

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES

Publishers

H. A. YOUNG, Editor

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A STEP BACKWARD

There is much opposition through the state to the report of the Tax Relief Commission which advocates a repeal of the two mill elementary tax. Martha E. Mulkey, county superintendent, has received information regarding this opposition from several counties.

The superintendent of Klamath county states that the city and county board of Klamath county will send protests against the repeal of the law, not that this law is of benefit to Klamath county since that county acts under the county unit plan of administration and taxation but because of the fact that such principle of taxation is right.

The next step in Oregon should be for a state and county tax adequate to care for the education of all pupils and a repeal would be a step in the wrong direction.

Some of our districts in Coos county find it unnecessary to levy any special tax while many others have to vote a large tax, the highest for last year being 23.8 mills. The two mill elementary tax tends to more nearly equalize school taxes and this matter should be of interest to every voter in Oregon.

The repeal of this law would in no wise cut the amount of money needed and would simply tend to make the special tax voted by the districts larger.

FOR DEPENDENT MOTHERS

A bill permitting juvenile and county courts to increase allowances to dependent mothers has been introduced into the House of Representatives at Salem.

The increase is optional and not mandatory. Mothers whose husbands are dead or inmates of some Oregon state or county institution, and do not have property of a value disproportionate to the actual needs of the family, are eligible for the allowance.

The bill proposes to increase the allowance maximum for one child from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a month, and for each additional child from \$10.00 to \$16.00 a month. The total amount is discretionary with the court, but in no case shall exceed \$75.00 a month—formerly \$60.00. The mother must have resided in the state at least three years, and in the county one year, immediately preceding the application for assistance. The children must be under the age of 16 years.

For the past year or more Coos county has not been allowing the maximum provided for in the existing law and yet dependents and indigents have increased the taxes here in an alarming manner.

SEVEN FEET FOR 47

Asked, "What is the answer to the traffic problems in the cities," an expert who has studied the matter in several of the metropolitan cities shows that on an average it requires but seven square feet of street space for a passenger in a street car, slightly more in a bus, but 47 square feet of space is demanded for each passenger in the automobiles that ply the streets. In other words, it requires seven times as much street space for automobile passengers as for those who travel by trolley, elevated or subway.

All of which is doubtless true, but to hope that these facts will induce people to leave their cars idle at home does not show a good knowledge of human nature. However, the constantly increasing number of automobiles will eventually require parking regulations that are not now known.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

Saturday morning three inches of snow covered the ground. On the hills and mountains there was a much greater depth. This, Tuesday, morning much of it is still with us but is melting. Sunday morning was our coldest, judging from faucets which would not turn without the aid of heat.

The hills and mountains about Ashland are beautiful at any and all times but when they are dressed in white then their beauty is that of a rare picture which you have seen and do not forget. For that beauty is a part of the permanent intangible values of life. The life that catches

no part of those values is a poverty life. And yet the most sordid pauper is not he who is without, but he who has an abundance without desire to use it.

We have read two books recently: "Tarka, the Otter," by Henry Williamson who was nearly four years writing it. It is the story of the life of hunted creatures in England. A person can hardly read that story without having more respect for animals, fish and birds and less for some kinds of humans. "Bobbie" is the story of the dog that was lost at Walcott, Ind., and made his way back to his home in Silverton, Oregon. It is the story of a real dog and real persons and when you read it you will have greater respect for a good dog and be glad that Bobbie found some real humans as friends on his travels.

We are now reading "Thomas Condon, Pioneer Geologist of Oregon," by Ellen Condon McCormack. We have heard of Professor Condon for years but only as "professor." In this book he gets beyond the professor type into the real type of a man. In reading this book I can not get away from the thought that I would like to have had a personal acquaintance with this man. For it seems to me in reading of Mr. Condon, his life at The Dalles, at Forest Grove, at Eugene, that no girl or boy, woman or man, could have come in contact with him without their vision of life being enlarged, touched by the spirit of the divine. So in reading this book life and earth are not only more real to me but the mysteries of life are more understandable. That which strikes me most forcibly concerning Thomas Condon is that he was such a companionable kind of a man. That is what made him a successful minister and teacher.

