

Soft Coloring Brings Rest and Cheer to Home Atmosphere

WARNS AGAINST INCREASING TAX

Head of A. A. A. Advises Against Pyramiding Gas Taxes

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 15.—Citing the fact that during the 1929 sessions of the state legislatures no less than twenty-one states increased the taxes on the motorist by boosting the gasoline tax, the American Automobile Association sounded a double warning today in anticipation of the convening of the biennial sessions of the legislatures in 44 states early in 1931.

In a statement under the signature of Thos. P. Henry, its president, the national motoring body declared that the structure of the gasoline tax, so vital to the continuation of the country's road program, is endangered by two tendencies, namely, the temptation to pyramid the tax from year to year, and the temptation to use it for other than road-building purposes.

By way of illustration of the latter, Mr. Henry cited the proposal coming before the New Jersey voters on November 4, for the floating of two bond issues for purposes that have no connection with highways, although the bonds would be retired by an increase in the gas tax rates.

"As if it were not enough that the gas tax in some states should be diverted for schools, sea walls and fish hatcheries," he said, "New Jersey now comes along with the proposal to saddle the expense of state institutions and inland waterways, in the amount of \$17,000,000 on the users of the highways.

"The New Jersey voters have a perfect right to tax themselves as they see fit, but if the proposal is successful, the precedent is followed by other states it will ultimately prove the undoing of the gas tax.

"Because of the ease with which it is levied and collected, there undoubtedly exists a temptation to keep raising the tax out of proportion to road-building needs which, of course, it should be at all times directly related.

"If this tendency continues, the motorist might find it necessary to invoke a nation-wide scale the principle established in Missouri where the gasoline tax rate of two cents per gallon and motor vehicle license fees have been limited, through a constitutional amendment passed in November, 1925, to the present rate for a period of ten years. Because of the growing practice whereby many states now plan their road programs for a period of years, such a guarantee to motorists as Missouri has given is capable of wide application."

Oregon Started Gas Tax

Mr. Henry's statement continues: "The gasoline tax was first adopted as an equitable means of taxing the motorists for road-building and maintenance in proportion to his use of the highways. Since it was inaugurated in Oregon, in February, 1919, car owners have paid a total of \$1,470,463,654 in gas taxes and have accepted the improved highways as an adequate return on their investment.

"But within the last five years there has been a tendency to pyramiding gas taxes with little regard for the actual program of construction and maintenance. For instance, in 1925, only one state had a five-cent rate, four collected four cents a gallon, thirteen, three cents, and twenty-two, two cents. Today, three states collect six cents a gallon, eight a five-cent tax, twenty, four cents, and nine, three cents.

"The year 1930 opened with every state in the Union collecting the tax. New York passed a gas tax law for the first time in 1929 and Illinois repealed the law eliminating provisions which caused the first act in 1925 to be declared unconstitutional."

No Substitute for Oregon

(Portland Spectator)

Nothing is as shoddy as a substitute. Would you demand asbestos rugs on your floor because houses take fire? Or would you sit all day in an iron chair with a steel wool cushion, for fear of bursting prematurely into flames? How silly. Yet such arguments are identical with those used to defend Oregon's basic prosperity by discouraging the use of wood for building. Loyal Oregon citizens must recognize that fact and shout it down. Nothing can replace wood for the beautiful finish and decoration of a building. Nothing can replace wood for many more utilitarian purposes.

This writer has made a trip of inspection through one of Portland's leading residence districts. The roof is one of the most prominent architectural features of a home. One outstanding fact was apparent from this trip—that imitation roofing is almost entirely without charm. It lacks character. It looks what it is, posing as something that isn't. Two types of residence roofing were outstanding, the genuine tile roof and the genuine, heavy cedar shingle. Both have a useful, picturesque appearance. Also they acquire "patina," which is that distinct charm which comes from weathering elements.

Heavy cedar shingles have a fire resistance equal if not superior to the thin imitation substitute, and last longer. That has been proved by exhaustive tests. Similar tests have also shown the superiority of wood sash over metal sash. Industrial instances from all parts of the country have been brought to this writer's attention, showing where metal sash has actually been removed after construction, and wood sash installed. That was an expensive change, but it was worth the cost. Reasons for the change: Wood sash permits better ventilation, the sliding wood sash permits convenient sun shading, which the metal casement does not; wood sash is more drought-proof. One instance is shown of heating economies which paid for the process of discarding metal sash and installing wood.

Added to all these arguments in favor of wood sash is the greatest of all. The improvement in architectural effect is outstanding. A building expresses the thought and ideas of its builder. If we are to deny architectural beauty, we might as well live in tiers of cells like ants or the cliff-dwellers of the southwest. Superior to ants, thinking men have for centuries recognized the value of architecture. Particularly in Oregon, that word architecture should be associated continually with the use of fine woodwork in building craftsmanship.

