

# The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES  
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H. A. YOUNG, Editor

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As the Sentinel said last week, predictions are unwise, and to say that an automobile could not be driven from Astoria to Crescent City, 419 miles, in eight hours and 35 minutes, with five ferries to cross and a far from straight road, may have seemed like a safe prediction, but it wasn't. Only a soft tire prevented the three men in the car from reaching their destination ahead of schedule. And more people are going to learn of the beauty and safety of the Coast Highway this year, by passing over it, than ever came this way before.

Gasoline consumption in 1932 in the United States totaled 14,250,173, 296 gallons. Of this amount Oregon motorists used 140,066,134. The tax collected by the states on this 14 billions of gallons was in excess of half a billion dollars, \$514,138,900, and Oregon's total tax at four cents a gallon, \$5,591,175. In Oregon the figures include a 3 1/2 cent tax on distillate. Oregon is the only state to tax distillate.

The law varies from 2 to 7 cents a gallon on gas in the 48 states. The average percentage of decrease in gas consumption in 1932 from 1931 was 7.5. Only Delaware and Maryland report increased consumption.

Ever since the Garden of Eden episode, man has been acting on the idea that he is not his brother's keeper. Nor is the golden rule, "whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," observed by nations nor individuals.

Selfishness is the great curse of the world. It is the cause of practically all wars; it is the cause of most personal animosities and hatreds; and it enters into our attitude toward all public affairs. Even our support of or opposition to the government and the school system is based to a great extent on selfish interest. But over one hundred and fifty years of our national life has not convinced the people of the United States that the foundation of American civilization—our schools—is weak, and the occasional protest against helping to pay for the education of another's children falls on barren soil.

## BEER IS LESS THAN 3.2

Don't let the beer propaganda fool you for a minute.

Beer of 3.2 per cent alcohol is intoxicating and dangerous for automobile drivers, aviators, or locomotive engineers. Everyone in the beer business knows that; science has taught it. There is no doubt about it; the very report on which congress "legalized" beer tells that same story.

But this flood of beer which has engulfed the country is not 3.2 per cent beer. It is much less than 3.2 per cent alcohol and was put out presumably by the brewers so that they could claim the millennium had arrived via the brewery truck. The American Business Men's Prohibition Foundation first discovered this maneuver of the brewers; then the federal prohibition agents reported similar results of their tests. The brewers at first scoffed at the idea and then had to admit that their beer is averaging around 2.75 per cent alcohol which the brewers forced congress to believe was extremely mild as far as alcohol is concerned.

As the eyes of the restaurant business are focused on the newly "legalized" beer, many restaurant men are finding that the amber fluid does not produce a tremendous boom in business. A problem has been presented to the restaurant keepers; and a meeting of the national restaurant association was held in Chicago, April 11, to discuss the situation and exchange experiences. Many restaurant keepers reported they were not sure of the advisability of selling beer; not sure their customers wanted them to sell beer; several members of the association said they are selling beer and at the same time suffering real losses on other items. Many restaurants selling beer had much food left over; none of the restaurants reported any notice-

able increase in business. Those who had no complaint to make expressed the hope that their customers would not get into the habit of sitting around too long after their meals, and thus give the beer-restaurant the air of a saloon.

Henry Rohde, manager of a large restaurant in the Furniture Mart, Chicago, said that beer was going to damage food sales; dessert orders dropped forty per cent in his restaurant in the first days of the beer hysteria. The customers bought beer and cheap sandwiches; that was all.

—National W. C. T. U.

## TABLOIDS

By W. S. Sickels

"All I know is what I read in the papers."—Will Rogers.

### No Hard Feelings, Fellows

Perhaps I should not burden this column with comment on controversial subjects. My old Kansas friend, E. G. Opperman, didn't approve what I said recently about the proposed sales tax; the editor of the Sentinel, who so graciously provides for me a vent for smoldering ideas, takes me to task for some of the things I have said about tax-payer support of higher education. The assembling of words for the purpose of expressing an idea is an art which apparently I do not possess, as I have failed to make myself clear to these gentlemen on either of these subjects.

That the sales tax is more equitable than some other forms of taxation may be admitted; also it may be necessary in this unthinking and benighted age; but any tax that gnaws at the vitals of labor, industry and capital is wrong in principle, however painless its operation. The various forms of taxation that are in force in this country today are the same that destroyed former civilizations. Read a little ancient history. Nevertheless we go blindly on. Revenue from the use and occupancy of land is the only right (moral) method of raising funds for the support of government. By this is meant land areas. If, in the possession of an area of land, you desire to build a house upon it, or a ten-story building, or stock it with cattle and farming equipment, you will not be fined for so doing. Yes, I'm referring to the Henry George philosophy, erroneously called "single tax." It is not a tax. Were that system in operation there would be no economic problems arising from time to time to vex and harass an entire nation. Land, which is as necessary to existence as the air above it, should be the common heritage of all of the people. And they who pay the government for its use would not carry near the burden that is imposed by present taxation methods.

