

# The Oregon Statesman

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MARCH 22, 1925  
ALL NEEDS SUPPLIED.—The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23: 1-6.  
PRAYER.—O Lord, do Thou satisfy us early with Thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

## "AND NOT AS THE SCRIBES."

"The Willamette valley has an opportunity to become the leading flax producing center of North America.

"The flax situation in Oregon is just where it might lead to great things, and attract not only national, but world-wide interest.

"The soil, the climate and the water in the valley are better adapted to flax production than any other section of the world and all it needs is the proper development.

"One of the principal problems in raising flax in the state thus far has been lack of definite market for the fiber. If the linen industry could be established in the state this difficulty would be obviated."

The above quoted paragraphs are some of the statements of D. M. Sanson in a speech to the Eugene Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, according to the report of the Morning Register of that city.

Those statements are familiar ones to the readers of The Statesman, for this paper has for years been publishing similar ones; making the same claims—

But Mr. Sanson speaks "as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

He is the leading figure in the flax and linen industries in Canada, president of the Dominion Linens, and has also become interested in this line of manufacturing in the United States, being vice president of the company owning and operating the Donegal linen mills at Lockport, New York. He is high authority. He knows flax and linen.

He made the statement at Eugene, according to the Register's report, that the demoralized conditions in the leading flax producing countries of Europe had forced linen mill operators to search for new fields for raw products; especially since there is a growing world demand for linens—

And he said it was with the idea of establishing a linen mill in Oregon that he was making his survey of this state;

being accompanied by Col. W. B. Bartram, well known here and familiar with our conditions.

The concerns with which Mr. Sanson and Col. Bartram are connected have been engaged in every branch of the flax industry, including the raising of the flax, the harvesting of it, the threshing and retting of the straw, and breaking and scutching it, producing fiber, and the spinning of yarn and twine, and the weaving of all kinds of linens.

They have maintained a farm department, in order to guarantee the right kind of raw material supplies. The construction of a linen plant here under such auspices would be an excellent thing. There will have to be some pioneering here, and they are used to pioneering. They have been pioneers in Canada. But they would encounter wonderfully improved conditions here, which they realize, as witness the following paragraph from the Eugene Register's report:

"The Oregon flax, Mr. Sanson said was the finest grade and quality he had ever seen, and admirably adapted for use in the production of high grade cloth. Furthermore, the conditions in this state, especially in the Willamette valley, are ideal for the raising of flax and, provided the industry is conducted on a sound basis, it should be highly profitable to the farmers. Figuring flax at \$38 a ton, and allowing a minimum of two tons to the acre I believe the farmer could make an average of \$50 clear profit from each acre," Mr. Sanson declared.

The flax and linen industries under the natural conditions prevailing in the Willamette valley are peculiar to themselves; unique. They may be made profitable "from the ground up." The growing of the flax on the farms will be profitable. The threshing and retting and breaking and scutching of the straw will be profitable. The spinning of the yarn and twine will be among the most profitable of the operations, at least next to the weaving and bleaching and dyeing and damasking, and the fashioning of garments and handkerchiefs and tapestries and laces and airplane wings, and a thousand and one other articles of commerce. The higher the industry is carried, the more money will be kept at home. The higher priced products will make the yield from an acre of land mount up to as high as \$24,000 or higher. Do you know of any other thing that produces an annual crop on the land of which this may be said? And it is a mine that will never pinch out. It will last forever; as long as water runs and grass grows.

## NOT FAIR

The Statesman has a number of times pointed to the report of I. N. Day on taxes. Day is not in any sense a radical. He comes about as near being a stand-patter as any man you would find in this country. The sum total of the findings of the Olcott committee of which Mr. Day is chairman, is that taxation is unequally divided in the state of Oregon.

From start to finish this report bristles with condemnation of the direct property tax and with arguments for a new tax to help adjust the burden fairly. On page 63 we find the following:

