

Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt, crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and aspirations, to waste a moment upon the yesterday.
—Anon.

Oregon Is Not Unique

STATE legislatures in all parts of the United States are dealing with taxation in their current sessions. Oregon is by no means unique.

The general property tax, as a rule, is the basis of state revenues. This means of raising revenue long ago proved inadequate and most of the states have attempted to remedy the situation by adding miscellaneous taxes.

The result is a confused jumble. The Maryland tax commission has reported to the legislature that the tax laws of that state are in "the most execrable confusion of form." No one but a trained lawyer could conjecture from reading them what the law is.

So taxation officials have been forced to build up a "kind of customary law which is not reflected on the statute books." Three Maryland surety companies have paid \$860,000 in taxes. The commission finds that had these companies incorporated elsewhere their taxes would have been but \$210,000.

Tax collections in this country increased from 6.4 per cent of the national revenue in 1913 to almost 12 per cent in 1920. The nation's tax bill has grown steadily since 1923, and during the fiscal year 1927 the federal, state and local governments collected a total of \$9,074,000,000.

The greatest total of taxes collected in one country during one year in the history of the world. Since federal levies have shown a steady decline, the increased burden is laid at the doors of state and local governments; in Oregon nearly all to those of local governments.

Taxation is an intricate subject, and it is worthy of the profound study of the major committee of congress that has it in hand, covering all forms of levies, from the federal excisions down to the road or school district.

But that is a long range task. It may require years. In the mean time, Oregon has an emergency, in the unbalanced state budget, which will cost more the longer its solution is delayed.

That it be not delayed ought to be the chief concern of the legislature now in session. There are men under the state house dome who are the best experts in the world in the domain of Oregon tax difficulties. Chief among them is State Treasurer Kay. This chief task ought to have immediate attention.

Stop, Look, Listen

IN a window of the Standard Oil building in San Francisco's financial district is an exhibit accompanied by a sign stating that during 1928 drivers of Standard Oil trucks stopped more than eight million times along the Pacific coast to look and listen at railway crossings before passing over.

In the aggregate lost a lot of valuable time.

But as a result of this caution, the sign continues, there was not a single accident to any Standard Oil truck or driver during the year.

The lesson is that if all drivers would do likewise, the frightful toll of crossing accidents would be stopped; many people who will die sudden deaths in 1929 would be spared.

Is time too valuable for the reader of this, to waste a little of it in any such foolish manner? Eternity is a long time.

It is well illustrated in the way Professor Bailey of the University of Oregon used to put it, a half century ago. He used to visualize the length of it by telling his students that if one of them could visualize an old man with a velvet rag coming every million years and wiping the face of a steel block as big as the class room—

When the steel block was all wiped away it would not yet be sunup in eternity!

Edison at Eighty-Two

WINTERING at Fort Meyer, Florida, Thomas A. Edison arrives at the laboratory at 7 in the morning, beating all his younger employees to work. This makes a good newspaper story.

But a writer in an exchange wants to do a little analyzing, from the purely human angle. He calls attention first to the fact that Edison is 82, and deaf he is past the age of frivolity. He lives now for his work; has lost interest in those recreational enterprises which keep people up late at night, thus tempting them to sleep a little later in the morning to make up for it—

Hence getting down to work at 7 in the morning involves no hardship in his case. What would involve a sacrifice, in Edison's case, is staying away from his laboratory when he might be there, employed on some useful task.

Edison is happy—and fortunate. He has achieved that highest of all human goals—an interest in his work that is so intense that it absorbs everything else; is happier when at work than at any other time. He is doing merely the thing he likes best to do—humoring himself, just as less useful people humor themselves by staying up late at night in order to have a good time.

Different Over There

IN Washington the gas taxes go into the general fund. They may be used for anything in the way of expenses of the state government.

It is an unwritten law, however, that the money shall be expended for roads.

Now there is a demand in Washington that the tax on gasoline be doubled, in order to aid in balancing the state budget. It is argued that the motorist should pay for the conveniences which he uses and which save him more than they cost him; also that he should contribute something besides to the expenses of the government that protects him in his rights generally, gives him police protection and makes it safe to use the highways.

That is, that the motorist ought to do it if the rest of the people should.

That's the demand over there, and that's the argument. It is offered to the members of the Oregon legislature for what it is worth.

Mary Has Stage Fright

WRITING on his trip through California, Frank Jenkins, editor of the Eugene Register sends this:

"Mary Pickford appeared before the microphone the other day in her finest talking picture, and got stage fright so badly that she was prostrated and had to remain under the care of a doctor for several days. For more years than she really cares to have known, Mary has been appearing before the camera, and has thought nothing of it. But when she had to use her voice while she is appearing before the camera, she is so scared that she becomes ill."

These masterly performers who have sat on the platform often to back up visiting celebrities, bearing up well under the history of unobscuring eyes, but were paralyzed with embarrassment the first time they had to stand on their feet before even a small audience and say something, will sympathize with Mary's predicament when she was required not only to act but to talk.

