

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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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.

CITY'S BUDGET NO LARGER, BUT

By thrifty management, the city's budget committee has held the requirements to be raised by taxes in the coming year to exactly the same amount as last year—\$244,451.99 which includes requirements for debt payment and interest. The exact amount of the city levy will depend of course on the city valuation.

Last year's taxable valuation (not including railroads and other taxable utilities) was \$11,655,572. This year the comparable figure will be \$11,737,012—an increase of \$81,440. Last year the city's proportion of taxable utilities was \$803,091, and though the tax commission has made some slight reductions on some of these properties, Assessor Welby Stevens thinks the figure will be about the same.

In other words, this year's taxable valuation will be pretty close to \$12,500,000 as compared with last year's \$12,458,663. On that basis the regular city levy will be perhaps a fraction under last year's levy of 19.7 mills—on \$12,500,000 valuation it would figure to 19.5.

But then you must add in the half-mill special levy we voted last May to buy Spencer Butte and the other half mill we voted to take over the Amazon recreation field. So the total city levy will be about 20.5, maybe a shade less. We the people, not the city government, voted the slight increase.

If the water board amendment had been adopted last Tuesday, there could have been a substantial net decrease in taxes to encourage home building and other development in Eugene, and now that this battle is over we hope that Water Board and City can get together on working out some constructive plan for fixed annual payments by our municipal utilities in place of taxes.

For in spite of the excellent work which has been done by your city officers and their advisory committee on budget, the fact which ought to be understood by everybody is that the tax levy has been held in check only by cutting to the bone.

Only because of the progress that has been made in reducing debt and debt requirements and the slight gain in tax collections has it been possible to add even two policemen and two firemen, to make those very slight increases in city pay scales to which the employees are entitled, to add \$2,000 to our threadbare city library though a badly needed \$1,500 for books had to be lopped off.

To offset the \$18,000 loss in the city's portion of the county road levy which the county cut from 4 mills to 1 mill pare down about \$7,000 which would be paid normally into the sinking fund for special improvement bonds, this being possible only because of some excess collections in the past. And Recorder Bryan warns that in 1940 something will have to be done to build up that sinking fund.

Your city budget is no larger—and we should all give thanks—but—

It is time we all realize that our city unit—in spite of very careful management—is simply out of the picture when it comes to any really progressive schedule of improvements to meet the city's growth. We can operate—yes!

Unless we want to ADD TAXES and drive more development out of town we might as well stop talking about swimming pools, a really modern police or fire setup, an auditorium or any of those many projects which keep cropping up.

Now does this problem belong to all of us or is it just the bad luck of those whom we are in the habit of nagging because they are city government? This is OUR CITY and we submit its problems for a little thought.

FUTURE OF OREGON LABOR LAW

In view of all that was said during the heat of the political campaign about "the subsidized press" of Oregon, it is interesting to note that the first call for modification of the rather drastic "anti-picketing bill," which the people of Oregon voted upon last Tuesday, has come from the newspapers of the state.

Thus The Grants Pass Courier (Voorhies) says:

"We want the coming legislature to take the new labor control bill and MODERATE the provisions until it can be applied honestly and justly to Oregon's labor situation so as to assure greater labor responsibility and peace and productivity."

The Medford Mail Tribune (Ruhl) hopes that:

"As experience reveals defects or imperfections in the measure, either as to the

rights of the people or of organized labor, these defects will be corrected by the legislature."

Similar press comment is found in many parts of the state. We pointed out the other day that BEFORE the people of Oregon registered their strong feelings against labor rackets by adopting this bill, certain constructive labor leaders were preparing a measure patterned on the railway labor act. The preparation will be timely in view of the impending test of the initiated bill in the courts.

The people of Oregon have uttered a mandate for some form of labor controls, and it may be unwise if the coming legislature passes the issue and waits for the initiated bill to work through the long slow process of the courts. It will be wise if the legislature makes such amendments as are obviously needed BEFORE the measure goes to the test of the courts.