"The cardinal defect of the property tax is found in the fact that so many incomes and so much

taxpaying ability exists entirely apart from property ownership. Salaries, professional earnings, etc., are not derived from property at all, or at any rate the amount of property contributing to earning power is insignificant. A physician may earn \$12,000 a year, representing a fair return on \$200,000 worth of property, but a few thousands at the most would cover the capital invested in office furniture, medical books and surgical instruments. Something like the same situation is found in the case of a large and growing number of financial middlemen and brokers, who derive their income not from property owned but from property bought and sold for others. Without multiplying illustrations further it will be seen

that the recipients of it

that a property tax, however energetic its administration, will fail to reach the tax paying ability represented by these unfunded incomes. Statistics of the federal income tax returns for Oregon indicate that only \$4,763,534 out of a total of \$207,798,875 is represented by the income from real estate, dividends and interest from investments of all kinds. This represents almost exactly one-sixth of the personal incomes enjoyed by Oregon citizens. Assuming a property tax so general in scope and so iron clad in administrative provisions that property of every description is reached and taxed, only one-sixth of the tax-paying ability of the people could be laid under contribution to the public revenue. It is this failure of the general property tax to reach this mass of unfunded income that constitutes a compelling argument for the adoption of a state income tax."

In several parts of the commission's report it deals with the injustice worked upon farmers by the present tax system. On page 75 the report says:

"It is, therefore, conservative to say that the incomes of Oregon farmers represent less than 4 per cent of the total tax paying ability. Those who represent one twenty-fifth of taxpaying ability are, under the general property tax, compelled to pay one-third of state and local taxes. To secure the tax burden it is evident that we must find a broader basis of taxation than that supplied by property."

On page 78 of the commission's report occurs very much the same statement the Oregonian objected to on page 77:

"It is impossible to escape the conclusion that nine-tenths of the tax-paying ability in Oregon carries less than one-quarter of the tax load. On the other hand incomes derived from real estate, which, according to our estimate, represent about 3.5 per cent of taxpaying ability, pay 80 per cent of state and local taxes, or approximately \$32,000,000. This sum of \$32,000,000 approximates four-sevenths of all direct taxes—state, national and local, collected in Oregon. The extent to which real estate is overburdened is shown

by the fact that one-thirtieth of

the taxable incomes carry more than one-half of the tax load."

What shall we do about this condition? The people repealed the income tax law and there is a demand to lessen property taxes.

## NEW TAX BILL

California has been hailed as the paradise of the tax-dodgers, and it was even proposed to prohibit certain taxes in Oregon for the purpose of dividing some of this patronage with California. The reasoning was that it was too far to Florida and that some of those people might come up to Oregon to live if we out-Heroed Herod, which is of course not likely to happen, but California has hit the transient tax dodgers a blow, those who are there temporarily, and pretending to be permanent residents.

Last fall a constitutional amendment was adopted and the legislature has just passed a law putting that in effect. The new law provides for the taxation of foreign securities at 7 per cent of their full cash value. The measure requires that the taxation of these securities held by residents of California shall be on the basis of 7 per cent assessment, but they also shall pay any local, county and city tax rates.

If this is not a blow straight between the eyes of the men who make their fortunes elsewhere and then try to deprive those communities from the benefits of taxing the property, it would be hard to find what would be. The fact of the case is that this dodging around to prevent taxation is so unfair that it is revolting even to

the recipients of it.

## AN UNFORTUNATE SITUATION

Of course no one would undertake to pity Charlie Chaplin, and yet, according to the inside dope that filters to the public, Charlie is an unhappy mortal. He is the possessor of a great fortune and an enormous income which he made by a peculiarly sloppy walk and throwing custard pies at his adversaries. This was all well enough for a time, but Chaplin tired of it, put on good clothes and announced that he would be thoroughly respectable from that time on.

The unfortunate part of it is that the public refuses to take

Charlie seriously. It continues to laugh when he becomes disgusted with his laughter creating abilities. He wants to be known as a serious actor and yet the public positively refuses to accept him at his own valuation. It is not an enviable position and will probably have a lot to do with making him disappointed in life.

## ONE ON COUZENS

Senator Couzens has been making a determined fight to dig up income taxes. He started his fight a few months ago and, according to the records in the treasury department, he started it practically at the same time that his own unpaid taxes were outlawed. This may be a coincidence, but Couzens plays safe by refusing to waive the statute of limitations. Couzens has been a disturber in the senate. He has felt that his special mission was to make trouble for the other fellows, and he will get mighty little sympathy in this trouble that comes to him. He will talk louder than ever against the other fellows seeking to take the attention away from himself. He will play the martyr but he will be sane enough to refuse to waive the statute of limitations.

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God's style of complexion blemishes the drug store's, but fashion favors the latter because there is more money in it.