The best wise-crack of the year is the truthful comment of a Lawrence, Kansas, paper which says that a saxophone is the only instrument one can learn to play on that doesn't sound any worse while one is learning than it does afterward.

Many of the seekers after political pie are following Mr. Hoover to Florida. They probably think that passing out pie is part of the job of an ex-food administrator.—Exchange.

The Girl We Thought We Left Behind Us



The Way of the World

NOT BAD FOR CHURCHES

Don't worry, sneer, or rejoice too much about the stories you hear that churches in this day are not doing well. Church membership in this country has increased 130 per cent since 1891, while population has increased 50 per cent. In 1850 one person in six belonged to a church; today it is one person in three. Despite the 25,000,000 motor cars in the United States, 15,000,000 telephones, and 7,000,000 radios, people still have time to join a church, and many of them even go to church. Some, indeed, pay their dues.

NOT SO GOOD AS TO MURDER

While we are fooling along with figures let's admit that some other things have grown beside church membership. The murder rate per 1,000 people is twice as great today as it was in 1900. In burglary, highway robbery, and other crimes we lead the civilized world.

The undevilized world has little crime, so there are no available statistics.

THE PRICE OF BEING BAD

The cost of maintaining prisons and similar institutions is about one-sixth of the revenue of all the states. That's one reason we pay taxes. And they are high. In two eastern states the cost of maintaining such institutions takes one-third of the revenue. It is said the eleven billion dollars advanced to European nations during and after the World War is no more than the United States pays out every year in the war on crime.

LIVING TODAY

Emerson believed in living in the present—not in the past or future. He writes: "Man is timid and apologetic; he is no longer upright; he dares not say 'I think.' I am," but quotes some saint or sage. He is ashamed before the blade of grass or the blowing rose. These roses under my window make no reference to former roses or to better ones; they are for what they are;—they exist with God today. There is no time to them. There is simply the rose; it is said in every moment of its existence."

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

You ask: what is it all about? Take this quotation as a final word from today's column. The writer does not know to whom to give credit:

"We came from a world where we have known incredible standards of excellence. And we dimly remember beauties which we have not seen again. And we go back to that world."

Will Miss Jim Reed

By CHARLES P. STEWART
Washington Correspondent for Central Press and The Statesman
WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—It will be a good deal like Jim Reed of Missouri retiring from the United States senate at the end of this session of congress. Everybody on Capitol Hill so.

An extra session is to follow close on the heels of the present regular one.

But no Jim Reed will sit in the front row, second desk from the aisle on the democratic side, in the senate chamber. Alas!—not a dissenting voice is raised—it won't be the same senate without him.

Yet it's the generally accepted theory that nobody is absolutely indispensable—that somebody always is ready to step into any just-vacated void, no matter how seemingly non-refillable, and occupy it adequately.

Jim Reed's retirement will create a vacuum in the post of agitator-in-chief for the senate minority.

My personal candidate for Jim's place is Senator Thaddeus H. Caraway of Arkansas.

For a short spurt, Thad Caraway undoubtedly is the champion scintillator in national politics.

He is not Jim Reed's equal in a marathon.

That is to say, Jim can get up and make a speech, lasting hours, that darts forked lightning all the time "till your eyes hurt."

Thad is better in debate—not so uninterrupted as Jim, in his



JAMES A. REED

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman
MAN OUR FATHERS ROAD
Jan. 22, 1904
WOODBURN—An armed posse is assisting Marshal Beach in an effort to capture two men who robbed Austin and Finzer's store and brutally beat and kicked the marshal.

Maurice Wigpat, the cigar dealer, left for a three weeks' visit in San Francisco.

State institutions are preparing to adopt coal and oil for fuel. The action is due in part to the fact

that there was an apparent shortage in the wood supply of the county when bids were ordered for the annual requirements of the institutions.

Dr. J. T. Ford, presiding elder of the Eugene district for the Methodist church, is a visitor to the city.

WORDS OF THE WISE

"We more we study the more we discover our ignorance."
Shelley.

"You cannot make a crab walk straight."
Aristophanes.

The Grab Bag

January 23, 1920



HAMILTON FISH

Who am I? What is my nationality? In what famous school was I trained?

Who was poet laureate in England, succeeding Wordsworth, in the reign of Queen Victoria?

At what historic pass in Greece did Leonidas and 300 Spartans seek to stem the tide of Persian invasion?

What is another name for the Unaka mountains?

"Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off?" Where are these words found in the Bible?

Today in the Past
John Hancock was born on this day, in 1737.

Today's Horoscope
Persons born on this day are good at inventing excuses. They make money easily, but are apt to be slovenly.

A Daily Thought
The hand that follows intellect can achieve.—Michael Angelo.

Answers to Forgetting Questions
1. Anna Pavlova; Russian; Imperial Russian Ballet school.
2. Alfred Tennyson.
3. Thermopylae.
4. Great Smoky.
5. Jeremiah, xliii, 23.

They Say ...

Expressions of Opinion from "Statesman" Readers are Welcomed for Use in this Column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

CALLS ATTENTION TO PLAGUE OF MUSSINNESS
Salem, Jan. 21.

