

THE EUGENE GUARD

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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1925

Workmen's Compensation Rates.

GOVERNOR PIERCE told the state board of control this week that the insurance companies "hold a knife at the heart of state compensation and will kill it." Such a thing is altogether unlikely as that state compensation will be killed by the insurance companies, whatever their disposition towards it may be. The voters would have something to say about any such proposal.

The governor himself has done as much towards injuring state compensation as any single individual, although that, of course, was not his intention. He was active last fall in promoting and advocating radical amendments to the act which would have made it wholly intolerable to any free people, and that effort unquestionably weakened the whole measure in the view of many who had been favorable to it. Then the governor aimed another blow at the law by attempting to have it deprived of state aid.

The people of Oregon have shown by their votes both that they favor a workmen's compensation law and that they oppose extremes in such a law. For those officials and legislators who want to see the law amended further, here is a hint as to the direction their efforts might well take: The manager of one of the largest lumber mills on Coos bay was asked by this writer recently whether his concern operated under the workmen's compensation act. He answered in the negative and then explained that his company gave to its workmen substantially the same protection that the workmen's compensation act affords, but did it through an insurance company, because, he said, the insurance company offered lower rates than the state act requires. His statement was significant of a condition that is keeping other large employing concerns, as well as his, out of participation under the provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

One important service that its friends could perform for the workmen's compensation act would be to make its rates workable in competition with those of private insurance companies.

The International Court Idea.

WHAT possible valid objection can be raised by any well meaning nation to the idea of a sound and thoroughly organized court of international justice? How can any government or any people justify on its own part an aloofness from, a lack of interest in or an opposition to such a movement? The purpose of the proposed international court is to define and make certain an international legal code and then to provide machinery for its administration. What nation could possibly lose anything by participation under such a plan?

Charles Evans Hughes, former secretary of state, in discussing international law before the American society of international law at Washington, Thursday evening, said in dealing with international law "we are considering nothing that is merely formal, still less what can be imposed, but the growth of civilization itself." The ex-secretary expressed the further view that the development of international law may be deemed a record of "the judgments of the conscience of mankind." The best guarantee of the independence of small states, he pointed out, will be found ultimately in the development of international law. International comity can be best promoted and international peace preserved through mutual understanding as to what is law among nations and a general abiding thereunder.

Mr. Hughes sums up his argument in this convincing style: World peace can be ultimately effected only through the clarification and codification of international law, and this can be accomplished only through a great conference of representatives of the nations. These things being true, how can the world delay the movement for an international conference looking to the organizing of an international court of justice? Mr. Hughes thinks the United States should lead the way, and hopes our initiative will not be much longer delayed. How, in all the circumstances, can we excuse further delay?

A majority of the city council of Klamath Falls adopted a resolution granting the exclusive right to cross a key street to the Strahorn railroad. The Hill railroad interests had contended for a common user clause in the permit. Mayor Goddard has vetoed the resolution. Attorneys from Strahorn contend that the mayor acted illegally in so doing. The council minority contend that the action of the majority was illegal, in that the charter provides that railroad franchises can be granted only by ordinance. Klamath Falls people are taking sides in the controversy, and there appears danger that it will assume proportions comparable to those of the famous courthouse fight in that same bustling city a few years ago.

The assessment roll as it affects business property in Eugene is undergoing revision which will be reflected on next year's tax statements, Assessor Kenney announces. As to whether this is a threat or a promise he doesn't explain.

The middle west sweltered in heat yesterday, while Montana had heavy snow. Here in Lane county, Oregon, we had just normal April weather. What makes people content to live in climes less favored?

With referendum movements launched against the bus bill, the titling bill and the tobacco tax bill, the outlook for relief of the property tax load by means of special taxes is not overly bright.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS

No Cut in Taxes. (Salem Capital Journal) Governor Pierce now admits, after many denials, that he really promised to cut taxes in two during his campaign and declares that he would have accomplished it, as far as state taxes are concerned, had the people not repudiated the income tax. The people are in blame, or at least.

the latter would not equal the increase in other taxes, and as the income tax is paid by the same persons who pay property tax, there would be no real relief under the Pierce program, if carried out.

The small decrease secured in the state tax does not indicate a reduction in taxation, merely in property taxation, as it is more than made up by special taxation. There has been no reduction in public expenditures, the only way to secure a real cut in taxes, and none attempted.

Until there is an honest effort made in reducing expenditures through consolidation and elimination of overlapping of bureaus and superfluous commissions and departments and centralizing their control under the budget system, taxes will increase rather than decrease—and the governor has offered no constructive program for the former.

What Does It Portend?

(Astoria Budget) There are those who are interpreting the enforced retirement of Ben Dorris from the game commission as a sign that the wardenship of Captain A. E. Burghdoff is to be terminated. If the change in the personnel of the commission is to be followed by the ousting of Burghdoff and his principal assistants, there will be a storm aroused which will obliterate the recent fish embargo to things forgotten.

