

Fur Farm Operated North of Perry; Muskrats on Rat Ranch Number 1800

Chris Miller does not go to Alaska to buy furs first hand from Indian trappers any more. He has started a fur farm of his own in the Grande Ronde canyon.

Until four years ago, the La Grande furrier made an excursion to the arctic regions every winter. And many a wild tale he brought home of ships ice-locked, storm-tossed or lost in fog that hid the land before his face; of dog teams stampeding in a blizzard, of the fate that waits the trapper when he staggers half-frozen into his hut and finds some thoughtless traveler has used and not replaced his pile of kindling.

No such adventure attaches his latest experiment in fur gathering. But it has phases that he claims are fascinating.

Farm North of Perry

His muskrat farm is situated on Robert's hill, north of Perry, where he says conditions are ideal for producing first-grade furs. Alaska is best for most kinds of fur, but the rule does not apply to muskrats. Like beavers, the muskrats arrive at full fur in the spring. Their health is dependent on both climatic and water conditions.

Miller's farm, comprising 33 acres of mountain land, is watered by five natural springs, as well as by snow and rains from the hills. It is fenced with heavy galvanized steel wire, set two feet below the surface to prevent the rodents from digging out. A 150-foot dam, its slope also covered with wire, keeps the place flooded to muskrat taste.

1,800 Muskrats

Although the furrier has not counted his rats, he figures that he must have more than 1,800 by this time. That is a conservative estimate, considering that he placed 163 rats in the plot a year ago.

Muskrats in their native state live in swamps, building their nests of tule grass, which they stack in piles about two and a half feet high and from four to five feet across. They run a tunnel up from the water, and never enter or leave their homes except by the water route. Thus far, Mr. Miller and his assistants have not planted tules, so the rats rear their young along the water's edge.

Three Markets

By next year, Mr. Miller believes his rats will have become so numerous that he should begin disposing of them. Three markets beckon: The fur trade; the breeders; and eastern restaurants.

"Oh, yes," avers Mr. Miller, "in the far eastern states, they are served as marsh rabbits, and considered a delicacy indeed."

"And there is no reason why they shouldn't be eaten. There is no cleaner animal raised. Why a muskrat feeds only on fruit and vegetables, and he won't eat a bite until he has washed it thoroughly in water."

Ontons are about the only vegetables Mr. Miller has discovered that his muskrats will not eat.

It is because of the rat's many enemies that he keeps under the water the most of the time, the furrier says. Hawks and owls prey on him from the air; cats and coyotes stalk him from cover, while ermine and mink hunt him under every condition just for sport, to see him die.

Muskrats Belligerent at Times

The muskrat seldom becomes much of a pet, although he will play about in shallow water in the presence of persons he knows. On the rare occasions when he journeys overland, he will attack almost any corner, even an armed hunter.

Although he is classed a rat, the little fur beaver lives a different life from his despised cousin. And his resemblance to the cellar pest

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Business as Usual



When the United States National Bank at East Chicago, Ind., started to build its new building, it had to move the old one to a vacant lot a block away. President Walter J. Riley insisted there must not be a minute's interruption of business. So throughout the ten days it took to move the bank, business was carried on as usual.

TAXATION, CAPITAL AND THE OREGON FARMER

By BRUCE DENNIS
Author of the Dennis Resolution.

During the heat and excitement of political campaigns and the confusing statements that attend them we are apt at times to forget hard economic facts, and the bitter fruits of some pet "ism" that look good in theory but do heavy damage in practice.

For this reason it is time to begin telling a few plain truths about land taxation, the incomes of our people, corporations and industries, and again to bring to mind the fact that capital does not need Oregon—but Oregon does need capital.

And the reason why we should continue to remind ourselves and our friends is because another effort is being made to force a state income tax upon our people despite the fact that practically the same tax cost many millions in capital and improvements to Oregon and the people of Oregon before it was repealed in 1924. We cannot expect a proved breeder of hard times to bring good times, because it can't be done. And here are a few of the reasons why.

In all of Oregon's 96,000 square miles there is an estimated population of only 825,000 people—less than 9 to the square mile. We have 55,157 farms—an average of one to every 15 people. We have only 2500 industries that employ five men or more—an average of one industry to every 330 people.

Out of Oregon's 825,000 people, 782,256 didn't have net incomes big enough to file income tax returns. Of the 42,545 who did, one-half of them showed earnings under \$3000 and only 311 had earnings in excess of \$10,000. Only one-fifth of Oregon's 5000 corporations made enough to file returns and of the 1073 reporting, 478 made less than \$5000, and only 183 made in excess of \$20,000.