It is fortunate that Oregon has elected a governor of Sprague's firm, fair temperament. The greatest peril in the swing toward conservatism lies in pressures for "excess." Sprague is a man who will restrain those who want to crowd victory too much.

WORSE THAN THE MIDDLE AGES

Persecution of the Jews and other minorities in Germany is really worse than it ever was in the so-called Dark Ages because it is organized and scientific. The ruthless penalties which are being inflicted upon Jews in Hitler's realm because of the assassination of a Hitler henchman in Paris are horrible beyond belief. They amount to condemning the Jewish people in Germany to death by starvation. With modern organization this dreadful punishment actually can be carried out.

Hitler seems to have copied Stalin's tactics of a few years ago with the stubborn Russian farmers who objected to being regimented on state farms. That was an atrocity which almost escaped our notice because it came when our own depression was at its worst. The glib phrase "economic penalties" covers barbarism at its scientific worst.

This is the "realism" which the democracies of the world have elected to tolerate. The territorial gains which Hitler and his allies in Italy and Japan have made are really not so important as the ideas which they represent.

Only 20 years ago we were congratulating ourselves that the ideal of "live and let live" had been established. When we discuss "aggressions" in purely physical terms, we are overlooking the vital threat. The real threat is the doctrine of force. That is a threat which even our isolation cannot escape.

EARLY WINTER IS WELCOME

Driving down the highway from Cottage Grove the other day a vast dark cloud blanketed the horizon. Then a soft snow swirled down, plastered the windshield, made driving difficult and dangerous. Then the sun broke through the clouds and picked out the gold and green of the clump of trees around a distant hillside farmhouse. The snow in the valley melted as it fell but it stretched a silvery veil over distant mountain tops.

Winter has come to Oregon this year a bit earlier than usual, but winter in Oregon is like that. Winter is an inhabitant of the high mountains, and a rather useful neighbor at that. Early winter is a form of insurance for next summer's crops. We cannot complain too much when we have a little touch of frost.

Old timers will tell you that an early winter usually means an early spring. There is nothing mathematical or certain about this. Sometimes the wintry visitations of November are repeated in March. But there will be interludes when the grass will be green and the flowers will bud. Come February Billy Maddaugh and his neighbors will be competing with Culp Creek to tell us the trilliums are out.

There will be "silver thaws" (the Oregonian euphemism for slush of the meanest sort) but there will also be "rainbow days" when sunshine and warm showers play hide and seek. Winter in Oregon is an antidote for many things including too much politics. Winter is a good time for that "lost art" of "settling" that McGurk is always talking about.

Winter brings the end of an old year but also the beginning of a new one and new hopes.

On behalf of all winning candidates and to save much valuable space we tell those who voted for "em: "Thanks!" (And on behalf of the defeated we echo: "Nuts!")

John L. Lewis of CIO blames the Democrats for the recent defeats, but it has not occurred to him that their worst mistake might have been John L. Lewis.

Ajax McGurk wonders why Governor Martin doesn't offer his tent to the White House, now that he is done with it.

RUNNING FOR CONGRESS

BEFORE ELECTION

THE SUNDAY GARDENER
By MARIE FLETCHER

The Herb Garden—General Garden

Handicrafts of the Southern Highlands is a recent book by Allen Eaton of the Russell Sage Foundation. Some time ago, Mr. Eaton published a work on similar lines: "The Contribution of the Immigrant to American Life."

A resident of Eugene some time ago, Mr. Eaton is well known to many of its citizens. He and his family have a large connection hereabouts. Mrs. Eaton is a daughter of the late "Uncle Ben Dorris" whose spicy wit and gracious, thoughtful deeds to some who were once "strangers in a strange land" are an abiding memory. To one who has been privileged to read one of the Christmas letters from the Eaton home to relatives here, is like going voyaging with the Little Lame Prince on his magic carpet to lands afar. One would gladly say many "Abracadabras" to repeat the pleasure.

