

STUDY PLANNED OF UNEMPLOYMENT

FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES TO SURVEY ADMINISTRATION OF INSURANCE

Recommendations for Revision of Methods Insofar As It Appears Essential Will Be Made; Completion Expected by September.

A thorough study of present experience in administering unemployment insurance will be launched to simplify the existing system, according to information received from the federal social security board regional office in Denver by Barclay Craighead of Helena, chairman of the Montana unemployment compensation commission.

This study will be a joint undertaking of the bureau of unemployment compensation of the federal social security board, the individual state agencies, and the interstate conference of unemployment compensation agencies. Mr. Craighead said: "Together they will analyze information on the present operation of state unemployment insurance laws, and will undertake special studies to determine the relative effectiveness of procedures now in operation and various proposed substitutes."

To Get Opinions

In connection with these studies, the federal board will get the current opinions of Montana officials and of informed representatives of employers, labor, and the general public of this state who were instrumental in developing the present legislation.

Specific recommendations for revision of state administrative methods and, insofar as it appears essential, of state legislation, are expected to be in shape by this coming September.

Commenting on the purpose of the study, Mr. Craighead said: "We have now had, for the first time in this country, actual experience in the operation of an unemployment insurance system. With this as a yardstick, we can measure our assumptions and theories about unemployment insurance against the reality of performance and make necessary revisions based on facts."

The principal aims of the study and proposed revisions as outlined to the Montana unemployment compensation commission are as follows:

Development of methods for calculating and paying benefits which will be more easily understood by workers and employers and will result in more prompt payment of benefits.

Reduction, insofar as possible, of the volume of detail required of employers in complying with the legislation.

Recent months have yielded considerable data on the operation of contributions, benefit, and claims procedures in state unemployment insurance systems which, critically examined and tested, will point the way for developments in unemployment insurance during the next few years," Mr. Craighead declared.

"It is important to remember that the state administrative agencies and the federal social security board had at the outset very little experience to guide them in matters of detail. Furthermore, the American system of unemployment insurance is fundamentally different from those of most other countries.

"We provide benefits in proportion to a man's past wages, rather than a flat amount regardless of former wages—a method which is considerably more difficult to administer."

LARGEST FAMILY IN U. S. IS SMITHS. JOHNSON NEXT

If your name is Smith, you really are a member of the biggest family in America, figures of the Butte field office of the social security board showed. If it is Jones, however, you cannot lay claim to the distinction commonly accorded that clan of being at least the second largest, for there are four families ahead of you: In order, Johnsons, Browns, Williams and Millers.

To be exact, Stewart J. Thomas, office manager, reported that social security cards, considered an accurate cross section of the nation, had been issued to 470,190 Smiths, 348,530 Johnsons, 253,700 Browns, 249,312 Millers and only 232,540 Jones.

The shortest name uncovered in the nationwide canvass is "E" and the longest Xenogianekopoles.

PIONEERS AUXILIARY UNIT IS ORGANIZED

With a representation of Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers from every community in the county taking part, a Powell county branch of the state organization was formed in Deer Lodge.

Mrs. Anne Newlin has been named president of the group, with John Perkins, Race Track, vice president; Mrs. F. J. Blissette, secretary and James Ranney, treasurer, to make up the list of officers.

It is the plan to assist Pioneers in every manner possible. Among the immediate plans is to provide ways and means to take the Pioneers to Helena, to the state convention in August.

STATE COLLEGE FARM MEETINGS

TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE HOLD SUMMER CONFERENCE THERE

Western Farm Economics Association Convention Draws Delegates From Nearly All States in Western Section of Nation to Discuss Problems.

In early July Montana State college was the scene of two gatherings that drew agriculturalists from Montana and from nearly all states in the western section of the United States.

On July 5 and 6, teachers of vocational agriculture in Montana high schools met for the annual summer conference at which they heard addresses delivered by educational and agricultural leaders in the state. The conference is being followed by a three-week training school attended by more than half of the vocational agriculture instructors in the state.

Miss Ruth Reardon, Helena, executive officer of the board for vocational education; A. W. Johnson, state supervisor of vocational agricultural education, and his assistant, D. L. MacDonald of Roseman, and R. H. Palmer, professor of agricultural education at Montana State college. Also assisting in the conference arrangements was Eugene Egan of Lewistown, president of the Montana Vocational Association.

With agricultural economists from nearly all of the western states in attendance, the 1938 sessions of the Western Farm Economics association were held on the campus July 6, 7 and 8.

Besides their discussions on farm management, land utilization and agricultural policy, the economists visited representative farms and ranches in the Gallatin valley, held their sessions one day at the Squaw Creek CCC camp and attended an informal banquet held at a Gallatin canyon resort.

