

# Capital Journal

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"With or without offense to friends or foes  
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."  
—Byron

## Tax Collection Costs

In California, the cost of tax collecting has evidently developed into a science for the benefit of tax-eaters. Controller Roy L. Riley reports that the Board of Equalization, the tax collecting body, is spending:

Forty-two cents to collect a dollar of liquor revenue.
Sixty-one cents to collect a dollar of truck tax revenue.
On the other hand, the same agency spends only 2 1/2 cents to collect a sales tax dollar and a fraction of a cent to collect a gas tax dollar.
This raises an interesting comparison with the cost of tax collections in Oregon. Liquor tax collections cost 5.5 cents on the dollar here, as against 42 cents in California, truck and bus revenues cost 3 cents as against 61 cents in California proving that Oregon's tax collecting is far more efficient and economical than California's.
The expenses of collecting various forms of taxes in Oregon for 1934 as taken from official records, is as follows:
<b>LIQUOR TAXES (BEER AND WINE)</b>
Actual cost of collection somewhat less because item of administrative expense includes portion of cost of general administrative department.
Total collected ..... \$ 264,693
Total administrative expense ..... 14,538
Percentage of cost of collection ..... 5.5
<b>TRUCK AND BUS TAXES AND FEES, EXCLUDING LICENSES</b>
Total collected ..... \$ 619,992
Total administrative expense, including expense of supervision ..... 83,900
Actual expense chargeable to collection ..... 19,265
Percentage of cost of collection ..... 3 plus
<b>AUTO AND TRUCK LICENSES AND OPERATORS' LICENSES</b>
Total collected ..... \$2,218,905
Total administrative expense ..... 252,215
Percentage of collection cost ..... 11.2
(This includes operators' license division, a purely regulatory function, where cost of collecting \$53,467 is \$35,186.)
Actual percentage of collecting license revenues is 10 percent.
<b>GASOLINE TAX REVENUES</b>
Total collected less refunds ..... \$7,209,074
Total administrative expense including handling of 22,000 refunds ..... 22,400
Percentage of cost of collection ..... 3 of 1 percent
<b>PERSONAL AND PROPERTY TAXES (Marion County)</b>
Total collected ..... \$1,801,225
Total expense ..... 36,020
Percentage of cost of collection ..... 2 percent
<b>INCOME AND EXCISE TAXES</b>
Total collected ..... \$1,800,000
Total expense ..... 41,535
Percentage of cost of collection ..... 2.3 percent

## The Merriam Recall

Only half of the registered vote in Lane county turned out to vote on the recall of Representative H. C. Merriam, which carried by 7,384 to 4,464. The recall was instigated by the Townsend pension plan clubs as a rebuke for Merriam's alleged betrayal of a promise claimed to have been made to support the pension plan in the legislature, which the legislator denied making.

The recall election cost the taxpayers of Lane county \$400 and comes after the legislature has adjourned and, unless a special session is called, which is improbable, the work of a representative for the biennium is over. So the election is merely a spite gesture, and its success is due to the organized effort back of it, and the general apathy of the public.

It is an example of an attempt to coerce a public official against his convictions in behalf of an organized minority, an instance of pressure politics and mass hysteria engendered by a political theory. But most of the voters regarded it as an object lesson to public officials who before election promise anything and after election repudiate their promises. Had Merriam been an avowed opponent of the Townsend scheme at election time, instead of an equivocal straddler there would have been no basis for recall, for his opponents could not charge broken faith.

The general public will not analyze the facts, but view it as a reprisal for not supporting the Townsend plan, which after all is up to congress and not to legislatures. The recall will not enhance the reputation of either Lane county or Oregon.

## Exit "Rah-Rah" Boys

In the annual report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, it is stated that the era of the "rah-rah" college boy, with his coonskin coat and his wild parties, is passing. The report says:

The student on the campus is no longer the blase, sophisticated student of the twenties; he is a hard-working, serious-minded person who demands more of the college library, the laboratory and the instructor than did his brother of a decade ago. He is increasingly a patron of the seminar, the serious lecture, the art gallery, the symphony concert.

This student is detesting the "rah-rah" boy of yesterday. He has a different attitude toward scholarship, research, athletics, fraternities, and student activities. It can almost be said that the present college student is the person that the college professor was asking for a decade ago.

The "side shows" (aptly so called by Woodrow Wilson) have lost much of their glamour. Presumably this is one benefit the depression has wrought—there is always some good to be found in every evil. Small colleges were never much troubled with the "rah-rah" boys, their students were always dominated by the serious and hard working. The play boys chose a bigger field for their amusement, for college to them was a place to have a good time or to play football rather than to secure an education.

## Church Class Guest At Hawkins' Home

Dallas—The XL class of the Methodist church met at the home of Mrs. G. L. Hawkins Monday night with Mrs. Milo Hervey as assistant hostess. After a short business session the group enjoyed a sewing and social hour.

