

# THE LEAVENWORTH ECHO

IN THE WENATCHEE VALLEY—HOME OF THE BIG RED APPLE—WHERE DOLLARS GROW ON TREES

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## DRIVER'S NAME MUST BE POSTED

Olympia.—Hereafter stage lines in this state must post the name of the driver of each car in some conspicuous place in the stage where passengers can see it.

There has been too much evasion of responsibility when patrons lodge complaints, the Department of Public Works contends. Stage operators are declared to suffer a lapse of memory when passengers complain of discourtesy on the part of a driver who took out a car at a given time and frequently the Department has been unable to discipline drivers against whom charges have been made.

So that there may be no doubt in the future, the Department directs that the names of drivers be posted and will require identification of drivers when complaints are made. An investigation then will determine the facts.

At the same time the Department has warned stage companies that more care must be exercised to keep within the speed limits; that courtesy and care must be shown in passing vehicles especially in the face of oncoming traffic and the welfare of passengers must be guarded painstakingly.

Official cognizance of the approach of winter is taken in an order that stages must be heated on cold days. Lights on the stage and inside the compartments for travelers also must be looked after.

Some stage companies are said to be careless about using equipment on which licenses have not been obtained and so a complete report on collections of fares and equipment used is required of operators.

### Check on Road Traffic.

The state highway department's highway census, together with an analysis showing the amount of vehicular traffic over all classes of roads, the manner in which they held up the traffic and the cost of maintenance will be ready for submission to the next legislature. Another count of vehicles on the roads in the state highway system is to be made in December before the final figures are prepared.

This year's traffic has been the heaviest the state has ever known but it has not yet been ascertained how great an increase over last year was recorded. Early reports show the heaviest traffic has been between Olympia and Tacoma, on the new highway north of Seattle and on the road east of Spokane. However, during the crop moving season there are highways in central and eastern Washington that are obliged to carry as much business as the Pacific highway in western Washington.

Highway officials assert that some of the gravel roads of the state are carrying more traffic than they were intended to sustain. Paving would decrease the maintenance cost of these roads but the state is unable to pave as much highway as should be permanently improved for traffic. The legislature, however, will be given figures showing where the greatest need for improvement exists.

### Cut Down Accidents.

The effectiveness of the state's highway patrol and the co-operation of municipal authorities and county peace officers is shown by the Department of Health's report that the number of automobile accidents for the first ten months of 1922 shows a marked decrease over the 1921 record. Inside the cities, the death list from automobile accidents declined from 100 to 71 and in the country from 83 to 67.

The Highway Patrol under the direction of L. D. McArdle has been carrying on its safety-first campaign for but little more than a year. Despite the enormous increase in automobile travel this year, the decrease in the number of fatal accidents is credited to the better enforcement of road laws.

### Reed's Father a Speaker.

The candidacy of Representative Mark E. Reed of Shelton for speaker of the next house has reminded state historians of the fact that his father, Thomas M. Reed, was speaker of the territorial house sixty years ago.

The first Speaker Reed was elected for the session that began in December, 1862, and continued into the following year. He was one of the 24 men who sat in the house that year and it required two days of balloting and seven separate roll calls to choose a presiding officer. At one

time thirteen of the twenty-four members received at least one vote for speaker.

From the old roll calls one might infer that there was opposition to one or two of the leading speakership candidates but that the other members of the house were disorganized and undecided on whom they really did want. Two or three times some member came within one vote of an election, then dropped back out of sight, the contest finally resulting in Mr. Reed's selection.

A study of the old journal of the house shows that many of the legislative committees that were functioning in the pioneer days are still kept alive in the present organization of the house. What was known sixty years ago as a "roads and highways committee" was just as much sought after as the present-day roads and bridges committee which about half the members of the legislature believe needs their personal attention to insure success.

