

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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ON \$3 AUTO LICENSES

"I base my contention for a \$3.00 flat automobile license fee for Oregon on several important reasons," says Secretary of State Hal E. Hoss, "but principal among them is the general premise that in this state as well as others that the burden of building roads and maintaining them should lie on those who use them. In other words, by letting the gasoline tax instead of the high license pay the costs, we are being absolutely fair and are distributing the load equitably. I know of many, many cases where persons pay a high license fee and use the roads but very little. The gas tax is fair.

"Again, as the one in charge of enforcement of the state license laws, I repeat that the problem of handling the Oregon collections, with both California and Washington having a \$3.00 flat license fee, will be tremendous. It will cost the state of Oregon many thousands of dollars to try to apprehend and convict the people who will avail themselves of the cheap license plates. This is money thrown away, because it is almost impossible to hire enough men to combat the practice. In lots of other ways, too, we could save clerical and other registration expense if we had the lower fee.

"The various counties of the state which are depending upon the revenues from the state funds to carry on their essential expenses of bond interest and retirement and road building can be taken care of very nicely by having a law passed which would give them the benefit of an extra cent of gas tax. When we get more cars out on the highways through a lower license fee, a 1c gas tax will raise nearly \$2,000,000, and this sum distributed back to the counties will equal what they now receive. But at the same time, I believe that the demand of the day is for less expenditure. County courts should arrange their finances to meet their necessary costs, and prepare to cut out the non-essentials, just as is suggested for the state."

Mr. Hoss' contention that the road-building program can be maintained with a minimum license fee and a several cent increase in the gasoline tax may be correct, but it is the Sentinel's belief that the cost of ownership and operation of an automobile would be increased. Personal property tax, on valuations as fixed by the assessor, would require, with the \$3 license fee, nearly as large a payment as the higher license now requires, and in addition the three or four cent increase in gas tax would tend to keep cars off the highways, instead of putting more on them, as he asserts.

MAY BE WORTH TRYING

With the circulation of petitions asking for a referendum on the new state police law, and the visit of Gen. Smedley D. Butler to Oregon to give Gov. Meier the benefit of his experience and make suggestions as to the best means of organizing the force, a great deal of attention has been directed to the coming change in our system of handling law violators.

In a recent edition of an insurance magazine appears an article entitled, "Crimes Against Banks Mounting Rapidly," the author states that in the eastern states which have an efficient state police system, the robbery of banks has diminished, while increasing in other states.

The Sentinel has been doubtful that the establishment of state police in Oregon would be as effective in curbing criminals, bootleggers, moonshiners, game law violators and others of the lawless element, as the present organizations have been, but if the experiences in eastern states can be duplicated here, it will certainly be worth while, whether any actual saving is accomplished or not.

We quote from the insurance magazine as follows:

The nation's banks suffered 310 holdup robberies in the six months

ended February 28, 1931, compared with 193 attacks during the same period last year, an increase of 61 per cent. James E. Baum, who is in charge of the American Bankers' Association crime investigation service, told its Executive Council meeting recently in reporting for the first half of the current association year. Practically all of this uprising in bank banditry occurred in twelve central and southwestern states, Mr. Baum said, citing especially bank robberies in Illinois where they increased from 12 attacks in the given period last year to 40 this year, in Indiana from 8 to 21, Missouri from 13 to 27 and Louisiana from 8 to 18.

The cause of this fresh outbreak, he said, are weak, ineffectual laws, disconnected and inadequate police power and the fact that many banks were banks unprepared and lacking modern protective equipment or precautionary measures. He declared that the association's policy of crime prevention is preferable to "the doubtful results of detection" and urged all banks to consider insurance indemnity "merely as a supplemental form of protection rather than a substitute for inadequate means of prevention."

Because so many banks "lean entirely upon their insurance for protection," he said, "premium rates for bank robbery insurance have steadily risen."

