

# EDITORIAL

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## Four Days Remain For Contributions To CROP Program

Oregon farmers are responding to the appeal of CROP, Christian Rural Overseas program, with a tremendous burst of giving as the drive enters its final week, reports state director Miles G. Blickestaff. Collection of foodstuffs ended December 6, and gifts of cash should be in by December 13 to purchase foods suitable for shipment on the Oregon CROP train, now scheduled to join 22 others in a gigantic national caravan moving to ships by Christmas day.

## Wheat League Coming To Town

Condon, during the last three days of the past week, played host in a royal manner to the Eastern Oregon Wheat League. It was an eventful meeting, the wheat growers learning many things they needed to know, the organization was expanded to include all wheat growing districts of the state, and last, but not least, the wheat men accepted Heppner's invitation to hold the 1949 convention in this city.

It will have been eight years since the growers last met in Heppner, eight years in which many pages of history have been written. From the grower's standpoint they have been bountiful years—an era in which both production and price have been favorable, combining to put most of the farmers in the black column instead of the red column where so many of them operated for a long time.

There are signs that the supply is catching up with the demand and the prices in the months to come will be dependent on government support more than has been the case in recent years. As a matter of fact the supply is ahead of the market at present and the growers have been advised to build more storage for next year's crop. In the meantime, the growers here and elsewhere throughout the wheat-raising sections of the country are casting about for new uses for this vital crop in an effort to forestall the recurrence of great surpluses that have plagued the industry in times past, and it is organizations like the Eastern Oregon Wheat League now the Oregon Wheat League, which lead the way in formulating plans and policies for mutual benefit to all growers.

There is good reason to believe that a meeting of great importance will be held in Heppner in 1949 and it will be an obligation of our citizens to see that the Wheat League has the best of accommodations for carrying on its important work.

## For An Emergency Ambulance

Proposal of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that the community be provided with an emergency ambulance is something that is meeting with public favor—as much of the public as has been contacted in the short time the project has been under consideration. That funds for purchasing the car will be provided can not be said to be a foregone conclusion but influential sources contacted have expressed a willingness to make substantial contributions.

The car would be made available at places where injuries are apt to occur such as football games, rodeos and other contests of skill. It would be at the call of those in need of ambulance service, whether it be to rush a sick person to a local physician or to a hospital—which at present means to a neighboring town; or to rush to the scene of a highway accident, or to a farm or home anywhere hereabouts where sickness or injury calls for that type of service.

It is a good proposal and something which should be brought to realization. Such an ambulance, equipped for emergency service, will be a valuable asset to the hospital when once that long delayed project becomes a reality.

## Two Opposed Ideas

For the benefit of those who may have a leaning towards government control of this, that, and the other thing, have a look at the enormity of the retail sales in this country and then consider the advantages we would sacrifice if the present tendency towards centralized government leads to eventual dictatorship.

For most of us, our contacts with retailing are

limited to a relatively small number of stores which we personally patronize. So we may lose sight of the fact that retailing is one of the mightiest economic forces in the country.

The statistics are extremely impressive. Retail trade provides employment for more than 8,000,000 people. Something like 70 percent of the disposable income of America's consumers crosses its counters. This year the volume of business done will reach the astronomical figure of \$130,000,000.

But size alone doesn't tell the story. The fact that retailing is one of the most aggressively competitive of enterprises has been responsible for giving us more and better goods at lower prices, than any other people enjoy. In countries where retailing is owned and controlled by the state, an opposite condition exists. For instance, the Soviet authorities recently approved the opening of some "free trade" stores in Russian-occupied Germany, where goods may be bought without ration coupons. Shoes sell for \$54 to \$72, stockings for \$7 to \$12, and so on down the line. The whole idea behind these stores is to get the last possible penny out of those who can afford to patronize them, in order to drain off excessive buying power. The idea behind American retailing is to give the most for the least money.

Retailing is the artery through which the products of farm and factory flow. It has made mass production workable, by providing an efficient mass distribution machine within easy reach of every family in the country. It is a mainstay of our whole complex economy.

## "And They Were All Wrong"

Although the election is more than a month in the past editors are still speculating on how it came to turn out the way it did and on what the results may be as the new administration swings into action.

Quite a number of allied trade publications reach this editorial desk and among the lot received this week was a little house organ "Memo" put out by The Steward Co., Los Angeles. While it reshapes some of the ideas carried out in this column since the election, it is interesting to note what someone interested in selling printing equipment has to say.

"The election is over and after the results were tabulated there were plenty of red faces. Whether the choice of the people is right or wrong for the country will be shown by the events taking place during the next four years.

"One thing stands out in bold relief when looking at the pre-election selections made after a poll-taking field day: lots of people can be wrong.

"Thousands put their faith in the opinions and results published by the various polling organizations. Money was invested or put into production because of those opinions. Most newspapers, commentators and political observers went out on a limb to predict a sweeping Republican victory.

"And they were all wrong!