### Past Presiding Officers.

Lively contests in both branches of the legislature for the honor of presiding over them gives an interest to the list of former speakers of the house and presidents pro tem of the senate. When the Lieutenant Governor is able to attend the senate he presides, but the president pro tem has been an exceedingly important officer when the lieutenant governor has acted as chief executive. The following list of former speakers has never been printed:

Speakers—1889-90, J. W. Feighan, of Spokane; 1891, A. F. Shaw, of Vancouver; 1893, J. W. Arrasmith, of Colfax; 1895, Ellis Morrison, of Seattle; 1897, Charles E. Cline, of New Whatcom, now Bellingham; 1899, E. Heister Guie, of Seattle; 1901, R. B. Albertson, of Seattle; 1903, W. H. Hare, of Yakima; 1905, J. G. Megler, of Brookfield; 1907, J. A. Falconer, of Everett; 1909, Leo O. Meigs, of Yakima; 1911, Howard D. Taylor, of Eagle Gorge; 1913, Howard D. Taylor, of LaConner; 1917, Guy E. Kelly, of Tacoma; 1919, Fred A. Adams, of Spokane; 1921, E. Heister Guie, of Seattle. All except Mr. Cline, a populist, were republicans.

The importance of the office of president pro tem in the senate is indicated by the fact that when Lieut. Governor Henry McBride became acting governor, Senator J. J. Smith of Enumclaw as president pro tem was the permanent presiding officer of the 1903 session. A similar honor fell to Senator A. S. Ruth of Olympia in 1909 when Lieut. Governor M. E. Hay became acting governor and to Senator W. H. Paulhamus of Sumner in 1911 when Lieut. Governor Hay again could not preside. When Lieut. Gov. L. F. Hart took over the executive duties from Gov. Ernest Lister during the 1919 session, Senator P. H. Carleton took the chair as president pro tem.

### Paying Former Veterans.

Passage of soldier bonus bills by several states at the last general election has resulted in a flood of inquiries to the bonus department of State Auditor C. W. Clausen's office for information needed to organize new offices in other states. At the same time, Ohio which has only gotten a fair start in the work of reimbursing ex-service men has sent out a statement showing the progress several states have made in paying bonuses voted. Minnesota has completed the task, paying \$22,335,108 to 118,004 men. At the time the Ohio statement was issued, Massachusetts had disbursed \$18,163,230 and had 215,000 applications on file; Michigan with 157,054 applications had paid out \$29,927,820; New Jersey with 125,474 claims had paid \$10,671,190; Washington with 60,567 applicants had disbursed \$12,278,889; Wisconsin with 113,401 claimants registered had spent \$15,489,436 and Ohio had 215,738 claims on file and already had spent \$22,700,635. These were listed as the principal bonus-paying states.

### Road Work in Winter.

State highway construction work will be continued all winter on several important projects. Grant Smith & Co. have the contracts for the 20 miles of the new work in the Yakima canyon and the improvement of the North Bank highway between Underwood and Lyle, 12 miles in length. It is expected a year and a half's time will be needed to finish the Yakima canyon job and a year will be needed on the North Bank work. It is believed construction crews can be kept busy throughout the winter on both projects.

Anderson & Nelson who are building seven miles of highway east of Tonasket on State Road No. 4 also

## DOC SNELL WINS BY K.O. IN THIRD

The smoker held at the Wenatchee Commercial club hall last Saturday evening went over in nice shape before some 300 boxing fans.

Mickie Hannon, Wenatchee, won the referee's decision over Young Wells of Portland, in the six-round main event. Both boys showed a lot of clever stuff but the crowd felt the verdict should have been a draw, as they received the decision with a howl that shook the building.

Sewell Dean, Leavenworth, boxed a six-round draw with Soldier Woods of Seattle.

Art Fitzsimmons, Wenatchee, kayoed Jack Owens, Seattle, in the third round, after hitting the Seattle boy at will.

The real fight of the evening was between Doc Snell, Peshastin, and Phil Lewis, Seattle. It was the daddy of them all and had the fans on their toes from start to finish. Both boys were willing mixers and did not slow up once until Doc made his right count on Phil's stomach in the third. Lewis sagged and Snell followed with the right to jaw. Lewis down for the count of four. Doc followed with another right to jaw and the bout is over.

