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"Without or with offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—BYRON

Automotive Taxes

The report on motor vehicle registrations issued by Secretary of State Hoss under date of August 23, shows continued increase in registration of automobiles and increase in state receipts despite reduced license fees. The total receipts for the year are "well over \$7,000,000." The tax on gasoline also shows an increase, the total receipts for the entire year being \$4,308,417.

Here we have a total of eleven and a half millions of taxation revenue derived from motor vehicle taxation. This taxation represents but a fraction of the annual expenditure for autos and trucks. The annual investment in new vehicles and in repairs and upkeep are many times this amount. The total auto-motive investment in Oregon must total in the vicinity of half a billion dollars, with a proportionate annual loss in depreciation and depletion.

The auto-motive industry represents a drain on income unknown to previous generations. Now figured as an established and necessary expense both in business and personal budgets, it helps explain the difficulty of maintaining a balance of trade in isolated states. The taxation revenues of course remain in the state to be expended in highway construction. A percentage of the money spent in fuel and equipment remains as dealers earnings, but by far the largest part goes out of the state never to return. It helps make phenomenal prosperity for the oil districts and the Detroit and Akrons of the country.

The secretary's report reveals one feature of more than passing interest. The receipts collected covering passenger and commercial car license fees based on the first six months of each year are double for 1929 those for the year 1923, and there "has been a decided increase in the average license fee paid for passenger cars and a decrease in the fee for trucks." In 1923 the average fee for passenger cars was \$24.20, with a gradual increase to \$28.01 in 1929, while the average license for trucks, \$51.93 in 1923 had shrunk to \$48.15 in 1929.

This, the Secretary comments, indicates "the growing tendency toward larger and better cars for pleasure purposes and the lighter truck for commercial use." It also indicates the failure of our system to tax trucks properly despite efforts to remedy in proportion to their wear and tear on pavements. Apparently the trucks are unduly favored at the expense of the auto.

"It's The Climate."

The Salem Chamber of Commerce in its weekly bulletin reprints statistics concerning Oregon weather compiled by the United States Weather Bureau at Portland, which indicate the need of some system and standardization for local observers. Despite the fact that these different cities are but a few miles apart, the reports sent in show a difference only explainable by the temperamental idiosyncracies of the reporter.

The Chamber explains the government's instructions, a quarter of an inch rain, makes it a rainy day. A cloud in sight, makes it partly clear, while if it is cloudy most of the day, the local weather reporter writes it a cloudy day. Under this rule, a thunder shower lasting a few minutes would constitute a rainy day, although for 23 hours out of the 24 it was clear. A tiny cloud may be in sight when the observer observes early in the morning, yet disappear beyond the horizon before he leaves the station, yet he dutifully records it as partly clear.

Albany must have an optimist for an observer for while its rainfall is practically the same as that for Salem, 20 miles away as the crow flies, he reports 169 clear days as against 114 for Salem. In other words he makes the sun shine 55 days more during the year than at Salem and he reports but 129 cloudy days as against 169 for Salem. While Corvallis, a scant ten miles from Albany, had nearly an inch greater rainfall, it had four less rainy days, 17 fewer clear days, 17 less partly clear days and 35 more cloudy days.

Albany boasts three more inches of rainfall than Eugene, but claims 22 more clear days, 57 fewer partly cloudy days but admits 15 more cloudy days. Albany also has a big edge on Portland, for while it reports 3 inches more rainfall, it claims two fewer rainy days, 90 more clear days and 78 fewer cloudy days. Albany also claims 32 more clear days than Medford, which has 23 inches less rainfall and 21 fewer cloudy days.

Albany in fact comes near being the champion fair weather burg of the state, being exceeded only by Bend, which had only 8.7 inches of rainfall and by Ashland, which though only 10 miles from Medford claims 89 more clear days and 59 fewer cloudy days than the latter reports. The sun evidently shines more in Albany than in sunny, dry and arid central, eastern and southern Oregon.

It is evident that to be of any comparative value some system of uniformity should be established among weather observers, for the only thing there is uniformity of measurement now is on precipitation.

