

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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Would the people of the United States be better off with a dictator to control its policies? We sometimes feel that the people do so poor a job of governing themselves, through their duly elected representatives, that they would be much better off with a one man government. The thought is abhorrent that in this enlightened age that people are not fit to govern themselves. But are they?

In all this talk about taxes, and the seeking of new means for extracting funds with which to pay government expenses, why is there not more talk about cutting the expenses of government, even to 50 percent? It is not new sources of tax income that are needed so much as cutting out the frills, the pre-war salaries and the reduction of personnel. We refer especially to the federal government, and to a somewhat less degree to the state. In the county the cut has already been made to a point which may interfere with efficiency.

WHAT WILL INSURGENTS DO?
Republican insurgents in the United States Senate, that voluble and critical quartet composed of Norris, Johnson, Cutting and LaFollette, may find time hanging heavy on their hands when the new Congress is assembled for business during the year ahead.

These men held the balance of power for the past two years. Democrats were willing to be entirely chummy with the insurgents because the party of the donkey needed their votes. It will be different when the new Congress assembles. The Democrats have an easy majority, that is, if the leaders can hold all members in line. The votes of the insurgents will not be required and the quartet will not hold the balance of power.

Political observers at Washington incline to the view that some of the insurgents may find it easy to slide gracefully back into the Republican fold, although that is not easy to assume when all four are considered. Probably much will depend upon the quality of leadership the Republicans supply when the defeated party rallies its forces and reforms its lines. (Ohio State Journal (Columbus, Ohio).

DISLOYAL TO OREGON?

The following editorial which appeared in yesterday's Oregon Journal is along a line which appeals to every Oregon booster and the truth of its statements cannot be denied. It also brings to mind the thought: that newspapers are frequently asked by merchants to wage a trade at home campaign, and yet those same merchants may be ordering their advertising bills or printing supplies outside of town because possibly they can save a little. That's one thing we have always felt in regard to the trade at home idea—everyone wants the other fellow to do what he doesn't do himself.

But we do heartily approve of the Journal's editorial, although we so seldom find anything to commend in that daily.

Disloyal to their own producers? Oregonians are not ready to admit it—but there is suspicion abroad that some of them are not faithful to home products.

The dining tables of Oregon are always laden with fruits from other states, California in particular. Nearly 4000 carloads a year have been coming into Oregon from that fine state.

Meanwhile Oregon winter pears, for example, beg almost vainly for buyers in Oregon. Though one of the finest fruits that earth yields, and though Oregon pears are better than pears grown elsewhere, they have to go to distant parts for markets.

And growers in the Great Rogue River pear country are sustaining a loss of as high as \$400 a car on pears shipped East. In good times there is a profitable market for them both in the East and in Europe.

But you scarcely ever find pears on

Oregon hotel or restaurant menus. They are a delicacy and a prized food that caterers seem utterly to overlook. Why don't they help themselves and help Oregon by using Oregon fruit?

Discovery recently of the health properties of Oregon winter pears should add enormously to their popularity. They contain more vitamin A than bacon, dried beans, cereals, lean fish and many other foods.

They contain more vitamin C than cereals, meats, canned corn, eggs or milk. And the test was made on pears that had been six months in storage. And they have an alkaline excess that counteracts surplus acidity, or acidosis, in the body. They will be obtainable for months to come.

In buying Oregon products you make a buying power in your state that helps you. What Oregon grows and makes makes Oregon.

TABLOIDS

By W. S. Sicksels

The city of Ashland has initiated an educational campaign for the purpose of protecting the interests of Oregon cities at the present session of the legislature in regard to the matter of taxation of municipally-owned utilities. Such publicly-owned utilities include water, light and power, gas, swimming pools, golf courses, airports, harbors and other activities.

As sources of taxation are scarce, public utilities are now being brought forward as a means of gaining additional revenues. It is believed in some quarters that privately-owned utility interests are behind the new agitation.

