

## TAX REDUCTION IN SALEM SEEN AS POSSIBILITY

### Various Services now Given Public may be Eliminated or Lowered

### Some of Items Required by Law or to Meet Debts, Survey Reveals

**Editor's Note**—This is the second of several articles concerning district, city and county taxes. It is hoped that the various tax levying groups are discussed with the view of explaining the basis for the various levies and suggesting feasible means of tax reduction.

By **SHELDON F. SACKETT**

If Salem taxpayers really wish the levy locally cut down, the city budget affords a good place to start retrenchment. Of 53 mills levied on Salem property, 22 mills is city tax which means 41 cents of every dollar of tax paid.

This does not intrude the city is of necessity extravagant. It does indicate (1) that a heavy load of bonded indebtedness has been undertaken, (2) that the functions of city government are steadily increasing and (3) that there is some laxity in handling city expenditures due to the many hands which have a share in budgeting and expending the \$400,000 raised annually by the city.

It is the purpose of this article to examine the various places to which the money goes and to inquire if a saving, say of 10 per cent, could be made in 1932 and if so, how the cut could be accomplished.

First, it is known that the city has a score of activities in which it engages. Fire and police protection are the largest items of expense but its other business is as diverse as the directory of a department store.

Many Services to Public are Provided

Salem maintains a library, keeps up public parks, lights downtown streets and crossings of streets throughout the city. It maintains and furnishes regular band concerts through July and August. It provides a sanitary inspection service, contributes \$5000 to a county health service, does its bit in a cooperative employment office and contributes to the board of charities. Salem runs, with cost to its taxpayers, an incinerator. It provides a modern landing and training field for aviation. It provides good street intersections and keeps clean the pavements which it charges property owners for building. It plans and zones building districts and pays \$3000 annually for a systematic inspection of buildings. It maintains a jail, keeps parking restrictions effective downtown and maintains two comfort stations.

Of the 22 mills of tax levied by Salem, between nine and 10 mills goes into debt service. If Salem people can complain all they wish about this load of bonded debt but for several years there can be no reduction in principal requirements and little in interest charges. By December 31, 1931, there will be \$1,307,539 in general obligation bonds outstanding plus whatever street interconnection bonds are issued this year. Hancock bonds totaling \$94,000 are also outstanding. Interest charges of \$53,175 were required this year and \$19,000 more for bond retirement was necessitated. On neither of these items can reductions be made next year. A \$200,000 item to clean up a 1920 bond issue was put in the 1931 budget but at least this much will be refunded annually to take up a refunding issue of 1914, the \$400,000 in incinerator bonds and the \$50,000 in airport bonds, all of which will be due within the next eight years. The city's breath on bond retirement will come in 1935 when the 1913 sewer bonds will have been paid off and a \$24,000 principal item can be taken from the budget, provided, of course, some bond issue is not in the offing.

Hope for Decrease Within Small Area

Within the 12 to 13 mills levied for general city expense, it lies the hope for any retrenchments which could be made in 1932.

Of this levy, one item of two mills was approved by the voters in 1928 for a fire department tax fund while up to two a levy up to two mills was approved about the same time as a street repair tax fund. These two items do not come under the 6 per cent limitation and have been used up to this year by the council to provide \$35,000 each for the city's income. One-half a mill of \$2750 of revenue was sliced from the street fund this year.

A peculiar circumstance confronts the budget makers this winter which we think affords opportunity to pare down the city's costs two mills or \$25,000. This would be a tax reduction of 9 per cent. City Attorney Trindle has ruled that the two-mill fire department fund can only be used for the present year the city is borrowing from this fund to pay the wages of the firemen, but after 1931 this must stop and the loan presumably repaid.

It has been suggested that the city vote a special two-mill tax for

(Turn to page 11, col. 1)

## Summer Fires Fewer Because of Campaign To Cut Grass, Weeds

### Ordinance put Into Effect This Year Despite Handicap of Lack of Funds Also Gives The City Better Appearance

By **STEPHEN C. MERGLER**

THE present summer has the makings of a record-breaker in point of the low number of grass fires on the vacant lots about the city and firemen at the central station declare that the reason is not so much the late rainy season in June, as would be the offhand conclusion, but the immense amount of weed and grass cutting done by the city under the provisions of an ordinance passed by the council in August of 1930.

The scarcity of these grass blazes for the present month, which in the past has been the worst part of the summer for the fire department, is the fruit of the workings of the new ordinance. The regulation makes three provisions: 1, that all vacant lots must be cleared of all tall growth; 2, that the owners of these lots be ordered at the first of the summer to clean up their properties; 3, that the city street commissioner shall have his men clean up all lots, which the owners neglect, and charge the costs to the owners.

