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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1916.

THE THING THEY MISSED.

The people's land and loan law, which aroused the indignation of the Interstate Realty Association Tuesday, is a document of about 3000 words which is offered as an amendment to the constitution of Oregon. In only a few particulars can it be said to resemble the original measure, such as such as is alone properly a part of the constitution. In the main it is a detailed self-operating law, such as ordinarily finds its way into the common statutes.

Its main features may be put into comparatively small compass. If that were done it would read something like this:
Taxes shall be levied only on land and such land taxes shall be equal to the taxes which the land would rent in the open market, without considering improvements. Two-thirds of the tax revenue shall be devoted to current needs of government; one-third to the improvement of the land, such as to draw on the first five years and to be available only to persons or firms who have not received \$2500. Personal property and improvements may be taxed for local needs, but only by affirmative vote of the people affected.

There are details, to be sure, of more than less important. There is no indefinite provision for homes and improvements shall be exempt from execution except for state loans, taxes and interest and the purchase price. Whether this is intended to raise the present homestead exemption from \$1500 to \$2500, or to take the money, or only to homes on which state loans have been obtained, we are unable to say. At all events, some homes, perhaps all homes, may not under this amendment be subject to execution by the state. If the state fund happens to be exhausted at the time a home owner affected needs money he must do without.

But for that matter the measure proposes in effect to make the state debts now owed on land. Its intent is to make the state owner of all land. We are quite aware that there is a pretense of preserving private titles, what is the title to amount to? The man who has title must pay the state the same rental as if another individual owned his land. Obviously land values would be depreciated to the menace of all debts for which they are security.

The plan of state ownership of land is carried out still further by a provision for the state to take title to lands on which the owners cannot pay the exorbitant tax imposed. Once in possession of the land, the state may be alienated. It may only be rented.

What the land rent in Oregon, if collected as taxes, would amount to is a matter wholly of speculation. Presumably the framers of the amendment have computed it in a way, for they set aside two-thirds of it for Governmental needs. For all purposes Multnomah County raises in taxes about \$5,000,000 a year. If this two-thirds of the land rent, Multnomah County would contribute \$4,000,000 annually to the loan fund, the direct benefits from which, he it remembered, would be available only to a part of the people.

The effect on land ownership and titles of increasing the annual tax levy in Multnomah County from \$5,000,000 to \$12,000,000 and of assessing that entire amount against land ought to be apparent to everyone.

While this is an arbitrary figure, it must not be overlooked that the land rent tax is to be inelastic. The whole amount is to be expropriated by the state every year, and two-thirds of it, no more nor less, is to be distributed proportionately among the existing taxing units. If it does not provide enough for current needs, then we shall have to dispense with some of our government agencies and public utilities. If it provides more than is needed we presume the excess may be devoted to establishment of free municipal ice cream dispensaries or similar enterprises.

About one-third of the property assessed for taxation in Oregon is located in Multnomah County. Presumably again that the framers of the measure have fixed on two-thirds of the land rent as the equivalent of the present tax levies. It is not hard to figure out that the total to be raised yearly for lending to small home owners would be about \$12,000,000.

So eager were the framers of the measure to take the hands of other persons' pockets that they could not wait for the loan fund to accumulate. They have provided for advance issuance of warrants against the fund in small denominations, seemingly having in mind also the establishment of a sort of state currency. The warrants may be issued in amount equal to the estimated receipts for two years of the loan fund, are to bear no interest and are to be receivable at face value for one-third of all land rent taxes and in payment of principal or interest to the state for loans.

The proponents of the law have come as near as they dared to emitting "bills of credit" to rob those who have besides gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts, both of which are prohibited the state by the Federal Constitution. The amendment may even go a step further. Certainly it is its intent to encourage circulation of the warrants as currency. But the main consideration, of course, is the effort of the law's promoters to destroy private ownership in land and virtually to rob those who have \$2250 or more for the benefit of those who have less or nothing at all. Man was originally a predeceasing animal. When he gained his living by hunting and fishing it was common practice for the tribes that had exhausted wild life in their own precincts to invade and attempt to seize the hunting grounds of more fortunate tribes.

