

Independence Enterprise

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GASOLINE SITUATION NEEDS INVESTIGATION.

In justice to the consumer, producer and distributor, there should be a very thorough investigation of the cause of the shortage in the gasoline supply. The statement that production is not keeping pace with consumption may be true, but this cannot account for the present acute condition. The true facts in the case would be interesting to say the least.

The theory has been advanced that the producers are curtailing in order to avoid paying so much of their income to the government in excess profit tax, preferring to conserve their supply of oil until such time as this tax is modified or eliminated. There is another report, given credence in some quarters, that the big oil interests are attempting to force the United States to take a hand in Mexico in order that the field may become a greater factor in production of oil. Then there is a story to the effect that the oil companies are competing so strongly for foreign trade that they are exporting gasoline which under ordinary circumstances would be for use in this country.

How much real foundation of fact there is in any of these allegations it is impossible to tell. The public is not being taken into the confidence of the big concerns controlling the gasoline situation. The Standard Oil company has been intimating for some time that there would be a shortage in the supply, but it has never gone into detail as to just why the present acute condition should avail. If this company and other companies, controlling the gasoline output, are doing all in their power to supply the demands of the public, then it should become a matter of general knowledge, that there may be commendation instead of condemnation. If on the other

hand, the shortage in the supply of gasoline is due to manipulation of production or distribution the public is likewise entitled to know it.

Apparently, the only way to secure the facts in the matter is by federal investigation. Not one of your whitewash affairs, but a genuine determination of what has brought about the present status of affairs.

Gasoline has become too important a factor in the business welfare of this country to permit the production or distribution to be jockeyed for the benefit of private interests.

RAIN BRINGS GOOD CHEER.

Smiles and smiles and then some more smiles is now characteristic of the farmers in these parts. And this rejoicing is shared by town folks too. All of this good cheer is due to a real Oregon summer rain. It started early Sunday morning and kept it up intermittently until Tuesday morning, sufficient rain falling to assure bumper crops. It came at just the right time—when it was needed—and when little or no damage could be done. Some clover clippings were thoroughly soaked, but this is so insignificant compared to the good that it is hardly worth consideration.

For productivity the Willamette valley stands out conspicuously when it receives the ordinary amount of moisture during the month of June. For the past two seasons there has been a shortage, but in spite of this condition, crops have been fairly good. This year all recent year records ought to be smashed to smithereens.

Figured from a dollar standpoint there is no possible way of estimating the value of this rain, but what is perhaps as essential as the dollars, it brought an abundance of good cheer to the farmer folks who need it at this time to sort of even things up. In these days of skyrocketing prices on most things the products of the farm have been neglected sadly. Farmers have found their costs mounting steadily, yet there has been no commensurate increase in their marketable goods and in some instances there have been notable reductions.

BIG-HEARTED BOYS

Big-hearted boys they were—and are. Though Voltaire sired the sarcasm that God is always on the side of the heaviest battalions, the defeat of Germany refuted it. And America will always proudly incline to the belief that her boys won because of their great hearts and manly attributes, rather than through the common mastery of arms. France knew "les Americains" as gallant, laughing, spendthrift prodigals who stooped to pat the heads of children, and tossed the little sons and daughters of the republic to their broad shoulders, as big brothers would. The American expeditionary force made more material demonstration of this spontaneous kindness when, in the midst of war, its members adopted temporarily more than 3700 French children whom the war had made fatherless.

With the organization of the American Legion upon the return from overseas, when other interests pressed them closely, "les Americains" did not forget their small wards left behind. And the Legion, through an official campaign now in progress, is calling upon its thousands of posts to readopt the homeless children whose fathers fell when the way to Paris was barricaded with valiant bodies. Left to the pity of France herself—a land heaped with reconstruction problems and beset with financial stringency—the war orphans, however warm the heart of their own land, would become little more than friendless waifs. The Legion is proving its own nobility by this benefaction, characteristically disguising its service by terming the adopted orphans "post mascots," and unwittingly reasserting the truism that "the bravest are the tenderest, the loving are the daring."—Oregonian.

OREGON NORMAL NOTES

The faculty and students are very glad to note that the new water system has been completed and that the mountain water is now in the pipes. They greatly appreciate the splendid work of the city council in their management of the whole affair.

President Ackerman delivered the commencement address to the graduates of the Salem high school last Thursday evening.

