

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Washington:

The house agriculture committee has approved a bill to provide more federal emergency relief for farmers hit by such disasters as flood or drought.

The senate-passed bill, originally introduced by Senator Mundt of South Dakota, would give the secretary of agriculture additional powers to give farmers government-owned feed for livestock in disaster areas.

HMMMMMM.

It is generally agreed that farming is more of a gamble than average business. It has to gamble every year on the weather. Too much rain or too little rain at the

wrong time can turn a promising crop year into a disappointing one—a disastrous year. Unseasonable frosts, hail, floods, hurricane winds—all these things can spell disaster to the farmer.

If some of these disasters could be insured against, it would be a real help to agriculture.

BUT—

It would take money. Where is the money to come from?

HERE'S a thought:

The constantly growing surplus of wheat (which is a subsidized crop) is causing king-size headaches. WHERE TO PUT IT is a problem of no mean size. Existing granaries are stuffed with it. We're pouring it into moth-balled ships. In emergency cases, we're piling it on the ground and covering it up with plastic.

The wheat surplus already amounts to around one and a third billion bushels and agriculture department statisticians are predicting that next year's surplus will increase by some 50 million bushels more.

It's costing close to half a billion dollars a year just to store the surplus wheat—and the surplus is swelling with each year that passes.

QUESTION:

Why not cut out—or at least reduce materially—the subsidy that is responsible for this back-breaking surplus of wheat and put the money thus saved into a sound and well considered program of agricultural disaster insurance?

THAT brings up something else.

For a long time the cotton surplus was a headache-producing problem. It's LESS of a problem now.

Why?

Well, not too long ago the research scientists went to work on it and learned how to make cotton garments that DRIP DRY. That is to say, they don't have to be ironed. The result is an increased market for cotton that is cutting down the surplus.

Maybe the researchers could learn how to make something else out of wheat.

FORMER LIBRARIAN DIES
Cortland, N.Y.—UPI—Frank Place, 78, former librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, died Tuesday.

Columbia River Agreement Seen

Portland —UPI—A diplomat said Tuesday there is hope that Canada and the United States will come to agreement over joint development of the Columbia river.

Ivan B. White, deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs, said the two countries have solved many economic problems by a spirit of mutual examination.

The International Joint Commission, of which the late former Interior Secretary Douglas McKay was a member, has been working on the problem of mutual use and benefits of the Columbia river, which starts in Canada and runs through the Northwest United States.

White said problems of the Columbia river must be considered in terms of half centuries rather than next year or next month.

White, a native of Salem, was to speak in Astoria today.

Charge of Murder Seen Against Man

Howell, Mich.—UPI—Alvin W. Knight, 48, who allegedly confessed shooting State Trooper Albert W. Souden, probably will be tried for first degree murder, Livingston County Prosecutor Wilfred Erwin said today.

Knight was to be arraigned before Justice of the Peace Eric Singer on a murder charge before the end of the week and tried in the term of the Circuit court which is scheduled to open Oct. 1. Erwin said he would let the court and jury determine the degree of Knight's guilt.

"The facts indicate to me first degree murder," he said. Knight remained silent through some 70 hours of questioning before consenting to lead police to the body of the 29-year-old trooper who had visited him to ask questions about a \$75 robbery. Police said he finally confessed after a face to face meeting with Souden's widow, Clara, and a telephone call to his own mother.

Pacific Exhibition Attendance Figure Low

Vancouver, B. C.—UPI—Total attendance at this year's Pacific National Exhibition was 880,325, well below the 1,000,000 objective and 44,500 short of the 1958 figure, it was announced Tuesday.

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Nature's Way

To the Editor: Concerning the editorial "Glowing Syntax," I wonder if the writer quoted still lives here? If he were to describe the glories of the Rogue valley today, I'm sure he would have to modify his adjectives to a great extent.

