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Business Men Have a Right to Their Request.

The city commission is composed of busy men. They met to consider the influenza epidemic, passed some rules for the public, then discovered the charter provides for a city board of health and quite naturally left the matter up to that board for completion. But the commission half way did the job and then left it to another body to finish. Rules were passed which might greatly conflict with the city board of health's program for handling the situation. It is a case where two bosses are on the job, and it is always hard to follow the orders of two bosses.

When the business men were called in meeting by the commission Friday evening there was no one present who was not anxious to do anything useful to help in suppressing the disease; not a voice was raised against any general program that might be of benefit to the public health. But there was a justifiable feeling that some one who is capable should shoulder this burden and act as boss. Only a physician is fitted for such a task, and the city charter very wisely provides that the city physician, the city attorney and the chief of police shall comprise the city board of health. If was the wish of the business people of La Grande expressed in resolutions that the city commission turn the entire matter over to the city board of health, removing at the same time any program or part of a program the commission had already established by so doing Dr. Richardson, J. D. Slater and Lou Rayburn, who comprise the city board of health, could proceed to stamp out the disease in the best manner possible after studying the existing conditions carefully.

The merchants were right in first wanting a medical man at the head of the investigation to see what is best to do, for we expect that it is not thinkable that the board of city commissioners could know the medical end of the situation as well as a physician. When the doctor has studied it out, with the assistance of the city at-

torney and the chief of police, then the program for the people to follow can be issued and everyone will know exactly what to do. Strict observance of such orders, whether they be quarantine, entire closing of all business houses, or partial closing will be observed because the atmosphere will be cleared and all will know they are acting under the advice of medical authority as well as city orders.

The city commission could assist to clear up this whole matter by complying with the request of the business people and turn over the entire situation to the city board of health, an organization whose word will be final.

Another Demobilizing Problem.

The announcement comes from Washington that all food restrictions upon public eating houses have been removed. Only a few days ago the restrictions on mill products were also declared off. By degrees and very rapidly the limitations of war times are giving way. The next big question which concerns the public is the one as to when there will be a demobilization of high prices on the necessities of life.

On the flour mill question it is asserted that the removal of the regulations on mill products will result in higher prices of flour and feed and consequently an advance in milk and meat. As to the public eating places there can, of course, be no reduction until there is a decline in the prices of the "raw material." The regular Sunday dinners on the dining cars are said to be fairly sufficient for a canary bird and the price is a dollar a throw without counting the tip.

The demobilization of high prices appears to be a greater problem for the immediate future than the work that Chief of Staff March has in getting the soldier boys back to their homes.

FORUM

MR. DAVIS ON TAXATION

Editor Observer: In your Wednesday's paper you had an article, "What was done at the convention of tax assessors," and I notice that Assessor Couch introduced my views on assessing incomes, in which some interest was taken. I am very glad that Mr. Couch presented this system, and I only regret that I was not present to explain some things that seem not practicable.

I notice they recommend non-taxing of bonds. Now, is this the right move? Let us see. There is perhaps fifty per cent of monies and notes the assessor does not get. We will say he gets fifty per cent. Now, under the plan recommended this fifty per cent would go into bonds, would it not? So, you see, 100 per cent of this liquid or speculative money will go into non-taxable securities, thereby raising the rate on the real or remaining property of the poor home-owner. Is that right? Is it justice to let a man or a woman who possesses a half million dollars worth of bonds sit back in a easy chair, enjoying the luxuries of life and never playing a cent to the support of our government? I think you will agree with me that it is not democratic and that there is no justice in it.

Under the system which I advocate the non-taxation of the bonds themselves is not meddled with, so as to conflict with the federal law, but the income, or interest, derived from these bonds is taxed pro rata, just as the income from the rent of a building, or a man's daily wages.

I am heartily in accord with the other recommendation, that all notes should be received, or collection thereon set aside at the will of the giver of the note. This fits in very nicely with the system I advocate, as it is very easy for the assessor to find the income on these notes by going in the records. The other point made is that

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we should still retain some property tax. Why should we? Why should we have two sets of books, one for property and the other for incomes? What class of property would be assessable, real or personal?

I can see no argument in favor of this idea, when the rate is computed upon the income which is derived from either personal or real property, and this rate fluctuates up and down according to the requirements of our county or state, as the present rate does.

I do hope that our editors, future law makers, and the public in general will discuss this subject in true fairness to each side of the question. If this system will not work, why not?

A. P. DAVIS.

It is said that Germany has twice tried to bribe the Swedes and failed. Is this the reason we have so few Swedish policemen in the United States?

Few Escape.

There are few indeed who escape having at least one cold during the winter months, and they are fortunate who have but one and get through with it quickly and without any serious consequences. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and observe the directions with each bottle, and you are likely to be one of the fortunate ones. The worth and merit of this remedy has been fully proven. There are many families who have always used it for years when troubled with

a cough or cold, and with the very best results.—Adv.

Beautiful Christmas boxes of candy from the best factories are the only kinds to buy and you will find a large and fresh stock at



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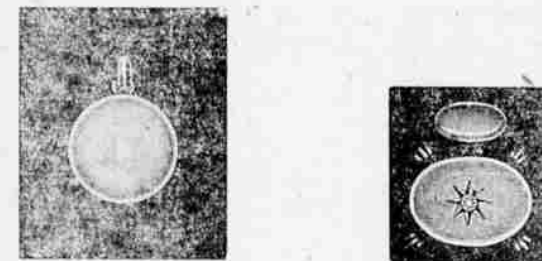
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