Later on the warlike Huns overran the Roman possessions chiefly because they preferred to take other's treasures

by force rather than to acquire treasures by their own industry. The instinct has cropped out again and again throughout the centuries. Mr. U'ren, who, as a letter publisher today compares the present situation with the dismay of the makers of idols when the proselytizers for the unknown god appeared in their city, could have found a better illustration elsewhere in the Scriptures. The new religion was not inspired by covetousness of the right to make and sell idols. But there were the Children of Israel wandering in the wilderness. They had no other food but the manna which the Lord had sent down from heaven. They had milk and honey. So the Children of Israel, being the stronger, took the land of Canaan. It was pleasant for the Children of Israel, but what the Canaanites thought about it is not recorded.

The people's land and loan measure is but revival of the old ambitions of the Have Nots to possess the property of the Have Haves. We are a peace-loving community, so they do not try to take it away by force of arms. They would just vote it to themselves and let the despoiled sweat. Perhaps Mr. U'ren does not realize that he and his followers are obeying an instinct handed down to them by their skin-clad progenitors of ancient Europe. But their measure is an outbreak of activism, of the old predatory instinct. We doubt the framers of the measure would have made war to get that which belonged to others argued it out quite successfully with their consciences, if they had any, just as Mr. U'ren and his followers do today.

IS IT THEIR BEST?

The ready acquiescence of the Senate at Washington in the proposal of Senator Lane for a \$500,000 appropriation for a naval and submarine base at the entrance of the Columbia River may not, and probably does not, indicate that the Senate is ready to take active work by the United Oregon delegation. But it shows that there is no present hostility to the project in the Senate. It lends a peculiar emphasis to the complaint that the Oregon Senators have been indifferent to the naval base. Indeed, one Senator scarcely disguises his opposition and the other has been obviously lukewarm.

There is a hint now that the "back" will be passed to the House members, who will be expected to keep the conference committee in line. But that duty no less devolves upon the Oregon Senators to hold the Senate conference. Besides there is no doubt about the position of Oregon's Representatives. They have been faithful to the cause of the naval base, and they will do their best.

The Senators have not done their best, but they are willing to have their feeble service for their state in such matters as the naval base regarded as their best.

OUR BUSINESS OR NOT?

The Oregonian has received from a subscriber at Salem a copy of the Capitan, which, with the marked graph, and a request for a reply thereto:

The Oregonian in discussing the Mexican situation and what it calls the refusal of the United States to settle the matter is not entirely frank. Besides there is no doubt about the position of Oregon's Representatives. They have been faithful to the cause of the naval base, and they will do their best.

It has appeared to The Oregonian that the Chamber of Commerce of Wilson was his refusal to recognize Provisional President Huerta. President Taft had recognized Madero as President and had scrupulously kept his hands off Mexico.

President Wilson has over and over asserted the right of Mexico to control its own affairs; but it is inconceivable that the Wilson policy of eliminating Huerta was an interference in Mexican affairs. The whole lot of unholy and evilly entangled interests over Mexico dates from that first great blunder.

If it be said that President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta because he was a usurper, why not recognize Carranza, who is a self-chosen ruler, not elected by the people?

If it be agreed that it is our duty to let Mexico work out its own destiny, it would be better to let the Capital Journal what President Taft did that he should not have done, or did not do which he should have done.

If it be agreed that we have a right to say what shall or shall not be President of Mexico, or that we have a duty to pacify Mexico, either for Mexico's sake or for our own peace of mind, let us hear also from Salem as to what President Wilson ought to do, or ought not to do.

MILLIONS IN STRAWBERRIES.

The luscious strawberry measures its value in millions of dollars, though as a commercial proposition a relatively minor factor in the country's industries. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has advised that this year's crop in the United States, now nearly harvested, will in all probability break all records, and this is taken to mean that it will amount to at least \$100,000,000. The last preceding bumper crop, that of 1909, was valued by the census reports at \$18,000,000. The estimate of the value of the crop is based on the average of the fruit marketed, some being recorded, through handling by middlemen or transportation companies.