Let us see how such a tax would affect Coquille. The physical value of our water system is near \$200,000. It would cost that much to replace it. For the purpose of taxation we will cut that amount in two, leaving a value of \$100,000. Apply to that the 1931 tax rate of 69.8 mills and the tax would be \$6,980 a year. We have a bonded debt of \$113,500 against our water plant, costing \$6,310 per annum for interest charges. Present rates to consumers are based on annual requirements for interest and sinking fund, operating expenses, maintenance and extensions.

Whether the present legislature will seriously consider taxing municipal utilities is not known; but it is confronted with a desperate situation and it would not be surprising to see some such legislation attempted.

Should our water system be placed on the tax roll, higher rates to consumers would be necessary, and another method of "painless" taxation would be in operation.

A study of history reveals that all democracies of the past—several centuries back—have taxed themselves out of existence. That history repeats itself is just too bad.

It isn't well to adopt all pronouncements you hear over the radio. We have been hearing much about economics lately. In the matter of pronunciation of "economics" Webster gives preference to e-k-o-n-o-m-i-c-s. However, if you prefer e-k-o-n-o-m-i-c-s, he authorizes you to say it that way, but it is evident he doesn't like it. Perhaps the old boy had to play some politics in the compilation of his great work. He had to find a publisher, you know, and he probably had two or more groups to satisfy. Hence the second choice of pronunciation.

Speaking of pronouncements heard over the radio, aren't the names of composers, and their compositions simply terrible? For all I know, they might be talking about the pharmacopoeia or in terms of materia medica. Finally the musical strains begin and then my early education in music comes to my assistance. I recognize the overture or selection, whichever it may be, and can then visualize the names as I have seen them in cold type.

The difficulty of effecting political reforms is illustrated in every age, and is a frequent source of discouragement to those engaged in such work. Even simple reforms require years for their accomplishment, while greater ones are sometimes delayed for generations. The reasons for this fact are various. The sluggishness of public opinion, the opposition of special-interests—sometimes sinister—interests, the absorption of men's minds in their personal affairs, and the pride of opinion which makes men unwilling to acknowledge that anything they have approved can be wrong, all have an influence in keeping things as they are, even when a change is imperatively required.

How long will it take to bring about the county-unit system for the public schools? Yet it is obviously the sensible thing to do and would effect great economies. This also applies to the consolidation of some of our counties.

Then might be added this query: How long will it take to get rid of some of the political reforms we have? For instance, the initiative and referendum, primary elections, reg-

ulatory commissions and many other devices that have been without beneficial results, and which have only added to the burdens of the people.

Is it possible for a majority to be in the wrong? Yep.



County courts may find themselves up against the necessity of making a fight for their secondary highway funds in the forthcoming legislative session. The last legislature in repealing the one-mill market road tax as an economy move ordered that the several counties should be apportioned an amount equal to that raised by this levy out of the funds of the state highway commission. Now the commission wants to repeal the act of 1931 and throw the responsibility of maintaining and improving the secondary highways back onto the counties. As an alternative to repeal of the measure the highway commission suggests that the act of 1931 be so amended as to permit the commission to use its own best judgment in the allotment of funds for these roads.

The recommendations of the highway commission are contained in its biennial report to the legislature and are prompted by serious shrinkage in highway revenues which have dropped from a total of \$10,658,473 in 1929 to an estimated \$8,610,000 in 1933, providing present motor vehicle licenses and gasoline taxes are not tampered with by the legislature.

The secondary highway act, the commission declares, has greatly complicated the financial difficulties of the highway commission and has placed it in a position where it has practically no funds with which to match its federal aid and carry on an improvement program.

"In fact," the report points out, it creates a condition where the state highway commission has little, if any more funds available for improvement work on the secondary system, which condition is not, of course, an equitable one. Furthermore construction expenditures on secondary highways are only half as effective as construction expenditures on primary highways due to the fact that the federal government does not cooperate on secondary highway work. For each dollar expended on the secondary system, the primary system loses two dollars of construction value, because the federal funds cannot be used on the secondary system and the expenditure of state funds on secondary highways deprives the primary system of funds for matching federal aid.

