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FARM PRICE LEVELS DROP

Purchasing Power is 83 Per Cent of Pre-War.

WAGE LEVEL INCREASES

Total Agricultural Production Greater Than That Of Last Year.

That the general level of farm prices dropped from 134 to 130 per cent of the pre-war level from September 15 to October 15 is pointed out in a circular issued by the extension service of the Oregon agricultural college recently.

Most of the decline was due to lower prices for cotton and cottonseed. Grains and dairy and poultry products made some gains, but most other products were unchanged or slipped back a little.

The relative purchasing power of all agricultural products in terms of non-agricultural commodities at September 1926 prices, remained at 83 per cent of pre-war. This is 4 points lower than October 1925. The purchasing power of important crops tended to decrease, while the purchasing power of important livestock products, on the other hand, increased during September.

Total production promises to be greater for the United States as a whole than last year. During November the composite condition of all crops increased 3.3 per cent and stood at 103.0 on November 1, which is 3.4 per cent above the composite condition a year ago. When acreages and population changes are considered, the per capita production is estimated to be 1.4 per cent above last year and 2.4 above the five-year average. Material improvement in crop conditions were shown in all states except North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Nevada and California for each of which slight declines were noted.

Movement To Market

The latest figures on movement to market indicate rather heavy shipments of sheep as compared to normal, and increasing hog and beef shipments as compared to last year. Exports of wheat and flour, lard and cotton continue on a fair basis, but meats moved out slowly. Supplies of dairy products and eggs in storage on November 1 were relatively heavy, but the movement out of storage during October was normal. With the exception of turkeys, the supplies of frozen poultry were heavy and there was a tendency toward more than normal increases. Some tendency toward increased supplies of beef and lard appeared, but otherwise nothing particularly noteworthy in the frozen and cured meat department occurred in October.

There is nothing outstanding to note as new in the business situation. Well informed men point to somewhat higher interest rates, slightly lessened building construction, declining foreign trade, and other rather bearish indications. At the same time they discount the probability of any very sudden business recession. Meanwhile industry continues active, employment general, wages high and the cities prosperous.

Wages and Prices

The general wage as revealed by average weekly earnings in New York state factories continues to climb. The index figure stood at 231 per cent of pre-war in September, this being 4 points above the month before and 8 points above September, 1925. Wholesale and retail prices advanced slightly during September, and retail prices stood about the same as September 1925 but wholesale prices were about 10 points lower.

Distressingly bad weather occurred in the east and conditions are none too good there except in the dairy division. A big cotton crop and low prices, scarcity of labor, strenuous efforts to finance and market the crop with talk of reduced acreage next year feature conditions in the south. The corn belt is experiencing

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LEGION AUXILIARY TO RECEIVE CHARTER

The newly organized American Legion Auxiliary will receive their charter next Wednesday night, when the local Legion post and members of the St. Helens Legion and Auxiliary posts will be present for the occasion.

At the Auxiliary meeting held Monday night in the Legion hall, a feature of entertainment after the business meeting was a contest in dress making between the ladies. Clothespin forms and crepe paper were used in the art. A style show followed in which Mrs. Essie Nance was awarded the first prize. Light refreshments have been planned by the ladies for the joint meeting next Wednesday, December 15.

668 COWS TESTED DURING NOVEMBER

A total of 668 cows were tested in the Columbia Cow Testing association during the month of November according to L. J. Bartholomy the tester. Their average production was 876 pounds of milk and 27.9 pounds of fat. A total of 77 cows produced more than 40 pounds of fat during the month. Three pure bred sires were bought at the stock show. All were registered Holsteins. Hammer Brothers, Borlin & Trachsel and Erickson Brothers were the purchasers.

Among the pure bred herds of less than 11 cows, Rudy Anliker, of Goble, again leads the association. His 4 registered Holsteins produced an average of 1178 pounds of milk and 44.1 pounds of fat. Jack Anliker, of Goble, was second with an average production of 1040 pounds of milk and 37.7 pounds of fat for his 5 registered Holsteins. Frita Anliker, of Goble, was third with an average production of 622 pounds of milk and 25.5 pounds of fat for 6 registered Holsteins.

For grade herds of less than 11 cows, E. J. Brooks, of Cornelius, was first with an average production of 685 pounds of milk and 33.5 pounds of fat for 10 grade Jerseys. Bill Widmer, of St. Johns, was second with an average production of 601 pounds of milk and 26.0 pounds of fat for 8 grade Holsteins. Glenn Wright, of Marshland, was third with an average production of 467 pounds of milk and 24.5 pounds of fat for 8 grade Jerseys.

