

The Wrong Medicine

SENATE bills 58 and 59 which would restrict the privilege of voting on special tax or bond issues at elections to taxpayers paying taxes on at least \$300 worth of property prescribes the wrong medicine to cure a real evil.

The real evil in the tax situation in Oregon is not who votes the taxes, but who pays them. The trouble is not so much that those who do not directly pay the tax vote the tax as the fact that so many escape their fair share of taxation. The cure ought to be not by limiting the franchise but by distributing the tax burden more equitably. It is wrong medicine to try to invoke the property qualification for franchise even though it does remain on the statute books in certain classes of elections at the present time.

The presence of a name on the tax rolls is no sure test of one's right to vote on tax matters. Even where taxes are as largely land taxes as they are in this state, the right to vote ought not to be restricted to the names on the taxrolls. A tenant is most surely an indirect taxpayer because the tax is his rent, it must be. Wives whose husbands are heavy taxpayers, would under the proposed legislation be barred from voting unless the property was jointly held or unless they held separate property. If property is to be the qualification what about the rights of the non-resident property-holder? Are not his property rights as much at stake as those of the resident property-owner?

If we are to go back to the ancient property qualification test for the franchise on matters such as this, why not go all the way? Special taxes are few and far between as compared with the regular taxes. Why not restrict the franchise for all voting since the officials elected at the regular elections are certainly tax-paying officials? Then why not graduate the property qualification, giving say one vote for each \$300 worth of taxable property? Otherwise may it not work out that the small taxpayer will vote heavy taxes which the large taxpayer must pay, thereby working a similar injustice to that which Senators Eddy, Schulmerich, Eberhard, Strayer, Butt and Brown are seeking to correct?

We are vigorously opposed the free and indiscriminate spending of the public money and obligating the public credit. We would strongly favor a bill which would require a vote of say 50% of the total voting at the last general election before a bond or special tax election would be a valid election. This would insure a decent representation and prevent the incurring of obligations through the votes of a mere handful of interested voters. But we are unalterably opposed to restricting the voting franchise by any such archaic method as the property qualification.

Time is passing. We would urge the legislature to take up major proposals for the curing of the tax situation, particularly the excise tax bill for corporations and income tax legislation. These measures will effect a very real cure for most of the evils. Until then it is unwise to pull the wrong bottle off the shelf in a frantically effort to "do something."

An Echo of '98

CHRISTINA, queen mother of Spain, is dead. Memories now faded are revived by mention of that name, once flung so vividly in the prints of three decades ago. For Christina was queen regent at the time of the Spanish American war. Then reviled as the ruling sovereign of a decadent and corrupt kingdom; now an almost forgotten figure. The Spanish war itself is now pretty much of a forgotten episode, so puny it seems after experiences of 1917-1918. We think of it only in connection with our legacy of colonial appendages, Cuban sugar or Philippine aspirations for freedom.

Memories—"Remember the Maine" for instance; and all that followed: the typhoid-swept camps at Jacksonville and Chattanooga; embalmed beef whose scandals rivaled those of the last war; poor old Alger, the war secretary; the contrast of decrepit old Civil war generals and fiery young-bloods like Teddy Roosevelt; Dewey and his glorious victory, and the gift-house he deeded to his wife, and his foolish remark that it wouldn't be much of a job to be president; Philippine bolo clubs and Cuban machetes; and the final homecoming barbecue when the boys came home.

The name Christina revives all these memories, sweeping out the cobwebs of passing years. She herself has long been out of the public eye and mind. Alfonso, the 12-year old lad of 31 years ago, has resigned creditably as king of the land of Castile and Aragon since 1902. Spain has fared rather well since she got to standing on her own bottom and gave up her dreams of colonial empire. In the World War Spain really prospered and her currency was long at a premium. But the king-business isn't what it used to be, even in Spain. The land of Philip II, master autocrat of the centuries, now is governed not by the king, nor yet by the Cortes or parliament. General Miguel Primo de Rivera, Marquis d'Estella, did the "man on horseback" ride in 1923 and now rules as premier, king and people assenting.

