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#### OREGON SCHOOL NEEDS

The Oregon constitution states that "The legislative as-sembly shall provide by law for the establishment of a uni-form and general system of common schools." Attention was called to this section by the proponents of the state school support measure voted down at the November election and some argument was made of the obligation thus created. The funds that would have been provided, had the measure carried, would, so the argument ran, have made effective the intent of the constitution.

Though the fact was not generally admitted the actual use intended for this larger school income was the increase of teacher salaries and, in the opinion of many, hope for an increase in pay was the reason for the support of the measure by teacher organizations. In short, the direction of the con-stitution that a uniform and general system of common schools be provided was to be met by higher teacher pay.

Certainly, adequate teacher pay is essential in any school system but it is by no means the only essential and the fact is well presented in an article, "Oregon's School District System," by Wade DeVries, in the latest issue of "Oregon Busiis well presented in an article, "Oregon's School District System," by Wade DeVries, in the latest issue of "Oregon Business Review."

After asserting in an opening paragraph that the public school is the most important state and local government and the office of war information and the office of war information and the office of war information are trying to correct says Edward

function in Oregon Mr. DeVries quotes the school section from the constitution just as did the teachers in their argument in the voters' pamphlet. Instead, however, of proceeding to use it in justification for a proposed course of action he examines the way in which the responsibility has been discharged the asks. charged. He asks

(1) Have all boys and girls received equal educational opportunity? (2) Have the rural schools made wise and efficient use of state and local funds, and of buildings and transportation facilities? (3) Have the costs of rural schools been equitably distributed so as to have the least possible effect on the management and ownership of property?

To all three questions Mr. DeVries's answer is in the nega-

It is in the rural areas where, according to Mr. DeVries, equal educational opportunities are not provided. Out of a total of 1,898 school districts in the state (in 1943) there are 220 that have no more than 10 pupils enrolled. There are 666 districts that maintain only one-room schools. "Most educators will admit," the writer says, "that the educational opportunities in a one-room school of 10 or 20 pupils are usually very limited, and that the best teachers cannot be hired." He then says:

There are 58 third-class districts which maintain high schools at great sacrifice; and yet most of these schools are not accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, because the accrediting officials believe that the enrollment and faculty are too small to maintain proper educational standards. Eleven of these high schools have an average daily attendance of 5 to 15, and only one of them has as many as 60.

The facts presented in the article regarding the costs and efficiency of Oregon school governments are more damning than those as to educational opportunity. Here are para-graphs from the article on that subject:

with the great number of small district governments, standards in educational costs can hardly be established. The cost per child is bound to vary greatly when the number of children per voluntary teacher varies as much as from 2 to 40. By county averages, grade and high-school costs combined ranged from \$81 to \$278 per pupil in 1942. High-school costs in third-class districts range up to \$600 per pupil and more. By comparison the cost in Grant High-School pupil and more. By comparison the cost in Grant High School in Portland is only \$115.69.

The job of supervising the financial as well as the educa-tional activities of these multitudinous local governments is very difficult. There are seven counties in the state with over 100 separate and independent school governments each. Lane County has 134. The great number of districts and the small field from which to select compenient board members in

field from which to select compentent board members in many of the districts increases the probability of waste and inefficiency. There are over 8,000 school board members and clerks in the state. They are more numerous than the teachers. Analysis may show that in some cases small schools are necessary for the copyenience of the pupils, but small schools need not imply small districts.

The lack of financial responsibility to local constitutents is another cause of inefficiency. In 1941 there were 486 districts which did not find it necessary to levy a tax upon the property owners of the school district. A great many of these were suspended districts, i.e., they maintained no school but used state and county funds received to send their children to the school of some other district over which they had no financial or educational control. Others avoided a district school-tax levy because of the peculiar application of trict school-tax levy because of the peculiar application of the apportionment of state and county grants, or by reducing the teacher's salary and other costs at the expense of educa-tional standards. The number of such "no tax" districts fell to 347 in 1943, but increased to 604 in 1944, targety as a result of increased apportionments of state funds.

In the matter of cost distribution Mr. DeVries finds wide variance between districts. Let us quote again:

Sometimes the boundaries run back into the mountains Sometimes the boundaries run back into the mountains or desert 30 or 40 miles from the schoolhouse. One district in Harney County includes territory over 100 airline miles from the schoolhouse. By this delineation of boundaries, remote and nearby property is allocated to the support of one particular school. It is possible by a system of queer and unnatural boundaries to allot taxable property to each district the rest Such as allocation does not continue and according to need. Such an allocation does not remain equitable for long, however, The tax base changes. Timber burns or is cut. Property is forfeited to the county for non payment of taxes. The need for funds changes. New industries move in or industries move out, causing a change in the need for local school revenue. But school district boundaries are not

Some third-class districts are 300 times as able to support



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a school as others. One third-class district in Clackamas County has \$2,205,000 of assessed valuation and a district tax levy in 1944 of only \$648.25, at the rate of .3 of a mill. This large amount of taxable property supports an elemen-tary school with an enrollment of only three pupils. What a waste of good tax base! The only contribution of the property toward the support of elementary education is through a small county school library tax. Thirty per cent of all school districts levied no tax in 1944. In the remaining districts school property-tax rates ranged up to 39.8 mills in 1944, up to 6 mills for 1941.

