

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IS A GOOD THING
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In a report to President Hoover Secretary of State Stimson points out that the government's emergency bars against immigration "during the economic depression" have resulted in keeping out more than 500,000 aliens who normally would have entered the country.

What, we ask, is "Wholy Writ"? In the last issue of the Myrtle Creek Mail, Editor Rice writes, "The human heart is 'desperately wicked' we are told in Wholy Writ." Wherever it is read it, we cannot help agreeing with him in his argument that the human race is better off when it is working eight to twelve hours a day, than it would be under the technocratic plan of three or four hours daily.

SPECIAL SESSION A FIZZLE
The special session of the Oregon legislature last week, ended just as most people expected it would, without anything being accomplished and an expenditure for the week of \$10,000.

True, the house passed a sales tax bill which the senate refused to enact, and a bill was passed exempting real property from any state tax, but Gov. Meier has intimated that he would veto it, and he should. Unless there is ability enough in this legislature to devise and enact an entirely new system of taxation, and it is to be doubted that there is, the state will muddle through another two years or more of its unequal tax system.

We have no doubt that a sales tax is as just and equitable a means of taxation as can be devised, and if in addition an income tax could be enacted which would get its fair share of the incomes of every individual and corporation in the state, it would be a vast improvement on our present system. The trouble with the income tax laws, both state and federal, is that too many who should pay, escape altogether.

FIRST BILLS IN HOPPER
The first bill introduced in the senate at Salem this week was one which if enacted into law, will forbid any court in Oregon from rendering a judgment or decree foreclosing any real property mortgage, and providing that no execution for the sale of property under foreclosure of a mortgage can be issued for a period of two years. The act would go into effect immediately upon its approval by the governor.

If this bill should become a law it would benefit a great many more people than would be harmed by its enactment, we mean those who may actually need the money they now have out on loan.

Senate bill No. 3 would provide for the quarterly payment of taxes, on April 1, July 1, October 1 and Dec. 31. The bill would not change the present interest rate on delinquent taxes of two-thirds of one per cent a month, but it does provide a rebate of two per cent if the entire tax is paid by April 1.

The rebate is not large enough to make it an inducement to pay the entire year's tax bill at once. If the lawmakers would make it five per cent it would mean an increase of tax payments during the first quarter.

"BUY AMERICAN"

"Buy American" was the title of a most interesting article appearing in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post written by Samuel G. Blythe, which every patriotic American should read. It is most timely; it tells one of the real causes of the past three years of business depression which is that so many inferior goods, manufactured abroad, are being sold in the United States today because they are cheap.

They are cheap, too, both in quality and price. We will mention just one instance we heard of this week. An electric light globe, manufactured in Japan, was sold four for a quarter in this country. The man we heard of bought two-bits worth. The first one he attached to his lamp blew up at

once, the second burned out in half an hour. He returned the other two. But if he had spent twenty cents for an American Mazda lamp he would have had something that would have lasted hundreds of times as long as did the Japanese product.

The fault lies all along the line. The importer, the broker, the wholesaler, the retailer and the consumer, all are trying to help out the foreign manufacturer, who may pay but a few cents a day in wages, by buying his cheap product which is not worth what it costs. Buy American.

TABLOIDS

By W. S. Sichel

County and city employees in many sections of the country are receiving for their services warrants bearing the pleasant little phrase, "Presented for payment, but not paid for want of funds," and further decorated by the date of such presentation, together with the treasurer's signature. They cannot be cashed at their face value because the banks in the various communities cannot longer take them. This action by the banks is absolutely necessary, having been dictated by the supervising authority that tells bankers how to run their business. Back of this, however, is the sound policy that depositors' money must be invested in diversified manner. In other words, banks are not allowed to put too many eggs in one basket.

Investment by the public in bonds, as a rule, is made from surplus funds of individuals and institutions seeking earnings for idle money. These obligations take precedence—theoretically, at least—over every other, and failure to meet them when they are due produces the condition known as "insolvent."

A county or city may fail to pay employees, even to the point of causing them to become subject victims of want, and still remain technically "solvent"; but let them fail to meet bond maturities and interest—the requirements of capital—and they immediately become "insolvent."