In nine states east of Ohio bankers have learned that the semi-military, highly trained state trooper, "untouched by politics, owing allegiance only to the state, its laws and the people who stand behind these laws," is the most effective agency for order and law enforcement, Mr. Baum declared. There are more than 6,400 banks in Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and West Virginia, where the advantages of the state police systems have been enjoyed for more than ten years, he said, and in the six months covered in his report there were only 2 burglaries and 24 bank holdups perpetrated in these states, a number "exceeded in either California, Illinois or Missouri" which have not adopted the state police system. Banks in seven comparable central and far western states with limited protection suffered a total of 11 burglaries and 174 daylight robberies, he pointed out, "or more than seven times the number of robberies committed in the ten states having statewide police protection." State police forces also invariably yield an operating profit in the amount of fines collected, the value of stolen property recovered and other sources of revenue, he said.



Possibility that the state may discontinue farming and industrial activities at its several institutions, is foreseen in remarks dropped by members of the state board of control this past week.

"I think the state should get out of the farming business and give the farmers a chance to dispose of their products," Governor Meier declared in the course of a discussion of state farms.

Just prior to this the board had awarded the contract for making two pressure cookers for the eastern Oregon hospital at Pendleton to a private firm, although another state institution had agreed to furnish the cookers at a price \$28 under the private bidder.

The motion in this case was made by State Treasurer Holman who declared himself opposed to the building up of large industrial plants at any of the state institutions to compete with private industry. Holman's motion was supported by Governor Meier.

Secretary of State Hoss opposed the motion on the matter of principle, pointing out that the institution industries not only resulted in material savings on the cost of supplies used by the state but also provided needed employment for hundreds of state wards who otherwise would be compelled to spend their time in idleness.

Several of the state institutions, according to Hoss, are engaged in farming activities on a large scale. This is especially true of the two hospitals for the insane, both at Salem and Pendleton, the penitentiary and the boys' training school. Several hundred men and boys in these institutions are employed at farm work, producing supplies which if purchased on the market would cost the state approximately \$100,000 a year, adding just that much to the annual budget.

Approximately 3,000 applications for 1931-32 license plates had been received by the automobile registration department up to the time the drawing for low numbers was staged Saturday, according to Secretary of State Hoss. Receipts of the department for the new license plates up to

that time were in excess of \$69,000. This, Hoss states, is a much better showing than was made last year when only slightly more than 2000 applications were on file at this time. R. A. Powers, of Sheridan, was awarded number "1" in the annual drawing for low numbers. His plates will be used on a 1928 model Ford coupe. The hoodoo number "13" was awarded to Guy Hifner, of Carlton, and the skidoo number "23" went to Elta M. Smith, of Molalla. No special numbers were assigned this year, the practice having been discontinued by Secretary of State Hoss as lending itself to too much confusion in the department. Hundred of requests for special numbers were turned down, Hoss states.

Failure to receive a blank does not excuse any one subject to either the intangibles or personal income taxes from making a return, the state tax commission explains. Individuals who receive no interest or dividends must file a return if their net income exceeds \$1500 if single or \$2500 if married. Individuals who receive their entire income from interest and dividends must file a return if their gross income exceeds \$500 if single, or \$800 if married.

At least Secretary of State Hoss started a lot of discussion with his suggestion for a \$3 flat annual automobile license fee. A survey of sentiment shows the county courts and other tax spenders generally opposed to the reduction with motor associations and automobile dealers supporting it.

Pay of convicts employed in prison industries has been restored to the old scale of 25 cents a day on order of the board of control. The pay scale was reduced to 12½ cents a day about two months ago as an economy move but the experiment is understood to have resulted in so much dissatisfaction on the part of the prisoners that restoration of the old scale was deemed advisable.

First come, first served, will be the rule at intersections under the new traffic laws, effective June 6, according to Secretary of State Hoss. In other words the first car in an intersection will have the right of way, providing the driver is not guilty of reckless driving in beating the other car to the cross roads.

Longevity is on the increase in Oregon. A report by the state board

of health shows that the death rate in this state during 1930 was only 11.4 per 1000 persons compared to 12.7 per 1000 ten years ago. Improved methods of combating disease and not the climate, is given credit for this longer lease on life granted to residents of this state.

