

THE EUGENE GUARD

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12.

Taxation Extremes

HOPE grange, of Alsea, in Lincoln county, has adopted a resolution declaring for an initiative measure to be placed on the ballot the next election providing that all forms of taxation except a graduated income tax be abolished in Oregon.

The Dennis resolution to be submitted under referendum at the next election, which would abolish all income and inheritance taxes for fifteen years to come, represents one extreme of proposed legislation. The plan of the Alsea grange represents the other extreme. Whether its plan will receive indorsement sufficient to gain it a place on the ballot at the next election is something yet to be determined. At present there is prospect that it may.

For years Oregon voters were faced at recurring elections with a measure intended to make land carry all the tax—a single-tax measure. Always it was voted down. Now, apparently, there is to be a perennial question before the voters of a measure to let the land carry none of the tax. Singularly among its most active proponents are those who formerly wanted to have the land carry all of the tax.

One wonders just what the influence was behind the adoption of the Dennis resolution. Whatever it was, the measure is destined to raise a lot of dust in Oregon this next year and a half.

The Paving Material Suits.

SCANT comfort is to be obtained from the assurance that the attorney general's office at Salem is preparing to do what it can to protect the interests of the state in the \$750,000 patent suit brought against it by Warren brothers, paving contractors, for alleged infringement of patent rights in connection with the use of certain processed paving material of their invention. It is little wonder that at least one member of the state highway commission favors efforts to compromise the case. Warren brothers, unfortunately for the taxpayers, seem to hold just about all the cards in the deck.

Responsibility for the state's dilemma belongs, in the main, with a former legislature, because, some five years ago it undertook that responsibility when it authorized the state highway commission to guarantee security to contractors using the paving materials to which patent was claimed by Warren brothers, notwithstanding their claims and their warnings of reprisal. One contractor who undertook to set the warrentite patent at defiance was the late Oskar Huber. Warren brothers sued him for infringement. The suit has quite recently been decided in federal circuit court of appeals in their favor. Encouraged by this success, they have now begun suit in the federal court at Portland against the state highway commission itself, jointly with nine contractors and four surety companies, claiming damages at the rate of 25 cents a yard for patented material laid in 1919 and 1920 on Oregon roads.

In view of the outcome of the Huber case it is not easy to foresee a result any more favorable to the state in the present cases. It would appear that the member of the highway commission who favors settlement by compromise, if that can be brought about on favorable terms, proposes to seize the less ugly horn of a very painful dilemma.

Last year a committee headed by Senator Wheeler made grave charges of ill doing against the department of justice as then constituted. The department of justice countered with charges of unlawful acts against Senator Wheeler, which are still pending. Recently a committee headed by Senator Couzens brought charges of gross favoritism to various so-called trusts against the treasury department. The treasury department now brings a charge of income tax fraud against Senator Couzens. The reactions of the public to such situations as these are those of doubt of everybody concerned on both sides, tinged with disgust. Whatever the original merit of any question arising in congress nowadays, political bickerings soon obscure the real issue. Apparently no party nor any faction is free from participation or blame.

In the person of Emory R. Buckner, New York has a new federal district attorney who indicates an intention to make prohibition enforcement a reality. Under the terms of the padlock injunction law he has closed for a year the New Rochelle hotel and ousted its fifteen tenants, including a furnishing store and a restaurant. He announces further that he will bring similar proceedings against 1000 other places unless their owners clean up. The fairness of his method is open to question. One might say that it will be likely to make prohibition enforcement obnoxious but for the fact that in New York it already is as obnoxious as it possibly can be. No scheme of punishment of the guilty is justifiable which penalizes the innocent.

Steadily the fund for enlargement of the children's farm home at Corvallis is being augmented. At Portland a big benefit show is to be held at the auditorium, the entire proceeds of which will go to the fund. The fund for the Lane county cottage has not yet been completed, but has made substantial progress. Need for prompt enlargement of the home facilities is shown by the fact that 81 children are now quartered in three cottages who normal combined capacity is 60 children.

If it should develop that Wallace McCamant is President Coolidge's new selection for attorney general of the United States, he would be the second man from Oregon to occupy that position. The late George H. Williams, of Portland, was attorney general in the cabinet of President Grant.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS

The Busy Business Man. (Roseburg News-Review) Things are pretty lively for the average business man and property owner in Oregon just at the present moment. During the month of February the county presented its "clients" with 1924 tax statements, the government asked for a checking of your income for the same year, with a reminder that income taxes must be paid by March 15, this year. And, for

far you might have a stray penny in your overalls, the state is going to collect that unpaid portion of the 1924 state income tax. They ought to find something else to hang on the taxpayers—just to keep them warm until spring arrives.

Broccoli and Frost. (Grants Pass Courier) Truck growers are making a broccoli tour on Wednesday. It would be helpful if they could see the condition of some of the broccoli fields to the north, which were just about wiped out by the heavy frosts of the winter. A comparison with those of Josephine would do much to show them that this is the most favored spot in the state for this crop.