As usually happens, man found a beautiful land—and began the slow and insidious destruction of it. The writer speaks of "land rich and fertile, row upon row of healthy apple and pear trees." Were they plagued by pests in those days? Did they use poison sprays to keep them healthy and strong? I doubt it, because the soil was rich and fertile, but through years of planting successive crops the land has gradually deteriorated. Could it be if our soil were properly cared for, and the trace minerals were restored—we would no longer need sprays for pest control? It's worth consideration, I think.

I read once that insects were nature's way of destroying inferior fruit and produce, but if the soil was as it should be there would be very few pests. It seems to me, the money spent on sprays would bring a much greater return, if used instead to enrich and regain the fertility of the soil.

Of course we all know what man has done to the air he breathes. You are probably thinking, it's unavoidable because of progress, but is it? Progress also brings knowledge. A few men have been wise enough to foresee what was happening. For several years studies and tests have been under way on how to combat and overcome man's fouling of the air—pollution of the waters—and the misuse of our land.

If we will but take advantage of this knowledge, the Rogue valley can once more be as beautiful and fertile as in the year 1909.

In closing I would like to quote from an article by William Albrecht, Ph.D., College of Agriculture, University of Missouri. "For generations, the conquest of Nature has been accepted as man's prerogative. But man is a part of Nature, it being his essential environment, and unless he can find his rightful place in it he has poor hope of survival. Man's present behavior often resembles that of an over successful parasite which, in killing its host, accomplishes its own death."

Mrs. Leonard Mathews
1124 West 10th st.
Medford

Peaches Stolen

To the Editor: We came home Sunday about 12:30 and noticed our little peach tree, that we had been watching like a hawk for weeks, was ready to be picked. We decided to wait until later in the day to pick them. So about 4:30, before we started the evening chores, we took our basket, loaded up in the pickup and drove down the lane to our little tree. And lo and behold, not a peach was left.

Is this a stunt of our city friends? Those who crawl your fences to pick berries, leave your gates open and shoot your cattle when they hunt for deer?

I do hope whoever took the peaches are enjoying them. But because of them, there will never be another berry picker or deer hunter welcome on our ranch again.

A rancher in the Applegate Valley.

Mexican Independence Day

To the Editor: I recently noticed in reading my hometown paper that some 300 Mexican braceros have come into Medford to work in the pear harvest.

As a boy growing up in Medford, many times have I worked with these people in the pear orchards and found them warm-hearted and charming.

Sept. 16 is the anniversary of Mexican Independence. If Medford could somehow provide a band, Mexican food, and stage a celebration, these people, I know, would be most grateful. If I were home I'd certainly try to do just that. I am able to speak Spanish and, having spent considerable time in Mexico, feel I

could arrange such a celebration. However I am working here in Washington and attending Georgetown Law Center this summer so I cannot be there.

This act of kindness on Medford's part would not only help further friendly relations with our Mexican neighbors but would be good publicity for Medford in Oregon's Centennial year. Other cities and states, I believe, would admire such an unselfish act as helping Mexican laborers enjoy their Day of Independence. These people are very poor; furthermore they are away from their families and have to support them from their earnings in the orchards. Sept. 16 is a big day to them; I know if I were in a strange land on July 4th I'd certainly be grateful for recognition of my independence day.

Cities of southern California stage such celebrations. You could obtain information from them.

John De Zell,
128 "C" St.,
Washington, D. C.

Air Pollution

To the Editor: "When I first saw this valley I realized that given sufficient poisons in the air, we could all be killed in our sleep if a temperature inversion or a cloud blanket with no wind should occur." With these ominous words our weatherman, Bob Church, began his talk on temperature inversion at our recent air pollution meeting.

Those were serious words, not irresponsibly spoken. Air is as necessary to life as food and water. We go to very great pains to assure the purity of our food and water. Is not the purity of the air we breathe equally important?

Pure air is 20.96 per cent oxygen and 79 per cent nitrogen. All plant, animal and human life performs at its greatest capacity when the atmosphere is free from pollutants. These consist of vapors, carbon dioxide, dust, combustion gases from exhaust pipes of gasoline engines, and in smoke, gases from industry such as nitrous oxides, and substances deliberately sprayed into the atmosphere such as insecticides. When the percentage of oxygen and nitrogen is lowered by the presence of one or more of these, all living things immediately react adversely to this change in their environment.

