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MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

How to Win—Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. Psalm 37:3-5.

THE TAX REMITTANCE CASE

The question of the rights and duties of the county courts of Oregon under the provisions of chapter 314 of the laws of 1925 is to be settled in the supreme court. This is the gratifying news that comes from Salem, where the state land board has instituted mandamus proceedings to compel the county court of Coos county to order the remission of penalty and interest on delinquent taxes for the year 1921.

We say the news is gratifying because there are a good many people who feel that the law is a bad one. They will hope for its invalidation by the court. There are a good many others who will be saved some money if the law is found good. They will hope to see it sustained. Everybody interested in tax matters will be glad to have the question settled.

Our opinion is that the law is bad and that Deschutes county should not put it into effect even though it may legally be done. We think the law is bad for many reasons. Some of these follow.

(1) In its preamble, justification for the law is found in the fact that "the farmers and agricultural interests of the state have been suffering under severe handicaps" and the further fact that the severe winter has frozen the grain crop in Eastern Oregon and "it will be difficult for many of the farmers of the state to promptly pay their taxes." The alleged condition of a small special class, i. e., those farmers who are unable to pay their taxes and those Eastern Oregon wheat growers whose seed wheat was frozen last winter, is thus made the reason for a law that gives a special benefit to every delinquent, whatever the reason for his delinquency may be, whether speculation, incompetence, extravagance or actual misfortune. There are no frozen wheat farmers in Deschutes; the others who are delinquent are inconsiderable in number. Here the law will operate for the benefit of an entirely different class and not one for whom it was intended. An examination of the tax rolls of Deschutes county will show that taxes have been allowed to become delinquent not only by farmers, but by town lot speculators, by apparently well-to-do business men and others. Speculation, not agricultural misfortune, is the reason for their delinquency. It should not be condoned by the remission of penalties and interest.

(2) The law penalizes prompt tax payment and puts a premium on delinquency. It is unfair to those who paid their taxes when due and to those who have since paid and in doing so paid the accrued penalty and interest. They now get nothing back, while the man who did not pay gets let off.

(3) The county budget is based, in part, on an expectancy of revenue from penalties on delinquent taxes. The adoption of the law means the loss of a part of such revenue. Revenue lost in any way must be made up by taxation. The adoption of the law means that another burden is placed on the taxpayers in general.

(4) The adoption of the law postpones the payment of delinquent taxes for 1922, even without penalty and interest, until May 1926 and the delinquent taxes for 1923 until May, 1927. Some suggest that with penalties remitted people will come in to pay up their delinquencies at once. They will not. They will hang on to their money just as long as they can.

(5) In fact it is only a comparatively small number that in the long run does not pay up taxes, penalty and interest. Many wait until the last minute, but they pay. In other words the law does not serve to bring in money that otherwise would not come in. It does just the opposite thing. There are very few who had planned to abandon their property who will now pay up instead just because interest and penalty is remitted.

(6) County taxes alone are not involved. The county court has no



THE INVALID

When some good neighbor helpless lies, we hasten to his shack, and take him soup and luscious pies, and tripe and canvasback. I heard that Jabez Jinks was ill, with spasms in his legs, and started, with a right good will, to take him hard-boiled eggs. "I'll let old Jasper know," I mused, "that human hearts are kind, and he will doubtless be enthused, such sympathy to find." But at his door I met Dog Hick, who said, in angry tone, "You can't come in—when men are sick, they're better left alone. No sooner does a gent cave in, with divers maladies, than neighbors come, their maps a-grin, to bring him eggs and peas. They want to stand around his couch and ask him how he stacks, and strive to dissipate his grouch with jokes from almanacs. They want to wring their hands and weep, while he for silence pleads, they want to keep him from the sleep that he so greatly needs. A million invalids have died, who might be still astir, had not their kindly neighbors tried to show how good they were. A million men have met their ends, and sleep beneath the stone, who might be living if their friends had but left them alone. This Jabez only longs for peace, for silence and repose, and you come here with jam and grease and eggs and things like those. No doubt you'd make his life a pome, with gift and smile and jest, but take your foolish plunder home, and let the sick man rest."

such authority over the other taxing districts of the county as to justify it in saying that the payment of taxes due these districts may be postponed. Adoption of the law means that taxes for 1922 and 1923 due Bend, Redmond and the various school districts need not be paid for one and two years. At least this should not be done without request from these districts.

(7) The obligation to pay taxes should be absolutely certain. The law makes it uncertain and lays a foundation for the development of future uncertainty.

