

The Sentinel

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FRANCE THE WELSHER

While it is sincerely to be hoped that the action of France, in repudiating its debts to the United States, will not lead to war, and this country has never engaged in moral combat with any nation on earth over the question of aggrandizement, or the payments of money, it cannot be denied that seeds of discord and bitter feeling have been sowed and that there cannot be cordial relations henceforth between the United States and the welsher.

France, the richest nation in Europe, the one that has the most gold, the one which begged for loans and the support of man-power during the dark days of the world war, is so bereft of sanity, manhood and courage, that its Chamber of Deputies has overthrown the government of Premier Herriot because he favored meeting their obligations.

Verily their hatred of this country for helping them crush the German menace is stronger than their sense of duty, honor or justice. Poor France; she deserves the condemnation and scorn of every civilized nation on earth. Not because she can't pay, but because she can and won't.

What penalty the French will have to pay and the means the United States might use in retaliation for this most despicable evasion of its duty is very ably set forth in an editorial in yesterday's Oregonian from which the following except is taken: "When passion has cooled and reason again rules, those who voted for repudiation will have cause to consider the injury they have done to French credit. It will suffer in every country. Securities of the French government and French corporations will be depreciated. France could not raise a loan in any foreign country except at a heavy discount and high interest. These penalties are incurred without any action of the United States government.

"Power exists in the American government to confiscate or impound all funds of the French government or French citizens on deposit in American banks, to seize all American securities held by Frenchmen or the income therefrom, to place an embargo on trade with France and on payments to be made in France, to exclude French ships from American ports or to impose a special tax on them and their cargoes. We shall probably not resort to these measures, but be content with whatever befalls France as a natural consequence of its act.

"France has less excuse for repudiation than has any other of the debtor nations. While she was pleading for cancellation of her debt, was striving to squeeze reparations out of Germany and had a depreciated currency, she presented an appearance of poverty to the world. After the debt contract was signed, the internal debt was refunded and new bonds were issued which drew vast sums from hoards, the franc was stabilized and a great gold reserve gathered in the Bank of France, she was revealed as the richest nation in Europe. By movement of gold she was the chief factor in driving Britain off the gold standard and she even ventured an attack on the dollar, but it failed. She has made loans to her allies—Poland and the three little entente states—at the same time that the air of Paris was full of complaints about inability to pay the United States. Paris now talks of French support to Japan in Manchuria, to be evidenced by a loan. France did not feel the first year of the depression, had no unemployment problems until then, and none of any gravity in the last two years."

True Oregonians, whether native or by adoption, rejoiced yesterday when the rain put an end to the most unusual arctic weather which prevailed here for the past week. Nothing like it is recalled by old time residents since 1884.

TABLOIDS

By W. S. Sickels

Lo, the Poor Indian
The Osage Indians, whose business address is Pawhuska, Okla., are the world's richest people per capita. Their wealth is held communally, distributed and guarded by the United States government, thereby making a conspicuous success of communism—in an involuntary form, however. If these Indians were left to their own devices the free exercise of individualism among them would simply result in the same old story. The majority of them wouldn't have a dime. A few, perhaps would be rich, but the others would be victims of the predatory white man.

The incomes doled to them by the government, while limited, are quite sizeable, and are wasted ridiculously. While living in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, which is located at the eastern edge of the Osage reservation, I had an opportunity to observe much of this waste of money.

Many of these Indians still live primitively, but pianos and phonographs in a tepee were not unusual sights, together with an expensive automobile standing on the lot. As to automobiles, I know of this happening: A buck came into Bartlesville and bought a new Cadillac. He got drunk, smashed the car in a collision with a telephone pole, returned to town, bought another car and left the wreck unclaimed by the road side.

The wealth of the Osages comes from oil and gas royalties derived from the leasing of their lands. The reservation is almost worthless agriculturally. When the Indians were moved from Kansas to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) it was the general opinion they had been handed a lemon and that the treaty made on that occasion was unfair to them. The area is so rich in oil and gas that it is a matter of record that in competitive bidding the Prairie Oil & Gas Company, of Independence, Kansas, paid one million dollars for a leasehold of only 160 acres on which a well had not been drilled. This was about ten years ago. Money thus received was a bonus and went into the tribal treasury. The royalties from production, generally one-eighth, were paid in addition.

The older Indians do not understand our civilization and have no desire to learn its way. Many members of the succeeding generations, even after being educated in government schools giving every advantage, revert to type. I know of a young Osage who graduated with honors from Carlisle university, became a brilliant lawyer and practiced successfully for many years. He afterwards returned to the blanket, as they say, and refused to talk English.

So much for these wards of our benign government. What do you think of the system? What is the future of the Indian as a race? The answer is obliteration through amalgamation. The law of "survival of the fittest" cannot be set aside, be the subject man, beast or vegetable.

Secretary of State Hal E. Hoss has announced himself as favoring the \$3.00 flat fee for automobile licenses, but that they shall be subject to property tax by the counties. One objection to this plan, concurrently mentioned, is that much of the property tax would not be collected. However, if the car owner is required to show a receipt for payment of property tax before he is issued a state license there would be no loss. It is reported California loses 26 per cent of its property tax on automobiles, while Washington loses 48 per cent. Mr. Hoss says the average tax on Oregon's cars would be \$7.22. Together with other features of his plan he claims that the state's revenues will be increased thereby.