As to higher education the editor of the Sentinel says: "We are not in sympathy with any thought or propaganda which would limit the educational opportunities of boys and girls whose parents do not have the means to send them to privately owned and privately conducted school." Nevertheless such opportunities are denied to boys and girls whose parents do not have the means to pay their expenses—away from home—to a state university. Such parents see the education of their boys and girls end with the district school while they continue to grub for taxes the rest of their lives to help educate the children of the well-to-do. These latter can afford to send their children to privately conducted schools of higher learning, as the cost is no greater than to a modern university, with its social life, and other non-essentials. Those who happen to live in the city where the university is located are the only ones who have an advantage. "Am I my brother's keeper?" concludes Editor Young. I should say not! He who keeps his 'one self out of a mess these days is a humdinger, and no foolin'.

I regret very much the passing of John H. Greaves, who was suddenly stricken in North Bend last Sunday. He was an honorable, Christian gentleman and a conscientious banker. The "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" are too often rained upon the worthy.

Stock-market speculation—or is it gambling?—is not to be recommended nor encouraged, perhaps, but if you have the bug, the rapidly growing business of air-travel offers opportunity for some good bets. Those who invested a \$1000 in General Motors fifteen years ago and let it "ride" made a fortune. Those who backed some particular make of car lost in some instances because the car failed to become popular. With flying it is different. You can bet on a new mode of travel that is rapidly attaining tremendous commercial importance.

It is always risky to give a man who can not control his own manpower fifty or seventy-five horsepower to control.

Some ranchers report losing a good many sheep by theft. One system used by these marauders is to shoot the animals and then butcher them by

the roadside. At the present market value of sheep most any owner would give one to a family in need of food.

As expected, the gasoline companies were the first to raise commodity prices. Just a matter of patriotism.

I like to believe that true greatness is not accidental. To think and to say that greatness is a lottery is pernicious. Man may be wrong sometimes in his judgment of others, both individually and in the aggregate, but he who gets ready to be a great man will surely find the opportunity.

Those who read the above paragraph will wonder who I got to write it for me, but they will never find out.

I received a book catalog the other day from which for ten cents each I can buy books defaming the character of Washington, Harding and Hoover, and others; also books defiling all religions—a "debunking series," so-called. I don't know how they get away with it.

### Opposing the Sales Tax

Editor Sentinel: I would like to counteract the error and folly put forth in some sales tax propaganda appearing in your paper, dated April 28, written by Mr. E. G. Opperman of Coquille.

"There is nothing more just than a sales tax; you pay in proportion to your ability to buy." Oh, the infamy of it!

Consider: The three factors involved in the production of wealth are land, labor, and capital. Rent is that part of wealth which goes to land ownership, wages is that part returned to labor, and interest is that part returned to capital. Now the disguised purpose of the sales tax is to remove the burden of taxation entirely from rent, or land value, and place it on the meager wages and interest of labor and capital—and the sales tax will succeed in this respect admirably.

All advocates of the sales tax, who know what they're thinking and talking about, are extensive holders of valuable land-sites (ever notice that!)

The calamitous fact of the whole matter is that rent, or land value, is not produced by the individual owning the land—but is produced by the whole community (and morally belongs to the whole community.) The site-value of land, in or near, any commercial center is due to the activity and growth of the whole people—not to the paltry few who take the place of God and who claim to own the earth!

Promoters of the sales tax would like this unearned increment in land to be untouched by a tax—they would prefer to have taxes diffused on the products of labor where they can be concealed in price and eventually be paid by the consumer. "Oh, ye doers of iniquity!"

As to "paying in proportion to ability to buy"—who is more able to buy a sack of sugar—a multi-millionaire or a common laborer? If both pay a two per cent sales tax, which one is paying in proportion to his ability to buy, and which is not?

Anyway, in the paying of taxes for the support of government, wouldn't it be far better to pay according to benefit received, rather than ability to pay? For instance: Here is the holder of a valuable land-site who receives a direct benefit from the community (or government) in the form of rent. And here is a laborer receiving part of his wages for his daily toil. Why should the unearned income be tax-free and the earned income be burdened and oppressed with taxes for the support of government?

If the debased general sales tax is put over on the unenlightened by the unscrupulous, one of the predictions of Christ will bear more and more significance: "To those that have, shall be given, and to those that have not, even what they have shall be taken away."