Burghdoff undoubtedly has the support of the vast majority of sportsmen and they will not mildly resent his removal. It is no secret that Commissioner Price has had his eye on the job since the warden's head was in the controversy between this commissioner and the warden, the settlement among the sportsmen has been with the latter.

Dorris was a supporter of Burghdoff. His removal from the commission followed a conference between Governor Pierce and the two members of the commission who oppose Burghdoff. No reason was assigned for the dismissal. The public has been making its own deductions. An alert eye will be kept on the game affairs until the full meaning of the act is determined.

The governor and the sportsmen declared a truce at the legislature after sparring about for a bit and it has been generally understood that the basis of that truce was a promise on the part of the governor that the status quo of the commission would not be disturbed. By way of showing good faith the governor reappointed Commissioner Fleisher before his term was expired. Now, however, he has removed one of Burghdoff's most ardent champions and sportsmen are wondering whether he has done this deliberately to create an anti-Burghdoff majority.

Mr. Stanley's Precedence.

(The Oregonian) Gas has been struck in a tentative oil well just south of Eugene. The man who put the big ad in The Guard must be endowed with a large measure of precedence.

Here's Hoping.

(Roseburg News-Review) Eugene is all agog over the discovery of gas in alleged paying quantities from an oil well being drilled close to that city, and the prediction that oil will soon be found. Here's hoping that it's not all "gas."

In Lighter Vein

In This Flapper Age. (Penn Punch Bow) He—And who made the first cotton gin?

Young Thing—Heavens! Are they making it from that, too?

Prominent Ex-Porter. (Tennessee Mugwump) Sam—What am yo' gonna do now? Bo—I'm an exporter.

"An exporter?"

"Yep. The Pullman company just fired me."

Words and Music

"Our church has been without a pastor for some months," writes a subscriber to The Outlook. "On Saturday the choir leader gave this notice to the daily paper: 'Linden Congregational church, morning worship at ten o'clock. Rev. Mr. Silver will preach and the choir will sing "The Lord Have Mercy on Us." Mr. Silver read the notice, but said nothing. In his sermon, however, he spoke of the wonders of science, and especially of airplanes. It will not be long," he said, "before they will be in common use. I can imagine many of this congregation getting into a big airplane on Sunday morning and going to some church many miles away to hear some good music."

The Cure. (Philadelphia Bulletin) Fred—A philosopher once said the only way to cure yourself of a love affair is to run away. Do you believe it?

Flora—Certainly, if you run away with the girl.

Music Loving Public. (Washington Star) "Was there a brass band to meet you when you got back home?"

"No," answered Senator Surghum. "I told the committee on arrangements to cut out the music. I'm tired of being politely tolerated while the leader of the band gets the real applause."

Phony Order. (Louisville Courier-Journal) "That is a careful vegetable dealer. See him calling his state staff."

"He isn't going to throw it away. Somebody has just placed an order by telephone."

University Corps Will Have Parade

As the first of a series of military parades to be held by the cadets of the R. O. T. C. of the University of Oregon the entire student body organization turned out yesterday afternoon for review. Each Thursday afternoon starting at 5:15 the parade will be held and these weekly reviews will continue until May 24, is the announcement of the United States army staff to charge of the cadets training. The parade will be led by the band at each review. An invitation to the public to attend the parades has been extended. The review is held near the R. O. T. C. quarters on University street.

The Ford Motor Company is establishing an assembling plant in Japan.



RAILROADS LIKE FARM PROSPERITY

Agricultural Progress Means Increased Business For Carriers, And all Will Benefit

By CHARLES F. STEWART (NEA Service Writer)

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"The farmers," he explains, "have got to prosper or we railroad men can't live."

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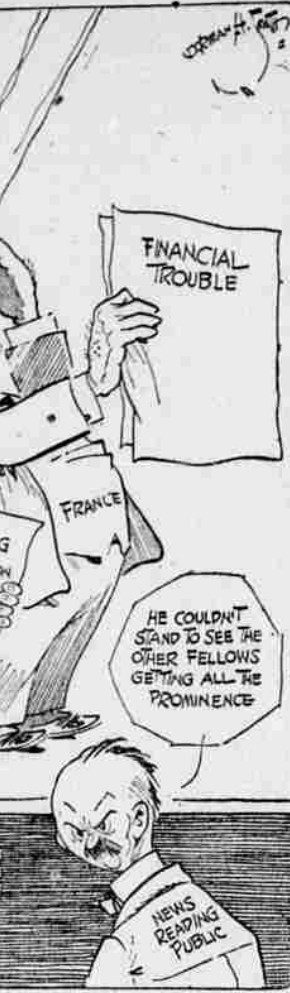
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They Can't Keep Him Off Very Long



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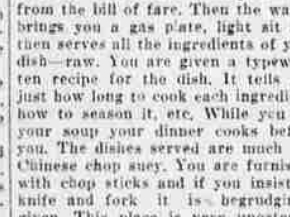
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