For the correction of the evils that he describes Mr. DeVries proposes administrative reorganization. Summarizing he says that

excessive and unstable school tax loads on property.

There was a report in the news last week of a new plan to raise more money for Oregon schools. It seems to us that all who are sincerely interested in the schools of the stateand particularly in the school children-would be doing more for the cause by undertaking the correction of the evils pointed out by Mr. DeVries than by concentrating on plans

# Washington Column

By Peter Edson

One of the OWI jobs has been to run a public opinion survey group to keep abreast of what the French think about the Yanks and French think about the Yanks and from these analyses it has been learned that sizable elements of the population believe such things as that German war prisoners are coddled in the United States since they have a better and softer life they have a better and softer life average Frenchman; the average Frenchman; Eastern Front—Counterattacks—Edward Swain and Henry Rander Swain and Henry Ra coddled in the United States since they have a better and softer life than the average Frenchman; that the present shortages of coal, food and clothing for the French civil population are unnecessary or are being deliberately held back; that there are large num-bers of U. S. troops in Paris who are somehow responsible for the shortages; and that Americans are still barbarians with no regard are still barbarians with no regard for the finer things of life.

Part of the difficulty in France

Part of the difficulty in France today is that the country is still a lot of isolated communities. Electric power is limited, broadcasting is limited, communication service of all kinds are limited and there is a shortage of newsprint. To fill gaps in the lack of information until the French can get going again is a big part of the job of the allied psychological warfare division of joint British-American civilian-military authorities working with the French government and trying to meet its requests.

Fourteen radio programs from

Fourteen radio programs from New York, nine from London plus four more relayed by British Broadcasting Corporation, a re beamed at the French in French by medium and short wave.

Crowds of 800 an hour have been visiting 'Since 1939," an ex-hibition of news photographs set up in Paris.

"Choix," a British-A merican Reader's Digest in French, goes out 250,000 copies a month. "Voir," an OWI Look-type picture week-ly, goes out 420,000 copies a week. The French government has ask-ed that circulation be stepped up to three millions and the price raised from 10 to 25 cents to make sure they'll get to the most influ-ential people. But the only sources ential people. But the only sources of paper would be to cut down on U.S. publications, so that's out. A million copies of the Life-like slick paper "Victory" magazine, printed in U.S. A., haven't been delivered because of shipping shortage. A million cheap, paper-back, pecketsize book reprints include such titles as Grew's "Report From Tokyo." Stettinius's "Lease-Lend." the Marshall King and Arnold rethe Marshall, King and Arnold re-ports, selections from Ernie Pyle. All these magazines and books are sold and will pay for themselves says Barrett.

### Bend Couple Back From East States

Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Ryan return ed to Bend yesterday afternoon after two years of traveling that have taken them to most parts of the United States. They are house guests of Mrs. Stella 1

The Ryans came here from Corvallis where they spent Chirstmas with their son, Cpl. Robert Ryan and his wife, who resides there. Cpl. Ryan, a graduate of Bend high school, entered the service in June, 1942, after completing three years at U. of O. He is at present stationed with a company of engi-

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Reorganization should enable the school electors to provide in an orderly and democratic fashion: (1) for a more nearly equalized educational opportunity for the pupils now residing in third-class school districts; (2) for a wiser and more efficient use of state and local school funds, and of buildings and transportation facilities; and (3) for the elimination of exactly and unstable school tay loads on property.

intended to make higher salaries possible.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, who resided that ought to be done today could at 223 St. Helen's place, Bend, for 23 years, left here two years ago following Ryan's retirement after 35 years in The Shevlin-Hixon Their sense of hospitality was so remarkable that one may company office. They went first to Vermont where they spent for a parallel. In the 18th century, a stranger in Virginia, if he were decent and well-behaved, Minneapolis to visit Mrs. Ryan's folks and later spent some time in out any expense for board and

### War Briefs - - -

northwest of Budapest in attempt to rescue 80,000 nazi trapped in

Bonham, Tex, 429—Farmer Ernest Chaffin is exhibiting the "king of sweet potatoes." The yan four weighs seven pounds and four ounces, and weasuring 2114 inch-

folks and later spent some time in California, Baltimore and other

Western Front — German reinforcements pour into northern and southern flanks of Ardennes sallent to meet full scale offensive by American First and Third

hit rail and industrial targets at Berlin, Nurnberg and Ludwig-shafen. Italy—American raiding parties

and patrols stab into enemy posi-tions at various points along Fifth army front. ,

#### POTATO WEIGHS 7 LBS.

es around the short way and 26 slave, a native of Africa, alert inches the long way.

er social class did not patronize

The usual costume of men of wealth and authority consisted of knee breeches made of broad-cloth, velvet or silk; a vest of

WAY OUR PEOPLE

A DAY IN a VIRGINIA PLANTER'S LIFE (1713)

When breakfast was over Swain and Randall delayed their departure to play a game of billiards and to have a long and meaning less talk with a music master who had come out from the village to tune a spinet that stood in the large hall, or living room.