Forum

Contributions to this column must be confined to 300 words and signed by writer.

To whom it may concern:

Be it known to all men that I, John O. Merchen, do declare that I believe I am the inventor of the New System of subirrigation of trees, grapes and berry vines with fertilizer and water.

I further declare this system for the public use and no patent shall be applied for in the state of Oregon or any other state, for personal ownership, whatsoever.

It is further understood whatsoever wishes to adopt every improvement that may be developed by me or under my direction, shall be public property for free use for all forever.

JOHN O. MERCHEN
Woodburn, July 29.

PRIZE LEGHORN HEN LAYS INFERTILE EGGS

Flint, Mich. (AP)—Maid of Flint, a prize White Leghorn hen in the flock of the Kilbourn poultry farm, has given poultry scientists a new problem to solve.

She produced 342 eggs in 365 days in the egg-laying contest at Georgia agricultural college last year but few of her eggs will hatch—only 11 out of 100 this year.

Most of her eggs have been infertile despite the frequent changing of roosters. No fertile eggs were produced from several matings.

Dr. E. G. Kilbourn, her owner, has enlisted the aid of Michigan state college specialists in an effort to determine whether Maid of Flint requires a different ration than other hens on account of her high egg production or whether certain physical conditions are responsible for the infertility.

Iowa has 27,240,000 telephone calls in 1928

Faces Prosecution



The Rev. Dr. James Empringham, national secretary of the Church Temperance society, will face prosecution on a charge of practicing medicine without a license when he returns to Reno, Nev.

FRENCH BUDGET FOR DEFENSE IS \$410,000,000

Paris (AP)—Figures in the French budget for 1930 show that the Republic is preparing to spend more than 10 1/2 billions of francs for defense. That is equivalent to about \$410,000,000.

This total is divided between War, Overseas, Defense, Navy and Air—the air appropriations containing a certain proportion for commercial aviation.

Despite the prospects of further discussion among the powers for naval disarmament, France is going ahead with her new building program, the outlay for 1930 for the Navy being 2,683,152,496 francs. The expenses for the War Ministry are estimated at 4,305,992,350, and for Overseas Defenses, the appropriation is figured at 1,762,984,070. The Air appropriation asked for is 1,995,652,566.

This outstanding overseas defense item is for the armed forces in Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, the Levant and for the corps of occupation in China.

As for the Rhineland occupation, France has been paid for this item under the general heading of reparations. This year there were approximately 45,000 men and 2,000 officers in the French Army of Occupation. For 1930 it is estimated that the force will be reduced to 38,000 men and 1,700 officers and thereafter be gradually reduced or withdrawn.

This year the charge for the occupation of the Rhine was estimated at 420,000,000 francs, but under the Young Plan, that is, after January 1st, the French must bear the expenses of occupation, which they plan to cut down considerably, should the army remain there. For instance, French economy will operate on rentals to the extent of 1 1/2 million francs. Other cuts in occupation cost will be made.

France also spends about ten million francs annually on coast artillery, torpedo stocks and ground work.

Among ships still under construction at present from the 1923 budget are three eleven million franc first class submarines and six submarines of the second class, costing 1,200,000 each. There are from the years of 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, sixteen second submarines still under construction in private or government yards.

For the 1930 budget, four more second class submarines are provided for at a cost of 80 million francs. The appropriation for this new construction under the 1930 Budget amounts to more than 90 million francs, including the torpedoes and coastal artillery.

It is notable that most of France's naval strategy is centered in the small unit ship, and particularly in the submarine, and the heavy cruiser, like the Suffren and the Tourville.

SLIM FIGURE NOW UNFASHIONABLE

Women and Girls Can Now Be Healthy as Well as Stylish

That excessive and unnatural slimness that ruined the health of thousands of women and young girls is no longer fashionable. Paris couturiers are developing clothes for the rounded figure. Musical comedy producers are searching for healthy normal figures for the stage. All the world is getting health-wise where the human figure is concerned.

This means that women and girls will be encouraged to eat enough varied foods at regular meals to supply the requirements of health. It means that tuberculosis, anemia and other dangerous results of undernourishment may be more easily averted. And to the eyes of discerning men and beauty experts, it means that women will be more natural and more beautiful.