After faculty club last Friday evening, the members adjourned to the living room of the dormitory where an informal "family" party was held in honor of Mrs. Stock, Mrs. Stombaugh and Miss Senska who are leaving the normal this year. Cake, ice cream and coffee were served.

The normal very much appreciates the improvements which are being made this week in the street in front of the buildings.

The various churches of the town are invited to join the normal in the baccalaureate service to be held in the chapel next Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

The commencement festivities will open Saturday, June 12, with the president's breakfast to the class of 1921 held in the dormitory. The complete program for the week follows:

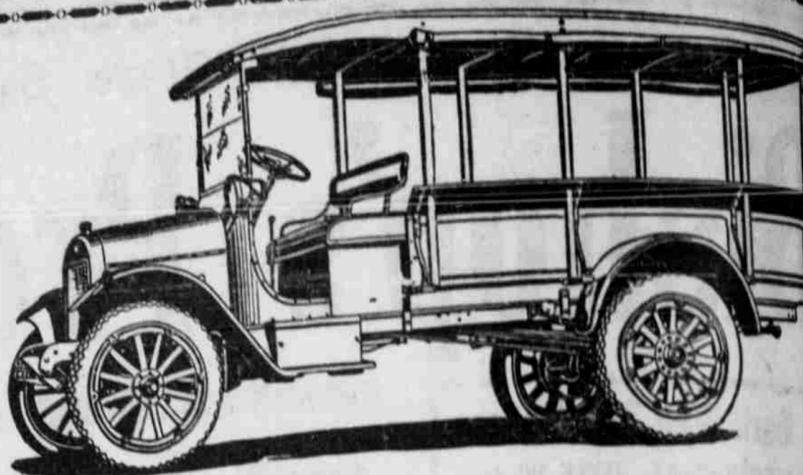
- Saturday, June 12, 9.30 a. m., dormitory, president's breakfast; 8.00 p. m., gymnasium, junior prom.
- Sunday, June 14, 2.30 p. m., dormitory, faculty reception; 8.15 p. m., chapel, class play.
- Tuesday, June 15, 10.00 a. m., chapel, last chapel and class day; 8.00 p. m., chapel, alumni program and banquet.
- Wednesday, June 16, 10.00 a. m., chapel, commencement address by President Lindley, University of Idaho.

The play selected by the class, "The Road to Yesterday," by Beulah Marie Dix, is a modern comedy of the best type with the principal scenes laid in England at the present time. If rehearsals and hard work on the part of the cast mean a finished production, the work should certainly be well done. It will be given in the chapel Monday evening, June 14, at 8.15. Music by the normal orchestra will be given between acts.

SPECIAL FEDERAL TAXES NOW DUE AND PAYABLE

June is a busy month for the internal revenue bureau as during that month all special taxes for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 1921, are due and payable.

Collector of Internal Revenue Milton A. Miller has mailed out to all special taxpayers forms upon which return for payment of tax must be made. These special taxpayers include proprietors of theatres, for hire automobiles, pleasure boats, pool and billiard tables, bowling alleys, shooting galleries, retail dealers in oleomargarine, brokers, pawn



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Other classes of taxpayers affected are druggists, physicians, dentists and other practitioners, who must complete their re-registration under the Harrison act not later than July 1st, after which date they will be delinquent. On or before June 15th the second installment of income tax will pay one installment when due and payable, and notices for due and payable all the time this tax were sent out some weeks installments which would be due on September 15th and quarterly installment due on June 15th will be required, within ten days after notice and demand, to preclude the co-operation of payers in making their payments as failure to payments as early as possible.



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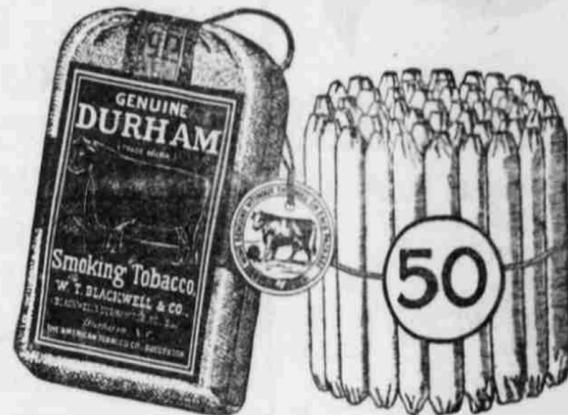
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