Puts It This Way

FRANK JENKINS, in the Eugene Register, puts it this way: "Suppose you owned a flock of fine fat sheep, and that it was your purpose to run these sheep up in the forest reserve, where there are plenty of varmints with sharp teeth, long claws and hungry stomachs. Under such circumstances, would you not consider it an excellent stroke of business to provide yourselves with a good, dependable herder armed with a rifle and aided by several watch dogs?"

The reference is to the \$274,000,000 naval expansion program covered by the 15 cruiser bill.

And that is a parable in line with the reasoning of such men at President Coolidge.

For, while the United States desires peace with all the earth, yet ours is the richest nation in the world, and therefore the most envied; and those who are envied are likely to lack friends willing at all times to go to the limit of aiding in protecting their interests.

A Case of Relativity

OREGON hasn't had cold weather; it's all a case of relativity.

Leaving those who build the fires to dispute the theory, the fact remains that the actual temperature of the last few days would cause an easterner to grin. It's the moisture in the air which makes the chills run along the spinal column; if some one would invent an air dryer we could smile at the touch of winter we have just experienced.

The razorback hog is passing. In a wild state, his ultimate fastness has been within the borders of Arkansas. Students in the University of Kansas plan to present a razorback to the undergraduate who is held to have done the most for the university during the present school year. When this plan was adopted it was thought the getting of the porker would be the least of their troubles. But the razorback is all but extinct in Arkansas. So the university news bureau has issued a statement in aid of a state wide search for the coveted rara avis or rather rara razorback, the depredations of the ancestors of which were up to a late time a nuisance there. It is a good sign. The United States as a whole is not a razorback country.

In the campaign in which members of the lower house and half of those in the upper house were elected, every candidate, or at least nearly every one, pledged himself to a revision of the auto license fees; and especially a downward revision in the case of old cars. This pledge should be binding. There is danger of all kinds of monkey wrenches getting into the machinery if this pledge is found to be disregarded after the smoke of the closing fires shall have cleared away. A promise is a promise. A pledge is a pledge.

Uneasy Street



The Way of the World

WHAT BALZAC SAID

Balzac, Frenchman, and keen student of life, said: "Civilization is the story of mankind climbing upstair in wooden shoes and coming down in golden slippers." The problem of modern men and women who want to maintain and improve civilization is how to change from wooden shoes to golden slippers and keep on climbing.

INSTITUTIONAL CHURCHES

This is the day of churches which have all sorts of sidelines. They have gymnasiums and bowling alleys and elaborately equipped kitchens. They stand somewhere between a modern Y. M. C. A. building and a great hotel. It seems to the writer that in building and operating a church of that type the main question to answer is how far this institutionalism leads toward the realization of the purposes and ideals of the church. The church has a place in the world far above mere entertainment or education in the operation of mechanism. So long as institutionalism serves to give men "life more abundantly" it is good. If it does not do that, it is just so much more machinery of organization.

HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES

Petrified churches are to the community what hardening of the arteries is to the individual. It is pretty hard to cure churches of that sort, but taken in time they can be prevented.

HAS THE CHURCH FAILED?

When the forces of atheism begin to build hospitals, homes for the aged, orphan asylums, Salvation Army citadels, Y. M. C. A. buildings, schools and colleges, it will be time for the leaders of atheism to thought to say the church has failed. All these agencies for human betterment are the church in action.

DARK HORSES

James Knox Polk, of Tennessee, was the first "dark horse" to win a great prize in American political history. He was not an outstanding candidate when he was nominated by the Democratic party for the presidency. Dark horses sometimes come into first place. But don't depend on it. Better start early, be prepared, and stay out in the open if you are after a particular place. It is very important to START toward something.

Who's Who & Timely Views

President Lauded for Part in Aviation Program

By LESTER D. GARDNER
President, Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America
(Lester Durand Gardner was born in New York City, Aug. 7, 1876. He is a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Columbia university. He has been on the staff of several New York newspapers and magazines and since 1916 has been president of the Gardner publishing company. In 1918 he was made a major in the air service in command of the aviation camp at Waco, Tex. He was delegate to the fourth international civil aviation congress in 1927 at Rome, Italy.)

MILITARY orders have been and still are essential to the services that the industry be ever in position to supply military needs. The answer to that question was found in the adoption, upon the aircraft board's recommendation, of the five year army and navy program whereby continuity in production is assured.