State department and institution heads generally are pretty much reconciled to the budget cuts proposed by Henry Hansen, state budget director. This is especially true of those whose requests were submitted only to nominal pruning by the governor's official pruner. In a few cases where more drastic cuts are recommended real concern has been expressed over the ability to carry on with the reduced allowance. In some cases Hansen's recommendations go as deep as 25 to 50 percent compared with appropriations for the same department two years ago. These will unquestionably be brought to the attention of the legislative ways and means committee in an effort to restore the amounts to something near that estimated to be actually needed for efficient operation. Many department heads, owing their jobs to the governor, have made up their minds to just grin and bear it, carrying on with funds available as far as they go and looking to the emergency board for help when the appropriations are exhausted, as they surely must be.

Washington and Idaho officials, in conference with Oregon officials here this week, said that sales tax programs were being considered in both of those states in an effort to bolster up revenues and at the same time relieve property of a part of the burden of public expense which it has to bear. Washington adopted an income tax at the recent election but with a property tax offset for home owners which practically emasculated the measure as a revenue producer.

While 90 percent of every dollar contributed to the workmen's compensation fund in Oregon goes to injured workmen or the dependants of workmen accidentally killed in industry, only 60 cents of every dollar is used for that purpose in California, according to members of the State Industrial Accident Commission who are prepared to resist reported plans on the part of casualty companies for placing the Oregon fund on a competitive basis similar to that in effect in California.

A number of men in the vicinity of Salem, Woodburn, Pendleton and The Dalles will be given employment this winter cutting 5,000 cords of wood for use in state institutions located in

these cities. The wood cutting contract has been divided among 34 bidders, all farmers who will employ their neighbors in getting the fuel out during the next three months.

Oregon has spent approximately \$500,000 during the past biennium in the construction of new buildings at its several state institutions to meet the demands of its growing institutional population. The building program just completed includes a new wing at the Eastern Oregon Hospital at Pendleton costing, with fixtures, \$185,000; a new cell block at the state prison, providing accommodations for 360 prisoners, costing \$76,000; a hospital building at the state tuberculosis hospital, with accommodations for 50 more patients, costing \$95,000; a tuberculosis hospital building at the state hospital for insane, with accommodations for 104 patients, representing an outlay of \$55,000; an open air pavilion at the Eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles, \$85,000; a dormitory at the state institution for feeble minded to accommodate 110 inmates, \$25,000, in addition to several smaller buildings such as two physicians cottages at the Pendleton institution and a cottage for the resident physician at the tuberculosis hospital at Salem.

The rapid growth of the state's responsibility in connection with the care of its numerous wards can best be appreciated by a comparison of the state's institutional population of today with that of 1914, the earliest date at which figures are available. These reveal an increase of 85 percent in the population of the several state institutions in the past eighteen years. In 1914 there were only 3,211 patients and inmates in the state's 10 penal, corrective and eleemosynary institutions. Today the 12 state institutions house a population of 5,916. The greatest growth in institutional population is shown in the hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis. Eighteen years ago the state maintained only one hospital for this purpose, that at Salem, with a total of 64 patients. Now there are two such institutions; a new one at The Dalles, with a combined population of 376 and waiting lists at both institutions. In 1914 there were only 292 wards in the institution for feeble minded. Today the population of that institution is 805. Population of the state prison has also jumped from 466 in 1914 to 846 at this time while the number of wards in the girls' industrial school shows an increase from 19 to 64 in the period. Only one institution shows a decrease in population. That is the soldiers' home at Roseburg which had 201 veterans in 1914 and whose population has now dwindled to 112.

