

Independence Enterprise

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WILL ACT AS A BOOMERANG

Cheap money would be a fine arrangement. So would a reduction in wages be welcomed by employers. It would be just as consistent to enact a law making two dollars the maximum wage for a day's labor as it is to attempt to decree that four per cent and no more shall be the legal rate of interest in Oregon, with a proviso that upon contracts five per cent may be charged.

Money is not unlike other commodities. Supply and demand regulate its value. Were the proposed constitutional amendment adopted Oregon would have a low rate of interest, but instead of proving a benefit to the borrower it would develop into a boomerang. You may lead a horse to water but you cannot make him drink. The people of Oregon have an opportunity to make the interest rate four per cent, but it will be found that there is nothing in the constitution which requires the loaning of money at this rate or any other rate for that matter.

Millions of dollars have been loaned at two per cent. Not, however, during these times when your Uncle Samuel has had to dig up six per cent and at the same time appeal to patriotism in order to secure the loan.

While to the Enterprise it does not seem in the range of possibility that the proposed amendment to the constitution can be adopted, it is perhaps well at this time for the voter to give this matter due deliberation. If he will he will find that all is not gold that glitters.

At the present time with a clamor for money at rates going as high as 10 per cent, with gilt-edge security, from all parts of the country, where would Oregon get its supply of coin at four or even five per cent? Loans that are now outstanding would be called as soon as they could be and the money sent to places where it would be more appreciated.

Oregon would be isolated in a financial sense, and no end of trouble would ensue.

MISREPRESENTATION PARAMOUNT ISSUE

Misrepresentation continues to be the policy of the Oregonian in reference to Polk county road affairs. Particularly is this true in regard to the "stuff" which is printed under a Salem date line. Here is another one which appeared last Saturday:

"Talk of an attempt to recall the county court of Polk county because of its attitude in refusing to establish the Salem-Dallas grade so that the highway commission may proceed with its paving operations there, is current in many parts of Polk county, according to S. Benson, chairman of the commission, who was here today conferring with state officials.

"Refusal of the Polk county court to grade the Salem-Dallas road was due, it was said, to the determination of the court to build the west side Pacific highway on a route which eliminates Dallas and Independence."

As a matter of information to the Oregonian, the Polk county court has not refused to grade the Salem-Dallas postroad. Work was stopped on this highway by the highway commission purely as a spite action against Polk county. When court direction brought a halt to the commission's unlawful acts in the Pacific highway routing, as a retaliation the commission ordered operations suspended on the postroad. The Pacific highway and the Salem-Dallas postroad are entirely different highways.

As to the recall of the Polk county court. It is pure propaganda and in keeping with the policy of the highway commission. It is quite possible that Mr. Benson did hear some recall talk, but as he seems to be afflicted with misunderstanding things, he probably did not sense to whom this recall talk applied.

The Enterprise is of the opinion that were it possible to submit the names of Simon Benson and R. A. Booth to the voters of Polk county on a recall ballot there would be no further question in their minds as to the preponderance of sentiment in this county.

Driving his car so rapidly and recklessly that he was being pursued by a motor "cop," Simon Benson, chairman of the state highway commission, came to grief at Hubbard last Friday. His car ran into a car belonging to a mail carrier at a road intersection, demolishing the mail man's car and injuring him quite severely. This is the gist of the story as published in the Portland papers. Yet there was no mention of Mr. Benson's being arrested. Was this overlooked by the newspaper men? Surely, it is not possible that the highway commissioner can perform such stunts without being answerable to the authorities.

The Enterprise never was adept at playing hide-and-seek, it is frank to confess. Neither is it able to understand the attitude of the Monmouth Herald on the highway matter. However, it will hazard a guess that the editor of the Herald voted for the act which created the present highway commission and defined the route of the highway through Polk county. The presumption at that time was that it was not "a mere scrap of paper," to be ignored if considered inconvenient. Conceding that men and newspapers have a right to change their opinions, nevertheless laws are operative until they are superseded by proper action. The highway commission is attempting to violate this legislative enactment in routing the highway through Polk county, and the commission has the support of the Herald.

FOR BIGGER CROPS

The advice given to potato growers by W. S. Carpenter, extension specialist at Oregon Agricultural college, to plan now for greater productivity next year is especially timely because, as he reminds them, "now is the time of year to go into the patch and pick out the vigorous, healthy-looking hills." Few novices at gardening and not all farmers know that the hill is the unit of production of the potato, and that seed cannot be chosen to best advantage by the grower who makes his selection from the bin. Not only the individual specimen, but also the vine and other potatoes in the hill, ought to be studied if worth while results are to be obtained.

Mr. Carpenter advises us that many of the more serious potato diseases are more easily seen while the vines are growing than at any other time. For this reason, and also because healthy but not too rank growth of vine is a desirable indication. The potato gardener will find it profitable to go through his patch now and stake the most promising looking hills. When these are dug, the procedure as Mr. Carpenter outlines it is as follows:

Compare the hills and save the potatoes from those having a good number of average-size tubers that are smooth, uniform and free from disease of any kind. Do not save the seed from the hills that have just two or three big potatoes nor from the ones with a dozen or more little potatoes. Choose those with the greatest number of medium-sized potatoes. All the potatoes from such a hill may be used.

There is reason to believe that seed selection is fully as important as cultural methods in production of profitable crops, and the former is especially desirable in view of the difficulty experienced in

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getting labor to harvest the crops.

Since every hill must be dug, and since it requires little more time to harvest the crop from a heavy-yielding acre than from one on which the crop is practically a failure, it is essential to the solution of the food problem that no factor that will increase productivity shall be neglected. Experts regard it in theory as entirely possible to double the present average per acre yield of potatoes in a generation by a constant, persistent and universal policy of planting nothing but selected seed. It is too much to expect that the ideal will be realized, but the individual grower can accomplish a good deal. The extra pains that the process entails is far more than repaid by additional return in proportion to labor expended.—Oregonian.

STATE BUYS ROSEBURG LAND FOR MODEL FARM

Roseburg—Through arrangements perfected with the Roseburg Park and Fair association, owners of 50 acres of ground two miles east of this city and which has heretofore been used as the county fair grounds, the state becomes the owner of the tract as soon as the necessary papers are filed for record, the stockholders of the association having voted to dispose of the land for the purpose of establishing a model farm.

W. L. Boise, president of the Oregon land commission, and Professor H. D. Scudder of the Oregon Agricultural college, have been in the city for a few days in the interest of the state.

\$42,000 IN BONUSES PAID BEND MILL EMPLOYEES

Bend—Employees of the Sherburne Hixson company and the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber company who were on the payrolls of the two corporations during the first six months of the present year, today received \$42,000 in bonuses, representing five per cent of their earnings during that period.

Seven hundred and four men and women in the employ of the Sherburne Hixson company received \$30,000 additional pay, while \$12,000 was divided among 500 employees by the Brooks-Scanlon company.

Letters accompanying each individual bonus explained that the extra pay is a token of appreciation of the continued service of the employe.

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