The quantity produced in the entire United States is estimated at about 300,000,000 quarts, approximately three quarts for each man, woman and child in the land. Some persons get more than their share. The Federal Chamber of Commerce estimates that the bulk of the crop will be shipped by rail, and that the railroads will have received this year no fewer than 15,000 cars, chiefly fast express. It is interesting to realize that the services of more than 50,000 persons are believed to be engaged in the harvesting of the commercial crop alone. Their wages, together with the cost of crates and other features of preparation for market, constitute a considerable part of the cost of the berries, and are to be taken into account by banks in estimating the money needs of various communities.

The Southern states still lead in production. Louisiana and Tennessee are the next. The strawberry is used in the production of the banner strawberry state in 1909. But it is the possibilities of the early crop that give these states their pre-eminence—not the superiority of their product. It seems to be true of the strawberry, as it used to be said of the orange, that it attained the height of excellence at the point nearest the line between danger and safety from frosts. Thus the Oregon berry has a far better flavor than the berry from Southern California, though the latter is out earlier and for a little while has the whole market to itself. As we all know, as soon as the first Oregonians are picked the fruit from the south has no chance in the field of open competition.

Strawberries constitute something like a tenth of the entire fruit crop of the United States. It is estimated that fruits of every variety this year will amount to about \$50,000,000 to the men who grow them.

vided that traffic suffers defeat, the Prohibitionists take the credit. They are engaged upon a propaganda, and they desire no merely nominal adherence, none to support the cause for political profit without regard to advancement of the cause. They constitute an army, small but compact and devoted to one end. They regard the political reverses of the liquor men as a vindication of their policy and as a reason why they should continue to pursue it until their enemy is completely routed and until prohibition is an established principle of the National Republic.

LETTING MANIACS RUN AT LARGE.

In the story of a negro maniac's outbreak of frenzy, which cost six lives, occurs this passage:
In 1912 Judge Charles S. Cutting, sitting in the Probate Court, was warned that a negro, whose name was unknown, had signs on his life. When the former appeared, half-dressed, he was taken away from his home, and was permitted to go.

The judge's easy-going acceptance of an assurance which was directly contradicted by the facts set this man at liberty to start a massacre four years later. The event warrants the conclusion that there has been a homicidal maniac all along. Had he been properly examined by alienists in 1912, that conclusion would in all probability have been reached at that time when he would have been confined where he could harm no one. The judge's ill-advised respect for his liberty has cost the lives of the man's misguided wife and of four other persons, as well as the madman's own. Four years' liberty for a maniac was not worth this price.

The action of Judge Cutting in this case is similar to that of many judges in dealing with persons of unbalanced mind, or of criminal character, who have sympathy is centered on such persons rather than on the sane, useful, industrious and law-abiding people whom these defectives may injure in life, limb or property. In such cases certain risks must be taken, and they should be taken at the cost of the defective rather than at that of the able-bodied and able-minded citizen.

MAN-EATING SHARKS.

The Atlantic Coast has had its shark scare this summer, at the cost of several lives. The incident has attracted the attention of the public, and the power of the liquor men, founded on sordid interest, will be destroyed. Efforts to establish the metric system as the standard for every-day business in the United States are meeting with disapproval, although the metric system is a more convenient prospect on account of the European war have been urged recently as a new reason for its adoption. Objectors assert that the kilogram is too large a measure for ordinary household purposes and that the gramme is far too small, so that there is no convenient substitute for a pound in ordinary use. The suggestion that buyers need not buy a whole kilo if they want only about a pound is not a very comforting one, and the gramme is, for psychological reasons, persons accustomed to "thinking" in units adjusted to their desires are hard to convert to any method that is at all revolutionary and grocers and other dealers in kinds of trouble ahead if it is tried.

When men fight as did those survivors of two Prussian Guard regiments at Ovilvers and when their enemies are the sharks, the difference is that they cannot long remain enemies. The suggestion may seem absurd today, but the time will come when Briton and German will be better friends for having fought.