Lewis has had sixty ring fights and Snell is the first boy ever to knock him off his feet. This makes the third straight kayo for Snell.

Young Vetter, 135 pounds, Leavenworth, won on a foul in the third round from Andy Landon, 145, after carrying the fight to the big boy all the way.

will be busy during the winter. They will need all of next season to complete the job. Work on the new road between Beaver and Forks on the Olympic Peninsula was stopped last summer by danger of forest fires but will be continued during the winter.

The last of the grading between Kelso and Kalama needed before next season's paving is laid will be finished this winter. In the meantime, gravel and sand is being delivered all along the route of the Pacific Highway between Toledo and Kalama where paving will be laid next season.

It is expected that the Kelso and Raymond bridges will be completed by spring, but it may take a longer time to finish the bridge over the Snake river at Central Ferry. There will be no interruption to the work on any of these projects.

Three paving jobs cannot be finished before spring, but winter work is impracticable. These are the Elbe-Park Junction, Alder to Elbe and Issaquah-Preston tasks.

### Dental Law in a Jam.

The question of the constitutionality of Washington's dental Examining Law is pending before the Supreme Court of the United States and probably the case will not be reached this year. Therefore, Attorney General L. L. Thompson will have the alternative of asking the legislature to enact a new statute or going ahead with the case now in court. As he expects to win the case and as it would then settle all mooted issues, he may elect to fight it out on the present law.

Attorney General Thompson probably will be unable to argue the alien land law case now before the U. S. Supreme Court before the first of next year. It may come before the court during the legislative session. As this case involves the constitutionality of the anti-Jap land law a decision is desired before the law makers adjourn next year.

### Supplying State Needs.

Despite the fact that all the state's farms suffered from last summer's long dry spell the actual loss to the various institutions is less than was anticipated. The state this year raised potatoes enough for all its wants and in addition a large amount of canned vegetables now is on hand from the state farms. The small fruit crop was not large, but the poultry is doing well. The result will be that far less buying of supplies will be required than ever before.

At the same time Director Will J. Hays of the Department of Business Control will be able to supply all the shoes, hats and clothing worn by inmates of the state institutions from the industrial plants operated this year by the state. To save the expense of heating a big building at the penitentiary the shoe shop will be closed next month, but enough shoes, boots and slippers are on hand to

## EXPERT TALKS ON PRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

Yakima, Nov. 28.—"We may look ahead to the land passing into the hands of capitalists, and its operation by tenants," said Prof. O. L. Waller of the State College in addressing the Washington Irrigation Institute here on the question of development of the raw lands. His conclusion was drawn from a survey of the rapid increase in the price of farm lands throughout the United States.

"The average value of farm lands, including improvements, between 1850 and 1920 increased at a rate equivalent to compound interest on the original valuation of 2.65%, but from 1900 to 1920 the rate was 6.45%. Considering the large area of poor lands included in the farms, it would seem from the 1920 price that the better farms must be selling from \$200 to \$500 an acre. It will readily be seen that even at \$250 an acre the cost of a farm involves an amount of capital very few young men would have, unless they inherited it. We may therefore look ahead to the land passing into the hands of capitalists, and its operation by tenants."

He quoted O. E. Baker, agricultural economist of the Bureau of Economics, as saying: "Improved land increased less than 5% an acre from 1910 to 1920 as compared with 15% to 50% previous decades; and this 5% increase was practically confined to the precariously productive semi-arid lands of the Great Plains region. The land in the United States suitable for agricultural uses without irrigation, drainage, or heavy fertilization is nearly all occupied. Consequently one of the great questions before the American people is, how to maintain the supply of foods and fibers for the increasing population at that high level to which we are accustomed."

"Occasionally we hear the statement made that we already have enough lands under cultivation and in crop," said Prof. Waller, "that the United States has a surplus of food; that during the war we fed our allies and could do it again; that it is a mistake to advocate the development of any more lands either by irrigation, drainage, or clearing cut-over lands."

