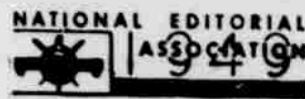


EDITORIAL



Asleep At The Switch

It looks like Heppner has been asleep at the switch in the matter of getting recognition on the proposed flood control dam. In the President's authorization of projects coming under the U. S. Army Engineer Corps, virtually all of the work planned in the Walla Walla district engineer's office has been sanctioned. This includes flood control work in the main in the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming in the sum of \$12,349,350.

There is no doubt but that a repetition of the 1903 disaster will have to befall us before we are shaken into action. Too few of the older residents remain today who can picture the death and ruin on every hand following that fateful Sunday evening when approximately one-fifth of the town's population was blotted out and damage estimated at more than one-half of a million dollars was wrought. It is not a pretty picture to recall, and none can say that a similar disaster will never happen here.

Other communities that are alive to their perils have gone into action and are now on the list of projects coming up for immediate construction. Shall we wake up and turn the switch that will throw some of this flood control work in our direction or just remain asleep and let the help all go sailing by to other districts?

Why Not Plant Trees?

Now that most of the farms have electric power it should be possible to enter upon a program of tree planting for windbreak and shelterbelt purposes. The power will be answering one of the purposes for which it was sought if put to work pumping water for minor irrigation projects on the farms. Gardens, lawns and shade trees should be springing up all around as soon as wells can be drilled and fitted with powered pumps.

Through the office of the county agent those who wish to secure trees for planting may do so at a nominal cost. Farmers have been advised of the varieties and the cost of obtaining the young trees from the state forestry department.

The local agricultural office is urging windbreak and shelterbelt plantings of seedlings that are adapted to conditions in eastern Oregon. These seedlings are not dependent on irrigation other than that Mother Nature provides, but additional water provided through pumping will assure a higher percentage of trees making growth.

"Morrow county farms should use more trees for protection from winter winds to both farm buildings and livestock as well as protection from storms to farm crops," a circular from the agent's office state. Services of the office are available to all who wish information in selection of species, planned windbreaks and shelterbelts, methods of planting and other problems.

A Notable Birthday

America's Boy Scouts and leaders, now numbering 2,300,000 strong, are observing the 40th anniversary of their organization from February 6 to 12. Scouting has become so woven into the American way of life it is difficult to recall when our nation did not have this character-building, leisure time program for its youth.

Since 1910, more than 16,500,000 American boys and men have had the benefits of the training, fellowship, handicraft skills and high adventure of Scouting. America is all the richer for it. Many men in high places in American affairs today proudly credit Scouting's influence in their lives.

The year-in, year-out civic and emergency service to the nation by Boy Scouts needs no recital here. Scouting brings to boys at an important time in their lives a program of worthwhile activities, under high grade volunteers leadership.

The need is for more boys to have the advantages of Scout training. Although more than 2,300,000 boys and leaders are now in Scouting, there are thousands of boys still outside the organization. They can get into the fun if more institutions open their doors to them in their own neighborhoods, and if more men interested in boys, volunteer their time as leaders. It's an investment that pays off richly in personal satisfactions.

The American Way

PROFIT AND LOSS SYSTEM

By GEORGE PECK

First of all, please note carefully the title of this article. There never has been, is not now, nor ever will be such a thing as a "Profit System." Our economic system is a two-way street—it entails both an opportunity for PROFIT and a chance for LOSS.

It is true that men and women engage in business, or invest their savings in business, primarily in the hope of making a profit, but unfortunately their hopes are not always realized. In fact, over the history of American business, the businesses showing losses have far outnumbered those that have earned profit.

PROFIT in industry is what is left after all materials, power, wages, taxes and other expenses have been paid. It represents that part contributed by human imagination, careful planning, skill and hard work.

LOSS in industry is the deficit that arises because the planning has been faulty, or there has been a lack of skill, or there has not been enough hard work, or a

combination of all three. Profit over the combined manufacturing industries of the country is small compared to the wages paid to workers. And not even all this profit is paid out to stockholders in dividends. A portion of it is set aside to build new plants and to acquire extra or improved machinery so that more and better jobs can be created.

Another portion is set aside as rainy day insurance in order that business can be carried on and workers kept employed during unprofitable periods of operation.

Cash dividends paid to stockholders are really rent on the savings invested by men and women who, because of special ability, hard work and self-denial, have accumulated a surplus of money over and above their subsistence requirements.

There is no guarantee that savings will earn a profit—as a matter of fact, there is no assurance that the investor will not lose part or all of his or her savings. Investment always in-

volves risk. That is my quarrel with the "bright" boys who advocate a planned economy—they would have us believe that everybody can win all the time. This just cannot be done. As previously pointed out in this article, failures in business have greatly exceeded successes, so that there is more than an even chance the investor will lose rather than gain.

And even if the investor is lucky and does make a profit, it will amount to only a small annual return on his invested savings, over and against which he has taken the risk of losing one-hundred percent of his investment.

The advocates of the various socialistic systems loudly decry the huge profits made under what they erroneously term the "Profit System." They pick out the few isolated instances where big profits actually have been made, but say nothing of the many, many small profits that are earned. They are very mum about losses and completely tongue-tied regarding big losses.

Zealous crusaders of impractical schemes are ever prone to paint only one side of the picture—they cite only one part of the facts. This may be due to ignorance of the over all facts. On the other hand, they may know the complete facts, but dishonestly dis-

regard a part of them. On either the count of ignorance or dishonesty, they stand condemned. To repeat, there is no such thing as a "Profit System." That is a misnomer, just as inaccurate as referring to the famous dual personality of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by only one of those names. The correct name for the business economy of this nation is the "Profit and Loss System." Let's call it that! In misnaming it we lend encouragement to its defamers—those critics who about losses, or are not honest enough to mention them.



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30 YEARS AGO

February 12, 1920.
Mrs. Ida May Hughes, wife of Matt T. Hughes, passed away at the family home on Willow creek Tuesday morning, February 10.
Mrs. Bertha Giger, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Cox of this city, died at the Oregon City hospital February 6 from pneumonia.
County Clerk Waters reports

there is a strong demand for dog licenses. Up to Saturday he had sold 75 to various dog owners and some of the big sheep men haven't been in yet. E. O. Nell, Butter Creek sheepman heads the list thus far, having paid tax for 12 dogs.
J. B. Strader, aged 58 years passed away at his home in Ir-rigon Monday night from influenza.

Business men, farmers and stockmen met with the county court last week regarding expanding the Morrow County fair. An option was taken on about 23 acres of fine bottom land belonging to the Wightman brothers and situated about two miles below town. A meeting of all citizens has been called for Saturday, February 21.
Census takers in the Heppner district completed their tasks the past week and have forwarded their findings to the district supervisors.

Spring road work will open up on Gooseberry road within a few days.

At the Star Theater February 17, Billie Burke in "The Make-believe Wife" and Fatty Arbuckle in "Good Night Nurse."

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES
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Subscription price, \$3.00 a year; single copies, 10c.
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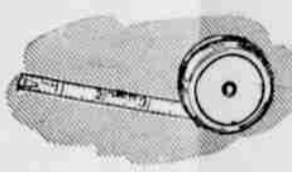
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