Members present were Mrs. P. J. Voth, Mrs. Fred Elliott, Mrs. Peter Berg, Mrs. L. A. Tallman, Mrs. J. H. Cady, Mrs. W. P. Miller, Mrs. Roy Woodman, Mrs. George Pres-

cott, Mrs. A. J. Larsen, Mrs. Carl Gravel, Mrs. Roy Livesay, Mrs. Randall Buell, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Cora McBe, Mrs. Guy Shreve, Mrs. C. O. Hawkins, Mrs. N. L. Guy, Mrs. A. Mills, Mrs. Marian Strickler, Mrs. Dora Garrett, Miss Frances Dempsey and Mrs. M. A. DeGraff

## FLOUR EXPORTS SHOWN

Oregon exported a total of 33,837 barrels of flour during the month of February, according to C. W. Wright, chief of the division of grain inspection of the state department of agriculture.

## NEW FAMILIES ARE INFORMED

Dallas—The influx of new families, particularly in the rural districts, was responsible for a new thought in the mind of County Agent J. R. Beck early in the month of January.

In the course of his numerous visits as county agent to the various districts, Beck discovered that many of the newcomers were at a distinct disadvantage, due to the fact that in many cases they hailed from the middle west, where farming conditions were much different from those existing in the Willamette valley. Why not a school for the newcomers? By the middle of February a program had been drafted embracing a series of education meetings on some of the different phases of farming in the county.

Three meetings have been held in the court house on Saturday afternoons for the past three weeks. Cooperation with merchants secured door and other prizes for those who attend. The innovation has proved a success. The attendance grows each week and incidentally, the idea has been adopted throughout the county. Hopkins wrote scorching letters to Davey which were answered at a similarly rising temperature.

Going Up—Hopkins pointed out the federal government paid 78, 83, 89 and 78 percent of the Ohio relief loan in four recent months. He demanded that Ohio pay at least \$2,000,000 monthly, or about 20 percent.

Davey met that demand with a refusal, accompanied by charges that the Ohio relief set-up was inefficient, full of red tape and run by Washington, although the state had the responsibility. He asked Hopkins to take it over two weeks ago. At that time, Hopkins refused on the ground that it was the state's job to run relief.

The situation attracted national attention only when Hopkins picked up a mud-pie full of graft charges and hurled it at Davey and "certain high officials," saying they were shaking down businessmen, and Davey replied with a charge of libel.

The assumption that federal emergency relief headquarters is that several people may get settled in the current melee, but no one will get hurt.

Significance—Everyone close to the government knows there has been a certain amount of favoritism, inefficiency and red tape in relief. Such things are always hard to prove, but all admit they exist. They could hardly be avoided in the emergency handling of that much money.

The only argument is about how much money is inefficiently spent. Everyone has his own idea about that. You may be sure, however, that snooty congressmen and others have not been able to find very much in provable form, else there would have been a congressional investigation long before this.

Politics—Another reason there has not been an investigation is that congressmen generally believe Hopkins (whom they do not like) has tried hard to be fair-minded. He has not been noticeably amenable to it.

For instance, Hopkins has not played ball directly with Postmaster General Farley at any time, although occasionally he has felt what might be called the Farley influence, as relayed to him by the highest third parties.

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Moscow—Foreign quarters here said they believed the full support of the Soviet would be given the French in the raising of the German armaments question in the League of Nations.

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Suwer—Miss Eileen Frederickson of Corvallis is spending the spring vacation with her uncle, Harry Kesler and wife.

## NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By Paul Mallon

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## Answers to Questions

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Capital Journal Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C. Please enclose three (3) cents for reply.

Q. What is the amount outstanding of non-taxable securities? J.W.H. A. Tax exempt securities now total \$25,265,000.

Q. How does the speed at which Sir Malcolm Campbell has driven an automobile compare with the speed of a pistol bullet? J.P. A. The speed of a Colt 45 automatic service bullet is about twice that which Sir Malcolm has attained.

Q. Where are the heaviest snowfalls in the United States? K.L.S. A. Generally speaking, they occur in the central portions of the Sierra Nevada mountains, California.

Q. How much is spent to maintain poor houses in this country? C.J.B. A. It is estimated that the cost and upkeep of poor houses in the states where these are still in existence amounts to \$2,500,000,000 annually.

Q. What is the Mexican name for hashish? F.T. A. Marijuanna is the local Mexican name for the potent drug secured from Indian hemp which is called hashish in the Orient.

Q. How much money is lost in the United States through embezzlement? F.C. A. The yearly loss of the American public from embezzlement is estimated at \$150,000,000 a year.

Q. What does the consumer's advisory board do? C.M.S. A. It is composed of members representing the interests and viewpoints of consumers. It advises the national industrial recovery board how provisions of proposed codes affect the interests of consumers, especially with regard to prices and standards of quality.

