayer to the Federal government, is reflected in cost of food we buy, clothing we wear, cigarettes we smoke, where there is a 7 cents 'hidden tax' per package," F. H. Young, manager of the tax research organization said.

"Naturally we can't expect to trim Federal spending to a pre-war level. But certainly there are many places where substantial sums can be saved. We need to reduce Federal payrolls. Overlapping and duplicating Federal agencies can be trimmed, and obsolete and unnecessary Federal bureaus eliminated."

## Give Teen Agers A Break

There is a drive for funds underway to support the Boy Scout program in the Blue Mountain Council area and it is to be hoped that the amount asked for will be subscribed. This is not merely a request for funds. It is a request for public support of a movement that has a direct bearing upon the future of this country—the training of our teen agers to be useful citizens.

Too much stress can not be placed upon the value of this type of training for the youth who has reached the time of life when he must choose between learning the things that will help mould him into a leader and just drifting along following the lines of least resistance.

One of the great needs of the day is education in Americanism and the Boy Scout movement is one of the best media for this type of training.

Keep this in mind and don't begrudge a few dollars when a solicitor calls on you.

# 30 YEARS AGO

From Heppner Gazette Times Feb. 21, 1918.

Melancholy produced by ill health was responsible for Mrs. E. H. Emerson taking her life Friday, Feb. 15. Burial was made in the Morgan cemetery.

The Heppner Gun club shot in competition with the Wenatchee team last Sunday, the first shoot in a series. The result proved disastrous to the local men, the score being 113 to 111.

Mrs. Jeff Neal is sick this week as a result of ptomaine poisoning which she received Tuesday evening from eating pork.

A seven pound daughter arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. McMenamin Tuesday.

Mrs. James H. Melton of Cecil passed to the great beyond Feb. 12, after a long illness. She left to mourn her death her husband and two sons, George and Herbert.

Lexington Red Cross sent a shipment of 15 sweaters, 10 coats and pajamas, 12 dish towels, 2 packages of bandages, 3 bed shirts, 6 pairs sock, on Feb. 13. A dance was given and a chicken supper which netted \$98.91.

Don't forget the big basketball

mission evolved startling new business methods whereby the less merchandise sold the greater will be the profit? The report of the commission filed this week with the state department would seem to reveal such a phenomenon. If they have they should go to work for the taxpayers.

State liquor store sales during the last six months of 1947 totaled \$23,069,292, a decrease of 3.38 per cent or \$807,179 in revenue as compared with the same period the year before. The report shows an increased profit of \$307,787, or 5.34 per cent over the same six months in 1946. Net profits of the commission during the last fiscal year were \$10,771,660.

The inventory of stock carried by the commission during the last session of the legislature was \$21,000,000. This has been reduced to \$12,284,498.

## ATTACK FLAX PLANT

A suit has been filed that, if successful, would put the state flax plant at the penitentiary out of business. A privately owned flax company alleges in their suit that the state is unlawfully engaged in the business of sending convict made goods through interstate commerce. The principal industry at the penitentiary is the flax plant. It was started in 1915 for two major purposes, to furnish labor for idle prison inmates and to foster an industry for the state that could not well be pioneered without public support. It is the largest scutching plant in the United States and the flax acreage is the great-

est single like acreage in the world.

The contention on which the suit will probably rest will be: is scutching, etc., part of the harvesting of flax or is it manufacturing?

## TO AVOID PRESSURE BLOCKS

Announcement of a plan to create an advisory group for the legislative interim committee on roads and highways was made at a Salem meeting of the committee Monday. The group would consist of eight members, two to be chosen by each of the following organizations: The league of Oregon Cities, The Association of Oregon Counties, The Highway Users Assn., and the state highway commission. The objectives of the group would be to plan distribution of highway funds to the advantage of the state as a whole without the impress of pressure blocs.

## DON'T BET YET

With many unannounced candidates in the running the second guessers had a field day Tuesday when the rumor became insistent in the capital that Governor Hall would not file to succeed himself and that State Treasurer Leslie Scott would file as a candidate for the republican nomination for governor.

## Washington Week

By CHARLES H. ELLIS, JR.

Washington, D. C.—Not a single vote has been taken on the European Recovery Program, but Republicans in Congress have already made strides toward re-establishing a fundamental principle in foreign policy.

They have brought home to the Administration that any foreign policy to be successful must have the support of the people, signified through their elected representatives in Congress.

The Administration has been forced to abandon the take-it-or-leave-it attitude with which the European Recovery Program was first introduced. Tacitly, but unmistakably, the Administration now recognizes that arbitrary dictation by the Executive is repugnant to Congress, and to the people as a whole.

This Administration backtracking augurs well for sane consideration of the whole question of aid to Europe. When the question is settled, it should be on the basis of full consideration of all the facts by both Houses of Congress.

One of the first errors of the Truman Administration was its effort to set an over-all dollar figure for the four-year aid program. That was in spite of the obvious fact that nobody knows what the state of the American economy will be a year or two hence. If Mr. Truman thinks he does, he has only to recall the gloomy predictions—that there would be 8 million unemployed in 1946—made by his Administration economists just after V-J Day.

It's equally difficult to say

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what Europe's needs will be next year, or whether the nations to be aided will have made any real efforts to help themselves. Beyond those reasons is the simple fact that one Congress can not bind future Congresses in matters of appropriations. When this was pointed out to the Administration forcefully—by a Republican leader—the Administration dropped its demands for a four-year total.

The take-it-or-leave-it attitude was not yet dead, however, Secretary of State Marshall, when he came to the Capitol to discuss the appropriation for the first 15 months, said, in effect: "Give us all or nothing."

Again Republicans were critical, and Marshall finally con-

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Too many city slickers have been making the sticks of late buying timber stumpage for much less than market value from gulleless farmers. The situation is being given special and immediate attention by the Oregon forestry department. Men are being put in the field that have been trained as forest farmers; who know timber values as re-

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