

The Oregon Statesman

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Shrinking Valuations

THE sagging of assessed valuations of property in the state continues. The total for the state for 1935 is reported by the state tax commission at \$924,071,620.84. The high point of valuations was 1931 when the total was \$1,125,000,000. The decline in the last year was about \$20,000,000. For Marion county the 1935 valuation is \$42,606,953.04 while last year's valuation was \$43,873,519.67. It is reported that officials think the bottom has been reached and that from now on the trend will be upward.

Such a change is certainly to be desired; because the effect of shrinking valuations is to pile up heavier tax burdens on faithful acres. For these valuations are not just percentage scale downs, but readjustments in which certain classes of property receive far heavier reductions than other classes. Shifts of values account for this, plus aging of properties. But with some property paying a much lower tax than before the remaining property must pay not only its former share, but take up a portion from the devalued property. The expenses of government are not declining but increasing.

A factor which is not taken account of is the steady wasting away of land in private ownership due to the expansion of government. Property foreclosed in tax sales takes off the tax rolls considerable areas. But various branches of government are rapidly expanding ownership of lands. In Salem the privately owned water company is now publicly owned, and tax-exempt. The federal government has an ambitious program of land recovery. Already it has bought the big P ranch in Harney county for a game refuge, and taken it off the tax rolls. It is buying up large tracts in Jefferson county and in other counties of submarginal lands. When these farmers are relocated on government lands their new homes may be tax-free if sold on long-term contracts.

The federal government already owns over half the land of Oregon. If now it takes in more acreage either in forest or farm land, the tax burden is increased on the remaining privately owned lands. To offset this, if the federal development at Bonneville attracts new industries valuations may be increased enough to take up the deficiency caused elsewhere.

Real property now is carrying too large a share of the tax load. The burden should be reduced and not increased. The shrinking of valuations either through reduction in true values or in the transfer of title to government units creates a problem which needs to be very closely watched. If the trend continues it may be accelerated through inability of remaining property to bear the load, which will force a drastic change in our taxing system.

Football and the South

A week ago Alan Gould, sports writer for the Associated Press, listed the ten leading college football teams. Here was his list: Southern Methodist, Minnesota, Texas Christian, Princeton, California, Rice, Louisiana State, Alabama, Dartmouth, Pittsburgh. Saturday's events may make a revision necessary. Stanford for example defeated California decisively, while Notre Dame's victory over U. S. C., and Dartmouth's defeat by Princeton suggest including Notre Dame and dropping Dartmouth.

Regardless of alterations in the list the fact sticks out that five of the teams are of southern schools: Southern Methodist, which heads the list, Texas Christian, third, Rice, Louisiana State and Alabama. In recent years the southern schools have been coming forward to challenge the supremacy long held by the east, later by the midwest and then by the Pacific coast. Georgia Tech and Alabama have been most famous, the latter winning last year's Rose Bowl game.

This column is not encroaching on the sports writers' domain, but we raise the question as to what this signifies. Southern schools have long been regarded, educationally, as the most backward in the nation. Is this athletic stimulation an indication of similar advancement in the classroom and laboratory? Or have the southern schools awakened late and come to realize the advertising value of winning teams, and so like Huey Long with Louisiana State, adopted promotion methods for athletic victories? Finally what about the effect of climate on physical achievement? Football was always regarded as a cold weather game, in which southerners could not excel because their climate was too hot. Is the new open football better adapted to their climate, or was the conception of football as a cold climate game just a false conception?

We have no disposition to start a new "war between the states", but is it just accidental that half the leading football teams this year are southern?

Forced Patriotism

COMPULSION in patriotism seems sure to defeat its own ends. Massachusetts has been having spasms over a new law requiring teachers in all schools, private as well as public to take an oath to support the constitution of the United States. Having in mind the example of the most distinguished Harvard alumnus in his fidelity to the oath it is plain to see that such mass swearings will have scant efficacy. In fact they are apt to bring the whole program of patriotism into contempt.

In Washington, D. C., teachers have to sign a statement that they have not taught communism before they can get a monthly paycheck. This again is a crude way of forcing support for the existing institutions.

