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INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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HE WILL SWALLOW UP DEATH in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from all the earth; for the Lord hath spoken it.—Isaiah 25:8.

Armony Bill Prepared

Salem. (By Mail).—By far the most comical character in the state house is one Joe Singer, he of Hebrew extraction, who is as firm a fixture as a sergeant-at-arms in the house, as the dome is on the state capitol building.

When the senators were ushered into the joint session yesterday to hear the governor's message read, his shrill clarion tones proclaimed their arrival, and with the pomp of a royal monarch he cleared the way for the solons to march in double file down Representative hall. Then he piloted Governor Pierce to the speaker's stand. But, just then something happened. Senator George Joseph, who is mindful of the Hebrew's love of money, pitched a coin into the air and it fell close to Joe Singer's feet. Another coin followed. Other senators took up the movement, as they saw Joe bending down in a most graceful manner garnering the flock of easy money which suddenly had been showered upon him. It became so funny as the coins hailed around the Jewish sergeant that the governor and all the pomp and glory of the occasion were lost sight of. President Moser, who presided, enjoyed the sport so much that he could not call Joe to order, hence the governor's message and all state business were for a brief moment forgotten while George Joseph headed the fun by flipping the coins toward Joe Singer.

Today we dined with the Kiwanis bunch of Salem. This is a bunch of men who have weekly dinners very similar to La Grande's Chamber of Commerce. We were the guest of Dr. Ernest Vehrs, who by the way, is building a good practice in Salem and likes his new location. The Kiwanis crowd have a lot of fun, crack many jokes, eat a little and adjourn to meet again. Among those sitting on the right of the throne was E. E. Bragg, formerly of La Grande, who is a Kiwanis member. Mr. Bragg says the world is going well with him, that business in his state department continues to increase, and to all appearances he thinks the country under Coolidge is not going to be entirely wrecked.

A bill to appropriate \$40,000 for an armory in La Grande is read for introduction to the house. This means, of course, that locally there will have to be a like amount raised. Forest Grove also wants an armory and the two ventures will be included in the same bill, thus Washington and Union counties will start off hand in hand on this measure.

Mr. Went, who used to drill wells in the Grande Ronde valley, is living in Salem. This morning we met him in the state house and he assured us that he was mighty busy following his profession of deep well driller in the Willamette valley. Naturally we were surprised, for we supposed the main thing the people had down here was water. In reply to a question West said: "Yes, they have lots of water, but like Eastern Oregon people, the Willamette valley citizens are getting particular as to what they drink, hence they are demanding deep wells which furnish pure water."

One of the tows that is in the offing in this session and one that promises to be of some size, is the attempt on the part of some members to reduce the automobile license.

Advocates of this reduction forget to tell owners of cars in Oregon that they own and drive automobiles here for less money than they could if residents either of California or Washington. This comes from the fact that in those states machines are on the personal property tax rolls and pay a personal property tax in addition to the license. All of which leads up to the conclusion that tampering with the present system of financing our roads is dangerous and carries with it the probability of some future legislature further upsetting the financial policy of retiring the bonds, which would bring a houseful of trouble on the heads of all property owners.

Here are a few facts that should be remembered by every automobile owner: First, Oregon has the best system of highways in the entire United States. Second, they were built on a sound financial policy, which if let alone

will pay off the entire bond issue and interest from automobile license fees. Third, that gasoline tax was originally levied for maintenance of the highways and should not be used for any other purpose. You hear a lot of Washington's roads and invariably the statement will be made that Washington paid as she went and has no bond issue. We have heard Oregon's governor make this statement many times. It is the truth only half told, for Washington in the first place has only a third as much mileage in state roads as has Oregon. Furthermore, as a state she encourages counties to bond for road construction, the same as Iowa and several other states do, with the result that most of Washington's counties have very large bond issues. Yet with all of this our sister state has not the system of highways comparable in any sense to Oregon's system.

While we were mixing with road men and highwaymen today we ran onto Judge William Duby, commissioner from Eastern Oregon. The entire highway department is having a lot of fun with Duby. He is great to issue warnings and give lectures to automobile drivers, yet the bunch in the department have learned that only a few days ago Judge Duby attempted the impossible thing of bucking a railroad locomotive off the track with a light touring car. True, he selected a Sumpter valley locomotive, which is narrow gauge and under size, but when the fracas was finished the Sumpter valley engine steamed along on its way, and the judge's car was twisted in several directions with a bent frame, a broken axle and several other dents which cost him nearly a hundred bucks to repair.

"Write a book, Judge, on how to drive safely in a sparsely settled country," remarked Roy Kline, state engineer. "Put your lecture on how to cross a railroad track with safety in poetry so the kids at school can learn the rhyme," was the advise of Engineer Baldock. "Mack" McCullough, the bridge engineer, was the only one of the employes who held his peace, and the judge whispered afterward that he knew the reason for that, and then he confided that he still razes Mack about the crooked Hot Lake overhead so much that the bridge engineer welcomes silence.

They have a pretty good, congenial time, these highway workers and when they get jokes on each other they use them ruthlessly.