All Prisons Full. (Salem Capital Journal) With 517 convicts in the state penitentiary and with a dozen more en route, the record of prison population in Oregon of this year is in her history. The institution became that it is necessary to place three prisoners in some of the cells.

We can hardly believe this, for prohibition was to empty our jails, prisons and asylums—yet after 10 years of state dryness, there are more people in jail, in prison and in the asylums of Oregon than in her history. Moreover, in the old days most of the convicts were men over 40 years of age. Today 60 per cent are in the early 20's.

Not Highest Prison Population. (Salem Statesman) Several Oregon newspapers have in the past couple of days published the statement that the Oregon penitentiary and the highest population in its history.

Which was not true. The number of prisoners yesterday was 517. The record number was 596, in 1918.

There is nothing to the statement that prohibition has increased the Oregon prison population. The fact is, it decreased it. There were only 397 men on January 1, 1924, and the number of men was for a long time run around 350, which is very low for a state with the population of Oregon.

Some of the increase of our prison population is due to the growth of our general population. We had about as many prisoners in the Oregon penitentiary, in the days before prohibition, when the population of our state was not more than half what it is now.

There are some bootleggers and moonshiners among the present prison population; but very little of the growth of late can in any other way be attributed to prohibition. A great deal of the increase can be attributed to the unsettled conditions following the war. A lot of young men who were uprooted from former environments have never since become settled.

25 Years Ago

(From The Guard of March 12, 1909) Greenleaf item—When Hazel Wheeler was on her way to Eugene recently she followed the track of a small bear in the road up Chickahominy mountain and near the top passed the animal, which sat on a log near the road. Hazel's horse seemed to be more scared than she, but she passed in safety.

Wheat in Junction is bringing 35 to 36 cents per bushel, while in Eugene it is worth 35 to 36 cents.

The little steamer Gypsy is working on the upper river. The boat went to Monroe Friday loaded with 75 tons of freight.

The Excelsior mill is now running full time. The first cut load of the manufactured article will probably be shipped from this point Wednesday.

After that date there will be numerous ones sent away.

The Congregational Endeavor society will meet tomorrow evening with Mr. and Mrs. R. McMurphy for the monthly business and social session.

In front of McClung's store this afternoon a couple of ladies were driving along in a buggy when one of the lines broke, Attorney Hilyen witnessed the same and immediately jumped to the fore and caught the horse as it started to run away.

Miss Anna Whitaker went to Portland this afternoon to visit her sister.

Oregon Briefs

Forty building permits were issued in Bead during February for new residences to cost \$28,950.

Marshfield school board has set March 30 as the date for a special election to vote on a proposed issue of \$30,000 to cover building needs of the city.

Exports from the port of Astoria for the month of February amounted in value to \$483,000. The same month last year the exports totaled \$394,100.

Darius Jerome Dunn, well known Oregon pioneer, died a few days ago at his home near Tillamook where he had lived for more than 50 years.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lane, wife of Judge Lane of Cascade Locks, was seriously burned Thursday when she slipped and fell against a red-hot stove.

Paul Muskie was instantly killed last Thursday when he was caught and crushed between two moving logs at the Shevlin-Hixon camp near Head.

Completion of the Hood River-White Salmon interstate bridge and the opening of the Mount Hood loop highway will be celebrated simultaneously at Hood River in June.

The new bridge over the Lewis and Clark river below Astoria was completed last week and opened to traffic Sunday. The structure cost \$225,000 and was started in August, 1923.



WASTE, GREAT AMERICAN MENACE

Head Waste Eliminator of Country Says We Throw Away Ten Billions Yearly

By LARRY BOARDMAN (NEA Service Writer) WASHINGTON, March 12.—America is facing a menace more than a 20 per cent demand—and he passes the extra cost on to the majority consumers.

"The cooperative method of bringing producers, distributors and consumers to act jointly for the interest of all is the common sense way of correcting this condition. Already it has saved millions of dollars, and, under a competitive system, such saving must be passed on to the ultimate consumer."

"To illustrate how the system has worked take the case of a man building a home. Where there were formerly 30 variations in the size of face brick and 44 sizes of common brick there is now but one size of each.

"Hollow building tile was formerly made in 30 sizes. Now it is made in 12. Metal lath was formerly sold in 125 sizes. Now there are only 24.

"The variety of items of yard lumber has been reduced 50 per cent, and the home builder now knows for the first time how thick a standard board is.

"These reductions are of immediate influence on the work of the architect and the contractor as well as the building material dealer.

"More and more of the firms which have had a part in this form of waste reduction are emphasizing it in their advertising.

"And as the movement goes on it will become more and more apparent to the consumer that he can help to make his own burden lighter by using his purchasing power to endorse goods which have been simplified.

"When he does that a great part of the waste tax will be removed—and the waste menace will be stopped in its tracks."

along, and in poverty such as one sees in these east side tenements a sawny geranium may be as a field of roses. Greater joy lies in a second-hand photograph than in all of the Metropolitan opera. A bright new shawl may be worth more, relatively, than all the finery of Fifth avenue.

However, there are some windows in which no geraniums bloom. There are flats so crowded that some must sleep on the floor. In some instances beds are occupied 24 hours each day, night workers and day workers sleeping in shifts.