Speakers from Montana State college who appeared on the program included Dr. A. L. Strand, president; Clyde McKee, director of the Montana agricultural experiment station; E. B. Linfield, director emeritus of the experiment station; A. H. Post, agronomy department head; E. A. Starch, C. F. Kraenzel and Phil S. Eckert of the economics department; Dr. Howard Welch, veterinarian; O. W. Monson, irrigation engineer; Louis Reitz, agronomist; and W. H. Lamphere, extension economist. Secretary-treasurer of the association is Dr. R. R. Renne, head of the economics and sociology department.

WORKS 47 YEARS FOR GREAT FALLS

AUGUST BERGSTROM NEARLY HALF CENTURY WITH CITY WATER DEPARTMENT

Well known to the 5,000 or more customers of the Great Falls municipal water department, August Bergstrom, who for many years was street foreman of the department and is now attached to the city engineer's office in a special capacity, has just completed his 47th consecutive year of service with the department. Bergstrom has shattered all records for continuous employment with a municipality or town.

Bergstrom was born in Delmar, Sweden, Jan. 7, 1891, and he came to the United States in 1898. He first located at Amherst, Mass., where he was a stonemason. On Feb. 28, 1891, he came to Great Falls.

The municipal water plant had its inception in January, 1898, when Ira Myers made plans for such an institution. In November of the same year Myers, E. G. MacLay and T. E. Collins were granted a franchise by the city council and the company floated a \$150,000 bond issue with the N. W. Harris Co. The first water service was to the home of A. W. Kingsbury July 3, 1899. In 1893 the water company was acquired by A. G. Phelps and among the employees was Bergstrom, who commenced his service with the plant on June 16, 1891. On Nov. 3, 1898, the city acquired the water plant.

Bergstrom was retained by each succeeding city administration. In 1898 when he commenced his service with the city there were but 349 services, today there are more than 5,500. When he was appointed foreman, Bergstrom first used a wheelbarrow to convey tools. Later he was given a bicycle and still later a horse and buggy.

For the last year Bergstrom has been assigned to the city engineer's office to prepare detailed data concerning shutoff valves and other units of the water system.

Practically everybody understands the need for co-operation, but the trouble is that there are too many people who want to be director of the activities of those who co-operate.

Rehabilitation of soldiers wounded in China is being started in Japan.

Community Listing Program Checks Soil Blowing Damage

Pooling their equipment and resources and with the aid of various federal and civic agencies, a group of northeastern valley county farmers have demonstrated what can be done through co-operative community action in controlling a bad soil blowing condition that was threatening farms in a large area, says Charles E. Jarrett, county extension agent.

Through their co-operative action, these farmers carried out strip listing operations on a total of 5,000 acres and it is estimated that this work will control soil blowing over a total area of more than 15,000 acres. Assisting these farmers were the county AAA committee, Montana Extension service, soil conservation service, and various civic groups and private individuals in the county.

This area in which erosion had become such a serious problem was settled between 1911 and 1914. Since that time it had experienced soil drifting of varying degrees. Contributing to this condition were a number of factors including improper land use, poor tillage methods, and "shotgun" farming. Another important factor in the misuse of the land was absentee ownership.

Condition Was Aggravated

With one crop failure following another, farmers in this bad blow area became desperate and attempted to cover as much acreage as possible with their limited finances in the hope of producing a crop and eventually establishing themselves on a more sound basis. However, such practices tended to aggravate the wind erosion condition. It was also observed that the erosion control work done by a few farmers was offset by soil blown from farms on which control work was not done.

The area was badly whipped by wind in 1937, climaxed by a hail storm that left the ground stripped of vegetation. That fall the county was divided into districts and agricultural planning committees were set up. Three men were elected from each of the two districts in this severely eroded section to serve as the planning committee. The next step was the holding of a series of meetings to discuss the erosion problem and work out some method of combating it. This work was aided by the county AAA committee, and representatives of the soil conservation service, farm credit administration, and extension service.

Out of these meetings came a voluntary association whose members agreed to carry out a strip cropping and soil conservation program. High winds during the last of March this year and the early part of April, however, made the individual farmer's efforts futile. It was apparent that the job was too big for anything but community action and that some outside assistance would be necessary.

Program Is Drawn Up
Jarrett contacted various land owning agencies and others to obtain financial help in carrying on an extensive control program. Responding to his call were the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Federal Land bank, Hollam Land Co., Farmers Realty Co., Valley county commissioners, Farmers Union Oil Co., and the soil conservation service.