Colds and Influenza

By Oregon State Board of Health.
The so called common cold is a condition in itself so trifling to the vigorous individuals that they do not permit the disease to hamper their daily pursuits and in consequence promiscuous association continues without precautions. As a result, colds usually go through families, schools and business groups, and rapidly become scattered in many different small epidemics. The economic consequences of this are considerable in that large numbers of people acquiring the disease lose efficiency for a short time. Common colds predispose to graver infections of the upper respiratory tract such as bronchitis, laryngitis and bronchopneumonia. Sneezing, coughing and spitting freely disseminate the mouth and throat organisms of many individuals and a general interchange of the mouth and throat bacteria of the population occurs.

The serious nature of this state of affairs is that it increases the number of carriers of disease. There are undoubtedly a number of organisms that will produce a catarrhal inflammation of the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat.

Many cases with severe symptoms are true attacks of influenza. The first symptoms of influenza are those of a common cold and when no complications arise continues as such except that with influenza there is a much greater degree of debility and depression. Prevent influenza by preventing common colds.

The nose is the most important part of the breathing apparatus. It warms and moistens the air before it enters the lungs. It filters the dust, dirt and bacteria from the air. The predisposing causes of colds are over-heated and poorly ventilated homes. Fatigue, loss of sleep and poor elimination of poisons from the body also predispose the body to infection. By keeping the room temperature about 69 degrees with sufficient moisture you protect yourself against colds. Sufficient sleep, good elimination, proper clothing, an abundance of sunlight and fresh air all build up resistance against colds. Avoid any one with a cold.

The signs and symptoms of a cold are always danger signals especially when influenza is present. At this time every suddenly acquired cold should be regarded with suspicion. Avoidance of contact is the first pre-

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caution. If a susceptible person comes in contact with influenza he almost invariably contracts it. The hands should be washed frequently and more especially always before eating. Full use should be made of all of the sunshine available and all the fresh air procurable. Crowded places are to be avoided. Clothing should be regulated to the weather, dissipation of any kind avoided. The diet should be restricted to simple and nourishing foods.

The exhaustion of influenza is usually out of all proportion to the mildness of the symptoms. It indicates physical debility—a real weakening of vital forces and organs. Too early activity may cause an instant injury to the heart or one that may manifest itself later.

Dairy Costs Have Not Dropped as Have Prices

Much as the cost of producing dairy products on Oregon farms has been reduced, it has not kept pace with the noedive made by the selling prices of these products. The extent of this spread is actually shown in the report of the third progress report of the three-year study of the cost of producing dairy products in Oregon just completed by the dairy and farm management departments at the Oregon experiment station.

This latest report is for the year ending April 1, 1932, and includes compiled data gathered from 464 farms having 8224 cows producing about two and a half million pounds of butterfat in the year.

This report shows that the cost of production has been progressively reduced from 50 cents a pound of butterfat to 40 cents and then to 36 cents for the three years studied. Mean-

while the average selling price for the same three years dropped from 51 cents to 41 cents and then to 30 cents. Thus for this third year the average selling price, reduced to butterfat basis regardless of how the milk was marketed, was six cents below the average cost of production, while for the other two years a slight margin of profit was shown.

Cost of production as expressed here, includes of course, wages at prevailing figures for the dairyman and his family and five percent interest on capital investment. The cash cost, which will be shown in a later complete report, is considerably below the 36-cent figure.

Once again the survey, obtained through actual records kept on each farm, reveals that central Oregon "irrigation dairymen" are producing butterfat at the lowest cost in the state, the figures showing 33 cents for the irrigated regions, 35 cents for the coast sections and 39 cents for the Willamette valley.

A wide range in individual farm costs is shown in the figures for the Willamette valley where the 25 lowest cost farms produced at an average figure of 24 cents while the 35 highest cost farms showed a 60 cent average. Factors contributing to this great spread will be shown in the final detailed printed bulletin being prepared for publication between now and July 1.

Nature's Pipe Organ

Probably the only cavern in the world in which music is produced by the wind is Fingal's Cave, on Staffa Island, one of the Hebrides, off Scotland. It was during a visit there that Mendelssohn was inspired to compose his famous overture, "The Hebrides." —Collier's Weekly.