To the editor of the Statesman: Salem is beautiful and your city tries to keep its streets clean. But what can be the matter with people who walk out of the postoffice and around the block and throw envelopes down on the lawn and all over the curbs by the bushes. Really, it is a poor citizen who has no pride in his own home town when those in charge of the grounds do their part.

The city council should pass a law to fine any one seen doing this. The envelopes picked up often show who they are. Let us hope this may make some of them ashamed. We do not want to put garbage cans all over our city-kept blocks. CITY PRIDE.

DINNER STORIES

SAY NOT SO!
"I had to fire an old employe today. I felt sorry, but sentiment ain't got no place in business."
"What is your business, may I ask?"

"Oh, I manufacture all sort of holiday and greeting cards."

THE ONE MINUTE PULPIT

CEASE, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge. An ungodly witness scorneth judgment; and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.—Proverbs, xx, 27-28.

TRIMBLE LOOMS
LONDON, Jan. 22.—(AP)—The government of Iraq, the British protectorate just northwest of the Persian Gulf, has broken off negotiations with Great Britain and the Iraq cabinet has resigned.

Who's Who & Timely Views

By HAMILTON FISH, JR., Congressman from New York
(Hamilton Fish, Jr., was born at Garrison, N. Y., Dec. 1, 1859. He was graduated from Harvard and studied law there for a year afterwards. Vice-president of the New York assembly from 1914 to 1916. In 1919 he was elected to congress to fill a vacancy in the 26th district and has served continuously since then following reelections. He served in the army during the World War.)

THE proposed constitutional amendment for a referendum on war is the natural and logical step after the ratification of the Kellogg multilateral pact to renounce war as an instrument of national policy. I am offering the resolution at this time, when people are thinking in terms of peace and the outlawry of wars between nations except strictly for self-defense, to ask the chairman of the committee on the judiciary to fix a time for a public hearing.

If it would be consistent with the final action on the Kellogg pact to be taken by the senate, I would propose adding the words, "or of an established American foreign policy," after the words "except in the defense of the United States," thereby providing more specifically for our traditional policy to protect the lives and property of our citizens against attack in foreign lands, and giving constitutional recognition and sanction to the Monroe Doctrine for the first time, although already considered by the United States and admitted by the great powers of the world to be an established American foreign policy based on the principle of self-defense. If there is any ambiguity in the multilateral treaty as to our exact position this proposed amendment would tend to make plain to the people of the world and in itself definite beyond any question of doubt the attitude of the United States of America.

The question of war is so vital and so far reaching in its effect on the welfare of the American people that it is obviously justifiable to submit the issue to the collective judgment of the electors. I do not at this time wish to discuss in detail the merits of the proposition. If the proposed amendment were adopted it would constitute another obstacle to check on war, and the responsibility for the final decision would be placed squarely on those who would have to carry the name and bear the burden.

The power to declare war represents the highest act of state sovereignty and a self-governing people could well reserve the right to have a voice in the final determination of such an all-important power which might jeopardize their collective lives and property.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Much waiting time—
But that is unavoidable, the way we do it in Oregon, especially in the first days of the session of our legislature, for the main work must be done in the committees. Otherwise, it could never get done at all.

In California they do it another way. Down there the legislature after being in session two weeks and introducing 2000 bills, has adjourned for 30 days to think it all over. The theory of the divided session is that sober second thought is best. Presumably, it gives the legislators time to talk to their constituents and get the public's ideas as to proposed laws.

But a much better and less expensive device would be a steering committee that would steer legislation along the lines of efficiency and economy for future sessions. If planning were efficiently done in advance, the next session could get along with much less than half the money that will be expended for clerk hire this time, besides having the work performed much more efficiently. Also, there could be a vast speeding up of the labors on necessary and important bills.

If this takes a law to be referred to the people, the voters would welcome with three cheers the chance to vote favorably on it.

Senator Staples and Strayer must take satisfaction in the way the revolving fund law is working at the Oregon penitentiary, building up industries that will before long be still more paying tanks, more sheds to store the flax, more warehouse room, more machinery and appliances. More and more. This year's crop has to be all paid for this year, though the sales of the products do not come till next year. There will be millions invested by the time the 1920 acre flax crop is reached. And still, it will be "on its own." Then will follow the self support of the institution.

Two years ago, Senator Staples helped in having \$200,000 put into the revolving fund. It is to provide for the expansion that has taken place—going from a few hundred acres of flax up to four years ago to 4500 acres the present year; likely to 6000 acres next year, and 10,000 acres by 1922. And the beauty of it is that the \$200,000 is needed for the present expansion; not a cent is needed! The revolving fund will take care of all that, "on its own." It will take care of the larger acreage for next year, and on up to the final 10,000 acres. And that means a lot of money. There will have to be still more paying tanks, more sheds to store the flax, more warehouse room, more machinery and appliances. More and more. This year's crop has to be all paid for this year, though the sales of the products do not come till next year. There will be millions invested by the time the 1920 acre flax crop is reached. And still, it will be "on its own." Then will follow the self support of the institution.

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