Sincerely yours, M. L. Kathan.



Headache aplenty are in store for the members of the state board of control when they take up the problem of "adjusting" salaries of state officials and employees under the pay slash bill passed by the recent legislature.

In upholding the validity of the legislative act this week the supreme court also held that authority to adjust salaries had been vested in the board of control. By "adjustment" the court's opinion points out, the legislature contemplated waiver of the reductions either in whole or in part but not an increase in salary.

To those privileged to follow the maneuvers of the ways and means committee which evolved the pay cut schedule it was clear that "adjustments" under this vested authority should be the exception. Pay rolls already submitted to the board with recommended salaries indicate that some department heads at least expect the "adjustments" to be the rule.

# The Chicagoan

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MOUNTAIN STATES POWER COMPANY

This will be where the board heads come in.

Under the court's ruling that the base salaries shall be those in effect on December 31, 1930, the pay of William Einzig as state purchasing agent will be reduced to \$4,200 a year, which amount will be subject to application of the specified percentage reduction if the board of control does not waive the cut in this case. Einzig was employed early in the present administration at a salary of \$7,000 a year but this salary was reduced to \$5,000 January 1.

Albert Hunter, the new chairman of the state industrial accident commission, is the democratic member of the commission and hails from LaGrande. He represents the state at large with Otto Hartwig representing labor or the employees and T. Morris Dunne representing the employers.

All three members of the board of control were at the capitol at the same time this week for the first time in nearly a month. Three weeks ago State Treasurer Holman left for a short vacation trip to Victoria B. C. Upon his return to the state house two weeks ago both Governor Meier and Secretary of State How were absent, the former at his office in Portland and the latter at his summer cottage at Taft. Long distance telephone service, however, has enabled these officials to keep in constant touch with their respective departments and routine business of the state has continued as usual.

The state treasurer this week wiped out the bank loan to the general fund when he repaid the balance of \$50,000 still outstanding against an original loan of \$1,024,000. Except for unpaid warrants totalling more than \$1,250,000, the only obligation outstanding against this state fund at the present time is the unpaid balance of the loan from the World War Veterans State Aid commission amounting to \$270,000.

Only men with dependents are being enrolled in the emergency forestry program and these must send a minimum of \$22 a month home, according to Lynn Cronemiller, state forester.

Seventeen states and one territory now have old age pensions. They are Montana, Nevada, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Colorado, Maryland, California, Minnesota, Utah, New Jersey, Wyoming, Massachusetts, New York, Delaware, Idaho, New Hampshire, Oregon and Alaska. In most of these states the pension has been in force less than

three years. The pension varies from a minimum of \$250 a year in Kentucky to \$350 a year in New Hampshire. The Oregon law permits the payment of not to exceed \$30 a month. In Delaware and Massachusetts the pension is administered by the state. New York, California, New Jersey and Wisconsin contribute to the pension fund. In all other states the fund is administered entirely by the several counties.

Importation of poplar or willow trees into Oregon from Washington has been banned by the department of agriculture because of the presence of satin moth, an insect pest in the northern state.

Oregon is one of twelve states which have no lieutenant-governor. The others are Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming, Tennessee and Maine.

Washington has been invited to join with Oregon in an investigation of the rates and practices of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company. The problem, in the opinion of Utilities Commissioner Thomas, is too big for one state. Idaho may also be invited to join in the probe, Thomas said.

Funds accumulated in the process of liquidating the ten savings and loan associations now in the hands of the corporation commissioner as statutory receiver are being invested in short term United States securities, according to Chas. H. Carey, corporation commissioner. When Carey took over the job he found these funds on deposit in various banks over the state, for the most part unsecured. Under an opinion by the attorney general this money is now classed as "suspense funds" and placed in the hands of the state treasurer for investment.

Highway construction affords the best and most practical means for unemployment relief, in the opinion of R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. Oregon could launch a \$15,000,000 highway improvement program on short notice, Baldock points out. Plans have been completed on a number of projects and only await financing. The Wilson river and Wolf creek routes would take more than \$8,000,000. Another \$4,000,000 is needed in proposed improvements on the Siskiyou highway and \$3,000,000 could be used in building needed bridges on the Coast highway.

Because of added restrictions on

municipal indebtedness imposed by the last legislature future bond issues by Oregon cities will be limited largely to refunding bonds, in the opinion of State Treasurer Holman.

If the Security Owners association succeeds in completing its referendum petitions against the Grange Power bill before June 9 two propositions will be automatically eliminated from the special election ballot: Election of the three new power commissions and the vote on the proposed \$100,000 bond issue to finance preliminary engineering work for the new commission.

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