In the mornings and in the evenings when the workers are on their way to and from their homes the streets team with the milling throng. Watch them pass, human spawn out of which may evolve a president, a statesman, a merchant prince, a great man of letters—or an arch criminal. Anything is likely to incubate behind those great gray tenement walls.

In Lighter Vein Dominating. (Los Angeles Times) "Tell me," said the interviewer at the bedside of the aviator who had fallen 3000 feet and hit the earth, "what was your dominating thought as you fell through all that space?" True to his record for coolness, the aviator lit a cigaret, smiled and said, "Why, I think the thought that impressed me most was that I was about the only thing that wasn't going up."

A Strategic Silence. (Washington Star) "You have been strangely silent of late." "I have decided," answered Senator Sorobon, "that the people do not like a man to talk continuously. It's better to permit the impression that you are taking time off to do a little thinking."

Cheaper Odors. (Detroit News) The scientist who found that diamonds ground to powder give off a repugnant odor will probably admit that boiling a cabbage is cheaper.

Complimentary? (Stanford Chaparral) He—Your cousin refused to recog-

That's Different.

(London Daily News) "Clarence," she called. He stopped the car and looked around. "I am not accustomed to call my chauffeurs by their first names, Clarence. What is your surname?" "Darling, Madam, 'Drive on, Clarence.'"

The Crown Prince. (Buen Humor, Madrid) "Why do you think Fanny doesn't like you?" "I told her there was a fool in every family."

"What did she say?" "She asked if I were an only son."

The Vicious Cycle. (Amherst Lord Jeff) "How did you lose your hair?" "Worry." "What did you worry about?" "Losing my hair."

Tom Sims Says—

It's spring, beautiful spring, when you feel so darn lazy you don't give a dang.

The sap is flowing in the trees, there is a weakness in our knees, we've shed our heavy bevedeedees.

In the Tennessee mountains a dude is a man who gets his hair cut in March instead of April.

Oh, what is so rare as a day in June? Our guess is a player piano in tune.

An Alabama dude is a man who cuts a chew of tobacco with his knife instead of biting it off.

In Mississippi, a lazy man is one who hasn't energy enough to make his boys go to work.

"You never can tell when a woman's going to change her mind." That's a new song. We can. "Always."

And if you don't know why one changes her mind it's because "because."

We kicked the moth out of our bathing suit last night. He had eaten a hole big enough to make six doughnuts.

In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of nothing.

Rowell's Comment

By CHESTER H. ROWELL REFORMERS in New York are ap- preaching the point where they will spryint "even a democrat" to beat Tammany.

Strange survival of the lowbrowest of low-brow prejudices among the highbrows.

Essentially, the virtues of the high-brow reformers and Tammany are at opposite extremes.

The reformers regard them as men. They would vote against their friend if he ran on the issue of doing the thing when elected which they thought against the public interest, and support their enemy if they approved his policy.

To vote for a man because he had done them a personal favor, they would regard as treason.

Tammany is the opposite. "What is the constitution between friends?" There are only two Tammany commandments:

(1) Stand in with your friends. (2) If you tell a man you will do him a certain favor, do it.

These were the feudal virtues, also. The modernists regard them as vices, when they lead to disregard of impersonal principle.

But even they make one exception. They have to go through travail before they will support "even a democrat" for mayor, an office in which it ought to make no difference if he is a whig or a mormon.

WHAT'S THAT?

Big Boxing event at the Winter Garden Monday night. m16

EUGENE COLLECTION AGENCY, 574 WILLAMETTE STREET, PHONE 900. W. H. BLOWERS, MGR.

Fellowship of Prayer

Daily Lenten Bible reading and meditation prepared for Commission on Evangelism of Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

THURSDAY
The Foundation of Faith

Read Lk. 7:18-23. Text: 7:22. Go and tell John the things which ye have seen and heard.

MEDITATION—Christ did not impose an undue test on his disciples when he asked them to believe on him. His miracles appealed to their eyes; his truth to their minds; his personality to their hearts, how could they do otherwise than believe in him and how can any one resist him? If we put our faith to work we shall come to know him as our personal Lord and Saviour.

To every man there openeth
A Way, and Ways and a Way,
And the High Soul climbs the
High Way
And the Low Soul gropes the
Low;
And in between, on the mighty
Plains,
The rest drift to and fro.
But to every man there openeth
A High Way and a Low,
And every man decideth
The Way his soul shall go.

PRAYER—O Lord our God, give us a desire for knowledge of thee that we may draw all men to thee. We pray that thou wouldst knit our lives into thine with holier and stronger bonds. Deliver us O Lord from whatever would separate us from thee, Amen.

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Looking Both Ways in Business

If you could mount an observation tower, clear above the stream of life, what would you see in the past a line of achievements, and also many possibilities never followed up. In the future, more roads of opportunity, some leading to success, others not.

But if you are a patron of the U. S. National Bank you would see, running along ahead of you in the coming years, a line of guide posts marking the road to success. These signs are the services that will be yours as a member of that large band of people who make the U. S. National their banking headquarters.

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