The term "capital" does not apply to individuals, although an owner of an abundance of money is often referred to as a capitalist. Capital, in the sense here used, is a thing—a system—placid and unconcerned in the presence of poverty and human suffering, but the first to take flight toward its strong-box should a small cloud portending business disturbance appear on the horizon of human affairs.

Most folks can have little in common with capital. They do not go about slapping it on the back with undue familiarity and calling it by its first name. Capital is shy, distant and reserved and does not dull its palm with entertainment of those possessed only of deficits; it turns canibal, too, at the sight of would-be comrades who think they can beat the stock market.

This writer has an understanding of the view-point of men who manage fiduciary concerns and know something of their duties and problems, and he has yet to meet one of these gentlemen who may be inhuman in thought or purpose. Breasting the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" also gives one an understanding of the other fellow's view-point, in case he is tempted "to take arms against a sea of troubles", due, as he may think, to something being wrong with our entire social structure.

Should the cost of higher education, that beyond the local high school, be paid by the public? If so, what for? You may be financially unable to give your children these so-called advantages, and yet be a taxpayer, compelled to help educate the children of those parents who seem to be able to bear the expense of sending them to the state colleges. Again, what for? To see them return as lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers or some other kind of specialist, to fields already overcrowded? Look about you.

It costs as much to send boys and girls to a publically supported institution of learning as it does to one privately operated. The average tuition fee is a mere incidental expense.

The sacrifices made by parents along this line is oft times pitiable. Instead of laying by something for the comforts to which they are entitled in their old age—Well, why go into sordid detail? Again, look about you.

The public's responsibility for education of the young—that necessary for good citizenship—ends with the high school. Beyond that it is neither equitable nor fair to the majority of tax-payers, many of whom are being ruined by excessive taxation. A part of their tax burden goes for educational frills that are unavailable for their own children through inability to pay the expense of sending them away to school.

A few years ago I might not have had the courage to express these views, although I have always held them. Now I have a helluvalot of company. I believe the end of football-dominated colleges, with their noise and fraternity-sorority-social nonsense is in sight. Those devoted to the serious business of providing education,

instead of "culture" will survive.

It has been suggested that the game laws be suspended for a time to permit the killing of game by those who are in need of it for food. J. W. Laird, a Coquille citizen, says he hasn't hunted deer for thirty-five years, although he has maintained the licensed privilege to do so. He thinks he might have averaged one buck per season, therefore his quota of game, so to speak, still remains in the woods available for the needy.

Shorty Wilcoxon had a dispute with a neighbor a few days ago as to the spelling of a certain word. He says he looked at Webster's dictionary and found the dictionary was wrong. Just to prove his contention another dictionary was consulted and that was also found to be wrong. Therefore Shorty was right.

Under the present system of collecting taxes in Oregon, the 8 per cent penalty feature constitutes an inducement not to pay. If we had a rebate feature for prompt payment of taxes, there would exist an inducement to pay.

13 Years After Prohibition

(Union Signal)
On the thirteenth birthday of national prohibition the eighteenth amendment has succeeded so well that the liquor interests of the world are banded together in a furious onslaught to break down the safeguards of the American home against the greatest evil the race has ever known. Every pretense is now set aside; the fight is now the home against the liquor traffic.

Prohibition has passed beyond the testing point and demonstrates its value in the fields of economy, health, sociology and public morals. It has been assailed by the most heavily financed world-wide organization of liquor men our present civilization has ever seen; and yet it has weathered these storms which would have sufficed to overthrow a measure less strongly established.

The major claims for the eighteenth amendment are:

- 1—It made an outlaw of the liquor traffic.
- 2—It reduced drinking; it has reduced drunkenness.
- 3—It has reduced death from alcoholism and has been a factor in reducing the general mortality.
- 4—By diverting tremendous sums of money from the barroom till to expanding industries, it has increased American purchasing power by at least five billion dollars a year and it is this economic factor which has helped save the nation from a greater depression.

5—It helped raise the American standards of living; it quadrupled the memberships and assets of the building and loan associations; it has given the city purchaser a greater purchasing power for farm products at a time when agriculture needed every possible help. It has helped millions of children to go to school for a longer period than they could have gone under the home conditions of the saloon era.