Under severe financial restrictions, Walter Low, street commissioner, has put this ordinance into effect this summer, employing four men with scythes and two horse-drawn mowers. The result is that, with the first month of summer past, nearly all of the vacant lots have been cleared at least once, either by the owners or by the street department employes he reports.

Beginning this week, Low says (Turn to page 11, col. 3)

## LADS WILL DEPART MONDAY FOR CAMP

Six o'clock tomorrow morning will find a party of 46 boys and leaders assembled at the Y. M. C. A., anxious to be off to the Ocean camp where they will spend the next 11 days playing games, swimming, studying and doubtless eating unusually big meals.

The office of the boys' secretary was last night filled to overflowing with provisions, camp equipment and materials for the various crafts which the boys will be given opportunity to learn. This first camp period is for the older boys, 15 years and over.

When this group returns, August 3, the second group, younger boys, will go to the camp on Tillamook bay for an eight-day period of living-out-of-doors.

Most of the party tomorrow will go in two trucks, several in the cars of two of the mothers. Boys going to this camp who have not been listed are: Harold Beall, Ned Hale, Lowell Williams, Allen Robins, Francis Kay and Ed Busick.

## Dollar Day to Be Wednesday; Bargains Many

An all-city Dollar Day next Wednesday, June 22, is being planned by a number of Salem stores cooperating with the Capital Journal and The Oregon Statesman. Existing low prices together with the desire of merchants to stimulate summer business will bring the best bargains to Salem buyers in years, the merchants claim.

## Prune Growers Confer On Brown Rot Problem

Fisher, chairman of the Northwest Dried Fruit association's committee; F. L. Ballard, head of the extension service of Oregon state college; and Charles Cole, in charge of the plant industry department at the college.

Ballard and Cole announced that all county agents would be instructed to assist in carrying the educational program to all parts of the state.

W. C. Allen told the growers that the packing houses should keep a record of percentages of brown rot in prunes purchased under their direction.

W. G. Fisher said the industry should clean itself up within its own ranks. "It is his hope," Fisher continued, "that the growers will receive hearty cooperation of the packers."

## ALLIED FORCES TO DEFEND DRY LAW POWERFUL

### Explanation of Program is Given by Dan Poling, Leading Worker

### Christian Endeavor Chief, Noted Radio Lecturer Visiting Parents

By **OLIVE M. DOAK**  
"I'm sleepy" was the very human complaint of a distinguished guest who arrived in Salem late Saturday. He sat in the cool living room of the home of his parents, Dr. and Mrs. C. G. Poling. The speaker was Dr. Dan Poling who is here en route to New York City following the meeting in San Francisco of the World's Christian Endeavor union of which he was reelected president.

A long trip by motor, train and plane, and the hot weather accounted for Dr. Poling being "sleepy," but when asked about the Allied Forces for Prohibition Dr. Poling was only wide awake and enthusiastic. The movement became definitely organized July 1 after work had been under way since February. At the present time there are 261 cities and towns of 2,500 population or over in which there will be conducted conferences of three day duration within the next 10 months. The first conference will begin with Columbus, Ohio, September 8 and will continue westward reaching Salem the latter part of September. Every (Turn to page 11, col. 3)

## AERIAL 'CLOWN' IS EVERLY INVENTION

Out at the Eyerly airport there is almost ready for exhibition a "clown" of the airplane world. It has no name but could well be called the "gymnasium" for it will do anything a human being will do when it is completed, so it is hoped, but it will do it from a stationary base.

There is a regular control room for a pilot only. Loop the loops, tall spins, falling leaf, and such like performances not to mention the gentle art of perfect banking and landing may be accomplished or it can be held perfectly motionless in the air if so desired.

There are only two other such machines on the coast according to Mr. Eyerly's information. The invention came from the army, but Mr. Eyerly has developed one of his own. In a few days an old automobile wheel, and no end of other parts from all of a half dozen makes of cars make up vital parts of the "clown".

Mr. Eyerly hopes to get new reels interested in taking some pictures of the demonstration which will follow the completion of the machine.

This type of machine has been used by the army to test the stability of prospective pilots.

## Currency Flow Out of Germany To Be Stopped

BERLIN, July 18. — (AP) — President Paul von Hindenburg tonight issued decrees designed to plug up some of the holes through which Germany's capital has been leaking out of the country.

By a decree aimed at the Board of foreign currencies, it was made compulsory that every holder of such currencies declare them at the Reichsbank. Unless the Reichsbank agrees that the holder needs them for essential economic purposes, they will be converted by the Reichsbank into German marks at the official rate of exchange.

## Fair and Warm Weather is Due

"Fair and warmer" is the weather prospect in Salem for the next few days. With the harvest season in full swing throughout the valley indications are that "Old Sol" will do his part to hasten the ripening of fruit and grain.

First indications of warmer weather came yesterday when the thermometer registered 90 degrees.

