

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

(Published every evening and Sunday)
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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY

JUST A REMINDER

JUST as a reminder that Oregon has by no means exhausted her agricultural possibilities, our good friend George Dorris from over Springfield way has brought to us his annual gift of fine homegrown artichokes. Just as he was one of the pioneers in developing the filbert industry in this part of Oregon, so Mr. Dorris is quietly propagandizing the fact that Oregon can and should grow artichokes.

Perhaps no industry is so much a prey to habits as agriculture. Thus we go along for years on the assumption that "filberts grow in Europe," or that "artichokes grow in California," or that a state has such and such limitations of soil, market facilities and climates. The agricultural colleges point out possibilities, suggest endeavors, sow ideas, but the real impulse comes when some farmer begins to put them into effect.

Suppose we grow artichokes in the Willamette valley. Suppose we do grow just as nice ones as are grown in California. What are we going to do with them? Where are we going to find markets for them, seeing that artichokes are anyhow something of a luxury article on the market?

Those are pertinent questions. But do you remember when lettuce was considered something of a luxury in the United States? Do you remember when asparagus and green peas and green beans and strawberries and a great many other fruits and vegetables were purely local and seasonal crops? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the artichoke in time will take its place as a common article in American diet?

Perhaps the greatest opportunity in agriculture today is the still further popularization of the fruits and vegetables which are still handled largely as seasonal and local crops. Do you realize that there are millions in the great cities and other millions in grain growing regions to whom diet still means a slab of bread and a hunk of meat. There are millions of homes in the United States which seldom see vegetables except such as come in cans and seldom use fruits except as a treat.

The manager of a great camp for city children near an eastern city has the annual experience of teaching hundreds of children to drink milk and eat eggs. You may say that these youngsters have never had these articles of diet because their parents cannot afford the expense. Nonsense. There are no articles of diet as good or as cheap. One of the biggest obstacles to the marketing of a great deal of American farm produce is ignorance. Nothing else.

With our climate and our opportunities for cheap and easy irrigation we can grow any number of fruits and vegetables better than they can be grown anywhere else. Modern transportation facilities and modern refrigeration will make it possible for us to reach huge and undeveloped markets. We find reminders of all this in the gift of artichokes.

PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

WOULDN'T it be a bit of irony if ten years from now we were compelled to look back on the troublous days which confront us as "the good old days" in fact. Here we are tinkering with an educational system which with all its faults has been giving us remarkable service. Here we are playing with ideas that might easily wreck a highway system in which we have more than \$150,000,000 invested and that doesn't begin to measure its worth.

When Hal Hoss made his proposal to reduce license fees on automobiles to a flat \$3 last Saturday, we at once spoke of the dangers of adding to future highway bills by the process of cutting down cash revenues and piling up debt. We spoke of the dangers to the state system only by creating a condition which might make it necessary to neglect maintenance or pile up operating deficits. We pointed out the folly of saving money out of one pocket only to have to pay it out of another in the shape of property taxes or increases in gasoline tax.

These criticisms are given emphasis by the almost united opposition to the plan on the part of county judges in all parts of the state. Even granting that the state might somehow be able to get along on reduced highway revenues (which it couldn't) what are the counties to do with one third of the revenues which they now get for county roads lopped off? The counties, of course, could resort to property taxes to make up the revenues lost, but isn't that the very thing we have been trying to avoid in this state. It is the property taxation that is all out of line in Oregon.

And isn't the completion of the market road system of Oregon of almost equal importance with the major state highway system? Suppose we had merely the through state roads with nothing but mud lanes feeding in from the supporting countryside. One of the wisest provisions of the original state highway laws in Oregon was that the market roads should be coordinated with the main highways which were to be built within the state. Few states in the union have had such foresight.

It may be argued that the present system of distributing motor fees is unfair to the people of Multnomah county since a great deal of Multnomah money is distributed upstate. Portland is what it is today because it has been made accessible by a system of state highways combined with market roads which reaches into every corner of the state. To say that the people of Portland have not been receiving any benefit from the roads built in upstate counties would be absurd.