Respiration is the process whereby oxygen of the air becomes available to animals.

Respiration is also the process whereby plants remove carbon dioxide from the air, using the carbon to build plant tissues, thereby freeing the oxygen. Therefore plants and especially trees are air purifiers. One result of our ruthless destruction of forests is that the air contains more carbon dioxide—indeed scientists fear that its increasing presence may even increase our summer temperatures, causing the ice caps at the poles to melt.

The presence of air pollutants will reduce the amount of oxygen available to the body cells, the loss being in direct ratio to the amount of pollutants. The purpose of oxygen is to produce energy when united with carbon from food, hence the first result of the presence of air pollutants is loss of energy to every individual cell, thus loss of energy to the individual. This loss will affect every individual in the area but may be especially severe on those who are ill, especially those with respiratory ailments, the very young, and the very old. This explains the sleepiness we have all experienced when in a crowded room insufficiently ventilated.

Anna M. Streed,
36 North Peach st.,
Medford.

Forget-Me-Not Sale

To the Editor: The time of year has again arrived for the annual Forget-Me-Not sales on the streets of Medford and adjacent Jackson county cities, towns and villages. It will be this Friday and Saturday.

We believe that all of the people understand that the forget-me-not is, to the Dis-

abled American Veterans, as the poppy is to VFW and American Legion. The sale of these little blue flowers of remembrance is an annual event with the DAV, with the proceeds going to the rehabilitation and welfare fund of the local organization, which is organized for the purpose of rehabilitation and welfare of war service incurred by disabled veterans and their dependents.

The veterans' organizations of Roseburg are doing a work there for relief of distressed persons and families, whether or not veterans, who have been made victims of the terrible disaster caused by the explosion there last month.

Jackson county chapter No. 8, DAV, believing the cause to be a most humane and just one, is dedicating and allocating proceeds from this 1959 Forget-me-not drive to the Roseburg Disaster Fund, after necessary local expenses are met.

Ladies of the auxiliary unit to Barracks No. 540, Veterans of World War One, also believing the cause of the Roseburg disaster to be a commendable one, are enlisting in our sales force, and will be seen on Medford streets Friday, Sept. 11, and Saturday, Sept. 12, assisting the DAV with the sales of forget-me-nots.

When accosted by volunteer sales folks of either DAV or VVWV personnel, please remember that by purchasing a flower, you are contributing to the upkeep of the DAV service and claims work, that is performed free of charge, for any and all veterans, as well as contributing to the assistance of some deserving person or family that has suffered injury, or loss of a loved one, or perhaps has been ren-

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1959

Blast Damages Gresham Plant

Gresham —UPI—The Gresham Berry Growers steam plant was damaged Tuesday afternoon when one of two furnaces exploded from unknown causes. The other furnace did not blow up, but its controls were damaged. No one was injured.

Leon Hubbard, secretary of the organization, said the packing plant at Gresham has suspended operations, but the freezing of berries will not be interrupted.

Police Chief Larry Baker said the furnace room was ruined by the blast.

LINER BLAMED IN CRASH

New York —UPI—The Coast Guard has blamed the American Export Liner Constitution for its collision with the Norwegian tanker Jalanta last March off Ambrose lightship. The Coast Guard concurred with the findings of a three-man marine board which studied the case. A spokesman said the basic reason for the collision was the Constitution's failure to go to a moderate speed in fog and stop her engines and navigate with caution upon hearing the Jalanta's fog signal.

dered homeless by the disastrous explosion at Roseburg. Pat Graham, Service Officer, Chapter 8, DAV, 175 Jeanette st. (Junior past department commander DAV, chairman of Forget-Me-Not Sales Project.)

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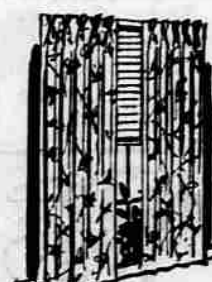
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