## Insurance Firm Faces Big Suit

PORTLAND, Ore., July 18. — (AP)—The Metropolitan Life Insurance company, C. H. Twiss and S. P. Spiering, its agents, were named defendants in a suit filed in circuit court here today by Mrs. A. Louise Wehlitz in which she asks damages aggregating \$1,051,500 for alleged attempted extortion.

## Will Speak at Park Services



## POLING TO SPEAK AT PARK SERVICE

### Noted Radio Advisor Listed For Subject of Special Interest to Youth

The best attended park church service of the entire summer is expected to be the one this afternoon, when members of the noted C. C. Poling family will take part in the program. The hour of the meeting is unchanged, 3:30 o'clock.

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, president of the World Christian Endeavor society, will speak on a subject of "special interest to youth," he says. His National Youth conference hour broadcast weekly except in summer has made "Dan" Poling's voice familiar to millions of people the nation over.

Dr. C. C. Poling, pastor of First Evangelical church, will preside; Dr. Charles S. Poling, of Bloomfield, N. J., will take part in the services. Vocal music is to be by Mrs. Laura Goode, daughter of Dr. C. C. Poling, accompanied by Mrs. Eyerly.

Dr. V. Poling of Oregon State college will lead the community singing. Because seating facilities in Wilson park are very limited, persons attending the services are advised by the committee to bring chairs or blankets to sit on.

Reports from neighboring towns are that large delegations are coming to Salem to spend the day and attend this park service.

## Fall Leaves on Trip to Prison; Relatives Weep

EL PASO, Tex., July 18. — (AP) — Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the Interior, began his journey to the New Mexico penitentiary at Santa Fe late today.

While his wife and daughters, weeping, and a group of friends pooled near, he was assisted down the rear steps of his big red brick mansion and into an ambulance, which then left for his ranch at Three Rivers, N. M. It was believed he would spend the night there and continue to Santa Fe tomorrow.

Fall will serve a sentence of a year and a day on a conviction of accepting a bribe of \$100,000 from E. L. Doherty while a member of President Harding's cabinet.

## Two Killed as Stage and Bus Crash at Union

LA GRANDE, Ore., July 18. — (AP) — Two persons were killed and a third injured seriously east of Union today in the collision of an automobile and a westbound stage.

Louise Farris, La Grande, and Gerald C. Turner, 25, Medical Springs, were killed and Leonard Goble, Medical Springs, was injured. All were riding in the automobile driven by Miss Farris. None of the stage passengers was injured.

## Tiny Lad Struck By Train, Killed

EUGENE, Ore., July 18. — (AP) — Donald Gray Anderson, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson, of Junction City, was struck and killed instantly by a northbound passenger train late today.

The child was playing on the track in front of his home south of Junction City depot.

## BAKER MAN KILLED

BAKER, Ore., July 18. — (AP) — Elmer Miles, 49, was injured fatally while unloading logs from a truck at the Grand Ronde Pine company's plant at Pondosa today.

## FRENCH AGREE TO APPEAR AT DEBTS PARLEY

### Conversation of Laval With German Envoys Brings Better Feeling

### Decision in Doubt Almost To End of Meeting Held in Paris

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PARIS, July 18. — (AP) — The obstacles in the way of French participation in the conference of major statesmen in London Monday were swept away today in conversations between the heads of the French and German governments.

Premier Laval decided, after discussing the German crisis with Chancellor Brüning and Foreign Minister Curtius, his separate negotiations with Germany were sufficiently advanced to remove the French objections to taking part in the London meeting.

The French decision remained in doubt until a communique was issued at the conclusions of the Franco-German conversations, and even then it was set forth indirectly in connection with a reference to a meeting tomorrow of the representatives of the powers that will be present at the British capital.

Mr. Laval made it clear he considered the atmosphere cordial during his talk with Herr Brüning and Chancellor Curtius and during the larger conference which followed and at which the way was opened for Franco-German cooperation in the future.

The French and the Germans were wholly frank, it was understood, the Germans setting forth the details of the crisis in their country and saying, in effect, "What is the world going to do about it?"

## HOLT HEADS BOARD OF FARM ADVISORS

J. O. Holt of Eugene was elected president of the state agricultural advisory board at the first meeting of the new organization held in Salem Saturday. Max Gehlhar, director of the state agricultural department, was elected secretary.

The board was created to act in an advisory capacity to the new state department of agriculture. Members of the board, who are provided of the progress made by the department since its inauguration July 1. Resolutions were adopted by the board protesting against the importation of cattle into Oregon from other states for the sterilization of poultry crates, and that steps be taken to combat infectious bronchitis now existing in some poultry flocks.