For the high pure bred herds over 10 cows, Chris Siegenthaler, of Linton, was first with 883 pounds of milk and 34.4 pounds of fat for his registered Holstein herd of 16 cows. Hammer Brothers, of Deer Island, were second with an average production of 933 pounds of milk and 31.5 pounds of fat for their 12 registered Holsteins. Henry Behrmann, of Cornelius, was third with an average production of 554 pounds of milk and 30.0 pounds of fat for his 22 registered Jerseys.

For the high grade herds of over 10 cows, Jap Hunt, of Sauvie Island, was first with an average production of 961 pounds of milk and 36.7 pounds of fat for his 17 grade Holsteins. Fred Uhlman, of Scappoose, was second with an average production of 931 pounds of milk and 34.2 pounds of fat for his 18 grade Holsteins and grade Guernseys. Jacob Rietala, of Quincy, was third with an average production of 753 pounds of milk and 32.8 pounds of fat for his 23 grade Jerseys.

Fayne, a three year old registered Holstein, was the high pure bred cow for the month. Her record was 1476 pounds of milk and 70.9 lbs. of fat. She is owned by Rudy Anliker, of Goble.

Number 21, a grade Holstein, was the high grade cow for the month. Her record was 1295 pounds of milk and 68.7 pounds of fat. She is owned by Borlin & Trachsel, of Deer Island.

BIRKENFELD GIRL WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Dec. 2.—(Special) May Johnson of Birkenfeld, freshman in home economics, has been awarded the \$75 scholarship given by the Union Pacific Railway company as the most outstanding club member of boys and girls' club work in Oregon. C. R. Gray, president of the Union Pacific systems, personally granted the scholarship.

Miss Johnson received a college scholarship two years ago from the Astoria Savings bank for her work in Clatsop county, but did not accept it then. She has been active in club work for five years.—Oregonian.

MAC'S BAND TO GIVE CONCERT TONIGHT

Mac's concert band and orchestra will give their first concert for this winter tonight at the Majestic theatre. Under the direction of F. P. McBarron, the local band has had unusual success in their presentations, and their playing is said to be especially well liked by those who have heard them. They will present the following program tonight:

Overture, "William Tell," Rosini; march, "Bachelor Girls," Zamecnik; trumpet duet, "In the Starlight," Charlesworth and Reithner; romance, "Tender Thoughts," Reynard; march, "Flag of Truce," Laurendeau; selection "Bohemian Girl," Balfe; march, "War March of the Priests of Athalia," Mendelssohn; saxophone solo, "Student Prince," E. Steiner; waltz, "Falling Leaves," Tocaben; overture, "Poet and Peasant," Von Suppe; oriental patrol, "Desert Caravan," Zamecnik; overture, "Jolly Bandits," Zamecnik. A moving picture will be shown in between the sixth and seventh numbers of the concert. It is anticipated that many will be in attendance at this musical event of the season.

ALDRICH IS ELECTED CHAMBER PRESIDENT

R. M. Aldrich has been elected president of the Vernonia chamber of commerce, and is said to be anxious to see the needed work of the chamber gotten under way as soon as possible.

A meeting of the board of directors was held Monday night at which it was decided that because of the Christmas rush, no action or meetings of the chamber would be held until after the holidays.

A number of business men of Vernonia plan to attend the meeting of the Lower Columbia River Associated chambers of commerce at Rainier tomorrow night, which will be held in the new union high school building there.

Presbyterian Church Is Most Popular At O. A. C.

O. A. C., Dec. 6.—Religious preference or membership was expressed by 2223 of the 3420 students registered this term. Of these the largest number chose the Presbyterian denomination with Methodist a close second, Christian, Episcopal, Baptist, Catholic, Christian Science and Congregational followed in the order named with the rest divided among 11 other denominations making 21 in all. Full church membership was claimed by 1453 students.

O. A. C. Christmas Vacation Starts 18th

O. A. C., Dec. 6.—Class work for this term is scheduled to end December 10 with the entire week followed devoted to final examinations. Vacation officially begins December 18 and closes January 3, but as students are permitted to leave the campus as soon as their last examination is over, all are anxiously awaiting the publication of the printed examination schedule.

COYLE DANCE HALL BURNED YESTERDAY

Fire of unknown origin broke out here at 2 a.m. this morning, completely destroying the large Coyle dance hall, near the center of town. A Filipino saw the fire in the rear of the hall and turned in the alarm.

By the time the fire department arrived, the flames were beyond control. A nearby building was saved. The loss was said to be entirely covered by insurance.