In Massachusetts children of a religious sect were barred from school because they had conscientious scruples against saluting the flag. The same thing threatens in Snohomish county, Washington where three girls may be expelled from school for the same cause. They are aged eight, nine and ten; at years so tender that they can hardly know what things mean. Would it not be much wiser to humor the religious scruples of the children or their parents, than to send them to a reformatory, as is proposed?

The perpetuity of this country and of its institutions does not depend on the forced salute of the flag or signing an oath of loyalty to the constitution. It depends on making those institutions function successfully to provide economic opportunity and civil and religious liberty.

Borah is announced as starting a drive for a liberal Republican party. The Statesman is liberal,—except with public money; so undoubtedly it can't get into Borah's new set-up.

On a road near Fort Dodge, Iowa, just after the pheasant hunting season opened a patrolman stopped a car because it had only one headlamp burning. Eight cars stopped behind the first, driven by hunters who thought they were being checked by game wardens. The patrolman soon signalled them to proceed. Afterwards he found 30 pheasants in the ditch beside the road. No wonder wild life disappears.

The Great Game of Politics

By FRANK R. KENT
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Credit for Mr. Roosevelt
Washington, Nov. 25

WHATEVER else may be said of the Canadian reciprocity treaty it clearly redounds to Mr. Roosevelt's credit in one direction, and in another direction, to some degree, anyhow, it diminishes the charge that he has repudiated completely his platform promises.

IT is true there are a lot of other pretty solemn promises which he has disregarded and which cannot now be fulfilled. It is true, too, that he has taken nearly three years to secure even the partial redemption of this one. And it is also true that this would not have been achieved but for the day in and day out persistence of the Hon. Cordell Hull, who takes his party promises seriously and holds on to his political principles like a puppy to a root. Nevertheless the fact remains that Mr. Hull is the Roosevelt secretary of state, that Mr. Roosevelt signed the treaty, that the responsibility rests upon him. Whether they think it economically sound or not, no fair-minded person will dispute that it was a step in which was involved the good faith of both the party and the president.

BECAUSE of all the democratic obligations, that to revise downward the Hawley-Smoot tariff was the deepest and most unequivocal. The promise to do this went back of the 1932 campaign into the early Hoover days. The inquiry into the new tariff law passed in the special session called by Mr. Hoover in 1929 was the issue upon which the democrats made their 1930 campaign and the one upon which they secured control of the house of representatives.

THE signing of that bill was one of the Hoover mistakes for which he was damned and denounced by every democratic spokesman and organ in the country. Mr. Roosevelt, to make the law seem more obnoxious, habitually referred to it in his 1932 speeches as the "Grundy Tariff bill." The democratic party and its candidates were pledged up to their eyeballs to overthrow the unprecedentedly high wall it had erected. To democrats of the old-fashioned type it has been a mortifying thing that after such a fight and such a pledge, three years should elapse without a move being made. To them the treaty seems an unescapable fulfillment of a party obligation, without which self-respecting democrats could not hold up their heads.

AT least, the Hull type of demagogue feels that way. A good many others believe the treaty economically unwise and that it will cost Mr. Roosevelt votes. The protests from the special interests, including the farmers, are beginning to flow in. However, it is somewhat significant that, except for Mr. Hoover, who it must be admitted now has an outspoken boldness on issues not usually associated with seekers after office, the republican spokesmen have so far refrained from violent attack, are cannily "awaiting developments." Wholly aside from its economic and political aspects, there are several interesting points about this business. One is that it is the first example of the exercise by the president of the legislative power delegated to him by congress. In effect, he has written a new tariff law with our largest customer, and in treaty form it does not have to be even submitted to the senate for ratification.

ANOTHER is the complete state isolation in which the treaty leaves the unfortunate Mr. George Peek, supposed to be special adviser on foreign economics and tariffs to the president, and who has consistently opposed the Hull efforts for separate treaties. Still another interesting thing is pointed out by the astute Mr. Raymond Clapper, in the Washington Post, who asserts that Mr. Roosevelt has minimized hostile newspaper criticism by guaranteeing a duty free supply of Canadian print paper. It also has induced Canada to let American magazines in free. It is, of course, a horrid thought that publishers could be influenced by such things, but the fact is they are human, too—some of them, very often, too human.

