



IF YOU HAVE a little work around the house which requires more than the available supply of horsepower, you might check with the two boys above pictured. Between them, the big Belgians spin the scales around to 4,180 pounds. The roan at right weighs 2,180 pounds, with the sorrel tipping the beams at an even ton. Until recently the

horses, owned by Will Neubert, were headquartered at the Dave Campbell ranch near Bly. They were sold to Clyde Smith and moved to Redmond, Oregon. Although the big Belgians, Percherons and Shires used to be a common sight in Klamath County, the horses are daily becoming more of a rarity.

—Photo by Ellis

Data Shows Farm Prices Off In May

Oregon farm prices fell during May for the second consecutive month, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

Downturns in prices paid Oregon farmers for potatoes, hay, dairy products, lambs, and food grains more than offset increases paid for feed grains, beef cattle and calves, wool, broilers, and eggs, Mrs. Horrell said. As a result, prices received by the state's farmers dropped two per cent from mid-April to mid-May, although they are still two per cent higher than mid-May of a year ago.

Nationally, U.S. Department of Agriculture reports show farm prices leveled off last month as lower prices on milk, potatoes, and some fresh market truck crops offset higher prices for hogs, cattle, and cantaloupes. This marked the first halt in a six-month upward trend, Mrs. Horrell pointed out. The national gain over the past 12 months now adds up to nine per cent.

Prices of things the nation's farmers buy also leveled off in May and are now three per cent higher than in May 1957, Mrs. Horrell added. Higher prices paid for food, feeder livestock, feed, and some supply items were almost exactly offset by lower prices for clothing, building materials, seed, and household furnishings.

With prices received by farmers over the nation holding steady during the last month, and no change in average prices paid, the purchasing power of all farm products still is five per cent above a year ago, Mrs. Horrell said. The parity ratio—the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers—stood at 86 in May, same as last April but four points above May, 1957.

U.S. prices on May 15 for commodities grown in Oregon, in per cent of parity, were apples, 110; calves, 100; beef cattle, 99; hogs, 98; potatoes, 96; wholesale milk, 82; eggs and wheat, each 80; lambs, 79; butterfat, 76; sheep, 74; turkeys, 71; chickens, 68; oats, 67; corn, 65; barley, 64; rye, 61; and wool, 52 per cent of parity.

The Langley, sunk in the Java Sea in 1942, was the first U.S. aircraft carrier.

Walls Saved By Wainscots

The aggravating problem of stairway upkeep that plagues many homemakers can be easily overcome by installing materials that are designed to resist soil and wear.

Stairway walls can be kept attractive by covering them with a wainscot of finished paneling to slightly above rail height to protect against smudgy hand prints. The baked plastic finish of this and other soiling, and is quickly cleaned with a damp or sudsy cloth.

A popular paneling for stairway wainscoting is 16-inch planks, designed with tongue- and-groove edges for easy and neat installation. The planks come in a variety of woodgrains and 10 "companion colors."

Another stairway area that causes maintenance problems is where the vertical risers catch scuff marks from toes and heels. Covering these risers with panels will assure easy maintenance and a brighter appearance. The paneling can be cut to size with a regular crosscut saw and secured with adhesive right over the existing surfaces.

White Is Making Home Comeback

Lending architects and designers revealed recently that white is making a "comeback" as a background for distinctive kitchen decors. The reason they gave for the wider use of white is that it has affinity for all colors and contains all the shades in the spectrum.

Home economists report that food and accessories become more inviting when put against a white background which sets them off. White lends itself to many different effects and enables the housewife to change color schemes by merely switching accessories.

You can obtain a warm and sunny effect by using walls of white in conjunction with a dusty pink ceiling.

OIL WELLS

Since the commercial discovery of oil in 1859, to the end of 1956, more than 1,650,000 wells were drilled in the United States. These produced more than 55,000,000 barrels of crude oil.

Farm Values Not In Line With Income

The average value of farm real estate per acre on March 1 was more than three times the 1940 value and 17 per cent above the previous peak in 1952.

Yet net farm income in 1957 was down 19 per cent from 1951 and was only a little above that of the 1943-45 period, when land values averaged only half their present levels. No other period of equal length in nearly 50 years of record can be found in which land values continued to rise while farm income declined.

An agriculture department economist examined this seeming paradox in an attempt to determine whether land prices have increased more than was justified by the present level of farm income. William H. Scofield of the farm economics research division discussed the study in the department's publication, "The Farm Cost Situation." He came up with a number of answers to the question of "How High Are Farm Real Estate Prices?"

The prices of land have increased substantially more than have prices of other groups of commodities since 1940. Land values have risen 34 per cent more than consumers' prices and 40 per cent more than prices paid for the goods and services farmers buy for production purposes. Except for farm wage rates, land shows the largest increase since 1940 of any major items bought by farmers for production purposes.

Scofield holds that part of this increase in the price of land relative to other goods and services is due to the additional capital that has been invested in farms. Part of it reflects the increase in output that has resulted from technological advances. But in some sections of the country, actual and anticipated uses of farm land for non-farm purposes have been more important in contributing to the upward trend in market prices.

The present market value of far real estate is about nine times the current annual net farm income. The earnings-capital ratio has risen steadily since the low level of the 1940's. It is now about the same as it was from 1910 to 1915. It is a little higher now than it was in the 1924-29 and 1935-39 periods in which a relatively stable relationship existed between the value of farm real estate and net farm income.

CONSIDERATE MAYOR
STERLING, Colo. (AP) — Mayor James H. Walker, told of unauthorized use of city vehicles by city employees, had these thoughts for the offenders. "Maybe," he said, "we ought to take the City of Sterling signs off the sides of the trucks so as not to embarrass the drivers."

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