There is our opinion for what it may be worth. The supreme court will have the last guess and its opinion will settle the matter. We are glad that it is to be settled.

The Wall Flower

By MARION RUBINCAM

GLORIA'S ADVICE

Chapter 58

Gloria thought awhile, then asked: "How old are you, Pan?"

"Twenty-one, almost twenty-two," the girl answered.

Gloria laughed: "How marvellous to be young enough to count forward to the next birthday! I'm 33 when that unfortunate date occurs, so I refuse to think about it until it's past, and too late to worry over! You're so young for your age, Pan!"

"Do you know, you were never in love with this Morton at all?"

Pan looked sufficiently astonished at this remarkable statement to cause Gloria to laugh again.

She went on: "You weren't—not really, you know. You forgot too soon when you got into new surroundings. You found something better here—didn't you?"

Into Pan's mind came a memory of George Ridgeway's tired eyes and fine features, and the month that puzzled her so by its sweetness and its cynicism.

She nodded her head.

"You see, that was all there was to it. In the country you had nothing to think about but yourself. That sounds brutal, dear child, but I'm afraid it's true. Heaven knows you had enough unpleasant things happening to make your thoughts anything but cheerful. And there was little else to think about."

"Nevertheless, you did think about yourself and therefore you made the little hurts greater in your own mind. It wasn't love but loneliness that made you turn to Morton. What was there about him to satisfy a girl like you?"

Pan answered eagerly: "He was wonderful. He was so different. He didn't like girls in the silly sentimental fashion of the other boys. He respected them—the others were—well, so vulgar sometimes, in the things they would say about girls. Sometimes they'd say vulgar things to them. Even to Gladys—I heard one boy boast that he dared say anything he wanted to her."

"They seemed to think that girls existed to play with and spoon with. There weren't many really solid friendships; there weren't many cases where there was real companionship and respect between a boy and a girl."

"That's what made Morton so lovable. He gave a girl credit for a brain, the others didn't—or if they thought any girl intelligent, they called her a school ma'am and kept away from her. But Morton—I could have been a wife and a friend too. Gladys can only be a wife."

Gloria smiled a little and said: "Norris City is a place of about two or three thousand, I suppose, and off the beaten track. Therefore, it's unusually narrow in its point of view. And yet even there you'll find several sets of people. Gladys and her family happened to be in with that special kind—we might call them countryfied, though it's not a fair term. Let's call them an unintelligent crowd of people. There was another set, I met them, they were more serious, they liked books, they were broad minded—they were more nearly your sort."

there, that's all. You were miscast, as stage people would say, as out of place as a fine tragedy actress trying to play a part in a bedroom farce."

"I was out of place—"

"You were too good for them!" Gloria was almost irritated because Pan would not see it. "That's usually the trouble with these poor, shy little tongue-tied creatures that sit in corners and mope and can't think of a thing to say. They're all right, there's nothing wrong with them except that they haven't found their own proper circle of friends, their metier, as the French say. They belong with the serious people, not the rowdies, if only they could see that!"

She moved restlessly under the covers. Pan wondered how much longer she could keep her in bed; Gloria was ready to rebel against her forced confinement.

"You were hopelessly out of place. It wasn't your fault. It hardly ever is the fault of the girls themselves. It's almost always because the mother, or aunt or older sister—whoever is in authority—has no discretion. These shy, sensitive little souls are misunderstood and snubbed and hurt, when they should be petted and encouraged. If Gladys had been methodically snubbed and put in her place, she would have been less spoiled and probably generous and sweet. If you had been encouraged as she was, you would not have gone about feeling yourself inferior to everyone—"

She sat up in bed and threw back the covers. Then she got up, her yellow silk kimono half falling from her shoulders.

"Mrs. Parke asked me to her dance tonight, didn't she? Phone her and say I'm coming—like an angel, Pan, and don't stand there frowning at me. I'm bored being sick. I'm going to have a hot bath, supper—and then dance!"

Pan's protests were lost in the sputter and gurgle of water turned on—into the tub. Over its noise Pan heard Gloria begin to sing. She picked up the phone and obediently called up the Parke residence.

Gloria had decided she was well again.

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Skirting the east side of Crescent lake, one of the most scenic bodies of water in the Cascades, a four mile stretch of road will be constructed this month, announces H. L. Plumb, supervisor of the Deschutes national forest.

The new road will partly replace the road which at present passes near the old Hoeg ranch. Because of

the swampy condition of the ground, the old road can be used for only a short time each year.

Work on the new road started this morning. Dave Miller is in charge of the crew of about 12 men. If present plans are carried out, the

road will be completed this month.

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