Ungrateful French

We wonder why a great deal of the French loan ever came to be classified as war debts. After the war the United States loaned that country Liberty bond money to reconstruct her railroads, build public buildings, and to buy surplus war material like locomotives, rolling stock, automobiles and other equipment on hand in the A. E. F. depots. We did not want to ship this material home and France needed it and she bought it at a bargain. Now in effect she says that she believes we should make her a present of all these things.

France made this country a present of nothing. We paid rent on every foot of trench our army occupied, every barn, chicken coop or other building our soldiers slept in, freight on her railroads after rebuilding the road beds and even for the privilege of blowing up bridges across rivers being used by Germans in the march on Paris.

All other countries in the war received territorial concessions out of the German colonies. This country neither asked nor received anything. We owe no country any debt and all we ask is that they pay what they owe us. —Springfield News.

Dairy Product Makers to Meet

Butter and ice cream makers of Oregon will gather February 20 to 23 at Corvallis for the annual convention of their state association and for a short course in dairy manufacturing methods which is conducted in connection with the business meeting by the dairy department of Oregon State college.

Professor W. C. Cole of the University of California is being brought to the meeting as special lecturer in ice cream making methods. Committees are already at work preparing for the various contests and entertainment features of the annual gathering.

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The special session of the state legislature which ended its week's labors shortly after midnight Saturday was a \$10,000 fiasco.

Convened by Governor Meier to enact a sales tax or some other measure as a relief to the state tax on property the session cost the taxpayers of Oregon approximately \$10,000 and accomplished practically nothing.

While the session enacted a bill repealing or setting aside the property tax for state purposes as contained in the levy of the state tax commission, the legally minded members of both branches declare the measure to be unconstitutional and regard it as a futile political gesture. Governor Meier is generally expected to veto the bill, unless he, too, invites financial chaos in state affairs, and should he send it back to the lawmakers with his disapproval it is questionable if it would find sufficient support to pass over his veto. Even if it did, it is pointed out, it would not become effective until 90 days after the close of the regular session which would be too late to afford much relief this year. Should the governor sign the measure or permit it to become a law without his signature, it will probably be attacked in the courts by some creditor of the state.

The only other bill passed by the special session was one authorizing the state treasurer to stamp warrants "not paid for want of funds" and to pay interest at the rate of five percent on warrants so stamped. This bill, rushed through as an emergency measure, was regarded as necessary to the preservation of the state's credit. With less than \$200,000 cash on hand to meet claims in excess of \$500,000, including the December state payroll—this was the only alternative to repudiation of these claims. It is estimated that in excess of \$1,000,000 in state warrants will be outstanding before new revenues are available for their payment in April.

Much of the expense of the session was represented by clerk and stenographic hire, there being 94 of these employees on the payroll of the House and Senate. While the House voted a pay cut for these employees under the scale of two years ago, the Senate refused to follow this lead and confined its economies in this direction to the elimination of pay for unearned overtime. A larger number of the legislative employees at this session than usual were relatives of the lawmakers—wives, daughters and sons—this nepotism being justified by the fact that the pay of the legislators is too small to permit any of the members to meet expenses while attending the session without some such expedient to supplement his regular salary.

Of a total of \$105,181,154.16 spent on the state's primary and secondary highway system for new construction, additions and betterments during the past 16 years, since the inception of the state highway program in 1917, \$3,440,897.60 was spent in Coos county, according to the biennial report of the state highway department. State funds alone expended on highway work in the county in the 16 year period amounted to \$2,017,657.80 with the county contributing \$825,197.50 and the federal government \$575,817.07 in cooperation with the state. The figure does not include expenditures for maintenance work or the expenditures of the federal government and counties in connection with forest highway construction work.

There were 36,145 fewer automobiles and trucks bearing Oregon license plates at the beginning of 1933 than there were at the beginning of 1932, according to figures compiled by Secretary of State Hoos. Total registrations for the first half of the present fiscal year were 205,908, compared with 242,053 for the same period a year ago. Receipts from motor vehicle registration for the six month period totaled \$5,290,176.10 or \$907,708.12 under that of last year. Commercial vehicles show the heaviest decrease in registration, the loss being 23.32 percent, with the only increase in registration being shown by seasonal trucks.