At a meeting held last April at the Sunnyside school in the northern portion of the blow area, a co-operative program of strip listing was presented under which farmers would be supplied with lists provided they would carry out the listing program under the supervision of the Montana extension service and the soil conservation service. Approximately 75 percent of the farmers attending signed an agreement to that effect.

On April 25 actual listing operations were begun with five lists at work, two of which were furnished by the soil conservation service and the other three rented from private owners. By the end of the week eight lists were working and before the job was completed 11 machines were in operation. In addition to supplying lists, the soil conservation service assigned H. W. Riek, conservationist, to assist in supervising the work.

5,000 Acres Listed
Listing was started on a basis of 30 feet of crop and 30 feet of listing. Practically all of the listing ran north and south or southeast to southwest. A few of the most severely eroded fields required solid listing. After the worst part of the blow area had been listed in this manner, the strips were extended to 50 feet of listing and 50 feet of crop.

Neighbors co-operated to list one 640-acre tract of abandoned land in order to protect surrounding farms. Gasoline, fuel and oil were provided for this purpose and each farmer donated his own time and tractor to complete the job.

By May 18 these co-operative activities were completed with a total of 5,000 acres listed which will control soil blowing on a total area of more than 15,000 acres. Listing costs, including rental, repair bills, fuel, trucking and other expenses, amounted to about 27 cents per acre listed, Jarrett said.

With practically all of the land subject to wind erosion listed, farmers are becoming more enthusiastic about this

method of control as an emergency measure, according to Jarrett. Two of the government owned lists have been left in the area for emergency use.

Jarrett believes that with a favorable growing season and constant vigilance on the part of the farmers in the area, it is possible that a crop will be produced this year.

CORN IS GROWN AS FEED CROP

MANY VARIETIES BETTER ADAPTED TO AREAS ARE BEING DEVELOPED

Exhibits at Corn, Seed and Potato Show Held at Billings Indicates Increased Interest in Recent Years; Richland County Wins First Honors.

Montanans in the eastern and central sections of the state, especially on the irrigated projects, are counting more on corn as a feed crop this year, according to The Northwest, monthly publication of the Northern Pacific railway.

Farmers in those parts of the state are growing varieties more adapted to the area than those available five to 10 years ago and there is some interest in hybrid corn development that may turn out suited to the conditions.

The interest in corn has held the acreage in the state at about the same level, in spite of dry seasons in the eastern counties as in a few years back and there is an increase shown for 1937 and 1938 over 1936. This interest was obvious at the Montana state corn, seed and potato show held at Billings.

There were approximately 150 different exhibits of 10-ear samples of corn from various parts of the state and in addition the classes for bushel entries brought out 64 different entries and with the miscellaneous corn exhibits added there several thousand ears of corn on display.

The honors for corn went to the eastern part of the state, with Richland county, which has the fertile irrigated section of the lower Yellowstone project, taking top honors for county collection exhibits in the corn division. Carbon county was second and Fallon county placed third. Some of the western part of the state was represented, however, and a Sanders county grower, Anton Kenney, won the high honor for the best sample in the bushel competition.

Interest in the eastern sections of the state in corn is further shown by the fact that a few skilled farmers are producing corn to sell as seed, according to The Northwest. Dwight L. Howard, in Richland county is one of these. He has for sale five different kinds of corn each spring, specially selected, dried and tested.

In the show as a whole at Billings there were 500 entries from more than 30 counties in the state. All of the small grains were included, along with grass and legume seeds. Crotched wheats as the new forage that is in great demand, brought out a large class in which competition was keen. Potatoes and some vegetables were on display.

25 WAR VETERANS NEXT CCC ENROLLMENT QUOTA

Montana will be limited to a quota of 25 veterans during the next enrollment period of the civilian conservation corps, to be conducted July 1 to 20, Dr. H. C. Watts, manager of the Fort Harrison veterans' facility, was informed.

Dr. Watts warned veterans desiring to enroll that CCC enrollment must be made on form P-130, which has been revised. The revised form must be submitted for enrollment instead of the old forms. The revised forms may be obtained from the United States veterans' administration at Fort Harrison.

Applications for enrollment in the CCC should be submitted to Dr. Watts at Fort Harrison, he said, as soon as possible as certification must be made by his office and the veterans notified to report to the various enrolling zones. The order of preference for certification of veterans is (1) veterans with legal dependants, (2) veterans with dependants by obligations, and (3) veterans without dependants.