Twenty Years Ago

November 26, 1915

Joseph Hillstrom, I. W. W. member executed in Utah, was given a "red" funeral in Chicago today.

On the front page is a letter from the inmates of the county jail thanking the sheriff for the Thanksgiving dinner served yesterday.

Marie Bollinger and Gordon McGilchrist were married last night at the First Christian church.

Ten Years Ago

November 26, 1925.

O. L. McIntyre, superintendent of the state school for the deaf, will leave today for Council Bluffs to take over the Iowa school. A successor has not been named.

Today is Thanksgiving. Norma Talmadge in "Gran-stark" is playing at the Oregon.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

More facts about Mrs. Wright, pioneer boarding house keeper, and our pioneer doctors: (Concluding from Sunday.)

Continuing the speech of Dr. W. H. Byrd: "They (Rafe Bonham and his brother) engaged in a life-saving life. (Meaning the diphtheria.)

"These conditions have been eliminated, changed, about which these men who were practicing medicine at that time knew nothing—and I think it is well for us in reminiscing, in taking a retrospect of life, that we do not know what kind of an end awaits us.

"Two of these earnest, energetic practitioners died in the insane asylum. Two of them died from that terrible disease, cancer, and only three of them, that I recall, lived to a good, round old age and died from natural causes.

"There is nothing, my friends, that I can say more or that I would care to say more. I am the dean of the profession from the point of age and time at the head of the parade, in the present course of events, the first to go; and I hope that any man who speaks of us hereafter (those of us now engaged in the active practice of medicine), will say as well of us as we did by them—that we did the best we could. I could wish for no higher compliment. I thank you. (Applause.)

Toastmaster: "Dr. Byrd speaking of Rafe Bonham reminds me that 48 years ago I went to school in North Salem, with two of our brothers who died during that epidemic. We are not going to call on Rafe to speak tonight, but I think you old pioneers will join me in saying that there never was a man in this community who stood higher than did R. P. Bonham, his father, and his son, who is in charge with the immigration department of the U. S. government, headquarters Seattle, formerly Portland. His father was Salem postmaster, circuit judge, U. S. consul, etc.)

"In those days here, and these young fellows don't know it, the great social and political feature in the town was the old volunteer Salem fire department. . . . In those volunteer fire departments the custom of making its offering each Sunday in the chest. Offerings on usual Sundays often amounted to \$25 or better. Several hundred people were in attendance at the homecoming festival during the forenoon and it was believed that the offering was much larger than usual although the money had not been counted prior to its removal.

Along with the church funds went \$2 taken from the purse of Mrs. Mary Andrews, church treasurer. Mrs. Andrews had placed her handbag in the chest when she went down to the basement to eat her dinner. Twenty-five cents in the bag was overlooked. No clue to the thief was had Sunday night.

Mrs. Seifert Hostess Detroit Sewing Club

DETROIT, Ore., Nov. 25.—The Ladies' Sewing club met at the home of Mrs. William Seifert. There were 18 members present.

Mrs. Earl Parker, president of the club, was absent on account of illness. Mr. and Mrs. George P. McClanahan and son, Homer, were Salem visitors Saturday. Mr. McClanahan is chief forest ranger of this district.

Daily Health Talks

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D. United States senator from New York Former Commissioner of Health, New York City

A NEW way of treating hernia is being successfully used. This is the so-called "injection method," which has the approval of many reputable physicians.

But before speaking about that, let me tell you a little bit about rupture, or hernia, as the doctors call it. This condition is caused by the weakness of a muscle or several muscles. As a rule the defect is found in the abdominal wall, but may be in the groin.

The weakness is in reality a mechanical defect, which may be present at birth, or it may result from a severe strain or over-exertion in lifting. When there is tendency to hernia, a run-down condition from ill health may be the last straw to break the muscular resistance.

waited for us to come up; but that was a small price to pay to keep the Capitols from getting the fox tail! (Laughter.)

