

East Oregonian

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THE DANGEROUS SURPLUS.

The national treasury shows a big surplus for the year ended June 30, and we are expected to rejoice and be glad. It is pointed to as a triumph of statesmanship. There are people who suppose we are all the richer for this surplus.

But there is another side to the matter. This surplus is nothing more nor less than hard-earned money belonging to the people, taken from them by unnecessary taxation and locked up there in the treasury for no purpose.

A nation can never make itself richer by taxation. Many a nation has made itself poorer by it. And any nation makes itself poorer when it unnecessarily takes money out of the hands of the people who have earned it and own it and pile it up in useless heaps for fools to gape at and exclaim: "Just see how rich we are."

As well might a merchant take part of his money out of his business and put it on exhibition in his show window as proof of his solvency. Instead of proving his solvency it would raise doubt of his sanity.

No sounder political principle was ever enunciated than this: Unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation. It breeds a great brood of injustices and extravagances and speculations. "You might as well," said the picturesque but perspicacious William Allen, "try to run a powder mill in hell as an honest government with a plethora of surplus." Allen is gone, but the truth remains.

The surplus revenue collected during the year was \$53,000,000, some \$10,000,000 more than the estimate. Of this at least \$20,000,000 is the taxes imposed to meet the cost of the war with Spain. The total sum collected was only \$4,500,000 less than in 1902, while the total expenditures were nearly \$36,000,000 greater.

Though the war in the Philippines has been officially certified to be over, the expenses of the war department for the year were \$118,550,000—an increase of more than \$6,000,000 over 1902, and just double the cost in the year before the Spanish war.

The increase in the expenditure for the navy was \$15,000,000.

And so through exorbitant taxation of a generous people the money flows into the treasury and because it flows it is spent, and if a little more flows in than can be managed to be spent we are asked to accept the surplus as a measure of our national honesty. As a matter of fact, it is but a partial measure of our national extortion.

The people of this country are today riding on the crest of the wave of prosperity. The pinch is not felt today. But for all these vast expenditures and all this wonderful surplus left in the treasury after the bills have been paid, the man who works with his hands has to contribute out of his slim earnings.

The pace is being set in good times and the cost may not worry us, but it is a drain upon our resources just the same, and we shall feel it severely when depression comes.

Every dollar of these expenditures, every cent of this surplus, come out of the earnings of the people who work with their hands. They pay it indirectly in the increased cost of living under a government that collects more money than it needs.

That surplus is nothing to be pointed to with pride. It is a monument of shame and extortion.

The Oregon boys who stole the thought and language of another with which to win oratorical prizes, are not the only enterprising orators in the country. Maurice B. Rich, of Brown University, at Providence, Rhode Island, is accused of stealing the oration with which he won a valuable medal. Traces of a winning oration delivered at Hamilton College in 1901, have been discovered. His production. When the committee gets through with Rich, it should hunt up the man from Hamilton and find out from whom he stole his oration and so on indefinitely back through the history of college medals. About one-half of the winning eloquence of modern college orations has been stolen and some bright student will have to originate something new, or oratorical contestants will be forced out of business.

Luxuries are not equally distributed in Oregon. Portland has made it a misdemeanor for a man to cut down a shade tree in front of his home, as there is so much shade there people persist in making room for sunshine,

by destroying their trees. Pendleton is planting trees to make more shade, and would gladly exchange sunshine for trees, about this time of the year.

DRIFTWOOD

In Washington the other day the coach of the Russian ambassador was stopped as it was about to enter a street which was undergoing repairs. The coachman was highly indignant. "Let me past," he said, "I drive the Russian ambassador." "Can't do it," replied the man who was keeping carriages off the street. The coachman spoke volubly in French, then he came back to English and announced: "I drive Count Cassini master of the imperial court of Russia, and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Russian empire." "G'wan down the other street," replied the guard, unmoved. "I wouldn't let you through if you were driving a free-born American citizen."

The late Henry G. Morse, president of the New York Shipbuilding Company, was one day visited by a man who wished to borrow money where-with to launch a questionable enterprise. Mr. Morse gave some polite excuse for his unwillingness to lend, and the man declared that he regarded this excuse as somewhat fishy. Thereupon, smiling grimly, Mr. Morse said: "Let me tell you a little story. Once upon a time an Arab went to his neighbor and said: 'Lend me your rope.' 'I can't,' said the neighbor. 'Why can't you?' 'Because I want to use it myself.' 'What do you want to do with it?' the borrower asked. 'I want to tie up five cubic feet of water with it,' was the reply. 'How on earth, the other sneered, can you tie up water with a rope?' 'My friend,' said the neighbor, 'Alia is great, and he permits us to do strange things with a rope, when we don't want to lend it.'"

Mr. W. E. Russel in a new volume of reminiscences gives some interesting glimpses of the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, which he says was one long honeymoon. The jocose and genial side of the great premier and his wife is very attractive. With quaint enjoyment, Gladstone used to grasp his wife's hand and sing the refrain of his favorite "fiddler's song":
A raganuffin husband,
And a ranting wife,
We'll fiddle it and scrape it
Through the ups and downs of
Life.
Tutuilla, July 26th.

THE WALL STREET FIGHT.

To the man out West the great feature of the tremendous squeeze in Wall street is the evidence of national stability. In years by-gone a sickening slump like that would have paled the cheek of finance all over the country and excited terrible fear of a stampede.

The financial fabric is like a theater filled with people, gay, happy, brave, brilliant, enthusiastic, but changed, in a twinkling, to pallid terror.

But this time the terrible shrinkage has been looked on by the country not with the up-rolled white eyeballs of fear that the roof would fall, but the eyes of the country have been directed to the stage viewing with deep, but calm interest, the tragedy of inflation and the battle of the money kings.

All the people have to do is to look on and keep out of it, and the losses will be only the losses of the battlers. —Denver Post.

THE PRISONER

Who escapes from jail is by no means free. He is under the ban of the law and punishment is written over against his name. Soon or late he will be caught again and bear added punishment for his short escape from his cell.

Those who by the use of palliative powders and tablets escape for a time from the sufferings of dyspepsia are in the same condition as the escaped prisoner. Soon or late they will go back to the old condition and pay an added penalty for temporary release.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures dyspepsia and other diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. Its cures are lasting.

Accept no substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery." There is nothing just as good for diseases of the stomach, blood and lungs.



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We are closing out our line of ranges and can beat any price in town in the range line. If you want a genuine bargain come in and see us.

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