"Just now we are exporting foods, but that cannot last long. Our population is rapidly increasing, and in a few years our own people will require all the produce the farms can raise. Since establishment of Federal experiment stations acre yields have been constantly increasing, and will probably continue to for some time. Because of scientific research the productivity of the American farm has increased about 15% in the last decade. The time will come, however, when a further increase in acre yield will cost much more money for fertilizers and intensive cultivation; and when such costs have grown beyond the cost of bringing new lands under cultivation, then the public will demand the reclamation of our deserts by irrigation, the drainage of wet lands, and the clearing of that class of stump lands that is suitable for crop production."

"The arid lands are the richest, and probably will be the first developed. We have only irrigated about 19 million acres of arid lands, and they are giving us an annual yield of double the acre production of other lands of the United States. They will, therefore, pay interest at a very much higher cost of development than will the swamp and cut-over lands. If the total area that can be irrigated were added to the improved area, the addition would be less than 4%. The Columbia Basin would add less than .04 of 1%."

"So far these lands have remained unproductive because of the cost of subduing them. The amount of income supply all state needs until the plant can resume operations in the spring. All the automobile license plates ordered for the department of licenses have been finished and delivered by the plant in the state penitentiary."

Consolidation of the claim division with the medical aid branch of the Department of Labor and Industries already has resulted in greatly expediting the payment of compensation to injured workmen and reduced operating costs. It is likely a consolidation of medical aid and industrial insurance fees will be recommended to the next legislature to increase the efficiency of the department.

Clarence Campbell came over from Seattle Monday. Mrs. Campbell was recently called to the home of her parents at O'Neil, Neb., by the illness of her mother and Constance accompanied. They will be away, it is expected, most of the winter.

proved land kept pace with the increasing population until about 1885, then more slowly until 1910. During the decade 1910-20 it increased only about 5% as compared with 15% population increase until about 1906, and has since increased more slowly than population, but consumption per capita has been maintained up to the present time by diminishing our exports."

Speaking of the supply of swamp, desert, and cut-over lands to meet the demand for potential farms, he said: "We have about 110 million acres of swamp and desert lands that have never produced anything except bullfrogs and jack rabbits. These lands have very rich soil and will yield ample returns when we are sure it will pay to drain and clear the swamps, and to irrigate the deserts. Two-thirds of the drainable lands must also be cleared. Some of it is cypress swamps the draining and clearing of which would be very expensive."

"Besides this we have some million acres of forest and cut-over lands not needing drainage, much of which at one time produced luxuriant forests. Some of this will make good farm land. Some of it will never make profitable farms. It would be a mistake to spend money on steep hillsides which are likely to be washed away by torrential rains, and on the poor sandy soils that later must be abandoned. To these may be added about 130 million acres of pasture and range not irrigable and impossible to produce crops in dry years."

Prof. Waller spoke of the New England farms, many of them abandoned because the cutting away of trees and breaking up of sod has allowed the rapid washing away of fertility from the rocky hillsides.

"We have talked loud and long about abandoned farms. They ought to be abandoned," he said. "Many of them should never have been deforested. Some may be used for grazing lands if they can be centralized into large stock farms. "Our farmers are driving larger teams, using more efficient machinery, producing more per acre and per person than ever before. Every American farmer and farm laborer is, on the average, feeding nine people other than himself in this country, and one in a foreign land. We boast of the output per man. In all kinds of American manufacture, prices and profits depend upon the output per man. Why not apply the same rule to farming? We do not wish to force American farmers to the conditions of living of the peasants of Asia or Russia. The acre yield of these countries is much higher than here, but the peasants live like paupers. They must follow this system or starve."

### LAKE WENATCHEE NEWS.

Mr. Delano returned to his home in Marysville the first of the week to spend the winter.

Mrs. Galbraith and Miss Luckenback went to Wenatchee last Sunday to attend teachers' institute of Chelan county.

John Hedin was a visitor at the county seat the first of the week. Mrs. Brasfield, of Nelson, B. C., has been spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Searles.

Mrs. Comstock and children returned to their home in Seattle last Sunday after spending some two weeks or more with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McDaniel.