At the holiday time one of the greetings was from Miss Frances A. Taft, of Hudson Falls, N. Y. The letter was not addressed in her handwriting but she has been in poor health and nearly blind for several years, and the card was written by the hand of a friend. However, we have had occasional letters written by her own hand. Yesterday we received letters from two of her old pupils with a newspaper clipping saying Miss Taft died Saturday, January 12. Miss Taft was a teacher for 50 years, ceasing those duties in 1913. It was my privilege to be in her classes in Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls), N. Y., during the school year of '74-'75. Throughout the years since the friendship formed then has lived and the yearly or more frequent letters have been exchanged. In 1906 or '07 Miss Taft, with a friend, made a trip to the Pacific Coast and were our guests at Mountain Glade ranch for a week. When we had our trip east in 1920 we visited her in her home at Hudson Falls. Her friendship for me was not an exception as one of her students. Friendship for her pupils was a part of the day's work with her and it continued with the years beyond the boundaries of school room walls. You ask me what were the traits she possessed to cause her to have such a hold on the regards and affections of girls and boys. That puzzles me, I don't know. She was simply one of those women you could tie to and she knew her job as a teacher. All through northern New York she was known as a great mathematician and teacher. Now that she has passed on at the age of 84 years, the many whom she taught remember her as a great soul.

That king of Afghanistan, who thought he could change the minds of his people by commanding them to change their clothes, stepped on something more slippery than an orange peel. That is one of the most interesting things I have read for a long time. Several months ago a magazine article told how this king was "modernizing his people" and that his army was a fighting unit. O yes; Annullah was some king. I admire the people of Afghanistan more than I do their ex-king for the reason they let him know he bit off more than he could chew and that if you change a man he has to be changed from the inside out, not from the outside in. That king may have heard of the initiative but his folks knew about the referendum.

A news dispatch said the Oregon legislature had voted again to give themselves \$5 a day expense money. If anyone will start the thing to test out in court to see if the legislators have a right to vote themselves more pay than the law allows, I'll chip in four bits towards the expense. I am of the opinion a lot of people would chip in on that fight. Why did the legislators draw the line at five dollars a day, could they not use \$10? The thing to do is for the courts to settle it.

R. A. Easton.

TO MAKE LABELS RELIABLE

Senator McNary of this state has a bill before congress that will authorize the secretary of agriculture to determine, establish and promulgate from time to time standards of quality, condition and fill of canned food products. Also it would authorize him to prescribe the form of statement which labels on canned food should bear when the products are below the official standards.

Opposes School Millage Repeal

No one is better posted on the inequalities of school taxes than the assessor of any county, and the Sentinel is glad to give space to the following, written by the Coos county assessor, in opposition to the repeal of the elementary school two mill tax:

The Legislative Tax Investigation Committee, authorized by the 1927 Legislature, (known as the Clarkin Committee) through its enthusiasm to reduce the state tax, is recommending the repeal of the state public elementary school tax. This is a 2 mill tax levied on all the taxable property in the state and is apportioned to the districts on a teacher basis of the number of teachers employed in the first eight grades of the public schools and not exceeding thirty pupils or fraction thereof per teacher.

The amount each district will receive each year from this fund is an item in the estimated receipts in its budget. If this law is repealed this amount will have to be raised by a special district tax.

Special school district tax levies are the most unjust and unequal tax levies perpetrated on taxpayers. The special school district tax levies on the 1928 tax roll range from nothing in some districts to 33.1 mills in School District No. 29. This particular district will pay \$33.10 on every \$1,000 valuation, while other districts will pay no special tax for the education of their children. To repeal this law would only increase this inequity of taxation and be a step backward.

We need the adoption of the County Unit system in order to correct this unjust system of special tax levies for school districts.

I would recommend that all chambers of commerce, civic organizations and all other interested parties write our Senator and Representatives in the legislature, and urge them to use their influence to prevent the repeal of the state elementary two mill school tax. Respectfully yours—J. P. Beyers, County Assessor.

Letter from Rev. J. S. Penix

In writing to renew his subscription to the Sentinel, Rev. J. S. Penix, who left the pastorate of the Methodist Episcopal church here a year and a half ago to accept that at Warrenton, writes thus interestingly of that lower Columbia river section of the state:

"We are all well and happy, much enjoying the Grace of holiness and have seen nearly all the members of our church here enter into the experience since our coming.

In and about Warrenton are some interesting things and facts. The first Presbyterian church west of the Rocky Mountains is at Columbia Beach, two miles south of Warrenton. Ft. Stevenson, the Marine station, and Radio station, manned by Coast Guards and Navy men, are near us. Ft. Clatsop, built by Louis and Clark, famous explorers, is near by on the south east. From our house it is a walk of 25 minutes to the ocean beach. We go by a path through the forest. We are still nearer the Columbia river beach. Skipanon river runs through Warrenton. There are probably 50 miles of dykes in and around Warrenton. The church owns a beautiful parsonage and large, fine garden adjoining it, all below sea-level. No irrigation needed. There are 800 or 1,000 horses kept here to draw fishing nets from the Columbia river. There are, perhaps, 2,000 or 3,000 fishing boats that operate about the mouth of the Columbia river. Clam digging on the ocean beach is a large industry. Many canneries pack the fish, clams and crabs. One plant converts all waste from the fish into fish oil and fish meal. All these products go out by boat and car loads. Large lumber shipments also. Ocean lines dock at Warrenton port. Many boats of many nations find their way up and down the river. The state and national guards come here each summer for their field work at Camp Clatsop, two miles south of us. We can see Mr. St. Helens by going down to the river. We are five miles from Astoria by train and nine miles by stage. The Roosevelt Highway crosses three rivers between here and Astoria, the Skipanon, Lewis and Clark and Young's.