Just what lies behind all this flurry to change the licensing system overnight has not been made clear. Some think that the genial Hal merely wanted to provide an antidote for the annual license bills which are being passed out. Some think he is merely trying to insure his popularity with the voters against anything which might erode it. We cannot believe, knowing Mr. Hoss fairly well, that he had any mean motives. But we can't help feeling that his plan was ill-

considered. Adjustment of charges may be in order but it is a problem to be worked out carefully lest we make our burdens greater instead of less.

THE BIGGEST STORY

WHAT is the biggest news story in the world today? Marlen Pew, editor of the trade magazine, Editor & Publisher, offers a startling thought to the editors who are featuring international pow-wows and peace conferences and murder sensations in their headlines. Says Mr. Pew, the biggest story in the news today is the fact that more than 33,000 people are being killed and more than 1,000,000 maimed in traffic in the United States annually.

Only 126,000 Americans died of wounds, disease and all other causes during the 18 months the United States was in the World War. Only 50,000 were really killed in action. In other words, the point Mr. Pew is driving at is that in terms of human life and human misery our traffic problem is almost as great a problem as war.

Peace has its atrocities and inhumanities as well as war. What are we going to do about them? How are editors going to tell this "greatest story of all"? We tell about the accidents as they happen, but the horror is soon forgotten, even sooner than the horrors of war. Recklessness in this day and age is a mania. It can be cured only by the slow process of education. We can only say and say again that everybody must drive with care. We can only hope that gradually the great American frenzy "to get somewhere" will be replaced by a saner habit of thinking.

We cannot very well dramatize the story to the millions of people who are actors in it. Because we are all actors in it unaware.

A French girl is reported to have laughed three hours without stopping. Probably overheard an American tourist giving directions to a cab driver.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

TAXES HERE AND ELSEWHERE

WE pointed out the other day that 6.91 cents of our property tax dollar go to support the state and that 33.52 cents of it go to support county and local government.

Today we are calling attention to another fact, viz: That Oregon's per capita state tax has decreased 55 per cent in the past decade. In 1921 the total state tax was \$3,370,680, or \$8.13 per capita. In 1931 it is \$3,467,467, or \$3.04 for every man, woman and child in the state.

Here is another important fact: That in spite of the tremendous decrease in the state tax during the decade, local taxes have increased so greatly that they have not only counteracted all relief from the state decrease but have made our total tax levy the highest in the history of the state. In 1921 the total tax levy in Oregon was \$40,473,906, of which the state took \$3,370,680 and local governments took \$34,161,828. In 1931 our total tax levy is \$70,223,619, of which the state takes only \$3,467,467 and the local governments take \$46,756,150.

Despite this trend, tax payers and voters are now seeking reversion to state-supported activities while they make no effort to correct the real cause of high taxes, which is the constant increase in the county and local tax levies, for which they, themselves, are responsible.

Let us remember this fact the next time we become incensed over taxes. We growl about the salaries of our state officers and yet if everyone of them should work for the state free, the persons who now pay \$100 in taxes would lower the amount by less than \$1.21, for this \$1.21 of a \$100 tax bill pays for the cost of maintaining all of the state offices with supplies as well as officers. Of the 6.91 cents of the tax property tax dollar that goes to the state, this insignificant sum of \$1.21 takes care of all the expenses of general state administration.

The fact is that we vote huge local taxes on ourselves and then let ambitious state politicians rush us off our feet by their cries of economy in state affairs.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The National Woman's Party finds its ears ringing with an unaccustomed amount of praise since it directed attention to the labor department's cruel treatment of Mrs. Lillian Lash, the destitute American born woman who was deported along with her four little girls to a Canadian town where she knew no one, simply because her husband had been a Canadian.

Usually the party is found parading its equal rights amendment and is bitterly ruzzed by other women's groups because it would abolish labor legislation designed to protect women along with other legal inequalities. It will now, however, work for bills to permit Mrs. Lash's return and for once all women's national organizations probably will be on the same side.