Applying to aircraft the principle that the government should not do those things which industry could do for itself, and proposing that the government should not do those things which industry could do for itself, and proposing that the government retire from

the operation of the air mail routes, congress promptly made this policy effective by the enactment of the Contract Air Mail Law. Patient insistence by President Coolidge upon the wisdom of congress formulating basic law resulted in the enactment of the Civil Aeronautics act of 1926 and the subsequent setting up of the Aeronautics branch of the department of commerce.

Seven years ago the capital invested in civil aircraft activities amounted to approximately \$5,000,000; today it is several hundred millions. Seven years ago the industry employed 5,000 persons; the number now employed is about 75,000. In 1921 our total production was 302 airplanes; in 1928 it was over 4,000. Seven years ago we had less than 300 commercial pilots; now we have over 5,000.

Then there were 1,200 commercial aircraft in gypsy operations; now there are 255 planes operating on regular schedule and more than 4,500 in general commercial use. Then there were no established air transport lines; today there are 39. Then there were only 2,680 miles of airways experimentally operated by the post office department; today there are 16,667 miles operated by private companies flying night and day about 40,000 miles carrying an average of nine tons of mail each calendar day.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Yes, that's so—

There are various kinds of taxes—

And in fact every one who buys anything or uses or rents anything pays a tax in one way or another—

And the worst tax of all, if one can be said to be worse than another, is the license tax on small industries, like that of the barber trade, for instance.

A tax is primarily a fine, and no tax can be truthfully said to be an absolutely just one. "There is no such animal," in the very nature of things. A tax must be general in its operations, or at least general as to the class or business or profession or property taxed. And no two persons are situated exactly alike in ability to pay.

And still we must have more kinds of or higher taxes in Oregon, if we are to balance the state budget and get the general fund out of the red. It is a pity the commission of the last legislature that worked on this problem did not arrive at a more definitely unanimous program, or one that would likely have a larger support of the people in a referendum election.

It seems to the Bits man that the law regulating the status of children of common law marriages ought not to be repealed. And that if the senate takes the same action as the house, the governor would be justified in giving the attempted repeal the veto ax. The children of such marriages in true justice have rights, and they should be protected.

The pickle industry of the Willamette valley has become a mil-

The Grab Bag

February 8, 1929



Who am I? What position does my husband hold? Who is my son-in-law to be?

What is the popular name sometimes given to a British soldier?

In what battle did the British fleet under Nelson defeat the combined fleets of France and Spain in 1805?

What woman practically ruled China at the time of the Boxer rebellion?

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." Where is this passage found in the Bible?

Today in the Past
On this date, in 1690, the French and Indians burned Schenectady, N. Y.

Today's Horoscope
Persons born on this day are liable to start things they cannot finish. They should be more sure of their capabilities before undertaking a task.

A Daily Thought
"Fortune and Love befriended the bold."—Ovid.

Answers to Foregoing Questions
1. Mrs. John H. Trumbull; governorship of Connecticut; John Coolidge.
2. Tommy Atkins.
3. Trafalgar.
4. Tze-Hsi.
5. James I. 8.

WORDS OF THE WISE

"The variety of all things forms a pleasure."—Euripides.

"Let time that makes you homely, make you sage."—Parnell.

"But where life is more terrible than death, it is then the truest valour to dare to live."—Sir Thomas Browne.

Lion dollar industry in annual turnover of the manufactured product ready for the jobbers and wholesalers, and the Stafford factory at Aurora has been doing a large work in extending and stabilizing it. We cannot have too many such factories, taking the raw materials coming from the industries on the land and working them over into the articles of commerce.

The managers of the company owning the Salem water plant are doing all they can, as fast as they can, to get rid of the algae in the city supply. In the mean time we should at least be patient. You yourself could not do more than they are doing.

D. B. Jarman and wife are sojourning temporarily in southern California. They were informed by wire of the opening of the Salem YWCA drive for its budget. Whereupon Mr. Jarman wired Mrs. D. B. Jarman, campaign chairman, these words: "Wife and self pledge \$150 with sincere hope you will be able to put campaign over strong. If you can't put it over, wire me and I will come home and put it over for you."