In the current issue of Saturday Evening Post a fellow tells a story of how he performed a come-back at sixty. In the first part of the narrative he made the statement that the depression reduced him from affluence to absolute poverty and that he was considering suicide as the only possible way he could have his life insurance for his wife. Before the story is finished we discover he had several thousand dollars with which to purchase a business in which he had had no previous experience and made a success of it. So it appears to be easy to come back if you haven't gone.

Heard over the radio last Sunday night were the "finals" of the Atwater-Kent audition contest. The singers, five men and five women, participated in the finish voice hurdles out of fifty thousand starters. One would have expected this to a first-class concert, but I have heard better ones. However, winners of the finals are assured places in the big time radio circuits in addition to the substantial cash prizes received. Not one of the songs was rendered in English. Once upon a time a fellow named George Anderson, or sumpin,' was dis-

covered by the Metropolitan Grand Opera Company and proved a remarkable find, so far as voice was concerned. But his name was all wrong. He had to be fixed up with an unpronounceable foreign cognomen in order to draw at the box office. Are we ashamed of our own tongue and nationality in matters musical? I understand that in some European countries the rendition of opera in other than the language of the country is prohibited. That is an admirable way to show patriotism. In our country there is a lamentable tendency toward pretending we prefer our opera in a foreign tongue. Also we purchase foreign-made merchandise. It would seem that the only way to arouse patriotism in this country is to get into somebody else's war. We permit our vulgar rich people to visit European countries and leave behind them wrong impressions of our country. Hence the trouble we are having about the war debts and other things. Outside of these things we are OK.



Counties which fail to include provision for a state levy in the 1933 budget, as Marion county has threatened to do, may find themselves, rather than the state, holding the sack next June if the proposed new tax measures fail to materialize as an offset to the property tax.

Reports to the effect that the state tax commission was contemplating mandamus proceedings to compel the Marion county court to include the state levy in its budget have been made without consulting that commission.

It can be definitely stated that the tax commission will not bring any mandamus action against Marion county or any other county in this connection. The commission takes the position that its responsibility ends with the promulgation of the levy according to the statutory requirements and the circumstances and notification of the counties as to their respective quotas.

Collection of the tax is up to the state treasurer and the law which imposes responsibility for collection of the tax from the individual taxpayers upon the county also requires that the state's portion must be paid in full and promptly in two equal installments, June 1 and December 1.

Should any county fail to come through with the state's quota next June it is entirely probable that the state treasurer would then bring mandamus action to compel payment and any county which fails to safeguard its interests against such a contingency by including provision for a state levy might find it necessary to strip its regular county fund, including the general road fund, in order to meet the state's bill since the state is not at all particular where the money comes from, just so that it is paid. The tax commission will meet within the next week or ten days to make the annual levy. It is confidently expected that this levy will restore approximately \$3,500,000 to the shoulders of property owners. Any relief from this added burden must come from the legislature in the form of a sales tax, an amendment to the personal income tax or some other new source of revenue.

Property in the city of Coquille is shouldered with a public debt burden equivalent to \$35.15 for every \$100 of assessed valuation, according to a tabulation by Rufus Holman, state treasurer. Of this amount \$28.45 per \$100 of valuation is indebtedness of the city itself which has been increased by nearly 10 percent in the past two years. Coquille's total debt, including bonds and warrants unpaid as of July 1, last, totalled \$288,950, against which there was an offset in the form of a sinking fund of \$5,471.23 leaving a net debt of \$283,478.77.

At that Coquille's debt burden is not nearly so heavy as that of many other Oregon cities. Prineville, for instance, has a public debt burden of \$87.94 per \$100 of assessed valuation; in Warrenton the gross debt ratio is 92.71 and in Astoria, 61.87. Baker, Bandon, Beaverton, Burns, Canyonville, Cottage Grove, Enterprise, Hines, Milton, Newport, Ontario, Reedsport, Seaside, Vale and Weston, all show heavier debt ratio than does the Coos county seat.

Governor Meier's decision to call the legislature into special session on January 3 to consider new tax measures came as no surprise. Even the date of the session had been anticipated for the past two weeks. The governor's announcement, however, has served to put a stop to further speculation as to the possibility and to center attention on the tax program. While discussion of the session so far has emphasized a sales tax based on that recently put into effect in Mississippi there is also strong sentiment for a new income tax with increased rates in the higher

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brackets and it would not be at all surprising if the sales taxers and the income taxers got together on a compromise program and brought out two new revenue measures for the voters to shoot at in a special election to be held some time in May.

Popularity of Washington's bargain price license plates among Oregon motorists is indicated by the 7163 applications from Washington motorists for non-resident permits in this state during the past three months. Thousands of Oregon motorists, it is believed, evade payment of the Oregon registration fee in this manner. Although the state police are constantly checking up on these motorists it has been found impossible to uncover more than a small percentage of those who resort to this evasion of the law. Penalties meted out by the courts for this offense, also, are so light as to constitute little or no deterrent and to greatly nullify efforts of the police to put a stop to this practice.

Reports filed with the state treasurer show that but little progress has been made during the past two years in unloading the heavy debt burden under which most of the cities of the state are struggling. In fact the out-

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Pathfinder and Coquille Valley Sentinel

part by the voting of new bond issues by other cities.

Sixty-two lawyers have served as members of the Oregon supreme court since statehood in 1859, according to records of that department.

The Washington monument is 608 ft. high—highest masonry work in the world. Cost \$1,300,000.