If President Wilson, President-to-be Hughes and ex-Presidents Roosevelt and Taft choose to visit Oregon and make speeches in August, all will be welcome and all will escape extremes of heat and cold. The play, "Broadway and Buttermilk," the title by which the piece was first known, is better than "Jane O'Day," as it was called last spring. The play has gone into rehearsal. In the company are: Helen Lowell, Josephine Morse, Fayette Perry, Rex Martin, William P. Carleton, Calvin Thomas, Knute Erickson, Tommy Meade, L. B. Foley and Charles Walton.

There is a definite report that William Faversham will appear some time next season in Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Getting Married," to be produced by the Shuberts in conjunction with George Brennan.

Mr. Faversham is also contemplating an open-air performance of "Orestes" at Huntington, L. I., using a version made by Richard Le Gallienne.

Zelda Sears is the latest actress to take up the mantle of Blanche Ring. So many articles signed by actresses and actors by newspaper men or women, but Miss Sears says she is writing her own. She is vacationing in the Maine woods while she writes.

Emily Ann Wellman has purchased a farm at Tuckerton, N. J., where she will spend her vacation.

Cherry Watson was married to her day to Chester Monroe Offenman, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Cherry, you remember is—or was, rather—the young ward of Billie Burke. Seven years ago Cherry's mother, Mrs. Thomas Watson, one of Miss Burke's closest friends, passed away in the Burke country home in Yonkers and the dying mother asked Billie Burke to look after the 12-year-old Cherry. Since then the two have been inseparable. Cherry made her stage debut about two years ago and appeared in Portland with Rose Stahl in "A Perfect Lady." Cherry can't act, so probably it's just as well that she got married.

Eugenia Kelly Davis' baby, born April 2, is known as the tango baby. The girl's mother, Mrs. Kelly Davis, who has never forgiven her daughter, Eugenia, for marrying Al Davis, the cabaret dancer, will not recognize the new little baby. She is quoted as saying "I have two lovely grand-children, Frank Gould's little girl, and Eugenia Kelly Davis' baby. I am not interested in my parents. I am absolutely through with them."

Richard Vivian and his wife, Fanchon Everhart, both former Baker players, are with the Wilks-Booth Stock Company in Seattle. Norma Hackett plays the masculine leads. Phoebe Hunt is leading woman.

Billings, Mont., July 16.

Extending sprinkling time to 3 in the morning suits the man too lazy to arise early.

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Montana Mutterings

By Leone Cass Hager.
LETTERS from Billings guardsmen say that they are sweltering in the Texas sun.
All the comforts of home, as it were, are lacking.
Personally I think if the local July had only the history the president established by the coldest June in Montana's history, my vacation might be nicer.

And next, I reckon, we will hear that Will Orpet has been booked for vaudeville or a fill-up has been made with him for the plot.

See where an actress shot herself while in a taxicab. Possibly she got a glimpse of the meter.

As the society department would put it, the marriage of Lulu Glaser and Tom Richards is the "culmination of a romance extending over a period of years." In the vernacular of the rural folk these two have been keeping the company for quite a spell. And the couple of their true love has not run smooth. Both Lulu Glaser and Tom Richards have been previously wed to others. In January, 1912, Miss Glaser was given a divorce from Ralph Herz (whom she had wed in 1907) on the grounds of cruelty. Along about that time Mrs. Richards, who was Margaret Miner, a church singer, sued Miss Glaser for \$50,000, alleging alienation of affection.

Of course no husband can possibly be valid at \$50,000 and the suit dragged along until a year ago, when it was settled out of court. Just how much Miss Glaser paid for him was not made public.

Mr. Richards has been Miss Glaser's leading man for several seasons and has appeared with her in Portland in musical comedy and two seasons ago at the Orpheum. According to the marriage license Miss Glaser is 40 and her husband is 36. Both are residents of Mount Vernon.

Miss Glaser, a native of Allegheny City, Pa., began her stage career in the chorus of "The Lion Tamer" in 1892. She was designated to understudy Marie Jansen in the leading role and when Miss Jansen left the company Miss Glaser jumped into popularity in the role of the angel.

She has since appeared in a number of plays, the biggest successes of late years being "Dolly Varden," "The Madcap Princess" and "Miss Dolly Dollars."