Q. Please give information about talking books for the blind. E.A.M. A. The talking books are sound records played on a reproducing machine. Three machines have been developed, all of which are portable. They will be sold by the American Foundation for the Blind. The records are light, but substantial enough to be sent through the mail. They play 18 minutes to the side. The library of congress is working on plans which will make it possible to borrow talking books wherever Braille books are available.

Q. Please give the names of the Jewish members of congress. N.R.C. A. Jewish members of the house of representatives are: Isaac Bacharach of New York, Sam Bloom of New York, Emanuel Celler of New York, William Citron of Connecticut, Samuel Dickstein of New York, Henry Ellenbogen of Pennsylvania, Florence Kahn of California, H. P. Koppelman of Connecticut, Theodore Peyer of New York and Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois. There are Jewish members of the senate at present.

Q. How much coffee has been destroyed in Brazil? H.A. A. Brazil destroyed 1,147,000 bags of coffee in August, 1934, the largest amount for any month since September, 1933. Since the beginning of the destruction program in June, 1931, 31,082,000 bags of coffee have been burned.

Q. Come on! Panchu yells, and he gives him a jerk. "I'm meaner than anyone else in Wyoming!" (Puff suddenly wishes he'd given up roaming.)

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## RALSTON IS CALLED MILL CITY CHURCH

Scio—A large congregation gathered Sunday for the farewell sermon of Rev. E. W. Ralston of the Scio Christian church, who is to assume the pastorate at Mill City next Sunday. Rev. Ralston has occupied the pulpit here for several years, at times serving the Crabtree and Bileve Den churches in connection with the Scio unit. He has a splendid standing in the church and in the community generally, and members of his congregation especially regret his leaving. He and the family will continue to reside on their small farm a few miles east of Scio. It is stated no definite plans have been made for Rev. Ralston's successor here, but Rev. V. L. Loucks of the Baptist church will occupy the pulpit on April 7, it is stated.

## Continuation of— Indict Seven

mond Lumber company. James P. Barry, San Francisco, engineer for the Hammond companies. "It is a bad place," he said. "But when water comes on the sand, anything will grow. Well, there is one valley where water flows and that valley was bought by two men—bought for nothing."

"They took laborers to the place. They planted tobacco. Never was such tobacco seen. It grew as weeds grow. It grew up out of the sand by magic. But some of the men who tended it grew ill. Others ran away. The sun added the brain. It was so strong, and all about them was the ugly desert."

Here the friar paused and stood up and surveyed the flat horizon. He sat down again and went on: "What was to be done? Tobacco meant money. Beautiful tobacco would grow in that valley, but there were no men to cultivate it. As fast as the labor was brought in, the men would run away again."

"The desert was a terrible thing to cross. But anything was better than the valley. So the men who owned the valley thought of a plan. They went to the government."

"They said: 'Why do you spend much money on your prisons? Give us the evil-doers. We will take such care of them that they will never be seen again. And instead of charging money for keeping them, as your prisons do, we will pay you a little bit for every man. Yes—and even a little for the women.'"

"True!" muttered the Kid. "There are women in the valley. I'd forgotten that. So the government began to ship down the criminals—the murderers, and that sort of thing, eh?"

"At first, yes. But after a while there were not enough murderers. Then the men in the valley—and particularly Senior Juan-Silva—began to offer more money a head. They would send for a whole jailful of prisoners."

"Some were vagrants. Some were petty thieves. Some had disturbed the peace. One had been drunk. One was accused of being a revolutionist. And all of them were sent to die together in the Valley of the Dead. That is why the tobacco grows there so beautifully and Senior Juan-Silva grows richer each year. It is he who owns the entire valley, now."

"This Juan-Silva," said the Kid. "What sort of a man is he?"

"They tell me that he is not a man. "A devil, then?"

"If it were not for him, then the valley would be closed. Who but Juan-Silva would want to live there while the hundreds and the thousands die around him?"

"What does he use for guard?" asked Montana.

"Only Indians. They are willing to work there, happily, because they love to see the Mexicans die. They are well paid. They are the hunting-dogs—they are the pack which Juan-Silva loves to keep around him."

"These men, and a few others who are outcasts who cannot be taken back into their old places among men. They are the links between the inside of the valley and the outside—scoundrels who can afford to see their fellows dying around them!"

"Hail!" said the Kid. "This Juan-Silva, as you call him—this center of the entire system—he's the sort of a fellow that I'd like to see."

"Yes," said the friar, "he is a man beyond prayers. I should say, my brother."

Then they came upon sight of the valley.

They had toiled all the day up a gradual slope and they came before evening to the edge of the highest plateau. Before them they saw the landscape descending step beyond step into a dimness of sand dust and sun mist, and beyond the dimness the landscape rose again, in step beyond step.

After a time, by a change of the wind or of the light—or perhaps their eyes were a little more accustomed to peering into the strange mist—it seemed that the bottom of

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