Mr. Will Harvey was taken to Leavenworth for medical treatment.

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Searles, Mrs. Brasfield and Mrs. Dickinson enjoyed a chicken dinner at the Frank Searles home last Sunday.

### PACKING SHED BURNED.

The packing shed on the J. L. Kooker ranch near Dryden burned down last Saturday night. The cause of the fire is unknown. It contained some twelve or fourteen thousand boxes of apples. We understand that some insurance was carried on the apples by the agent who had purchased the fruit subject to delivery on board cars.

Mr. Kooker has had very bad luck with fires. He and his brother lost several buildings in the past, including the pool room at Dryden, burned a year or so ago; a packing house at the same place, burned two years ago; houses, sheds and hay, besides having their sawmill engine dynamited last spring, and evidently have some enemy or enemies.

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## TAX SYSTEM MUST BE REFORMED

"There is now so completely developed in our state a consensus of opinion that the tax system should be reformed at this session of the Legislature, that a failure to meet this expectation may be fraught with the danger of unfortunate social and political consequences," declares Prof. Frank J. Laube, political science department of the University of Washington, writing in the current issue of The Business Chronicle, Seattle.

Discussing the underlying causes of the state-wide demand for tax reform, Mr. Laube notes that Washington's tax burden has increased 150 per cent since 1910, while assessed valuations have gone up but 30 per cent, and remarks that "While the state's population and industrial life has been growing, the increasing burden of government cost has continued to rest on property investment alone. This burden," he adds, "especially smother the home-owner and the farmer, the two classes upon whose stability and welfare the stability and welfare of the state so much depend."

Mr. Laube cites the plight of Asotin county farmers, whose total wheat yield will amount to about \$225,000, while their taxes will approximate \$259,886, or some \$30,000 more than their crops are worth. Stevens county has 8,000 descriptions on the delinquent list," Mr. Laube declares, "and quotes one of the commissioners of Benton county to the effect that 20 per cent of that county's agricultural land will be off the tax rolls inside of six months."

"Those who have placed their investments in property have seen its valuation disappear. The farmer particularly is in a hostile frame of mind. His confidence in government is disappearing. He finds the values wrought from the heavy labor of years, confiscated to the state for what he believes to be extravagant and unnecessary uses," the writer remarks. "It bodes ill for a state when its agricultural class loses courage, and become antagonistic to government. The radicalism of the unprotected is a sufficient menace."

Mr. Laube sees the cause of the property owners' plight and his insistence upon a tax reform to relieve him, in Washington's system of the general property tax. "This system is a proven failure, bringing disaster wherever it has been used," he declares, "because it was developed before the present industrial era, when ownership was entirely in real and tangible personal property, and when such ownership represented the ability to pay. Now we have passed into a new economy in which values other and much larger in volume than property values, have developed," but the general property tax continues, reaching "the tax paying ability of one class only. We are in the condition of a state half taxed and half free," the writer concludes, "and no state can in that manner go forward in security and progress."

"The statistics of tax levies and of government per capita costs," Mr. Laube says, "demonstrates not only that the burden of government costs rests upon too narrow a base, that of property, but that the revenue base is too narrow to have undertaken the developments which we have undertaken, or to have financed them in the manner in which we have financed them. "Statistics further show," he declares, "that in the state millage levy on property for state purposes alone, the rate runs more than three times as high as in such states as Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Montana and Oregon. The same is true," he holds, "of the per capita levy. Yet purely governmental expense, outside of outlays, is little higher, and in some cases not so high. "Both state and city have wrongly visioned development and necessity," Mr. Laube believes. Tax millages which could have been deferred have been levied, and developments which could have been better timed have been entered upon.

"I believe in the movement now making such progress, for the limitation of the millage on property," Prof. Laube concludes, adding that "the reform of the system alone would not, however, be sufficient. An adequate machinery of administration must be developed," he says. "The present decentralized administration, with inept service, makes for gross discrimination between individuals and counties, varying in unconvincing valuations, and a general failure of uniformity and efficiency."