

**The Boardman Mirror**  
Boardman, Oregon

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

MARK A. CLEVELAND, Publisher

\$2.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Entered as second-class matter April 22, 1921, at the postoffice at Umatilla, Ore., under act of Mar. 3, 1879

Printing is the inseparable companion of achievement.—R. T. Porter

**FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC**

A beckoning hand from a body submerged in the mires of dismay and despair is waving to America for the straw which humanity is balanced upon. The craven is perched upon the waving hand and the eyes of Justice are closed by the mires of hatred. A "homey" America is entrenched behind the doctrines of an early day diplomacy. The swish of the plane, the word under the sea or the sermon from the air tells our vacillating government nothing.

Entangling alliances must not be though our fate is enmeshed in all mankind. If the crux of the chemist crumbles so will also the lordly chimney. The cry goes out in the World for a great leader. What the World needs is more man in the individual. Until man finds himself, not on the one hundred per cent basis, but on a 50-50 basis, just so long will our tares be the wrongs of a tottering World.

Abroad, an oil concession precedes the milk from a mother's breast. The mangled forms of infants is the stairway to trade channels.

Domestically, the highways are the pawns for village supremacy. Openly or covertly the designing dozen "night shade" their birthrights for the jingle of gold in the bottom of the gas tanks. The rights of others is relegated beneath the garrulous spouts of town pumps of Main Streets. The Brotherhood of man is scrooled with the dollar sign, instead of service and not self. We live a part of today regretting those things which we overlooked yesterday; the balance of the day in anticipating the morrow.

Let's start this New Year, not on the one hundred per cent basis, nor a 25-75, but on a 50-50 basis. Live and let live. No one cutoff ever cutoff another cutoff. To the end of time man will take the most direct route, whether he be business man or tourist. Short cuts will be built from time to time regardless of misty minds and infantile upbuilders. Sanity must start from some where. Let it roll back from where rolls the Oregon until the suds from the back wash cleanses the blood-dripping fingers of the Phosphorus.

**STATE TAX REDUCTION**

Every western state has a battle on for tax reduction.

Governors are preparing their messages to make this the foremost issue to be presented to the legislatures.

They are racking their brains to see how they can keep their campaign promises to trim the overhead in some way.

The old song about the three departments of government, administrative, judiciary and legislative, has done service in the past.

But the people who pay taxes know that so far as they are concerned, these three departments do team work when it comes to getting the money.

No case can be cited where one department has ever laid a straw in the way of another department increasing taxes—only by a governor's veto.

In most of the western states there is strong talk of junking so-called useless or superfluous boards and commissions if there are any such.

It will be denied by all of them that they are fifth wheels on the wagon; all will contend the state could not get along without them.

Just the same, Illinois, Idaho, Washington, and other states have junked them and reduced taxes, dumped hundreds of useless officials, and still exist.

Left to a legislature the evils of these ulcers sapping the revenues and life-blood of the commonwealth, will not be abolished. They rule.

Where the multitudinous excrescences have been scraped off the body politic, it has been done by heroic action of some chief executive.

Lowden in Illinois and Governor Hart in Washington, backed by strong business men, used the club on the legislature and got results.

Without attacking the schools or the development of the highways, a number of states have got great relief by adopting the cabinet system.

Then the governor and the heads of the departments do team work in the interest of the people instead of the countless army of office-holders.

The people will demand good officials in office, but they are also demanding application of business principles in public administration.

There's no excuse for a state or county or city government not having at least as good a system of conducting affairs as a bank or corporation.

The bluff of budgets made by those who want the money out of the treasury, and who demand ever more and more, has never been publicly exposed.

The budget system of expenditures as now planned is made by those who are trained in the profit-sharing system of office-holding.

They do not care how high taxes go. They have cunning devices for saying "We are not to blame! The people voted these taxes on themselves."

Others hide behind plans for shifting the burdens of taxation. They say the system is unjust. Others should pay. They never say cut down.

The average state has about an hundred boards and commissions and all are interested in getting larger appropriations and levying more taxes.

At least that is the way it works out. Taxes have gone up two to four hundred per cent in the average state; population and wealth half as much.

If this is not reversed where will we be at the end of the next ten years? That is the record for the past ten years. They blame it on the war.

The cabinet or department system reverses this and sets team work in motion to cut out duplication, dead timber and professionalism.

Under the department system there is an efficiency department, and all departments are bound by its findings where retrenchment is possible.

The heads of the departments meet each week to confer with the governor as to what can be done to economize here and there, give better service.

That is what they are created for. The old spoils system put men and women into places to see how much they could make out of it for themselves.

Are we capable of this step of progress or shall state and local government continue to mean the exploitation of the people? That is the issue.

**RECLAMATION ACT FALLS DOWN**

The framers of the Reclamation Act twenty years ago made three mistakes: They assumed that the settlers would be able not only to transform raw sagebrush land into productive farms within ten years from the arrival of water, but to repay in that period the entire cost of reservoirs and canals; they failed to make adequate provision against the speculative rise of land values on Reclamation Service projects and they presented the settlers and land owners with an unearned gratuity worth twenty or thirty million dollars when they neglected to charge a reasonable interest rate on public money used for private benefit.