Eat cereals, milk, fruits, vegetables and meats daily. Do not gorge or overeat, but eat variety. Remember that flavor is the one important factor in causing people to eat varieties of foods, and that sugar is nature's supreme condiment for developing the flavors of nearly every healthful food.

The necessity of a dash of sugar for making cereals, fruits and milk desserts delicious is well known. Women cooking experts recently discovered that a dash of sugar in vegetables while they are cooking revolutionizes their freshness and natural vegetable flavors. Meat foods are more delicious and nourishing with sugar. The Sugar Institute.

MARIONETTES USED AS ALLY OF EDUCATION

Paris (AP)—The first world Marionette Congress is to be held in Paris next October and will be attended by delegates from all over Europe and America. One of the principal problems to be discussed will be how Punch and Judy shows can be utilized in public schools for the teaching of such subjects as geography and history.

Czecho-Slovakia, which has over 2,700 puppet-shows throughout the country, is to send the largest number of delegates, although a good representation is also expected from the United States where interest in marionettes has been greatly increasing. Russia will also be well represented.

According to an announcement by the committee in charge of the Congress, one of the principal speeches will be made by Leon Bo-

gatitrev, of Russia. He will tell of the varied kinds of marionettes which are popular in this country, including those used by the Siberians and the people of Georgia and the Ukraine.

Numerous speakers from Czecho-Slovakia will give detailed accounts as to how practically every school-house in that country is equipped with puppet-shows, generally fashioned by the children themselves. Performances are given in the classrooms in connection with their every-day lessons.

New mechanisms which are being used in different parts of the world to operate the marionettes will also form an important part of the agenda. Much is expected from the American delegates in this respect because of innovations which have recently made their appearance in the United States Historical costumeing, scenery and travelling arranged will likewise be discussed.

Boston (AP)—Boston's tax-dodgers aren't going to get away with it any longer. Mayor Malcolm E. Nichols has arranged to have aerial photographs made which will reveal in detail every house, garage and lot of land that has escaped taxation.

Robbed In Russia



Mary Van Rossum, Cagwell was robbed of money and passport while traveling through Russia. Her companion, Mrs. Mabel S. Ingalls, is a niece of J. P. Morgan.

FERGUSON HAS SYMPATHY FOR HIS SUCCESSOR

Detroit (AP)—One of the "toughest jobs" in the federal service is the description sometimes given the post of collector of customs at Detroit, which has been surrendered by Carey D. Ferguson.

The post has been so called because it includes responsibility for the patrolling of the Detroit river against liquor smugglers.

When Ferguson resigned after six years in office, it was stated that he apparently had been unable to stop the illegal flow of liquor across the Detroit river from Canada. Ferguson retorted that he had "no apologies to make," and that he sympathized with his successor, whoever he might be.

He pointed out that the territory under the collector's jurisdiction extended virtually 100 miles along the shore line from Port Huron al-