That was a heartening response from an absent friend under no more obligation for the success of the campaign than any other resident of Salem. If the example were generally followed, the drive would be over 100 per cent strong, with a handsome sum left over to begin a fund for a new home for the YW in Salem, which it deserves, and must have soon.

"Blueprint Fleet"

By CHARLES F. STEWART
Washington Correspondent for Central Press and Statesman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—When our big navy folk speak of a "blue-print fleet" it sounds contemptuous which is exactly the way the big navy-ites intend it to sound.

However, the fact is that the members of the blueprint faction have a really feasible idea in the back of their heads.

It may not work out well in practice, but the idea is all right, provided it can be made to accomplish what the blueprinters think maybe it will accomplish, and simply making fun of them is no answer to their argument.

Even militarists admit that fighting ships are wasted money, except in the sense that insurance premiums are not wasted.

The policy holder gets protection for his premiums, but he certainly would not go on paying them if he had nothing to be afraid of, and undoubtedly he would consider that the ideal situation for him to be in—if it were possible as America.

Just so with a war fleet. We have to have it, for protection; but it would be much nicer if we required no protection.

That was the object Secretary of State Hughes had in mind when the Washington conference was held in 1921-22, to limit the size of navies.

At that time America had built or building, the world's strongest fleet of battleships. England, previously the sea mistress, was greatly upset about it, for she did not like being out-built and knew she was powerless to help it, having nothing like as much money as America.

Secretary Hughes proposed a limit on these big men-o-war which would bring America down to England's level.

Naturally England accepted, with hosannas of praise. Uncle Sam promptly scuttled several hundred million dollars worth of nearly-completed vessels, thus putting the two countries practically on an equality in the matter of battleships.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays
Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 7.—(AP)—It's a girl, a nurse told W. D. Miller today.
"It's two girls," she announced later.
Miller smiled.
"And they have a little brother," came the third bulletin.
With the birth of triplets, the Miller family increased from five boys to six boys and two girls.

The Salem Woman's club will give "an afternoon" at the home of Mrs. E. A. Moore, 327 Court street. Proceeds will be used for picture for one of the rooms in the high school building.

Mrs. J. G. Hooker has sold her branch house of the New York Millinery parlors to a Mrs. Hilke of Salem.

Walter L. Tooze, the Woodburn postmaster, was a business visitor to the city.

J. J. Roberts, the hop dealer, has returned from a business trip to Seattle and Portland.

But unluckily Uncle Sam had neglected to set a limit on cruisers.
John Bull began building cruisers almost as fast as Uncle Sam was sinking battleships. Cruisers are a lot cheaper than battleships and just as good—after the other fellow has sunk his battleships.

Accordingly, it was not long before Uncle Sam saw himself hopelessly outclassed by John Bull, as a cruiser-owner.
"Let's limit cruisers, too," urged Sam. This time John couldn't see it.

Judging from the lesson of 1921-22 there is only one way of persuading John Bull to agree to all-round naval limitation—and that is to set him so hot a pace that his pocketbook can't stand it.

Hence the 15-cruiser bill—to raise John Bull out of the jackpot.

The blueprinters endorse this program in principle, but they make the point that it is rather expensive to build fifteen 10,000-ton cruisers, to be scrapped later, in order to compel John Bull to see reason.

They propose to "authorize" the cruisers, in the hope that that will scare John Bull sufficiently.

As soon as a cruiser is authorized, her plans are drawn—her blueprints—but actual work on her cannot start until cash is appropriated to pay for it. A great many projects are authorized which never get any farther.

The big navy-ites contend that John Bull will not scare as easily as the blueprinters think he will. "You never can tell," rejoins the blueprinters, "without trying."

THE ONE MINUTE PULPIT

Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:

But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.—Ecclesiastes, xl, 7, 8.

Triplets Arrive For Portlanders

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 7.—(AP)—It's a girl, a nurse told W. D. Miller today.

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Ducks and geese on the lakes of Byrd park at Richmond, Va., are to be removed. The mayor agreed with residents of the park that the beauty of the birds was offset by their habit of quacking incessantly at daybreak.

While we are "getting ours" in the way of cold weather, nearly all other sections of the country are "getting theirs," and getting it worse. So let us smile and be truly thankful.



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