Veterans will be enrolled at the same place and on the same dates as junior enrollees, although they will not be assigned to junior camps. The enrolling zones are located as follows:

Zone 1, Glasgow; zone 2, Miles City; zone 3, Great Falls; zone 4, Billings; zone 5, Bozeman; zone 6, Butte; and zone 7, Missoula.

Registration of voters for the Montana primary July 19 totals 248,443, the office of Sec. of State Sam W. Mitchell said. The registration for the 1938 general election, prior to the burning of registration books ordered by the 1937 legislative assembly, was 283,696.

IMMIGRANT LAD WINS TO WEALTH

PETER LAMBROS OF MISSOULA HAS WHIPPED HANDICAPS AND MISFORTUNES

Peter Lambros of Missoula ran away from Greece and came to Montana when he was seven years old, landing in Butte by becoming an immigrant. Recently he was in Great Falls to attend the convention of the Order of Ahepa, of which he is a proud member.

Pete, the little immigrant, started his business life in this nation shortly after his arrival in Butte by becoming a peanut vender when he was just old enough to start school. With that background he built up a \$42,000 business that vanished in a fire, began all over again and saw a \$300,000 stake go glimmering and today is once more on the way up.

Lambros ran away from home in 1897, crossing the Atlantic on a vessel that took 47 days for the journey. In Butte he began selling peanuts for his uncle. Tom Davis, now a prominent Butte attorney, was a newsboy on a nearby corner. Lambros had his first English, Peanut and Popcorn.

The immigrant branched out from the peanut business. He added popcorn and later candy. In 1911 his business in Butte was worth \$42,000 one day and a few days later—after a fire had razed his building—it was worth nothing.

W. A. Clark, Montana copper king who had bought peanuts from Pete and who had watched his rise in business, decided the immigrant was a good risk and lent him \$45,000 to start anew. In the years from 1913 to 1919 Lambros built up a business that included a candy store, pool hall, bakery, barber shop, two hotels and two restaurants. All together he had 110 persons employed on property valued at \$300,000.

But Dame Fortune chose to turn her back for a time on the immigrant. A silver mine venture accounted for a loss of \$60,000. A bank failure took another \$15,000 and the worst blow was the loss of \$125,000 through a trusted friend who could not withstand temptation.

Has Missoula Hotels
Lambros went to Missoula in 1919 with \$17,000 in debts to clear away. Now he operates two hotels and within the last year has invested \$65,000 in improvements on one of them.

"The only schooling I ever had was four months at business college in Butte," he told a friend recently. "If I had had some schooling I probably would have known enough to escape some of the losses I suffered."

Stored in a trunk are canceled checks showing that the immigrant boy has done more than \$6,000,000 worth of business since coming to Montana. Among these checks is one for \$125,000, others for \$54,000, \$25,000 and canceled notes for like amounts.

When the immigrant boy came to Montana there were six or eight Greek residents in the state, but today these are dead and Peter Lambros is the oldest Greek resident of Montana in point of number of years lived in the Treasure state.

MEAGHER EXPERIMENT

State Commissioner of Agriculture James T. Sparling has been informed that planning and development work on nine experimental county programs designed to test new methods of administering farm legislation has been completed, and that one of the experiments will be carried out in Meagher county.

The Dominican republic's shortage of sugar workers is becoming serious.

SEVERAL LARGE WOOL CLIPS SOLD

HIGHEST PRICE SO FAR REPORTED IS 21 CENTS A POUND

Sale of about 30,000 fleeces, totaling about 300,000 pounds of wool, at a price ranging from 20 to 24 cents a pound was announced at Billings by the Snyder Sheep Co. The wool was purchased by Robert E. Jones, buyer for the Dewey Gould & Co. of Boston. The fleeces were from sheep grazed on the Crow Indian reservation southeast of Billings.

The sale was the third large one announced. Highest price paid was 21 cents a pound for 36,000 fleeces of the Antler Sheep Co. by Draper & Co. of Boston. The M. F. Trask clip of 8,000 fleeces was sold to Silberman & Sons of Chicago for 21 cents a pound.

The Butcher Creek wool pool was purchased at Columbus by Silberman & Sons for 20 cents a pound. The clip totaled 10,000 fleeces.

Considerable wool buying activity has been in progress and numerous smaller purchases have been made for prices ranging from 17 to 20 cents a pound. W. C. McHattie purchased 15,000 head of lambs from the bands of Donald Wilson and Ed Kiles, prominent sheep ranchers of the Blackfoot reservation. The two bunches are among the outstanding blackface bands in the state and while the price paid is not announced, it is said to have been higher than was anticipated a month ago.

The purchase by Mr. McHattie is said to be the first big deal concluded in the state this season. The lambs are for September delivery to eastern and midwestern feeders.

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