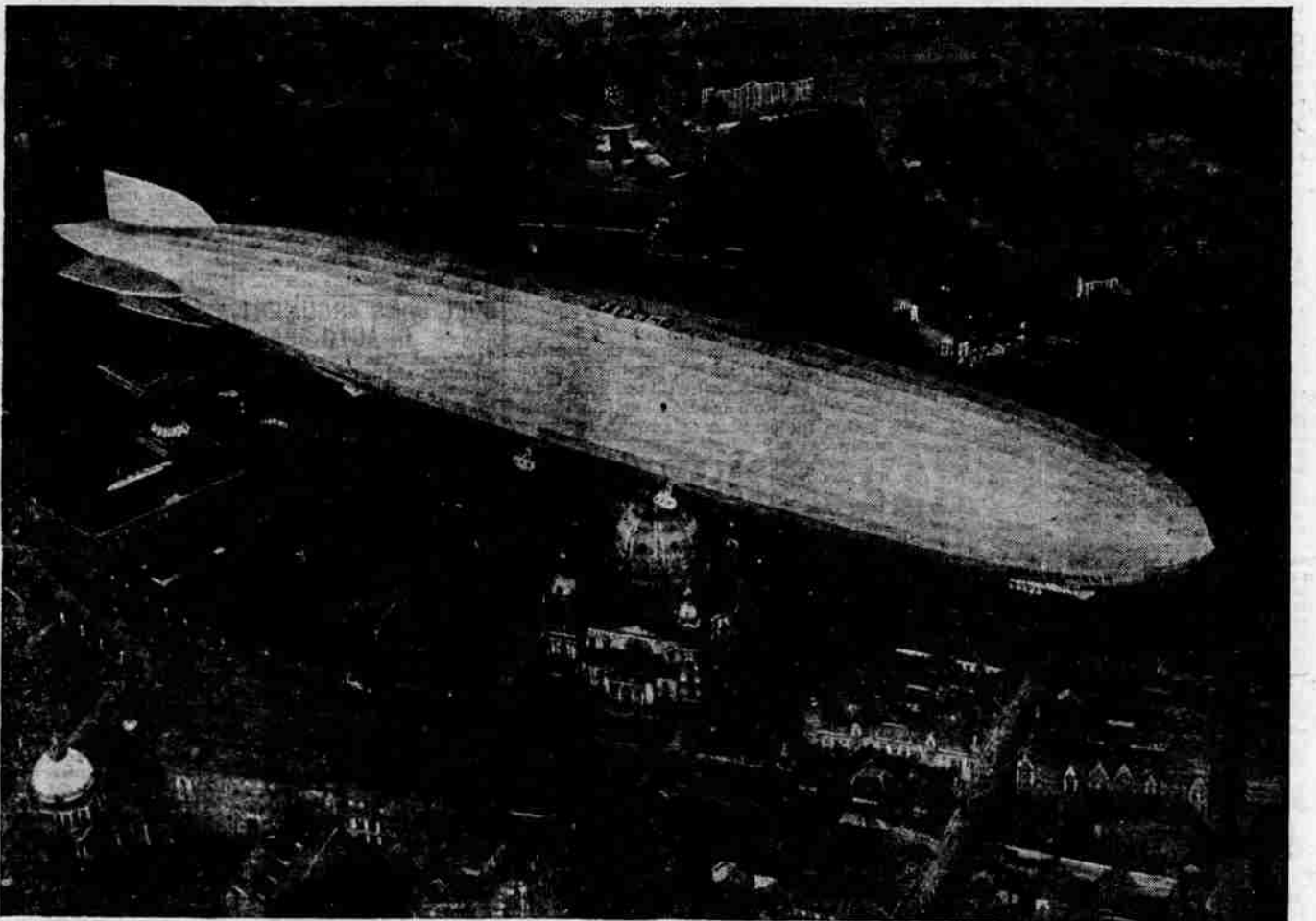
most to Toledo, Ohio. "I believe it unfair to require one person to take full responsibility for enforcing the liquor laws over the miles of river and lake border in this district," he said.

Ferguson's resignation followed by a few weeks the publication in a Detroit newspaper of a picture of rum runners landing their cargoes at a dock only four blocks from the customs patrol base on the Detroit river, and the statement that every one of 300 boats seized by the patrol for rum running had disappeared from the unguarded "boneyard" where they had been stored.

Many of the craft, it was asserted, had re-appeared in the rum running trade.

NO CHINESE "EMPEROR"
Shanghai (AP)—Decked out in royal robe and crown manufactured by his own family, one Wei Liu-kai, bandit leader of the Nanchang district in Hupeh province, has proclaimed himself "Emperor of China." The local magistrate has asked the Hankow military commander to take steps designed to bring Wei and his bandit friends back to reality.

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Officers of the Graf Zeppelin filling the crankcase of one of the five Maybach motors with VEEDOL Motor Oil at Lakehurst prior to the start of her round-the-world flight. Left to right, Albert Sammt, Chief Balloon Engineer; Emil Hoff, Tide Water Oil Company engineer and former wartime Zeppelin pilot; Herman Pfaff, Engineer of the Graf Zeppelin, and Albert Thasser, Chief Mechanic.