

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES

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While these August days are still warm enough for it to be called "the good old summer time," the mornings have the feel of fall. Nor will it be long now. School and the usual first rain are only a month away.

Portland's milk war was ended Wednesday with a victory for the dairymen who are to receive \$2.17 1/2 per hundred pounds for their product. The Portland distributors agree also to purchase their supplies from the co-operative dairymen for a period of three years. That doesn't mean that there will not still be some bootlegging of milk of under "B" standard, but the bulk of the city's supply will be handled by the dealers at a fair margin of profit, with only the A and B grades sold. Only one casualty was reported during the "war."

The Census Bureau has just completed a unique survey from which it is believed a fairly accurate estimate of the retail business done in the United States in the year 1929 has been reached. The survey shows that there are 1,549,000 retail stores in the 48 states and the District of Columbia, or 12.6 per thousand inhabitants and that the average store does an annual business of \$32,297. For the entire country this would amount to 53 billion dollars in sales during the year. The average per capita purchases at retail amount to \$407.52, although the sales of retail stores in the several states vary greatly, from a minimum of \$172 per capita in South Carolina to a maximum of \$575 in California and New York. The interesting feature of the report, of course, is the enormous aggregate of retail sales, confirming what has so often been said about the domestic business of the United States affording the greatest market in the world.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

Reading State Superintendent Howard's line about the country schools caused me to think of a letter received from an old teacher in Illinois in which he told of his experience in the first school he taught:

"The school had a hard name. The two previous teachers had been men and the large boys practically ran the school, that is, the winter terms when the big boys were in school. They attended only the winter terms in those days. They had been in the habit of carrying the teacher outdoors when they wanted a little diversion in the order of things. I was asked to take the school the fall of 1870. The directors told me that I would most likely have trouble but that they would stand by me in whatever was reasonable. I went there November 20. There were about 40 boys and girls and nine of them big boys.

"I began as though I expected nothing unusual and, of course, all had come there to study and learn. All went along well for two or three days, when at the morning recess I saw signs that the boys were up to something—their leaders were. By the way, they had been told (so I learned afterwards) that Graham would be a hard fellow to handle if they began on him. No doubt that was overdrawn a long way. We had a coal stove and a small box with chunks of coal in it to use when the coal pail was empty while school was in session.

"This noon hour one of the boys came in and got the coal pail. I wondered what he was going to do with it but said nothing. After several minutes they all came in, the largest boy carrying the pail about level full of coal. He says, 'Teacher, can you hold that pail out arm's length?' I said I thought I could try it. I went and laid a few of the chunks on the pail out of the box, held it arm's length a few seconds, then put on another chunk and did the same. 'Now boys, you try it.' One of the little boys piped, 'Cap lifted all he could in the coal house.' That let the cat out of the bag. They looked at each other sheepishly and said nothing more. They were trying me out, before risking an attack.

"After that I never had more loyal pupils. They got down to work and we had a good time together. I might add that only one of those nine young men is living today after 61 years. I had that school four months the next winter.

"In those early times boys were kept home to work as soon as big enough. I got no more summer schooling after I was nine and in the winter young men 20, 21 and 22 years came to school, though in this school I mentioned I had none over nineteen."

Mr. Howard seems to be stung by the consolidation school bug that would in a large way wipe out the one-room country schools and flood the state with school supervisors. I am of the opinion that the atmosphere of independence of the "little red school house" has developed youth into the ways of self-reliance and energy to acquire an education, not as a thing to be in intellectual fashion but as an equipment to aid in the duties of life and citizenship, that renders unto "Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Mr. Howard mentions three counties that have "school supervisors," but he does not directly intimate that the pupils in those counties are better developed mentally, morally or physically than the pupils in those counties where the children are not affected with brass button supervision, or the taxpayers with the extra expense. Neither does he tell of those counties who tried the plug hat supervisory experiment and kicked it out.

May be the milk ranchers of Portland vicinity will learn that those who take the law will perish by the law.

R. A. Easton.



By A. L. Lindbeck

The Hall of Representatives in the capitol building at Salem has been the scene of two meetings during the past month whose aims and objects were as widely divergent as the two poles. The first of these, generally referred to as Governor Meier's tax reduction conference, urged retrenchment in all public expenditures and called upon every tax levying body in the state to reduce taxes by at least 20 per cent. The second of these meetings, held last Thursday, was the regular monthly session of the state highway commission and the dominant note of this gathering was anything but retrenchment in public expenditures. Regular attendants at meetings of the highway commission declared that this one was the most widely attended of any for many months. Delegations from every section of the state were present to plead with the commission for the improvement and extension of existing highways and the creation of new roads.

None of the gloom which characterized the tax reduction conference was in evidence at the highway meeting. There was no reference to any depression except by a few delegates who urged the present low cost of materials and the need for providing employment as reasons for speeding up the highway program at this time.

Governor Meier's decision against a special session of the legislature has definitely written "finis" to that popular topic of speculation and political gossip. Instead of the lawmaking machinery with its expense and uncertainties, an aroused public sentiment will be relied upon in the effort to bring about tax reduction and retrenchment in public expenditures. Reaction of the press and public, as well as the legislators themselves, to his proposal, the governor declared, convinced him that "it is inadvisable at this time to convene the state legislature in special session." In a letter to the members of the county tax conservation committees the governor pleads for "a united front in a vigorous and unremitting campaign to stabilize our public finances and lighten the tax load which now weighs so heavily on property and industry in Oregon."

According to the annual apportionment of the interest from the state's irreducible school fund which was made here this week by George G. Brown, clerk of the state land board, Coos county received \$12,722.08 based on a school census of 6239 children between the ages of four and 20 years. This year's apportionment, totalling \$385,023.48 amounted to \$1.48 for each of the 260,151 children on the school census rolls. The 1930 apportionment amounted to \$411,607.38 and allowed \$1.58 for each of the 260,511 children on the census rolls at that time.

Governor Meier's moratorium on automobile license plates resulted in a loss of approximately \$1,000,000 in the revenues of the registration de-

partment during July, according to Secretary of State Hoss. This estimate is based on a normal annual increase of 10 per cent in registration fees. Receipts in the department up to July 31, Hoss points out, were only \$5,033,164 compared to \$5,567,294 for July, 1930. Normally, Hoss declared, the July receipts this year should have exceeded \$6,000,000.

Deposits in the 216 banks of Oregon at the time of the June 30 call, totalling approximately \$278,000,000 were back to the December, 1930, level, according to A. A. Schramm, state superintendent of banks. Demand deposits show an increase over the December figures while time and savings deposits fell off slightly over

the six month period.

Coos county has 24 "non violent" insane patients at the two state hospitals at Salem and Pendleton, for whose care the county will be expected to reimburse the state at the rate of \$20 per month, less such amounts as the state might first be able to collect from the relatives or guardians of these patients. The new "ward" bills enacted by the last legislature provide for the reimbursement of the state for the care of insane, feeble minded and tubercular patients when the relatives or guardians of these patients are financially able to do so. The financial responsibility of the counties, under these new laws extends only to "non violent"

insane patients whose relatives or guardians are not financially able to reimburse the state. The law fixes the rate of pay on which this reimbursement is to be based at \$20 per month for insane and feeble minded patients and at \$15 per week for tubercular patients, although records at Salem show that the actual cost to the state of the care of these patients is much less than these figures. Relatives or guardians not able to pay the entire cost may contribute a portion of the cost but in the case of "non violent" insane the counties will be expected to pay the maximum of \$20 per month for each patient less only such amounts as the state is able to collect from the relatives or guardians of these patients.

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