Writing in the New York Morning Telegraph Sam McKee, critic of vaudeville, tells about Frank McGettigan's play, "The Wild Saver," which was presented at B. F. Keith's Palace Theater in New York, with Frankling Ardell in the lead role. Sam says "this sketch of McGettigan's is an amusing comedy." Mr. Ardell's magnetic personality, easy good nature and skill in scoring "both set and ad lib points" in the dialogue kept the audience laughing without cessation every instant he is on the stage. The paying patrons with keen enthusiasm assist in his rehearsal for a union sale.

Phonograph for the use of the skit, Mr. Ardell shouts:
"This is Harry, dear Harry, your husband!" Then adds in an aside, "You have to let 'em know who you are now when phoning to them."

Zoe Barnett, San Francisco girl who was in Portland last in "The Red Rose," is to enter vaudeville in an act now being prepared for her. Six boys will assist in the act.

Blanche Ring is going back to the stage to play in the new play, "Broadway and Buttermilk," the title by which the piece was first known, is better than "Jane O'Day," as it was called last spring.

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GUARD RATION CONTAINS VARIETY

Men Also Permitted to Draw Other Articles as Substitutes.
CAMP WITCOMBE, Clackamas, Or., July 19.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to several articles which assert that the rations for the O. N. G. cause complaint, I desire to correct the mistaken impression one unfamiliar with the service would form from the statement.
One is led to believe that the boys on the border are eating nothing but "beef, bacon and potatoes." This is absolutely untrue and an unwarranted slur at the Government.
Primarily, the ration as issued by the Quartermaster Corps is sufficient wholesome and of absolutely good quality. It is varied enough for a cook of any experience at all to arrange so that changes may be made each day of the week.
The Government has gone to a great deal of trouble in preparing a properly balanced ration wherein the components would be varied and yet contain the necessary nourishment, warmth, etc., etc.

For one hundred men for one day the allowances are as follows:
Oatmeal component—Fresh, 87½ pounds; mutton, fresh, may be had in place of beef, pound for pound; bacon, 2½ pounds. Canned salmon will be issued in lieu of either beef or other dainties. Turkey is furnished on Christmas and New Year's without charge against the amount of beef.
Bread component—Fresh bread, 112½ pounds; or hard bread, 112½ pounds, if on the march and fresh bread is not obtainable.
Beans and rice component—Beans, 7½ pounds; rice 5 pounds.
Vegetable component—Potatoes, 87½ pounds; onions 2½ pounds; Tomatoes, 6¼ 2-pound cans.
Fruit component—Prunes, 2½ pounds; Apples, 2½ pounds; Raisins, 2½ pounds.
Sugar and tea component—Coffee, 7 pounds; sugar, 2½ pounds.
Syrup component—Sugar, 20 pounds.
Other articles—Milk, 3½ pint cans; vinegar and pickles, very seldom; salt, pepper, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, lard, butter, syrup and flavoring extracts in sufficient quantities for flavoring the ration.

By not drawing all of the allowance as shown in the foregoing list, other articles may be purchased in the storehouse to the extent of the enumerated articles and quantities not drawn.

On-day camps of instruction held by the Third Regiment, Infantry, Oregon National Guard, during the past three years, the savings as shown by the record are as follows:
Company B saved \$328, \$47.45 and \$111.15; Company C saved \$126.26, \$12 and \$25.78. Last year Company M, "The Buffaloes," saved \$23.15. These are but samples, selected at random, and this money was used to purchase material for the record and other dainties, the method of issuing providing for just such action when the nature of the service and conditions permit.

On the border, or any other place in that vicinity, requires hardihood, strength and perseverance and the nearer the cooks sit to the front the more efficient the men. Pies, cakes and ice cream, while agreeable desserts, do not tend to build up the record and are not planted in the front mind required of the soldier.

The funds forwarded by the many thousands of boys will be greatly appreciated beyond a doubt and will probably be used to increase the quantities of sugar, coffee and other dainties, the method of issuing providing for just such action when the nature of the service and conditions permit.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.
From The Oregonian July 25, 1891.
Halifax, July 19.—The schooner Publico Beile was wrecked on the Newfoundland coast July 9 and women and children drowned while the cowardly crew made their way safely to shore.

Strong efforts are being made by British publishers to get the American copyright act repealed.