McKinley School Board Replies

The following, written by two members of the McKinley school board, is an answer to the criticism directed at them by our McKinley correspondent last week:

We note with regret the attitude one of our school board has taken in connection with some of the actions of the board but "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

In the last issue of the Sentinel, the board is criticized by the McKinley correspondent for asking for a good, sanitary well, which when properly put in, would practically do away with our water troubles; while as it is, it is only a bill of expense and a "bone of contention."

We note another objection to our actions is in regard to locking the school yard. Now the pupils and also the teacher the last term of school took quite an interest in fixing the school grounds and planting shrubs and flowers and, we believe, it a good plan to encourage them, rather than to allow cattle and cars to destroy their efforts as has happened in the past.

As far as keeping H. L. Hansen from his wood lot is concerned, he owns no wood lot nor property or any kind on the west side of the school ground and this action should not affect him in this regard in the least.

As far as the ball park is concerned, the official ball park which joins the school grounds and which was cleared and prepared by the patrons of the ball team of a former date, is now, and has for years, been used by our "kicker" for his own personal benefit. The school board now and at all times welcome the boys to play ball on the school ground.

We also invite investigations of taxpayers at any time. Signed by—Eugene Taylor, T. Loshbaugh.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

In bragging about the wonders of the present day it is possible we forget the wonders of the past that made the marvels of the present day possible. This year of our Lord 1931 marks the century of invention and

HILAND THEATRE

ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

In celebrating our tenth anniversary we are offering the public two weeks of the best of pictures at reduced admission.

Adults 35c

Children 10c

Sunday - Monday, May 31 - June 1

GAY - - - IMPUDENT - - - HILARIOUS
 Breeze in and join the Party! Everyone Welcome!
 Everything Goes! Laughter Reigns! Sensation
 Never Ends Behind the Doors of

"BACHELOR APARTMENT"

Irene Dunne, Glamorous "Sabra" of "Cimarron"
 and Lowell Sherman, Master Wit of the Screen.

Tuesday - Wednesday, June 2 - 3

Rollicking Round of Romance! Roars and Revelry!
 He wanted to teach her golf—but she wanted to learn
 about love! If you've ever played at golf or love, or
 would like to do either, follow the crowds to

"FOLLOW THRU"

ALL-TECHNICOLOR. ALL-OUTDOORS.
 Charles Rogers and Nancy Carroll.

Thursday - Friday, June 4 - 5

Noise - Lights - Speed - Excitement! The train
 moves—the wheels rattle—light and way stations pass
 by! The most colorful and exciting ride of your life
 awaits you on

"SUBWAY EXPRESS"

Jack Holt, Aileen Pringle, Jason Robards

Saturday, June 6

Buck Jones and his wonder horse, Silver, will again
 thrill you as no other stars can

"THE DAWN TRAIL"

Sheepmen and cowmen fighting bitterly for the rights
 to the land in the Panhandle district of Texas—a thrill-
 ing western that has a romantic interest as well!

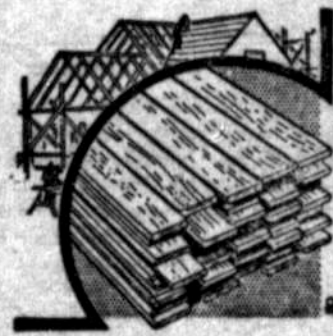
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Children 10c

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use of the machine that has done more for the bodily well being of the human race than any other invention. The McCormack reaper invented by Cyrus Hall McCormack, who was born at Walnut Grove, Rockbridge Co., Va., February 15, 1809, has eased the labor load for the human race, put untamed valleys, prairies and plains into cultivation and pushed the frontiers of famine back into the remote and inaccessible places of the earth.

His father had invented and built a reaper in 1816 that would not work, so the son took up the father's task and brought it the perfection of their dreams. It worked.

While improvements have been

added to the reaper throughout the century, it was in that Virginia blacksmith shop the vision, the hope in the brain of man, builded that which enabled man to go forward in obeying the commission, to subdue the earth, given to him when man was raw and earth was young.

Whether that old blacksmith shop is yet standing, I know not, but this I do know, that if there is any place deserving of preservation as a landmark where the mind and the hand of man has wrought and brought forth that which increased the attainments and blessings of toil, then that place is the old McCormack blacksmith shop at Walnut Grove, Virginia.

R. A. Easton.