Members of the board are Director Gehlhar, J. O. Holt, representing horticulture; Fred Cockerill, Milwaukee, poultry; H. R. Richards, The Dalles, farm crops; Morton Tompkins, Dayton, gardening; Martin Rostvold, Woodburn, cooperative marketing; Robert Bond, Pendleton, livestock and animal industry, and C. C. Dixon, Shedd, dairying.

## Drought, Heat Cause Worries

GRANTS PASS, Ore., July 18. — (AP) — Confronted with a restricted use of water for irrigation, Josephine county farmers today sweltered under a mercury that had pushed the mercury to 102 degrees at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Grange leaders are said to have asked for a joint session of the farmers and local boards of irrigation district, an effort to alleviate an acute water shortage.

## Drum Corps to Blossom Forth in New Uniforms

Salem drum corps of Capitol Post No. 9, American Legion, will "strut its stuff" in all the glory that brilliant new uniforms of royal blue and gold will give.

These uniforms, the first new ones in three years, will be in Salem August 1, following submittal of all manner of drawings, telegrams, and other communication between local members headed by Ralph Cooley, and the Philadelphia home where they are being made to get just what the drum corps want.

The whole suit will be a smart military cut of fine serge in a royal blue color. Cap, sleeves, and a shield on the front of the coat will be in gold and gold braid will adorn the shoulders.

On the shield will be the American Legion insignia and the words "Salem Post No. 9." Down the legs of the trousers will be a narrow gold braid on either side of which will be a peacock green cord.

For evening wear there will be

## Special Legislative Session Proposed in Tax Regulation Plan

### Executive Committee of Taxpayer Body Takes Action

### Meier Will Sound out Solons' Sentiment This Week

PORTLAND, Ore., July 18. — (AP) — Establishment of a tax regulatory system for the state for the purpose of reduction and retrenchment in the expenditure of public funds and the reduction of automobile license fees by one-third, was recommended today by the executive committee of the Oregon Taxpayers' Equalization and Conservation league.

The committee met here today at the request of Governor Meier and spent the entire day in outlining a plan of procedure and drafting a resolution to the governor. After the adoption of the resolution Governor Meier issued a statement saying that upon his return to Salem Monday he would begin sounding settlement among the members of the state legislature with reference to the tax reduction program outlined by the committee here today.

Meier will call the legislature into a special session, "the governor said. Briefly, the program outlined by the committee was:

1. The calling of a special session of the legislature to meet at the pleasure of the governor to consider tax reform.

2. Giving the state tax commission, acting jointly with county tax commissions regulatory control over budgets, tax levies and proposed future bond issues of local tax-levying bodies.

3. The reduction of automobile license fees by one-third and the increasing of the present gasoline tax from four to five cents, effective July 1, 1932.

4. Calling upon all tax-levying bodies to retrench and cut expenditures to effect, if possible, a 20 per cent tax reduction.

5. The committee's plan for tax reduction was based upon the regulation system in effect in Indiana, which was advocated by Governor Meier when he called the tax committee together at Salem recently.

## LICENSE CUT PLAN APPROVED BY HOSS

The proposal of the Oregon Tax Conservation and Equalization league, outlined at an executive session of the league in Portland during the week, to cut license taxes for automobiles from 25 to 33 1/3 per cent meets with the approval of Secretary of State Hoss who will like to see the reduction made one of 50 per cent, the secretary declared yesterday.

Hoss pointed out that his license reduction proposal made last month anticipated the tax reductionists' appeal for lessened charges to motorists for using the highways.

Hoss said he favored a five-cent gasoline tax and would urge that it be distributed in a manner which would allow the counties of the state to recoup the losses in revenues they would receive when the license fees were reduced.

A week ago the Marion county court went on record as favoring a five-cent gasoline tax and a liberal split-up of money received with the county courts for use in county road-building programs.

## Perfect Lovers Of Screen May Be Parted Soon

LOS ANGELES, July 18. — (AP) — The screen's perfect lover and his dashing smart lady, John Gilbert and Ina Claire, have failed to find in real life the beautiful fancies of love they enacted with such success in films.

Miss Claire, in a suit for divorce filed in superior court today, charged mental cruelty. John Gilbert and Ina Claire, have failed to find in real life the beautiful fancies of love they enacted with such success in films.

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## French Plan of U. S. Guarantee Not Acceptable

WASHINGTON, July 18. — (AP) — Material modification of the French plan for a loan to Germany appeared certain tonight as trans-Atlantic discussions continued to pave the way for the coming Monday conference in London.

The French proposal that such a loan be guaranteed by the United States, Great Britain and France is regarded by the American negotiators, and Secretary Stimson has so informed the French premier.

## Identify Walp As Holdup Man

William Walp was identified by Roy Collins of 1529 Oak street yesterday as the man who held him up Friday night near Collins' home and took six dollars from him. Walp, when arrested early yesterday morning, had no gun, but did have some liquor, it is charged, and was booked on that count.