The Columbia Broadcasting company's operator who cut off President Hoover's radio speech awhile ago still has his job and that incident and the one that happened to Democratic Chairman Jouett Shouse in San Francisco recently are making public men more careful. Hoover had penciled a couple of additional paragraphs onto his speech as first prepared and the operator, following the original copy, shut him off before he could get them on the air. All was satisfactorily explained. Shouse's radio listeners suddenly heard him telling a gathering that he was "off the air" when he wasn't and Republican Chairman Simeon Fess charged he had then said things he wouldn't have dared say to a radio audience.

Senator Daels of Pennsylvania, former secretary of labor, announced known as "Banjo Jim," isn't always taken seriously here and there. He recently told a friend that when he had wanted to get a thing done he explained, had a faculty of ingratiating himself and getting people to do those things.

The famous D. A. R. apparently still believes there is something slightly profane about tobacco. Signs in corridors of Memorial Continental Hall plainly admonished one: "No Smoking. This is a Memorial Hall."

Apple vendors have disappeared from the streets of Washington, but most office buildings have inherited a favorite vendor of fruits and candies who always looks very nice and usually undertakes to strengthen his position by inveighing against the communists in various offices. The Junior League bought the man who works its block a swell hat and coat which he now wears on his rounds.

A recent article published by the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, to prove that while a certain quantity of wine or brandy makes a man crazy, beer in corresponding quantity makes him stupid, contains this thought: "Some of us prefer an interesting music to a brutalized idiot."

Anyway, cocktails are not being consumed fast enough to take care of the surplus of grapefruit juice and orange juice. The agriculture department says practically all citrus-growing countries are increasing production faster than world consumption now, and that production probably will keep on increasing, which presumably means that just one more season of agriculture is going to suffer from overproduction.

SIDE GLANCES



"Take a look at these suits, buddy—I got 'em marked so low I hope you don't buy."

TALKIES ADD NEW HANDICAP TO MILLIONS OF HARD OF HEARING

By DR. MORRIS FISHER, Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine. ONE of the most interesting improvements in behalf of the handicapped that has taken place in recent years is a gradual extension of permanent installations for hearing devices in churches and theaters.

When silent motion pictures represented the only type available, people who were hard of hearing found them particularly attractive as places of entertainment. Then came the talkies and most of the pleasure in attendance at motion pictures disappeared for these handicapped people. In the meantime, it had been found that many people with certain types of deafness can hear well, provided they have the assistance of suitable hearing devices. Unfortunately such hearing devices demand special equipment which is not generally available.

When these facts were brought to the attention of owners of places of public instruction and entertainment, particularly in Chicago, they decided to cooperate and to install the necessary equipment. There is in Chicago today one theater in which 20 seats have been provided for the hard of hearing. When the deafened people come to this theater they merely sit at the box office and they are provided with ear phones which are plugged into the electrical connection on the special seat. A half dozen theaters devoted to talking motion pictures are similarly equipped.

Many churches have provided the necessary equipment in the form of electric connections and head phones. Tests have been made of thousands of school children, and it has been found that many of them who are considered deaf have slight remains of the hearing apparatus. It is necessary to educate these remnants promptly, otherwise the portions of the brain devoted to the sense of hearing become quiescent from disuse and the longer the time of re-education is postponed the more difficult it becomes.

In an address on this subject, Mrs. L. Pelton, who has been actively concerned in securing installation of hearing equipment, emphasized the fact that the normal child hears for more than a year before it begins to imitate the sounds that it hears in the form of speech.

Great progress has been made in the teaching of lip reading to the hard of hearing. The combination of education in hearing and speech education and lip reading and the provision of suitable devices for those who hear with such devices means a much happier world for these handicapped people in the future.

It has been estimated that there are at least three million children in the United States who have defective hearing. Early attention to their defects is important from the economic point of view, since the provision of suitable education will make them better able to earn a living for themselves and to live normal social lives in the future.