The Eatons are artists by temperament and by product as well. Weaving are one line, dyeing another. There are others, too, but memory is busy just now with some lengths of silk which Mr. Eaton had dyed and for which he had found pieces of costume jewelry matching them—yellows, blues, greens—several shades of each. These were shown to some art classes at the university and his pleasure in achieving such delightful results and ours in being permitted to share them are still a very pleasant memory.

This pre-ambles is designed to lead up to the chapter in the book on Herbs and Dyeplants. One must digress long enough to call attention to the remarkable photographic illustrations by Mrs. Ullman. They are done with such artistry, such keen insight into and appreciation of the character of the people of the Highlands; with devotion to her work, and with an evident effort to make the public conscious of the quality of these gifted people who—some at least—for generations have followed the same line as did their forebears.

The pioneer women of the Highlands preferred to make their own dyes and they enjoyed the experience. One may find in an Herbal of the sixteenth or seventeenth century the same formula as is used by them today.

The two most important colors used by the pioneer women were blue and red-indigo and madder. The indigo plant was introduced into Europe in the sixteenth century. Previous to that time a similar dye had been made from the herb Woad. Queen Elizabeth forbade the use of indigo—the English public objected to its use strenuously, as being inferior to Woad.

The indigo plant is native to the southern Appalachians. South Carolina has produced it in large quantities, and it was raised in Louisiana. Dye has been manufactured in New Orleans but the pioneers rather surely made use of the wild plant.

The plant flowers in August and the blossoms are gathered at that time, put into a barrel, covered with a layer of straw, then a layer of sumac for tanning. Water is then poured over and it stands until it is decomposed. The chemical reaction on this mixture forms a cake in the bottom of the barrel. This becomes the material for the blue-pot. This is an iron vessel which is replenished and kept going—often for years. There

is record of one in use for ninety-four years, and of one that was started in 1797. These dye-pots have an unpleasant odor and are not brought into the house. Should any reader be interested in the subject of natural dyes, a mimeographed pamphlet by Margaret S. Furry and Bess M. Viemont is published by the Department of Agriculture.

The first seeds of the indigo plant came from Madagascar. It gives many shades in either wool or cotton.

Madder was used by the Egyptians, by the Moors in Spain; was introduced into Holland in the 16th century and now is one of the important contributions that Holland makes to the world's commerce. Quite probably, the early Hollanders brought it to this country. Its colors range from Turkey red to pink.

The madder plant is cultivated in the Highlands now but the pioneers must have used the wild plant. Mr. Eaton mentions visiting, in 1930, an old bed that had been discovered near Berea, Kentucky, where so much handicraft work is carried on. Evidently, the bed had not been cultivated for years but the plants were in fine condition and excellent color.

"Natural dye colors of brown, black and gray are produced from walnut and butternut hulls, roots, and bark; gray and tan from sumac berries; pink, and lavender from sedge grass; green from pine needles; and many colors from cultivated garden plants." Evidently almost any part of the plant may be used for the dye. The author lists roots, bark, leaves, hulls, nuts, flowers, fruit, stems, seeds or the complete plant. "Sometimes the time of year for gathering is of importance. From the sumac blossom and fruit, a different shade varying from light cream to deep tan, is obtained according to the month." Some dyes keep their potency a considerable time, some

a very long time, though it may need replenishing.

Indigo will color both wool and cotton—some other dyes need a mordant. Alum is a mordant with madder—on wool, then it produces a rose color; muriate of tin with madder gives brick color. The mordant helps the fiber absorb the dye and "sets" it.

In dyeing, as is well known, one must watch timing, temperature, stirring, careful manipulation of the goods; sufficient room in the dyeing vessel; lifting; draining; sometimes adding a substance—salt or vinegar—or whatever may be needed.

