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(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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GOD KNOWS—Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the meek. Thou wilt strengthen their hearts, thou wilt incline thine ear to hear. To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that man who is of the earth may no longer terrify. Psalm 10:17, 18.

"We are living in an age of tension," says a journalist. To be specific, an age of extension, recession and contention.

La Grande people should give earnest consideration to the need for a community building such as might have been realized in the armory. It is possible that an armory can be had some day but the bill providing it has been twice passed and twice vetoed. It may be time to consider other ways and means. The need for such a building is generally recognized and the desire for it was shown at the last election. Why not a municipal building, strictly our own, with the money voted for our share of the armory? An amendment to that effect could be voted on this spring. And the $40,000 originally planned can provide an adequate structure.

EXPENSIVE REGULATION IS INCREASING

Speaking before a Pacific Coast Rotary club recently a United States district attorney said that at the present rate of increase there would be one public official for every three or four persons in the country within twenty-five years. A quarter of a century ago, he pointed out, there was one official to every three hundred citizens. Today there is one official to every twenty people.

Such a condition naturally leads you to one of three conclusions: That we are better governed than previously, that our life is more complex and needs greater regulation, or that legislating bodies have gone wild in new law manufacturing and have set up unnecessary and profitless public offices.

There has probably been no great improvement in government in the last twenty-five years, at least not to the extent indicated by increased public officials. Our life has, on the other hand, become more complex and the pace at which we move, the variety of our activities, and the multiplicity of our governmental demands are responsible for some of the increase. The primary difficulty, however, is reflected in the new laws and resulting regulation that is touching almost every activity and every private interest.

Government officials abound. No matter where you turn, no matter what your occupation, you constantly encounter some one whose job and existence are made possible by the various taxes you pay. Many of those are sincere, deserving citizens. Many of them have had nothing to do with creating the jobs that they hold. But that does not save the taxpayer from his burden of support nor does it relieve him of the ever-increasing regulation and petty supervision resulting from superfluous laws and the creating superfluous jobs.

We never have, and probably never will, run our public affairs with the same care and efficiency with which we run private business. Certainly it will never be possible as long as congress and state legislatures look upon public money as they do. In business the problem of efficiency is solved by the least possible number of employes and the greatest possible degree of individual ability. High wages and high salaries result because one expert is worth and can produce several times as much as a number of incompetent jobholders. In government we seem to go to the other extreme of the greatest number of officials and the least possible pay for them. If we paid more for our governmental help and had less of it, the results of government might be more obvious.

Some students of politics advance argument that we are human and therefore liable to err governing tendencies. And the list at the present time is so regulate and restrict and check and tax and regulate everything relating to citizenship—all at taxpayers expense. The only cure is in public opinion. Legislative bodies will cease passing laws for new public jobs and will stop trying to make existing jobs more efficient only when it becomes obvious, very obvious, that the public theory is here paid.

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Prisoner Knows Where Brothers Are Is Belief

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 18. (AP)—After their preliminary questioning of Hugh De Lacy Bennett as a material witness, federal authorities today redoubled their search for his two brothers, Roy and Ray, accused of aiding him in the fatal 1923 Sidney-to-Vancouver, B. C. auto bandits.

Hugh De Lacy Bennett knows where his brothers are but—so the federal authorities are convinced, and they plan to hold him in the Alameda county jail over Sunday for several days subsequent thereto in a remarkable game of wits. Bennett is an adept at wit, so the authorities, calling them to the aid of his brothers.

Learn the Little

Post Office Inspector Charles Hartford, of Stockton, and detectives who have charge of prosecuting the Alameda case are successful, probably in getting a great deal of information from the prisoner. De Lacy Bennett was willing to talk about himself and family, and of his movements after he joined the gang. But of the charge against him he sticks fast to the "innocent victim" defense. He says that until he had talked with the Bigelow boy, whom he mistook for his brother, he would have nothing to do. Federal authorities are here in charge of the prosecution, with the government, so through questioning him.

While De Lacy Bennett would not disclose nothing that would directly incriminate him, it was the view generally that he is one of the men sought since the holdup of Oct. 31, 1923, and hold the government and Sidney Bigelow, with officials here there is no doubt he is the man.

Bennett a stenographer that prepared his from using breakfast at Stockton yesterday. He appeared well, wanted for conference.

NANKING AND SHANGHAI IN MUCH DANGER

(Continued from Page 1)

in the fight against the foreigners.

Detachments of Shantungese merchants' troops have been ordered along the Shanghai-Nanking railway to attempt to protect the workers from leaving.

Nanking Menaced

The fall of Nanking is daily expected. It is generally so agreed that the Shantungese forces are not offering serious resistance to the Southern army.

Terrorism is increasing here. Another murder occurred today. No arrest was made. The most numerous of the Southerners is claiming to be of Nanking before the capture of Nanking. 12 miles from Southern and Lining southward of Nanking.

The fact that the Shantung forces are not actually resisting the Southerners is leading to rumors that the belief that the general Chiang, on the face of the Shantung troops of General Chang Tsung-Chang is largely with the purpose of drawing a further barrier in negotiations with the southerners for Chiang's withdrawal from the Yangtze valley.

COMPLETE WARFARE CEASE

PEKING, Mar. 18. (AP)—Complete warfare between the "nationalist armies" created with British assistance at Chinkiang, Kiangsu and other points, ceased today according to a British gunboat in the British consular officer.

Chinkiang is in the inland province of Shansi, on the Yangtze river, some distance west of the important trade port of Chinkiang.

The armies of the two generals, were commanded by British Colonel Ward. They were those when the armies attack the armies, and the Ward turned them. When the armies pulled up the gunboat, however, a half dozen officers of the Ward were killed and others and the British were forced to operate the armies.

The British suffered no serious casualties. Going from Chinkiang to the Chinese authorities.

SHANGHAI, China, Mar. 18. (AP)—More than a hundred men who are indicted in Nanking have escaped the city and are in the vicinity of the Yangtze river. Most Chinese in authority in Nanking.

Most of the Nanking men are soldiers. The disorder is attributed to the soldiers' demand that the "nationalists" be paid the money they owed them.

Wm. Penn—2 years—A Good Class

SCIATIC-NEURITIS

The results were obtained at the home of Mrs. Mabel Wright, who is the guest of Mrs. Wright's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wright, of this city. The guests were all members of the family, with relatives and friends from Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, Ashland, Klamath Falls, Bend, Prineville, Madras, Redmond, Pendleton, Hermiston, Milton, Freewater, Ontario, Nyssa, Vale, Baker, Ione, Heppner, Condon, Fossil, Moro, Grass Valley, Dufur, Tygh Valley, Maupin, Sherman, Wasco, Rufus, Arlington, Boardman, Umatilla, Stanfield, Echo, Pilot Rock, Athena, We