They were both saturated with the spirit of leisure which was an outstanding quality of life in colonial Virginia. In this respect Puritan New England and Virginia were far apart. The Puritans were tense, nervous, industrious and so reluctant to waste time that they labored even when there was nothing to do.

The Virginians were placid.

the correction of the evils time that they labored even when han by concentrating on plans lies possible.

The Virginians were placid, friendly, lazy and pleasure-loving. They did not mind if time were ling grounds, Aberdeen, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, who resided that ought to be done today could the control of the contro long ocean voyage both ways. There were some tailors in Virginia, but it seems that the high-

might have lived for a year without any expense for board and lodging, simply by moving from one locality to another and allowing the imhabitants of the various places to entertain him as a places to entertain him as a local to the large pockets.

square-cut, with large pockets. It was usually dark-bue or black, but other colors—such as scarlet, This desire to entertain strangers showed itself in some rather astonishing ways. There are re-corded instances of Virginia genastonishing ways. There are recorded instances of Virginia genthemen waiting on horseback on a
worn. A gentleman's clothes had
worn. A gentleman's clothes had
buttons of silver or brass; men
of intercepting wayfarers and inviting these travelers to come
home with them as guests. The
Virginia inns complained frettemen waiting on horseback on a well-traveled road for the purpose of intercepting wayfarers and in-viting these travelers to come home with them as guests. The Virginia inns complained fre-quently that they could make no money because most of the trav-

servants on shaggy farm horses northwest of Budapest in attempt to rescue 80,000 nazi trapped in apital.

Air War — American planes bomb Germany for 12th consecutive day after British night raiders hit rail and industrial targets at Berlin, Nurnberg and Ludwig. pounds of tobacco, which covered pounds of tobacco, which covered the cost of his passage from Bris-tol, the money value of which was around 12 pounds sterling. To repay this debt David had been indentured for seven years. Upon his release from service his master would give him, accord-ing to the Virginia law, 50 acres of land two with of clothing.

#### At the Capitol



Paulette Goddard and Sonny Tufts are starred in the romantic comedy, ith Beulah Bondi and Barry Fitzgerald.

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#### FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

WELL SO LONG!
I GOTTA GO
OUT AND
SEE IF I CAM

CAN BREAK

SESSION







## Bend's Yesterdays

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

(Jan. 3, 1930)

Arguing that a \$50 fine "would not do much good" in stopping gambling in Bend, Police Chief P. A. Thomas urges the city commis-sion to alter the ordinance and

impose a \$500 fine.

O. L. Kregness, city treasurer of Bend, resigns to become United Press telegrapher for The Bulle-

Geoge H. Redden, Central Ore-gon's "Pastor of the Pines," leaves for San Francisco and central Cal-

He detested wigs, but he wore them because Governor Spots-wood was a wig-wearer, and he wanted the governor to have a good opinion of him. (To Be Continued)

Hixon camp.

#### Fire Investigation Billed for Salem

for San Francisco and central Cal-ifornia on a lecture tour.

Fire Chief Tom Carlon reports that fire losses in Bend for 1929 totalled \$20,000.

George P. Gove is re-elected for the second time to serve as Bend's mayor. pairs in the garments.

Henry Randall's suits, like those of many Virginia gentiemen of that era, were made in London. Every Virginian of means had an English tailor who kept his measurements on file and also knew his tastes in clothing. An order for a suit took from three to five months to fill, on account of the long ocean voyage both ways. There were some of the long ocean voyage both ways. mayor.

Bend's Kiwanis club plans betterment of Harmon playfield.

O. W. Grubb is announced the winner of the 1929 merit contest in the Bend fire department, and a fine, bushy wig would not only conceal his baldness but give him also an air of dignity. Swain's reason was altogether different.

in the Bend fire department, and receives a \$100 award.
Dr. John Barr, Redmond, member of the Deschutes county library board, visits in Bend.
Mrs. Ben Morris, 375 East Emerson street, had as a house guest over the holidays, Miss Violet King, of Portland.
Mr. and Mrs. William Clark are Bend callers from the Shevlin-Hixon camp.

### SKUNK STARTS CLEAN-UP Kearney, Neb. (P)—Water Supt. Ralph Lancaster had to drain the

Salem, Ore., Jan. 3 (IP—An investigation is under way here to day in an attempt to determine the cause of the fire which last Sunday destroyed a major part of the Blue Lake producers cannery here, with a loss of nearly \$1,000.

There is some speculation that the fire might have been of incomplete the same speculation that the fire might have been of incomplete the same speculation that the fire might have been of incomplete the same speculation that the fire might have been of incomplete the same speculation that the fire might have been of incomplete the same speculation that the sa Salem, Ore., Jan. 3 (IP-An in-

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Hot Water Bottle . . . . 60c



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By MERRILL BLOSSER WAIT'LL YOU SEE WHAT MOVED INTO 427 !!