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of Eugene to be given in the glass ball matches: C. M. Horn, fine bow, quiver and arrows; IXL store, pocket knife; S. Rosenblatt, pipe; Crain Bros., fine hat rack; T. J. Gill & Co., bottle Good Luck biters; Robinson and Church, brass hanging baskets; B. F. Dorris, dust pan; F. M. Wilkins, bottle toy rum; L. C. M. A. neck tie; A. Lynch, can oysters; A. V. Peters, in horn; Rosenblatt & Co., pair of bracelets; Jns. McClaren, bottle IXL biters; A. S. Patterson, pocketbook; C. Hodes, box cigars.

REFERENDUM ACT IS TURNED DOWN

The resolution endorsing the referendum on the state police bill passed by the Portland Central Labor Council was turned down by the Eugene Central Labor Council in meeting Wednesday evening. The local group is to make investigation before taking action and is to write Governor Julius L. Meier for information. A report will likely be given for the next meeting, or a special meeting may be called.

Discussion was also held by the Eugene group Wednesday evening on the matter of endorsing a candidate for the city school board. No action was taken, the matter being referred to the organized political league of the council. The matter of voting the resolution on the police bill will also likely be taken up by the political group, it was said.

E. F. Atchley was granted permission to pass the petition on the Rogue river closing bill because the council had in previous action opposed the closing.

A California millionaire recently gave his friends a peacock dinner and the birds alone cost him \$4000.

Special School Meet Is Planned Thursday. A special school meeting has been called for the River Road school district for Thursday night at the schoolhouse. Discussion will be held on ways and means of meeting the present crowded condition of the school during the coming year.

Wending Mothers Club Has Meeting. WENDING, May 21.—(Special.)—The Mothers' club of Wending held a special meeting Tuesday this week instead of the regular Wednesday evening meeting. This meeting was held in the afternoon at the park. It was supposedly in the nature of a picnic but they made a splendid use of the time spent there at the park. After the storms of the winter and this club took it upon themselves to see that it got that needed attention. The many people who visit the park this summer will be grateful to the mothers for this fine work.

It's A Good School. EUGENE BUSINESS COLLEGE. Miner Bldg. Photo M.

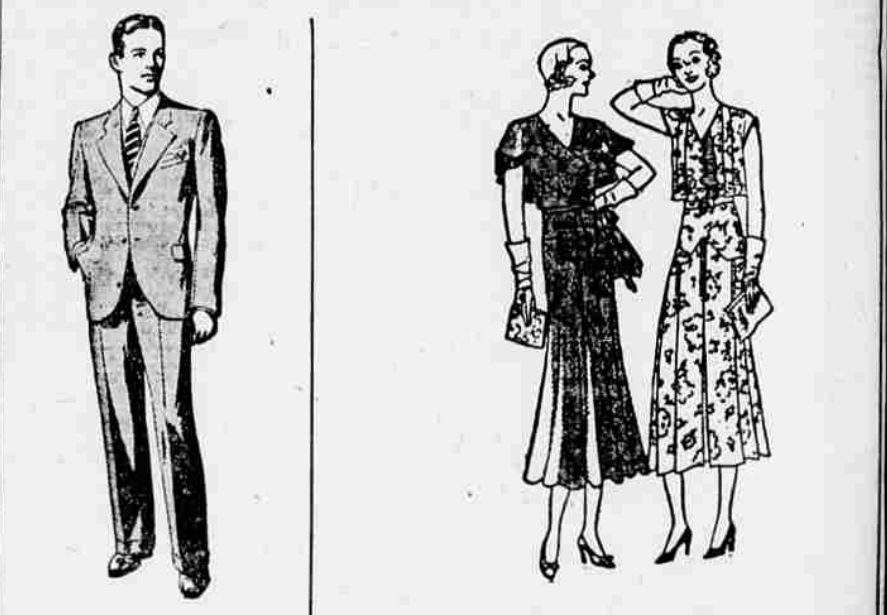
A \$36,000 Damage Suit Defended By Insurance

Last year an insurance company doing business through this agency defended our assured in a \$36,000 damage suit brought against him as the result of an auto accident. Would you have like protection were you involved in a similar action? Public Liability and Property Damage on your car will provide for your economic safety.

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