"I remember, also, one glorious occasion when the Capitols had the fox tail and there had been no fire for a long time, and fire broke out, and set the fire the Capitols' engine houses which stood where the Bank of Commerce now is (southeast corner State and Liberty), and we pulled their hose out, put the fire out, and took the fox tail.

"I see sitting over here to the left a big, black-headed stiff who was foreman of Capitol engine company. That fellow is George Burnett. We will hear from him."

The man called upon, Geo. H. Burnett, was at the time chief justice of the Oregon supreme court in the days of the volunteer fire department, he was one of the ablest and most faithful members. He never missed a fire unless one started when he was out of town.

He was one of the most dignified of judges or justices on the bench. No lawyer ever attempted to be familiar with him there. But, as a fireman, he was one of the boys.

This series has run a day longer than expected, and may be thought to an end. But, under another heading, something more will appear on Hal Patton's birthday party—probably commencing tomorrow. A great deal of interest to Salem old timers was said and done at that party.

Robber Relieves Church Chest of Sunday Offering

SILVERTON, Nov. 25 — A thief or thieves entered the Christian church and removed all cash from the church chest in the vestibule Sunday during the noon basket dinner held in the basement of the church in conjunction with the homecoming observance.

The church has been following the custom of making its offering each Sunday in the chest. Offerings on usual Sundays often amounted to \$25 or better. Several hundred people were in attendance at the homecoming festival during the forenoon and it was believed that the offering was much larger than usual although the money had not been counted prior to its removal.

Along with the church funds went \$2 taken from the purse of Mrs. Mary Andrews, church treasurer. Mrs. Andrews had placed her handbag in the chest when she went down to the basement to eat her dinner. Twenty-five cents in the bag was overlooked. No clue to the thief was had Sunday night.

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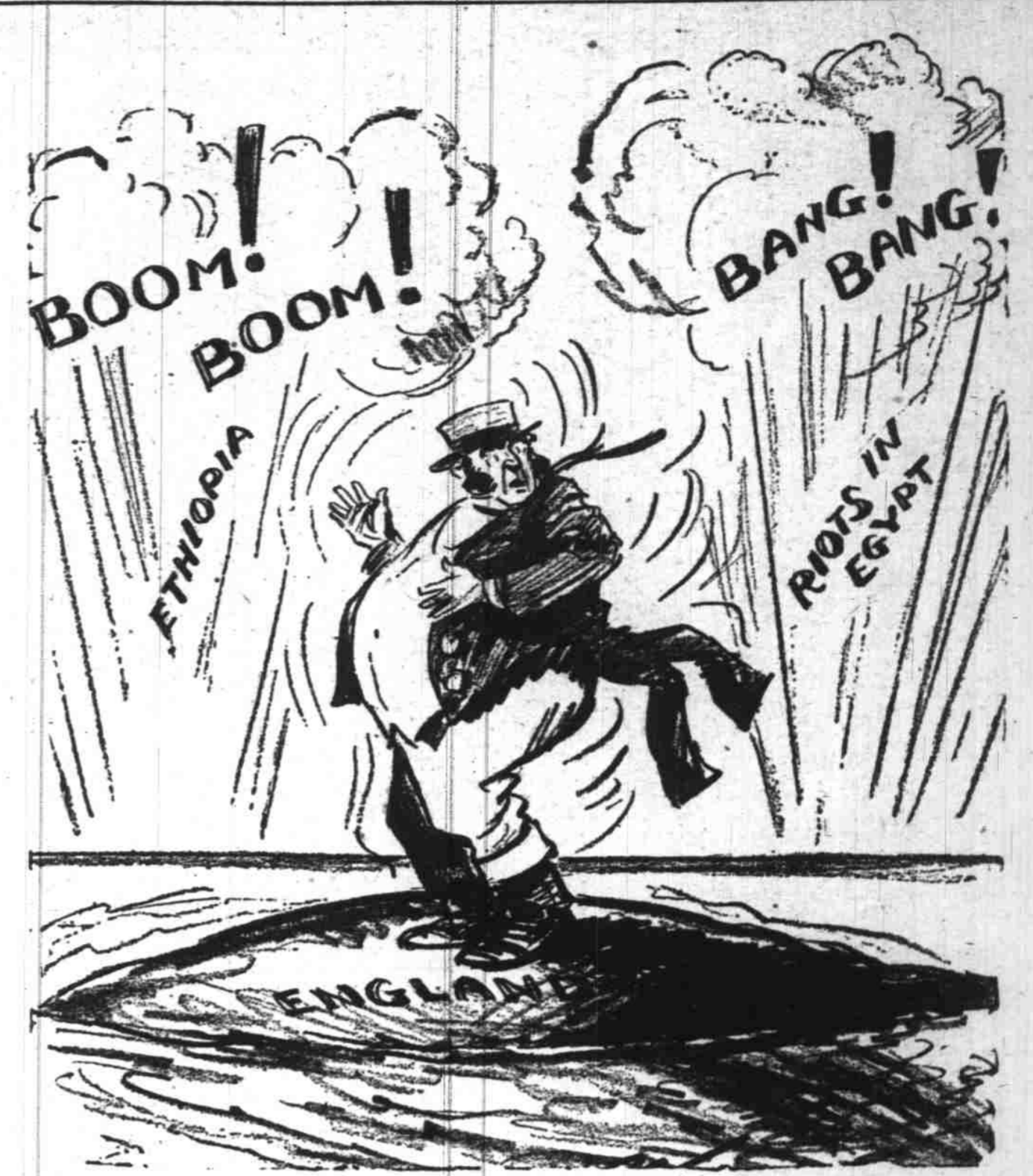
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what the carefully-planned operation will. A strangulated hernia calls for instant attention. With neglect there is always the danger of intestinal obstruction or peritonitis. These are serious complications.