If there was any element of surprise contained in the report of Geo. Black and company, certified public accountants, on the condition of the funds of the World War Veterans State Aid commission it was found to be only in the fact that the report was made public. The report of the auditors only served to lend official and authoritative confirmation to rumors which had been current about the state house for weeks, and to "debunk" propaganda which had been put forth by the commission itself.

Two weeks ago the state tax commission in promulgating the annual levy for state purposes waived the one-half mill levy for the bonus commission. This waiver was based on the recommendation of the World

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Mince Meat Kerr's Best 2 lbs. 20c	Purex Qt. Bottles EACH 12c
Shrimp Three C EACH 9c	Shortening Swift's Crescent 3 lbs. 19c

War Veterans State Aid commission as set forth in a resolution adopted by unanimous vote of the commission at executive session held in the office of Governor Meier in which it was represented that the finances of the department were on such a sound footing as to make the collection of additional revenue from taxes during 1933 unnecessary.

Now comes this firm of public accountants with a report in which it is pointed out that not only was the waiver of the tax levy unconstitutional, as this column has intimated before but that loss of this revenue threatens the entire financial structure of the bonus department. At the best, the auditors point out, waiver of the bonus is merely postponing the day of payment. Ultimately it must be made up through a levy against property or from some other tax source and in the meantime the commission will be up against the necessity of issuing refunding bonds to meet payments on maturing bond issues.

Residents of northern Wasco county are now petitioning the state hydroelectric commission for the organization of a peoples' utility district. This is the third attempt at organization of one of these power districts in Oregon since the enactment of the law by the 1931 legislature. Both of the other attempts have been defeated through failure of some of the districts to be included within the proposed project to accept the proposal. One of these was in Tillamook county; the other in Hood River county. The proposed Wasco county project would include approximately 500 square miles of territory and it is proposed to develop approximately 10,000 horsepower in a \$1,000,000 plant to be constructed on the Deschutes river with an additional \$400,000 to be spent in the construction of a transmission line to carry the "juice" to the ultimate consumer living within the district.

Tell This to Congress

Along in the early '90's wheat sold at 30 cents; rye, barley, corn and other grains at from eight to 20 cents; hogs at less than three cents, and cattle at two and a half cents. In those days every brewery and distillery was running and the consumption of liquor was in no way hindered except in Kansas, and yet this condition did not bring big grain prices, and neither did the revenue on beer and whisky prevent the federal treasury from being drained dry. The Cleveland administration issued bonds to the amount of \$262,000,000 to maintain the gold reserve and prevent the country from going off the gold standard.

If these things were true forty years ago—and the truth of them is

a matter of history—how can the restoration of a beer tax now balance the budget and bring back grain prices, as many are telling us. Corn then sold at from 8 to 13 cents, and yet horses were doing all the work now being done by trucks and automobiles and tractors. With no competition whatever from busses and trucks, one hundred and forty railroads went into the hands of receivers.

All these things happened at a time when the wets had full sway; when the railroads were not cursed with competition from trucks and busses, and when labor saving machines were only in their infancy. Unemployment was as great then according to the population, as it is now. The point is that practically all of the remedies now being offered to cure our present plight were in full force and effect forty years ago, and the depression came in spite of them all.—Osborne, Kansas Farmer.

For Figuring Farm Rentals

Use of the farm price index is suggested as a possible means of giving elasticity to cash rental contracts on farms by L. R. Breithaupt, extension economist at Oregon State college, who points out that wide fluctuations in farm prices in recent years have impressed both renters and owners with the need of some less rigid arrangement.

The Oregon farm price index is published each month by the extension service and constitutes a seasonally corrected average of the farm price of 16 commodities that accounted for more than 80 percent of the farm cash income from crop and livestock production from 1926 to 1930.

The five-year period is taken as normal, or 100 percent. Assuming that a given farm would have rented in normal times at \$500, then under prices such as prevailed in 1929 when the index was 109, the rent would automatically raise to \$545. But under prices such as a year later when the index was only 84, the figure would be automatically reduced to \$420. For October 1931 the index was down to 55 which would put the cash rent in the instance given down to \$275.

Such a plan is actually being followed already in some parts of Iowa where such contracts have been written. It has the advantage of removing the element of risk and therefore encourages good farming from a long-time viewpoint which is an advantage to owner, renter and the community generally, Breithaupt explains.

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