

Publicly Owned Lands Being Studied At Tax Source

A land economics committee preparing a report for the 1952 agricultural conference to be staged at Oregon State college is

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studying publicly-owned lands as source of tax revenue.

The committee is considering a recommendation that all federal revenue producing property pay into local tax collection agencies an amount equal to the tax assessment if the property were in private ownership, according to C. A. Tom of Rufus, land economics committee chairman. Committee secretary is J. C. Moore, Oregon State college extension conservation specialist.

A special "task force" headed by Elmer McClure, state grange master, has also been set up to study forest taxation problems.

Proponents of the tax on federally-owned, income-producing land point out that almost 53 percent of Oregon's land area is owned and managed by various agencies of the federal government. In addition, another 5 percent is owned and managed by state, county and municipal agencies, leaving 42 percent or 26,192,000 acres as a tax base for the greater portion of Oregon's real property tax requirements.

The state's total land area is slightly more than sixty-one million acres.

The committee points out that federal and state lands contribute to local taxing units but in varying amounts pending upon the agency managing these lands. National forests, for example, contribute 25 percent of the total



TOURING HAWAII—Two Morrow County couples flew to Honolulu via United Air Lines this week after seeing the Rose Bowl classic in Los Angeles on New Year's Day. Now at the Moana Hotel on the beach at Waikiki are Mr. and Mrs. Orville Smith (left) and Mr. and Mrs. Jodie K. Morrison. Both couples will be in the islands for two weeks.

revenue derived from sale of forest products. An additional 10 percent goes for roads and trails.

During periods of booming forest product markets, counties receive sizable returns, but in periods of slack activity, income

to counties may be little or nothing.

Thus, the committee observes, it is impractical for county budget committees to anticipate and plan on this spasmodic source of revenue.

Where title remains with the federal government, Indian lands do not make any return to local tax units. However, the federal government does supply services such as roads and schools.

Wheat Smut In Columbia Basin Shows Decline

The Columbia basin's wheat smut problem has taken a turn for the better.

While admittedly the number one wheat disease problem in the area, 26.7 percent of the crop graded smutty in 1951 as compared with 30.6 percent in 1950, R. E. White, production and marketing administration grain supervisor, reported recently in Portland.

It was the first time in nine growing seasons that smut percentage showed a drop from the year before. White told members of the Pacific Northwest Smut Control committee.

Reason for the drop in total wheat graded smutty last year was accounted for by a larger proportion of common white wheat, and there was almost 10 percent less smut in it. On the other hand, White said, club wheats, accounting for about one-third of the total inspection made, continued the upward

smut trend with 52.8 percent as compared with 51.2 percent a year ago.

Of particular concern was the disclosure that 46.2 percent of all samples graded smutty contained more than one-half percent smut.

White bases his annual report on more than 20,000 inspections of farmer owned lots of wheat located in the three states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. His figures, taken from inspections made by approximately 15 licensed inspectors who are experts, is considered the most reliable index to the smut situation in the Columbia basin area.

The Portland inspection point which includes four Columbia river counties, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco in Oregon and Klickitat county, Washington, reported approximately 15 percent smut, the same as in 1950.

In the Umatilla, Union and Baker county area, improvement was noted in both common white and club varieties. Three and eighth-tenths percent of the common white varieties graded smutty; 44 percent of the club varieties were smutted.

Of seven Elmer samples inspected in this area, none graded smutty.

McMurdos Home From Extensive Trip

Dr. and Mrs. A. D. McMurdy returned Monday afternoon from

several weeks vacation trip which took them to Kansas City, and Lebanon, Missouri where they were guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. (Ted) McMurdy and children, for Christmas. On December 7 they went on to San Francisco, where they visited his brothers, Dr. P. M. McMurdy and Dr. H. B. McMurdy. From there they went to San Mateo to spend the New Year with another son, Dr. Bernard McMurdy and family. Dr. McMurdy reports that a highlight of the trip was the viewing of the Rose Bowl game on New Year's day over television.

Tate Slayter of Portland was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Chapin.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Porterfield have announced the marriage of their daughter, Marlene, to Jerry Waters of Astoria. The wedding was an event of September 3, 1951 at Walla Walla, Washington. Both young people are graduates of the Heppner High School and the groom has been with the U. S. Coast Guard for the past two years. Mrs. Waters plans to go to Astoria soon to make her home.

Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, masters of laughter, were topped only by John Wayne in popularity with moviegoers during 1951.

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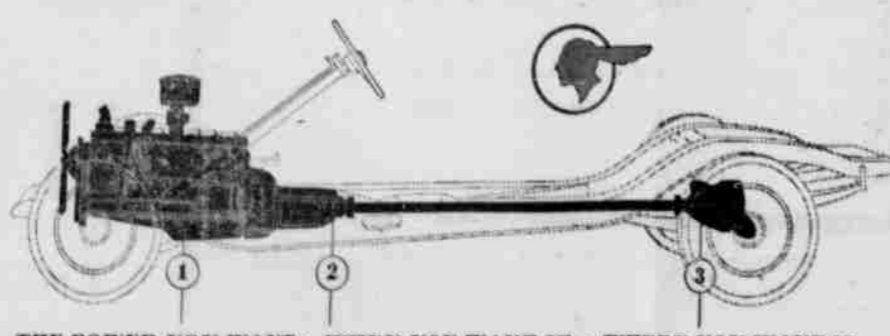
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LIABILITIES

Table with 2 columns: Liability Name and Amount. Includes Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits, Total Capital Funds, Deposits, etc.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK GROUP

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The First National Bank of Portland and its 46 statewide banking offices and 15 affiliated banks with 18 offices

- List of 64 banking offices including Portland Offices, Branches Out of Portland, and Affiliated Banks in the First National Bank Group.

All the above banks are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.