New Home of Dan Fry, Jr. Is Gem of Georgian Period In an Appropriate Setting

Take a hillside overlooking the Willamette river with nothing save a few graceful trees to interrupt the view of the winding stream and the tree covered hill-sides beyond, with a wide brick walk with broad, shallow steps winding under rock and fir trees down to the entrance of a long two-story brick house, low for all its two stories, and of the period of English Georgian. With this completed you have before you the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Fry, Jr., located on the right side of Lefelle street just where the street makes a graceful curve. Turn in an abrupt angle on the hillside overlooking the river.

Following the walk to the door one is admitted into a large hall. Facing one across the room is a winding staircase, dark lacustrade and wide steps leading the eye up to a large, long window arched at the top, and on either side of which is somewhat shorter oblong window. Long draperies in black and rose accentuate the width of this window spread and produce a cathedral effect.

The hall floor is covered with heavy soft green carpet. An antique clock, antique chairs, a quiet table and nothing more produces the effect of room and comfort in the hallway. To the right of the hall is the dining room, a long room with the side facing the street almost filled with three large windows which form an alcove or bow window effect. The walls are papered with cream paper and bordered at the base with a soft gray, wide spreading tree design which appears to be silhouetted on the cream paper background. A dignified crystal fixture is suspended over the table, corner built-in china closets done in cream color and the two corners of one end of the room and a fireplace low and deep in the center of the other.

One is puzzled for the effect is Colonial and yet a bit more homey and soft looking than the real Colonial lines. In truth the house is built over the English Georgian lines which was the grand style of the Colonial architecture.

To the left of the hall and down a step is the living room overlooking the river and West Salem hills. Windows form the whole south side of the room. A wide spreading fireplace with

of the house and is entered through a wide double door. To the right is a bathroom in the most delicate shades of green and salmon rose. The curtains are worth remembering for they are of a sort of oil cloth effect delicate in color and dainty in appearance, washable and non-writable—feature worthwhile in a bathroom.

A sleeping porch bedroom completes the west end of the upstairs. Then comes the children's rooms each on the right side of the hall facing south. The young son has a room that looks like a real boy, and the young daughter's room looks like a French boudoir, the colors are so soft and lovely. Built-in book shelves allow for books and more books.

To the left of the hall and near the children's room is the maid's room, a dainty, large room overlooking the city. Through her room and down a west wall is the children's playroom located far enough from the main part of the house that all the noise necessary for childhood fun may go on without disturbing anyone.

The playroom is one of the most prized rooms of the home. The children are responsible for its appearance and they may play as hard as they like in it. A bathroom in cream and black is at the west end of the hall near the children's and maid's rooms.

You have seen the house but no words could picture to you the color, the lighting, the feeling, making every nook and cranny glow with warmth and an invitation to stay and be at home. Well chosen antiques, perfectly harmonizing modern pieces, all combine perfectly for beauty.

Central arrangement of the halls makes the complete house at one command without disturbing any room but the one to be entered. Either inside or out the house is beautiful and most livable.

Three panel prints above its mantle make a spot of unforgettable color facing one as one stands on the step ready to enter the room.

Draperies in black and rose, black davenport and several chairs with hints of black carry the soft black note which is relieved with rose and green. The whole effect together with some priceless pieces of old furniture makes the room one not to be forgotten. A summer porch opens off the living room to the north and from it, two steps lead down to what will be when it is completed, a delightful back garden. A service door from the kitchen opens on to this porch so that meals may be served on the porch during the summer days and with perfect ease.

The kitchen may be entered from the main hall through a small hallway where extra closet space for linens and dishes has been arranged. This kitchen is a wonderful study in reds, blues, greens, blacks, all blended in a gay cobblestone effect linoleum on the floor, dark red oilcloth curtains at the kitchen windows and the windows of the small breakfast room off the kitchen. Wall paper with quaint little Dutch maids and lads complete the color scheme. Built-ins that leave nothing to be desired for comfortable cooking are at every turn—a beautiful kitchen to make cooking a joy.

To the right of the kitchen a door leads to the garage where room for two cars is transformed into a grand playroom for children when the cars are out and the rain is falling.

Following the stairway up from the hallway one encounters a second hall from which one may enter any room on the second floor save the children's playroom.

A large living room with fireplace occupies half the west end

FRAGRANT FLOWER MADE A SPECIALTY

CLOVERDALE—Mr. and Mrs. A. Prensall are great lovers of fine varieties of flowers and when they decided to specialize in the fragrant narcissus two years ago, they ordered twelve varieties of the bulb from Holland. They planted these on some lots owned in Salem where they thrived and grew blossoms the size of which are seldom seen. They have multiplied so much that they have outgrown their quarters and Mr. and Mrs. Prensall are now moving them to the farm of Mr. and Mrs. John McKinney in Cloverdale, where a quarter of an acre of ground has been prepared for them.

The location selected is said to be an ideal spot as the ground has a south slope which will insure an early bloom. A more picturesque place could not be imagined. The market road adjoining this land, so the adjoining by will enjoy the beauty and fragrance when the flowers bloom next spring.