The Lolita Camp Fire girls held their regular business meeting at the home of their guardian, Mrs. Mark E. Moe. A candy sale will be held at the theatre next Saturday night, the proceeds of which will go to defray current expenses.

The girls will have their Christmas exercises Saturday evening, December 18, at the home of their guardian. The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, after school. All members are requested to be present.

Oregon has about 100,000 colonies of bees, that produce .0 to .35 cars of honey a year.

TO HAVE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Santa Claus is coming! And he is sure to bring abundance of the old Christmas spirit with him to gladden the hearts of the kiddies. There will be a community Christmas tree for sure in Vernonia this year, and Santa will really give treats to all the children who are lucky enough to be present. It is planned to have a 30-foot tree placed in the Cleveland lot near the depot on Bridge street.

The building formerly occupied by the Gordon Furniture company will be used for the giving out of treats and shelter for the kiddies in case of rain or inclement weather. So it is assured.

Definite plans for the program have not been arranged yet. An attempt may be made to have children sing Christmas carols. Someone suggested that a few numbers by Mac's band would be really appreciated. By next week the program will be definitely announced, it is thought.

J. C. Lindley, cashier of the bank, has charge of the Christmas fund donations.

Two Cars Collide on Oregon-American Hill

Two cars collided on the Oregon-American hill east of town about 10 o'clock Thursday night, completely wrecking the Ford, which was coming down, and but slightly crippling the Dodge, going up.

H. O. Parker, the driver of the Ford touring car, received a cut hand from broken glass. Sam Newton, who was riding in the Ford received cuts and bruises and his back was sprained a little. Fred Lindberg and Harry Condit, who were also in the Ford, were uninjured.

Roscoe Babb was the driver of the Dodge, but was not hurt in the crash. City Marshal Kelly investigated the case and arraigned Condit and Lindberg in the justice court for being drunk. They were each fined \$100 and \$8 costs by Justice Weed.

STOP SIGN VIOLATOR MAKES TENDER PLEA

After giving numerous warnings, Marshal Kelly recently decided that the time for action had come in regard to observing the stop signs near the schools of the city. An old gentleman whom he arrested recently for driving past one of the signs without stopping was nearly heartbroken for having this charge placed against him. Upon appearing before Judge Reasoner he made the following plea in writing in his own behalf:

"To the Honorable Court: In reply to this complaint will say that I did not see the 'Stop Notices' as I had my curtains up on my car. It was not my intention to violate the law. As those stop notices are so small if any one not thinking about them would not see them.

"Now I hope you will kindly favor me by excusing me this be the first time that I was turned in. So you see I want to be fair with you. I have no fault to find with Officer Kelly as he was only doing his duty as an officer. I have no doubt but there has been others that past, these notices without see them. Now Mr. Judge please think this over before you make a crime of it violating the law as I did not that I was violating the law at the time I past those notices as I never seen them. I think you will, under this case with out any more explanation.

"Thanking you very much for yours favor, Judge."

The judge read the plea, lowered his head and looked at the defendant over his spectacles, almost losing his dignity with the desire to smile. Instead of passing sentence at that time he continued the case to some future date.

Oregon has 4,463 miles of main highway, 2,090 miles macadamized, 1,000 miles paved, 650 miles bituminous paving.

Great celebration made, over opening of new paper and pulp mill at St. Helens.

More potatoes shipped this fall than in past five years, from Rainier.

STILL SEIZED AND HEAVY FINE GIVEN

Tom Parker and Lee Woods were arrested by state prohibition agents Tuesday morning four and one-half miles north east of Vernonia for operating a small still. A quantity of liquor was also found.

The two were tried before Justice Weed of Vernonia the same day and a plea of guilty brought a fine of \$1000 and eight months in jail.

School Wins First Basketball Game of Season

The local high school played the first basketball game of the season Friday at Banks against that high school 33 to 22. The Vernonia team has been practicing only four weeks and was not in good condition yet. The game was hotly contested by the Banks Players.

The basketball schedule for the lower Columbia river district has not been completed yet. It is believed that no league games will be played this month.

The Vernonia players who went to Clatskanie were: Hawkins, c.; Whitsell and Bennet, f.; Hodges and Bergerson, g.; Malmsten and Ray, s.

Freshmen

A freshman meeting was held Tuesday noon to elect a reporter for freshman news. Also a new sergeant at arms. Neal Bush is our new reporter and Carl Berg is our sergeant.

Phoebie Greenman lost her glasses on the way to school but luckily found them later.

