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CIGARETTE TAX DOWNED

Now that the special election is over, we can tell you why one measure failed, the so-called cigarette tax. The measure was downed by the cigarette smokers and those who didn't like tying a cigarette tax in with the schools. Well the school people generally did not appreciate the situation, but it was the best the legislature had to offer when the schools asked for more money to meet increasing costs.

It looks from here that Oregon will finally have to adopt the sales tax as have other states, if additional revenue is found to meet current demands.

Most of us have learned there is no such thing as a painless tax and that methods of finding new sources of revenue have been practically exhausted.

LONG AND SHORT OF IT

In the Washington letter of Harris Ellsworth, 4th district congressman, he calls attention to the fact that shortening is short and getting shorter, which means less bakery goods and soaps. Butter production is about twenty-five percent less than 1941, lard production about twenty-eight percent less than 1941, tallow 16 per cent less than 1941. Only corn and soy bean oil will show increases over 1941. A reduction in animal fats is blamed on the OPA price juggling. No relief is promised for this situation until the spring of 1946.

COMMON SENSE

One of the most sensible outlines for a postwar policy to protect the United States from the menace of inflation has been presented by Harley L. Lutz, Professor of Public Finance of Princeton University. He says that a program that would do most to maintain confidence in the stability of purchasing power should embrace the following:

"1. A moderate budget financed on a cash basis. This would stop credit inflation at its source.

"2. Taxation at a level sufficient to cover the budget and to provide for some debt retirement. No country ever had a wild commodity price inflation while its budget was in balance and its debt was being reduced.

"3. Repeal of all legislation under which there can be any tinkering with the currency, such as further devaluation of the dollar, the issue of greenbacks, the dilution of bank reserves, and other inflationary devices.

"4. A green light to private enterprise to proceed with civilian production as promptly after the termination of war contracts as reconversion will permit. The early prospect of a reasonably adequate supply of goods will go far to prevent crowding and jostling to get them.

"A definite assurance that their liquid savings will not be evaporated by foolish public spending, borrowing, and further credit inflation will make the people much more disposed to walk than run to the exit."

To be sure you are right you must go ahead—and see if you are.

A VACATION

By Elmer J. Kent

Even in wartime one occasionally finds it necessary to take a few days off from the mental or physical strain of daily work, so on June 4 in company with a granddaughter Patricia left for a visit with my aged mother and others in the old home state of Kansas. Train conditions out of Portland were excellent for coach passengers and at no time until we reached Denver was the car filled. Dining car service is rather limited and scant, after eating all day from our grub box, Pat ate a \$1.20 dinner at 5:00 p.m. and was hungry again at 7:00. We stopped over to visit my sister's family near Denver, but went on to Kansas on Friday. Not a day or night passed without rain and crops everywhere were late. Corn which should be more than a foot high, normally was just coming up and hundreds of acres will not be planted owing to the late season. Kansas is the greatest wheat state in the union and unless the moisture continued too long will harvest a bumper crop. Lots of last year's wheat is still there, as cars are not available for shipping, and some corn is still piled in open cribs. Unless conditions change, lots of wheat will be piled on the

ground at harvest time.

While butcher shop meat cases were bare hundreds of good beef cattle roam the pastures which never were better and while the hog program has not stimulated production, there are lots of hogs ready for market, but stock hogs are scarce. Farmers generally are much disgusted with our government farm program and control, as farming was in years past considered an independent life and they dislike being told. The conservative plans of our new president, however, are appealing to them and they hope for something different.

Petitions to have the OPA either changed or discontinued are in many places of business and nearly all are signing them. Many articles of merchandise are scarce.

Being interested in the Townsend movement in Oregon, I also found Kansas showing much more interest than at other visits. As farmers are left out of our Social Security laws, they haven't taken interest in retirements. Most farmers have all the gasoline they need and practically all farming is done with tractor. Hundreds of deserted homes, due to war and tractor farming, have made some empty business houses. Many bakeries and restaurants are closed. Many retail lumber yards are

closed and none of them have a sufficient amount, this should help to stimulate the lumber market following government buying.

On Monday we started home and still the rains fell. We were unable to get reservations, but in due time, arrived at my sister's home again. Wednesday we drove out to see some government projects they have fenced and reseeded where necessary thousands of acres of pasture land and are renting it to cattlemen, hundreds of White Face cattle are being pastured. Another government project is reclamation of many farms that a few years ago were blowing away and becoming worthless. Through the help of county agents farmers are using strip farming, one strip is farmed and the next summer fallowed, this does much to control dust damage. Even the more conservative republicans admit the present administration is doing a great work that will make

Colorado lands an asset rather than a liability.

Traffic is very heavy here, this being the main line of the U. P., 15 trains had passed in eight hours. In Cheyenne we saw our first depot mob, but soon headed for the northwest on the Portland Rose. At times some sat on suitcases in the aisles, but aside from the dirt and grime, we were very comfortable. Many servicemen were returning from Europe.

Friday evening we arrived home. We enjoyed the rest and relaxation visit with home folks and old friends, and making of new ones, as well as the many things we acquire in an educational way, but as always would say, that whenever we go, wherever we roam, regardless of all, "there's no place like home."

Dressed Up

At the parliament of Blois in 1577 King Henry 17th of France wore 4,000 yards of real gold lace.

RURAL "SLUMS"

Two million out of 6 1/2 million farm homes need major improvements, about the same number should be replaced.

Authority for the statement is Mrs. Samuel I. Rosenman, chairman of the National Committee on Housing, who further told a conference sponsored by the Committee for Kentucky.

Housing plight of the rural areas is even worse than that of the city slums. One-third of the nation is ill-housed, but two-thirds of the nation's farm families live in substandard homes. There's a larger percentage of overcrowding (more than 1.5 persons per room) in the country than in the urban centers.

The housing leader declared that for the economic well being of the farmer, and to round out the national prosperity, attention should be focused on means of stimulating repair, modernization of old homes, and building of new ones in rural areas.

TIP FOR ANDERSON

Farmers would spend more money in Anderson, S. C., if Anderson could sell more farm products, according to a survey by Clemson Agricultural College.

Farm families suggested: A curb market for fresh fruits, vegetables and poultry, a modern cannery, a packing house, auction sales for hogs and cattle, a co-op for small grains and forage crops.

Farmers find Anderson merchants friendly, but parking space hard to get, the survey said.

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