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Jitter Island



"WIFE IN CUSTODY" by BEATRICE LUBITZ

SYNOPSIS Helen Schiller, pretty manicurist in the Forty-fourth Street branch of the swanky Anastasia Beauty Salon, so far forgot discipline one morning as to dance a few steps before the work-day began—and was seen by Walter Riley, owner of the salon. He did not speak then about this, but returning that evening to the shop, went to her—and found himself disarmed by her smile, and attracted to her. He asked if he might take her to dance, and she assented. That led to other evenings together—evenings spent with him ever afraid that his sisters who managed the Anastasia Salons for him, might see him.

After one evening at the theatre, Helen fell asleep as he drove her to her home in Bay Ridge—and he awakened her with a light kiss. She went down to the basement to eat her dinner. Twenty-five cents in the bag was overlooked. No clue to the thief was had Sunday night.

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danger of being recognized. In a way, of course, it was fun. At least Helen made an exciting sport of it, but Walter was proud and he hated this sub-routine courtship. Or was it courtship? Walter didn't dare to think further. He knew he loved her; he desired her. But to marry her! His mother's rage; his sisters' ambitions.

He thought angrily: "I'll marry whom I please. . . . And yet he was afraid of being seen with her. He ground his teeth in rage at his cowardice. He was a coward. His women had made a coward of him. It sickened him to think of it. And now Helen. He loved her. Her innocence was sweet as a flower. Well, to make a long story short,

CHAPTER XI

"Walter, you're not prejudiced against Jerry like the others!" Stella's voice rose hysterically. They were 18 members present.

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"She got a marvelous break though. The woman for whom she worked on Ninth Street, Brooklyn, died and left no heirs. Irene simply inherited the business. She made good money for those times and the rest of us were able to stay in school. One by one the others became manicurists and got jobs. Mother saved every penny the girls gave her outside of buying them clothes. By the time I got to high school mother had quite a bit. We lived terribly. I can't tell you how terribly. In the worst hole behind the hardware store. The girls were always fighting. They wanted mother to move but she sat tight. Well, to make a long story short,

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the house in which Irene's shop was located came up for sale for non-payment of taxes. I don't know what prompted me, but I actually forced mama to buy it and to close up our dirty little hardware store. There was a nice flat over the shop in which we could live.

(To Be Continued)