The Prensalls have also specialized in gladiolus. Mrs. McKinney, mother of Mrs. Prensall, has succeeded in building up a fine variety of flowers at their country home here, many of them being imported.

INDEPENDENCE—The Garden club met in the auditorium of the training school Monday night. A good attendance was present to hear the talk on shrubs given by J. W. Maruny of Salem.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Recently I have had a number of inquiries concerning peonies and I shall endeavor to answer these by passing on the information I have gleaned from Oregon peony enthusiasts.

Peonies, by the way, have an "ancient history" attached. As far as I have been able to learn one of the earliest mentions of the peony was made by Pliny in his natural history written about 77 a. d.

By 536, we are told by flower historians, the peony was quite well distributed over China where it was known as "Sho Yo," said to mean "most beautiful." Specially its roots were used for food at that time and it wasn't until some 500 years later that it was seriously cultivated for its beauty. English garden recorders make mention of it before the thirteenth century and in 1629 John Parkinson describes six varieties. However, not until 1845 were any large collections of named varieties made. Loddiges and Hooker of England are said to be among the first to make a collection of them. Today there are hundreds of good sorts and some of the most extensive collections are said to be at the Royal gardens at Kew.

In China years ago—and probably the custom still survives here and there today—the peony was used as a "for-get-me-not" and given to friends much as the Hawaiians give their "leis."

So much for that.

Autumn is planting time for peonies. September, October and November, the earlier the better. In fact I almost hesitate writing about peonies this late in the season and then I recently asked a Portland peony grower how late one could plant peonies and he said that one could any time until the first of March if the ground wasn't frozen over but "the earlier, the better."

A heavy loam is said to be the best sort of soil but peonies are not so difficult to suit and will bloom in either a soil that leans toward the sandy or one that is more of a clay. One often hears the remark that the

VICTORIANISM NOT WITHOUT VIRTUES

Victorian age has been blamed for many things. The lady things for which it should be praised. The worst of its products have branded it when there should be consideration for the many outstandingly charming results of its existence.

In speaking of the home there is wall paper for instance. Today some of the most beautiful effects imaginable are being obtained by the use of Victorianism in wall paper.

Color and figures in gay array are supplanting the drab and plain surface papers a few years ago and the plastered walls of the years immediately past.

The tones are soft and subdued but we find whole trees spreading over the wall surface; flowers in magnificent arrangement; pastoral scenes carry the city dweller's imagination off and away from the din about him; gay little men and maids, nursery rhymes, animals, one and all march boldly across the walls of today and we like it—even though the idea did come from the Victorian age.

What may be done with the dingy room by the use of the right paper is something more than ordinarily worth consideration. Take a short course in studying wall papers brought out of the Victorian age; this may be done in magazines, and at the shop; get to know and appreciate the value of paper; then lie awake a few nights as people will do—plan the right color scheme for your rooms, plan the right figures to match the floor space and wall space; take into consideration your furniture and then spend a few dollars in paper which will convert an ugly room into a thing of beauty and joy for months and years.

Among the fragrant peonies are such as the Duchesse de Nemours, with its white guard petals and lemon-yellow center; the Couronne d'Or, also a yellow and white one; the white Marie Jacquelin, which, I think, is hard to surpass for loveliness; the scarlet Atrosanguinea; the milky-white Avalanche; the flesh-white Grandeflora and the pink Marguerite Gaudichau.

If you are eager for some of the more rare and expensive sorts you might try to secure the Edwin C. Shaw, a very large well rounded bloom of pink. Or perhaps you would rather have the Kelway's Glorious, a fragrant white one; or the Philippe Bevoise, one of the best reds in existence; might suit you better.

Among the best of the single peonies we have the Princess Mathilde a pink tipped with silvery white. The Moor, one of the darkest reds, peonies, The Rose Dawn, the name of which almost will tell you the color, and the Victoria, another good red.

Among the modern peonies there are many lovely single, double and semi-double ones. They come in yellow, white, pink and red. Some are delightfully fragrant and some are fragrant but not quite so delightfully so. If you are planning on having plants a few you might as well combine fragrance and beauty. Personally, I think a flower has not entirely performed its mission in life unless it is delightfully fragrant. Sometime ago a gardener described to me a garden whose plants were chosen for their fragrance alone. Imagine the pleasure to be gained from that garden of a late spring often hears the remark that the evening—but I'll tell you about

GUEST AT MONMOUTH
MONMOUTH, Nov. 22—Archie C. Hampton, city supervisor of the schools of Astoria, and a native of Monmouth, was the guest this week of his mother, Mrs. D. L. Hampton and a sister, Mrs. A. F. Huber. He is a member of the state text book commission, which meets in Salem this week to consider biennial changes in the text books of Oregon.

Canada exported passenger cars and trucks valued at \$1,878,525 in September, an increase of 16 percent over August.

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