Engineer Baldock, who is probably the best macadam man in the United States today and who has certainly done exceptional work for Eastern Oregon on her gravel roads, has some well established principles in his department. One of them is that no relative of any foreman or superintendent can work on any state work in his department. The rule is a trifle drastic but it is right and Baldock finds no bad effects from enforcing it to the letter.

Governor Pierce is reported to have said after delivering his message over the Oregonian radio that he was sure if the white-faced calves on his ranch in the Grande Ronde valley heard his voice they would start at once for the state capital.

Over in the house the first blood was spilled, so to speak, for it was in that body that the child labor amendment was introduced. Immediately a quiet poll was taken and indications are that the amendment will never see the light of day in that body. Its defeat over there, however, will only mean that some one will introduce it in the senate and then each member will have that golden opportunity of going on record for a measure that sounds fine in theory, but which is drawn so that few people will ever vote for it if they understood it. The national congress surely handed out a lemon to the different states when it passed the buck up to legislatures to do something it would not do itself.

The cross-word puzzle has struck the state house like an Eastern Oregon blizzard. Messengers and stenoga are busily engaged in finding the right word. So strong is the habit growing that there is a belief that lobbies will be vacated and some of the old-time lobbyists may get the bug and forget to represent their clients.

Bruce Dennis

ANARCHIST KILLED

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP).—An anarchist was killed and two wounded in a street fight with the police last night. The anarchists used bombs.



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OFFICE CAT
TRADE MARK REG.
By Junius

"You are concealing something from me," started the villain. "Certainly I am," replied Little Nell, the beautiful comptometer operator. "What'dya think I am?"

Mrs. Short—Is your husband fond of animals?
Mrs. Shorter—He certainly must be, because he doesn't even make an attempt to keep the wolf away from the door.

Mr. Jenkins—"Edith, didn't I ask you a week ago to oil those casters? They creak something awful."
Edith—"I knew you did, but there isn't a drop of castor oil in the house."

Help to make laws that are sensible then it will be easy to obey them.
Boss—Sir, what does this mean? Someone just called up and said that you were sick and could not come to work today.
Clerk—Ha Ha! The joke's on him. He wasn't supposed to call up until tomorrow.

Another time man gets the last word when he says: "All right! All right! Just tell em' to charge it!"

A genius is a man who can do almost anything but make a living.

Yet most people who have sunshine in their hearts have cash in their pockets.

Jack: "Girls are prettier than men."
Jill: "Why, naturally."
Jack: "No. (Comethally)."

"A town man thinks of the good things a farmer has to eat—not of the work he has to do."

Henn—Dreams go by contraries.
Poque—Don't I know it. I married one.

"Inaugural Ball to be Quiet Affair"—News Headlines. Well, what did you expect? You know Cal is said to be somewhat reticent in public at least certain newspaper writers have reported him so.

What has become of the girl who used to slug that old song: "Gals that touch liquor, can never touch mine?"

FAMOUS SHINES
The shine that Tony applies to his feet.
The shine of the dew on the rose.
The shine upon my blue serge suit.
And the shine of my sweetie's nose.

Manager of Store: "What do you mean by arguing with that lady? Let her have her own way. Remember, a customer is always right."
Assistant: "But she said we were swindlers."

These are uncertain days. You can't tell whether a man is making a move to draw a revolver or scratch.

DOUBLE SHIFT TO WORK.
MEMPHIS, Ore.—The Over Oregon Lumber company announced here that next week it would start its Medford mill plan on a double shift, thus furnishing additional employment to between 100 and 150 men. Accumulation of orders and a government contract for cutting timber in the Butte Falls district were given as the reasons for the additional shift.

Later the plant will be run on three shifts, the company officials said. In anticipation of the double shift operations, the logging camps of the company have been operating all winter, and have thousands of feet of log stacked in the Butte Falls district, ready for hauling to the Medford logging railroad, a subsidiary corporation of the timber company.

27th Annual 27th Annual

January Clearance Sale

This is one time that you can't say "Things never break for me"

We are offering you Hart Schaffner & Marx, Oregon City, and Gold Bond suits and Overcoats at a **25%** saving to you

These are high-grade garments and mean dollars in your pocket. You save \$7.50 on a \$30, \$10 on a \$40, \$12.50 on a \$50 and \$15 on a \$60 Overcoat or Suit. Does that mean anything to you Mr. Man? And all quality merchandise too.

Every Article In The Store Reduced

Yesterday In Congress

The home passed the McFadden banking bill.

The Underwood Muscle Shonds all finally passed the senate.

President Coolidge's agricultural commission submitted its recommendations for relief of the livestock industry.

Secretary Mellon indorsed all proposed expenditures of \$25,000,000 annually for six years for public buildings and projects.

Reduction in federal charged railroads for government loans was recommended by the senate in a date committee committee by Secretary Mellon.

A trade balance of \$277,255,000 favorable to the United States was shown in figures of the commerce department covering the calendar year of 1924.

Secretary Hoover told a meeting of the business men that the spread of commodity prices from producer to consumer could be reduced by cooperation in industry and commerce.

The state department requested the release from jail at Progreso, Mexico, of Dr. W. K. Lorenz of Wisconsin and other Americans charged with filibustering.

"What are your hopes for the future?" asked the woman man.

"I have none just now," replied the youth. "Tomorrow is my girl's birthday and I am worrying about the present."

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