"What can this mean to a business man in the West? Just this—make your own decisions and get your own opinions on matters concerning your investments. If you are using the results of business surveys which are available, be sure to interpret the figures into terms connected with your business. If the trend is down according to the figures and you are enjoying good business, don't feel that you have to look on the dismal side. After all, business conditions should only interest you when they affect your particular business.

"It may be wise during the next months to remember an old adage—'Figures never lie—but liars sometimes figure!'"

## YOUNG REPUBLICANS EXHALE

"We want to go back to the party of Abraham Lincoln and clean out such people as Taft, Joe Martin, J. Carroll Reese and Harrison Spangler." This was the freely-expressed opinion of leading delegates to the Young Republicans' state convention which concluded a three-day session Sunday in Salem.

The surge of the convention was middle-of-the-road liberal. Old guard conservative planks were kicked around with youthful vigor. And not even one small voice was raised in protest.

"They wanted to be known as new republicans as well as young republicans.

A lot of balloons were put up in the form of resolutions, including a plea for a lieutenant governor, for a law designed to check "single shot" voting by electing legislators to represent designated sections of a county instead of the county at large, for the eligibility of in-state veterans to participate in veterans' loans after two years residence in the state, and a study of Oregon's inadequate pollution laws.

United States Senator Wayne Morse, principal speaker at the Saturday dinner, vowed his audience repeatedly.

"I am convinced . . . that republican victory on November 2, 1948, was needed to protect constitutional government in America and bring to our national administration the effective far-sighted statesmanship which I think it so sorely needs." The senator emphasized, "It was at Yalta that Korea was sacrificed on the altar of Russian communism. . . . It was at Yalta that concessions were made to Russia in Asia. . . . It was at Potsdam that the Berlin crisis was born. . . . the senate of the U. S. would at least have asked for a corridor into Berlin. . . . and insisted upon clarification of our rights, prerogatives, and jurisdictions in Berlin," Senator Morse said.

## OREGON FIRST AGAIN

The faces of Oregon's highway snowplow drivers were red last Friday when a radiant-heated strip of highway north of Klamath Falls proved successful. Heavy snow in 14-degree temperature melted and left the surface of the strip dry and warm with a temperature of 62 degrees that kept the snow melting as fast as it fell.

Pipes were installed in the pavement carrying anti-freeze solution that is heated by hot water from a natural hot well. It leaves the well at 136 degrees and returns at 84. The heated stretch is on highway 97 but is not yet open to the public. It is believed this is the first road so heated.

## 600,000 CHRISTMAS TREES

The Christmas tree harvest is on in Oregon with shipments to points as far east as Chicago and as far west as Hawaii where they are sent in refrigeration compartments of westbound ships. An estimated 600,000 young fir trees will be cut in Oregon this year, according to State Forester Nels Rogers. Los Angeles is the principal market, with San Francisco and Kansas City (where one order called for 10,000 trees) in second and third place.

During the first 7 days of the cutting season, 70 permits were issued to tree merchants. These permits cover operations varying from 500 to 5,000 trees each.

The forestry department has been stressing an educational program that will aid people in eliminating wasteful and harmful Christmas tree cutting practices. They advise that trees be selected from thick groves. Trees should not be topped to use the crown portion. Leave the lower branches on the stump, and do not take trees from roadside areas. Not only does this spoil the beauty of the Oregon highways, but the practice is illegal, unless permission is secured from the landowner.

## NOT FOR IDENTITY

Social security cards are being used frequently as a means of identification and merchants are warned by the social security department that the cards do not assure it is in the proper owner's possession. A number of bad checks have been cashed recently where a social security card has been used as a means of identification. The department cards for check cashing purposes.

## NEWBY LED CANDIDATES

Secretary of State Earl T. Newby was the biggest vote getter in the November election according to the official canvass released Friday by David O'Hara, of the state election department. The vote of 533,829 was the biggest in history of Oregon elections.

## CARD OF THANKS

We take this means of thanking neighbors and friends for their many kindnesses and expressions of sympathy during our bereavement and to express our appreciation for the beautiful floral tributes to the memory of our beloved mother. The children of Mrs. Nellie McFerrin.

## Farm Fertilizer From Low Grade Ores Sanctioned

The production of farm fertilizer from low grade phosphate ores from the public lands in the west is contemplated for the first time in southern Idaho under a Department of the Interior lease arrangement with the J. R. Simplot company of Pocatello, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug reported early this week.

The lease, which gives to the Simplot company the right to develop the phosphate deposits on 1124 acres of public land in Caribou county, Idaho, provides for the payment to the development of land rentals and royalties from the production of phosphates in the area. The company has notified the department that it plans to use the electric furnace process in a new plant at Pocatello to extract the phosphate from the low grade ores obtained under the lease.

The high grade ores will be used to supply the Simplot company's Salt Lake City plant. Secretary Krug, in announcing his approval of the lease, said that the agreement with the Simplot company was an example of the type of cooperation between private industry and the government contemplated by the department's conservation policy for maximum beneficial use of the nation's natural resources. Development of the phosphate deposits in the public lands of the west has been an example of that work a special western phos-

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