More than \$130,000,000 has been advanced out of the treasury of the United States for the construction of dams and ditches now irrigating 1,500,000 acres. The settlers are required to repay this principal sum in instalments spread over twenty years, but they need pay no interest. By this remission of interest the grateful country is making the land owners a gift amounting at present to more than five million dollars and totaling more than fifty per cent of the principal if the settlers repay it in twenty years.

But they don't. Why should they hurry to repay a loan that costs them no interest? Until June 30th, 1922, they had repaid only \$12,820,000, less than ten per cent of the total investment. Only one project, Orland, California, had come through with the full amount of all instalments due and payable; the Klamath, Oregon, project stood second with a delinquency of less than one per cent. Though the settlers on the Truckee-Carson project—Nevada—have had a fairly hard time, they fell behind in their payments only 4.4 per cent. On the other hand, the richest and most productive of all the projects, the Salt River, Arizona, area, is a full 50 per cent behind in its payments.

The Reclamation Act should be redrawn. The period of repayment should be extended to 35 years. A reasonable interest rate should be provided for. If private land is provided with irrigation facilities through the use of public funds, the price at which the bare land can be sold should be fixed in advance. And provision should be made to advance money to the settler for improvements and stock in order to enable him to earn the interest he will have to pay.—January Sunset.

**The Farmer and Freight Rates**

Whenever some radical politician wishes to draw national attention and try to curry public favor, he directs his stream of oral abuse at the railroads or any other industrial group that best suits his purpose.

At the present time farmers are told that freight rates are the cause of depressed prices for crops and that the railroads are to blame for the general agricultural depression.

As a matter of fact, James R. Howard, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, shows that the farmers bill for freight and passenger railway transportation is \$1,103,000,000 annually out of annual total of farm expenditures of \$9,784,000,000 for the purchase of materials, interest and taxes.

If Mr. Howard's estimate is correct, the farmer's expenditures for railroad transportation is only 11 per cent of his total outgo and his expenditure for freight alone is not more than \$800,000,000, or only 8 per cent of his outgo is for freight transportation.

This is not an argument against reducing transportation costs to the farmer or any other industry as soon as the railroads can do so, but it is an argument to show that there must be many things besides freight expenditures which have caused depression in the market for farm products.

Corn is produced in every State in the Union, production ranging from around 30,000 bushels a year in Nevada to over 450,000,000 bushels in Iowa, according to reports of the United States Department of Agriculture.

**PUNCHETTES**

Rev. M. A. Matthews, D. D., I. L. D. OUR RIGHTS

The Constitution of the United States guarantees to each certain fundamental rights. Those rights are to be exercised within the boundaries fixed by law.

No man can assume to be the law in the exercise of his rights. No man has liberty except the liberty that is guaranteed to him by law while he is within the confines of absolute obedience to law. When he steps beyond the confines of law he ceases to have rights except the right of a fair and impartial trial by an impartial jury.

We seem to have forgotten the Constitution and have entered upon a policy of abuse of the rights guaranteed to us under the Constitution.

The Constitution guarantees to us the right of free speech. That means the right of appeal, of petition, of protest, of trial, and of constructive amendment to the Constitution according to the rules of law. No government, civil or military, can deny us the right to petition, to plead, or to protest.

This provision of the Constitution is abused today. The term, "Free Speech" is interpreted to mean unbridled license to talk.

There is a vast difference between speech and talk. There is a vast difference between petition and unguarded, treasonable, and blasphemous utterances. We do not need any more free speech. We need fair argument, honest statements, and truthful utterances.

The Constitution guarantees to us a free press. That means the right to own and to publish the news if published accurately, truthfully and fairly.

It means a press beyond the dictation of any power be it political, military or financial. We need under that right a fair press, an honest press, a truthful press, an accurate press, an unbiased press, and a press that recognizes that the reportorial and news columns belong to the public in which utterances be fairly, accurately, and truthfully reported.

The Constitution guarantees to us the right of amending the Constitution. But it must be amended according to the Constitution's rule for amending it.

The Constitution must be respected, obeyed and followed if this government is to stand.

**Write Him If You Want Any**

Congressman N. J. Sinnott has notified this paper that he will make distribution of government seeds allotted to him this year through the papers in his district, as this method has proved so successful for several years in getting same into the hands of those who most desire them. Congressman Sinnott will also send seeds to any constituent writing directly to him at Washington, after they are ready for distribution after the first of the year. There will also be a few hundred flower seeds available for distribution.

BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—A NEW AND GROWING TOWN

BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—WELL LOCATED

—BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—

**WHY BOARDMAN?**

**BECAUSE**

THE CLIMATE IS GOOD

THE PEOPLE ARE SOCIABLE INTELLIGENT ENTERPRISING

TOWN IS NEW AND GROWING

LOCATION WELL CHOSEN HALF WAY BETWEEN THE DALLES AND PENDLETON ON O.W. RAILROAD ON COLUMBIA RIVER

SOIL WILL RAISE ANYTHING

WATER FOR IRRIGATION FROM WEST EXTENSION OF UMATILLA PROJECT

McKAY CREEK DAM WILL BE BUILT ASSURING MORE ACREAGE UNDER WATER

**Boardman is a New Town But Not a Boom Town**

WRITE SECRETARY OF COMMERCIAL CLUB

—BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—

BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—A NEW AND GROWING TOWN

BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—BOARDMAN—MORROW COUNTY, OREGON—WELL LOCATED