SIX CYLINDER SENTENCES

By DR. JOHN W. HOLLAND

O-O

Whoever prays about his duties generally does them.

The banker says: "If you want time to pass quickly, sign a note."

Make more of what you have, and you cannot envy those who have more.

Watch out for your groove. It may wear deep enough for your grave.

Give the body its "three squares" and your soul three prayers a day.

For fathers: The boy is not likely to break if his father unbends with him.

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Rose Pruning Methods

Rose pruning in Oregon may best be done towards the end of March or early in April, says A. L. Peck, landscape gardener at the state college. March is the best month for dwarf hybrid tea roses; while dwarf standard "teas" are best left until April. In eastern Oregon, all pruning is best postponed until danger from frost is over. Climbing varieties are usually pruned in March, but require strict attention after the flowering season is over, at which time the old wood is trimmed out to afford better opportunity for growth.

All dead or diseased wood is cut close to the strong branches of the tree. Stronger growing shoots are pruned less severely than weak ones, and no cross branches are tolerated. The practice is to prune to a bud pointing outward, so as to give the center of the plant air and sunshine. Climbing varieties of teas require very little pruning, being merely thinned out.

Standard or common roses are our most common grafted forms. These roses require careful thinning; the tips of long shoots are shortened back very sparingly, for, if cut in close, soft wood and no flowers will be the result. Worn out, or superfluous shoots are better removed. Perpetuals are allowed to develop a free, spreading habit of growth.

Provenca and mossroses are best pruned in March by removing old wood. One may remove all but eight or ten of the best growths. Young basal shoots may be shortened back to five or six buds, the same treatment being given to laterals of two-year old wood.

The Rose Rugosa rose is a native of Japan and possesses large flowers freely produced in terminal clusters and a stem covered with thorns. In February the long base suckers may be shortened back to 3 1/4 or 4 feet, while others may be shortened at various lengths or cut out entirely. Heavy pruning causes a late bloom.

Polyantha or Pompom roses comprise a class well adapted for growing in pots. These roses are usually thinned in April, thinning out rather than pruning back. If basal growth is desired, the individual branches may be cut back.

Climbing roses require little pruning, but need considerable thinning. Long sucker growth is given every encouragement to continue as flowers come on this new wood the following season.

Is No Flu Preventive

"It is the intention of the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration to take immediate action under the food and drugs act against all preparations represented by label or by circular accompanying the package as preventives or treatments of influenza, la grippe, pneumonia, and related diseases," W. G. Campbell, Director of Regulatory Work of the United States Department of Agriculture, said today. "There is a widespread and probably justified public apprehension about influenza and some manufacturers have not hesitated to take advantage of this situation by advertising their preparations in every available quarter as preventives or cures for the disease. Unfortunately, the food and drugs act does not reach false advertising statements appearing in the press, or in any advertising medium not included with the package of the preparation itself.

"It is a fact generally accepted by medical authorities, based on worldwide experience," added Mr. Campbell, "that there is no known drug or combination of drugs which will prevent or cure influenza. Products labeled as effective for this purpose will unhesitatingly be classed as misbranded within the meaning of the food and drugs act and treated accordingly.

Testing the Peach

Professor Blake, horticulturist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, has invented a device for testing the ripeness of peaches. A tube with a spring plunger is applied to the surface of the fruit, and the amount of pressure required to drive the plunger into the pulp gives a measure of whether the peach may be safely shipped. It is a scientifically accurate mechanism to supplant the ordinary method of testing by hand. —Philadelphia Inquirer.

Advice on Milk Skimming

Milk at 100 degrees Fahrenheit gives the most complete skimming. Freshly drawn milk is at this temperature and is ideal for skimming. Milk that has not dropped to 70 degrees the solidifying point of butterfat, skims much better than milk that has been allowed to fall below 70 degrees and then reheated, finds the Oregon experiment station.

Cows fed legume hays will give more milk than when fed grass hay. Because of the greater palatability of legume hays, they will eat a larger quantity of them, and a smaller expenditure is required for supplementary feeds.

Calling cards 100 for \$1.50.

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Geo. Unsoeld

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