The freshmen sold nearly all the Christmas seals but could have done better.

Sophomores

A meeting was called by the sophomore class president Tuesday noon and Goldie Garner was elected class reporter.

Juniors

Edna Strong was absent from school Tuesday. Juniors who received letters last Friday were: Donald Hodges, 2 for football, one for basketball and one for track. Donald Hodges, Morris Bennett, two for football, one for basketball, and one for track. Harold Olsen, one for football, and one for track. Clarence Wardle, one for football.

Junior class held a meeting Wednesday. They appointed two committees, one for the prom, and one for the junior play, which will be given in the near future.

Helen Heiber was elected class reporter.

Seniors

Amy Hughes and Lillian Lilly were absent from school Monday morning.

Annie Laurie Laird was elected class reporter of the senior class. This was the first class to elect a reporter.

The seniors have begun boosting a new annual which they are sure will be a big success.

The report cards were given out last week and the seniors were certainly astonished. Their grades as a whole, were better than those of last term. A reason for this is, they are separated from the lower classmen and have peace and quiet which enables them to study diligently.

The seniors have a new mirror and thermometer for their room.

The senior girls have started a new fad, the "black bottom roll," which is three-quarter socks. Please don't let them affect you, juniors.

Anna Rea Webster of the senior class was in an automobile accident last week. She was not seriously injured and is expected to be back in school soon.

Those receiving letters in the senior class were Wayne Wall, yell leader, Dudley Spencer; Glen Hawkins, two for football, one for basketball and one for track; Russell Mills, one for track and one for football; Bill Hill, two for football and one for track; Lewis Larimore, two for football and one for track; Ed Bell, one for football; Kenneth Whitsell, two for football and one for basketball; John Wardle, two for football. Marshall Malmsten, one for football.

Oregon's potato crop is about 4,560,000 bushels, 192,000 bushels above 1921.

Sanborn cannery busy putting up kraut and canned cabbage, at Astoria.

OLD COUNCIL SOON RETIRES

Residents East of City Want Water Furnished.

ROAD WORK COMPLETED

\$300 To Be Spent in Improvement District 11 Next Year.

The old council is nearly finished with this year's work. Two more sessions and the new group will have been sworn in, to worry about the city's expenses and receive no pay and a lot of possible criticism for their troubles. So it has been in the past in all towns, and will very likely continue indefinitely in the future.

The mayor, Guy Mills, was absent Monday night because of illness. Ray Emmott presided in his place. A request was made by Mr. Paige to be given permission to build a lean-to in back of the Coffee Cup restaurant to give him a place to keep his wood dry. It was granted after the council decided that he should build only a specified amount, and that any further additions must be applied for.

About 20 residents east of the city limits sent in the request through Mr. Johnson to have city water supplied them, or to find out what the city could do toward laying a pipe line and then taxing them for the expense. The council informed him that the city could not use its funds for work outside the city limits, such as laying a pipe line.

If the residents want to lay a pipe line at their own expense, by whatever means they have to finance the project, the city would sell them water. In the discussion it developed that a three-inch line should be laid to give plenty of water for the proper fire protection, although a two-inch line would give plenty for ordinary use.

A certificate of the completion of the work recently done by the city in gardening, etc., was filed by City Engineer Geo. McGee. The council ordered notices of completion posted and set Monday, December 13, as the date for hearing remonstrances.

Spend \$300 There Next Year.

A motion was made at this time by Councilman Mellinger that \$300 be spent by the city in Improvement district 11 to properly complete the work started in those districts, the funds for this purpose to come out of road district 16.

A petition to have a street light at the corner of East avenue and Bridge street was allowed. A request that the city give a donation toward a community Christmas tree was about to meet with a spontaneous acceptance, when the city attorney informed them that in his opinion it would be an illegal expenditure. He did not know of a similar case being tried in the courts, but he remembered of a case where a city had helped the local chamber of commerce, and the court had ruled that it was an illegal expenditure for a city to make. So the councilmen will only be permitted to donate from their own pockets.

Occupation Taxes Changed.

An ordinance was read levying occupation taxes upon a number of businesses not formerly named under the charter, which is now permitted by the revision of the charter by virtue of the vote at the last election. It was given the first and second readings only and will come up for final revision and passage at the next meeting.

H. H. Hixon asked the council to have about two loads of gravel placed in front of the stage garage because the work recently done there has left the road in a soft condition. The city was in favor of having it done, but referred the matter to Pete Bergerson, who has charge of the road maintenance.

Sanborn cannery busy putting up kraut and canned cabbage, at Astoria.