If your family  
is about  
this size

AND your income just about  
fits the family—  
And your insurance just about  
takes care of your wife—  
Have you ever thought how your  
daughter would get along if—

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INDIGESTION

# Freaks of Noted Disasters

**WATER SUBMERGING LAMPOSTS DURING DAYTON'S \$50,000,000 FIRE WHICH REQUIRED EXTENSIVE RED CROSS RELIEF.**

**RED CROSS AMBULANCES GIVE AID AFTER GAS EXPLOSION WHICH DESTROYED BOSTON WAREHOUSE.**

**HOMELESS, DESTITUTE REFUGEES AFTER GREAT NEW BERNE (N.C.) FIRE GETTING FOOD, SHELTER AND REHABILITATION AT RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS.**

**RED CROSS AGENTS CONTRACTING FOR REBUILDING TORNADO-WRECKED HOME AT LORAIN, OHIO.**

**Carolina saw the ominous funnel-shaped cloud coming. Locking arms, they threw themselves face downward on the bed in their small cabin. The tornado struck, with a fearful roar. A few moments later the cowering figures felt a heavy jar, followed by silence. Gathering courage they stood up and looked about them. The roof and sides of the house were gone. Nothing was left but the floor upon which they stood. Investigating further, they found that they were nearly a quarter of a mile away from the site of their home. The tornado had carried away the floor supporting them and the bed, and dropped the whole business in an apple orchard.**

**In the National Museum in Washington is the trunk of a tree that had been completely severed by rifle bullets fired during one of the great battles of the Civil War. People are frequently amazed by the peculiar way in which tornadoes destroy trees, which are not uprooted, as one would imagine, but twisted off a few feet above the ground. This undoubtedly is due to the rotary motion of the funnel-shaped cloud, which, revolving at terrific speed, grinds up everything in its path and then disposes. Authentic instances are on record of straws having been driven through tree stumps by tornadoes. The Chamber of Commerce at Hope, Ark., has a relic the trunk of a large tree nearly severed by a piece of flying tin as large as a telephone book.**

**Anything can happen during a cyclone or tornado," is the expressed belief of Red Cross Disaster Relief workers. Their years of experience in the field sooner or later make them think nothing impossible. During a series of cyclonic storms that ravaged several Southern states in the Fall of 1923, one family in a small town in South**

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**Outside of a small town in Texas a fine stand of corn, covering nearly 30 acres, was mowed down, not by the tornado itself, but by sheets of galvanized iron hurled out of a wrecked hardware store nearly half a mile away.**

**At Texarkana, Texas, a cyclone drove a piece of four inch water pipe through the neck of a horse making a clean cut hole through which a person could look through to the other side. Despite the injury the horse lived for three days.**

**Sometimes though it must be admitted, not often, a disaster is not an unmitigated tragedy. Occasionally, it replaces in kind what it has taken away. Witness a flood at Burlington, Kansas, which picked up a fine new garage and carried it far down stream, only to bring another one from up the river and lay it in the back yard almost on the very site of its lost companion. A similar occurrence took place during the Lorain tornado, which tore her plumb house in two. Rescuers in a skiff who saw her plight hours later experienced the greatest difficulty in releasing the nearly demented woman from the pole. Her convulsive grasp had to be pried loose. The climax of the story was reached when Red Cross workers found the little daughter, alive and kicking, when she had been washed up on the top of an overturned freight car.**

**Three members of a family escaped death during a tornado in Oklahoma despite the fact that she stooped a section of brick chim-**

**neys at the front of the store and parked it on a balcony in the rear. Miraculous escapes, with death surging all around, have spared the lives of many people caught in disasters. In the great flood at Pueblo, Colo., two years ago, a desperate mother, with her little two-year-old girl in her arms, climbed the foot-spike of a telegraph pole. As the waters slowly mounted, she climbed higher. For hours she hung on successfully, but the raging waters finally tore her child from her deadened arms. Rescuers in a skiff who saw her plight hours later experienced the greatest difficulty in releasing the nearly demented woman from the pole. Her convulsive grasp had to be pried loose. The climax of the story was reached when Red Cross workers found the little daughter, alive and kicking, when she had been washed up on the top of an overturned freight car.**

**In order that it may be always prepared to rush quick and adequate relief in any emergency at any time, the Red Cross within the past year has established a Mobile Disaster Unit. This corps of disaster relief experts is kept in readiness at all times to respond at a moment's notice to the call for assistance anywhere in the United States. Recently the Government placed at the disposal of this unit the Flying Corps of the Army, Navy and Post Office Aviation services, thus insuring the quickest possible dispatch of Red Cross relief experts to the scene of disaster.**