The material of the vessel, tin, copper, brass or iron affects the dye and must be considered, as must be the manner of removing the goods from the dye vessel. And out of doors is the best place to dye goods, is the author's suggestion.

Allenstand Cottage Industries; the Shuttle Crafters; the Pine Mountain Settlement School; Berea College, Pi Beta Phi Settlement are names familiar to many, as institutions that foster and encourage the work of the handicrafters. Sales from some of them are held in Eugene at times.

Dyeing is a fascinating art with a fascinating history and this is an interesting and distinctive group to contact.

Mr. Eaton secured a list of fifty-two herbs from the stock of a local dealer in Tennessee. They were recommended by the grower for use singly or in combinations up to eight or ten. Another grower of herbs gives this prescription:

"One for the back; one for the chest; and one for when you don't feel so good." Still another says of spignet (unknown): "Spignet is good for the back and balm fortifies the morals!"

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
 These things I got by the sweat of my brow:
 A fallow field and an ancient plow.

And these I bought with the songs I sung:
 The wind and the spray the salt sea flung.

And these are the things I got from Love:
 One tall pine tree and a star, a



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star above.
 I, being in my right mind now
 Bequeath to my son my land and
 my plow.
 And I'll leave him also the wind
 and the sea,
 And I'll even leave him my tall
 pine tree.
 But I'll keep that star, so my
 soul can wear
 One golden trinket in her hair.
 —Unknown.

LITTLE LOVES
 Why supplicate the gods above?
 Embrace instead each little love:
 Iridescent spools of silk—
 Euphonious and lulling name—
 Contented kittens lapping milk
 By warmth of bright, translucent
 flame;
 The fleece of cotton, newly
 ginned;
 And yellow mushrooms in a ring;
 A puffing sail against the wind;
 The silly lambs of early spring.
 Yet unto those who scoff and
 scorn,
 Such little loves are never born.
 —Margaret Lathrop Law.

Giving is serving,
 Service is living,
 Living is lovely,
 If each take a part.
 Home is a temple,
 Life is immortal,
 Let us be builders
 With hand and with heart.
 —Unknown.

They were such little things
 to make me glad;
 A moonbeam dancing on a lily
 pad.
 A scarlet flower nodding in the
 breeze,
 And dappled sunlight through
 the willow trees,
 The brittle splendor of a winter
 day,
 The happy laughter of a child at
 play,
 Crisp yellow curtains in a sun-
 lit room,
 And a bowl of tulips bursting
 into bloom,
 A baby's hand round my finger
 curled—
 Such little things to so enrich
 the world.
 —Rebecca L. Edgerton.

"Wisdom is the fine art of
 committing a particular folly
 only once."
 —How shall I know, unless I go
 ent.

Her days are rich with
 harvesting,
 With ripened hopes and dreams
 of vanished spring.
 And though the flower be but
 yet from the tree
 Full-flavored fruit is her's
 dantly.
 Frost may have touched the
 den of her life,
 But beauty all her pathway
 terweaves,
 For memories lie strewn where
 she walks
 Like glamorous and golden
 leaves.
 —A. P. Low.

HAPPY HANDY CLUB
 LOWELL, Nov. 12—(Special)
 The Happy Handy club met at
 home of Mrs. Mae Walsh
 week. Members worked on
 towels for the hostess. The
 present were Mrs. Oral Cox,
 Mrs. Frank Cox, Mrs. Frank
 Orville Cox, Mrs. Ben O'Connor,
 Mrs. Jack Shady, Mrs. J. S.
 Strombo, Mrs. J. S. Walsh. The
 members presented the hostess
 kitchen with a shower of
 towels. They were worked in
 in keeping with the high
 colors of red and blue. The
 meeting will be at the home
 of Mrs. Cora Shealey. An
 afternoon of "play" is being planned
 and all members are urged to be
 present.

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