Our farms and our industries are our two main sources for new wealth. They both face hard problems on account of scant and scattered population, long hauls, competition, insufficient capital, and heavy and ever-mounting taxes. If our farms are to prosper they have to secure outside money for loans and money to finance crops. If our industries are to develop they have to finance their purchases and payrolls. Both have to have markets and that means new people and more industries.

That is what the Dennis resolution is designed to do. It is an invitation for capital to come in and help us all out. We desperately need new money to open up the state. We have to have money for farm loans and no matter how pretty this talk sounds about a state income tax we cannot escape the economic and unalterable fact that new capital which we require does not have to and will not come to Oregon unless we make it advantageous for it to do so.

We must remember that there are 120,000,000 people in the United States. Of them one hundred and nineteen million plus, live outside of Oregon. They have plenty of need for the same money in case we of Oregon don't show that we really want it. We tried it once—and before the people repealed the state income tax it cost us millions; drove industries, payrolls and taxable wealth out of Oregon and taxes still went up! Every farmer who had to borrow money knows what it did to him, too.

No forward thinking and constructive citizen wants that disaster to happen again. Instead of making things hard for everybody—farmer, merchant, industrial worker and citizens in general we want to have a purely economic problem taken out of politics. The way to do it is to vote no against both the Grange Income Tax Bill and Offset Tax Bill and vote yes for the Dennis resolution. By this means we guarantee to every citizen, industry, and to capital that there will be no income tax before 1940. It further guarantees to every family that they will not have to pay taxes on their savings when their bread winner dies. It is a prosperity-making measure—it is sound business policy and deserves every progressive citizen's support.

Vote 306 X YES—Dennis Resolution.
Vote 329 X NO—Offset Income Tax Bill.
Vote 335 X NO—Grange Income Tax Bill.

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Executive Committee
419 Oregon Bldg., Portland, Ore.

Bruce Dennis

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Chicago Suffers From Suburbs' Sin Dever Declares

PEORIA, Ill., Oct. 20 (AP)—Chicago suffers from the sins of its suburbs, in the opinion of Mayor William Dever.

Asserting that crime in democratic controlled Chicago is at a low ebb, the mayor ascribed the evil name attacked to gang warfare in the metropolis to the operation of gangs largely from adjoining suburbs which he said were "still under the domination of the republican machine which not only countenances but protects the rum rings whose excursions into the city have resulted in fatal shootings from time to time."

Mr. Dever was addressing a meeting in the interests of the senatorial candidacy of George Brennan, democrat.

He also touched on prohibition, declaring the dry law "was imposed upon the people without their consent."

Plans to Increase Money From Taxes

PENDLETON, Ore., Oct. 20—Under plans worked out by Sheriff R. T. Cookingham and put into effect in May of this year, the county is realizing a saving which

up until this time has never been done it was announced at the sheriff's office. Under the new plan taxes collected by the sheriff from Umatilla county are turned over immediately to the county treasurer and additional interest is obtained which since May until Oct. 1, has amounted to \$515. Banks over the county collect

taxes and in some instances under the old system this money was left in the banks for a period of three or four months during which time the county was unable to realize interest from accruing money.

New York is a city where everybody is trying to push everybody else out of the subway.

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Ten per cent of the farms of Oregon have electric service, all from regulated utilities.

Less than three per cent of the farms of Ontario, Canada, enjoy the benefits of such service.

In Oregon the regulated utilities are extending their lines as fast as business conditions reasonably permit. Gradually but steadily that service to rural communities is increasing.

Ontario, served in part by the provincial government, serves the centers of population.

Government operation means political operation.

Political operation is after the votes.

The Housewives' Council "Water and Power" Amendment gives an inexperienced board absolute authority to spend fifty-three million dollars from the sale of state bonds, for which all property in the state would be mortgaged. The farmer-taxpayer helps to guarantee the debt, but the Ontario experiment shows who gets the service.

Don't Mortgage Your Property To Politics

Vote 337 X NO!

Paid Adv. by Oregon Public Utility Committee—Opposed to the Housewives' Council "Water and Power" Bonding Amendment—424 Pacific Building, Portland, Oregon.

now!

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THE new Easy Washer—the most amazing development ever made in washing clothes, is here. The small tub dries a whole batch of clothes—ten single sheets—in three minutes. Meanwhile, the large tub washes a second batch. Twenty sheets handled at once—your washing done in half the time with half the work. No water to lift or carry; not a drop of water wasted. The Easy even empties itself when you are through washing. Let us do a week's washing free in your own home. No cost or obligation. Phone today.

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