

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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Publishers
H. A. YOUNG, Editor
Subscription Rates

One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.00
Three Months50

No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This rule is imperative.

Entered at the Coquille Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

Office Corner W. First and Willard Sts.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
1945 Active Member

Fragments of Fact and Fancy

Other towns may win prizes for decrease in automobile accidents but we'll put Coquille up as the town whose residents are kindest to dumb animals. Dozens of drivers daily slow their cars to avoid striking the sparrows which dart across the line of traffic. A kind hand spreads grain for the birds on the downtown streets and so tame have they become that neither pedestrian nor passing car affrights them at their meal.

Then take the two dogs which sleep in front of a busy door and all one afternoon the Saturday throng of shoppers stepped carefully around the pair, leaving them undisturbed in their dreams.

Even the cats do not quarrel over the right of way on a busy thoroughfare; they majestically take it and the wary motorist yields gracefully and without complaint.

Possibly Coquille is not the exception; it may be all small towns harbor such municipal pets. This we do know: the American soldier, the world over, has gained the reputation of being humane and a lover of animals.

How thankful we should be that the missionaries of a century and less ago were not impressed by any claim of white superiority and that neither race nor color deterred them from carrying the gospel of the brotherhood of man to the islands of the South Pacific. A few of the first missionaries lost their lives in the work but those who came after them labored with love in their hearts and today thousands upon thousands of American boys are alive because the cannibals and heathen had learned that the white man was their friend.

In the current issue of the Readers Digest one of its editors makes the statement that "The Rhine was crossed first in Oregon."

The article is devoted to explaining how Eisenhower had made complete plans months and even years ahead for the crossing of the Rhine. Nothing was left to chance and even the Belgian bulge had been charted before von Rundstedt's push began. As for Oregon—well, the Navy crews had drilled and practiced and drilled again with landing craft on the Columbia river.

Winston Churchill about a year ago expressed the thought that it was difficult enough to understand the politics of one's own country and impossible to fathom those of a foreign neighbor.

Apparently he then was referring to some political maneuver in this country preceding the presidential election campaign. However the shoe is on the other foot now and we, in this side of the water, wonder why the leadership of the greatest Englishman of his time is questioned and a test of his policies demanded. If the Prime Minister loses by the election of an unfriendly parliament, the Britons will appear to be a thankless people indeed.

There may be a silver lining to Churchill's defeat, if that occurs, for it might give him time to write his memoirs of this last great war—a precious gift to posterity.

The Germans in defeat have surprised us in several ways. Their officers, after surrender, expect privileges befitting their rank. As long as we live a meal which includes both chicken and green peas will be mentally classified as a "Goering dinner." Then there is the story of Nazi officials who wanted to shake hands and put the bloody conflict of the past five years on a par with a sporting match or football game!

But the remark which dumbfounded us was that of the manager of the Krupp armament works. These factories had turned out ammunition which had taken the lives of countless American and British boys but when their German superintendent grieved at the sight of the whole vast plant bombed into rubble, he said, as if demanding his rights: "Well, the Americans will just have to loan us the money to rebuild."

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, May 26, 1925)

Tomorrow being Decoration Day, practically all of the stores in town will be closed. The morning services will start at 9:30. The Community Building is the point of assembly. At two o'clock tomorrow afternoon the services will be held in the Liberty Theatre. A program of reading, music and an address by G. Russell Morgan has been prepared for presentation at that time.

Only one item of business was transacted last Monday at the adjourned session of the city council and that was the appointment of Chas. W. Gardner as fire chief to succeed J. E. Perrott, who is now employed at the county farm.

A Coos county baseball league has not been organized this year but at least two cities of the county—Coquille and Marshfield—will be represented by independent teams. Bill Fortier says that Coquille has a stronger line-up than represented this city last year. Carl Gilbert and Wm. Zoel will be on the firing line with Fortier doing the receiving.

During the past year 3069 school children were examined by the Coos

County Health Unit; of this number 813 were substantially free from defects.

The fate of Amundson, the explorer and his party who left Spitzburg last Tuesday to fly over the north pole and who have not been heard from since, is of more than ordinary interest in Bandon, since Mr. Amundson is a second cousin of Mrs. Oscar Langlois of the lighthouse station. Mr. Amundson sent Mrs. Langlois photographs of himself and equipment.—Western World. [Editor's Note: Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Langlois have been Coquille residents for the past several years.]

Work on the new Marshfield hotel will start immediately, with the last contracts on the work to be let July 1, it was decided at the final meeting of the board of directors yesterday.

"You have as fine a hotel here as I have seen in any city of its size anywhere in my travels over the country," said Rev. O. L. Martin at the Chamber of Commerce dinner Wednesday evening. At the meeting President Skeels introduced several of the newer members—I. A. Elrod, S. R. Svnsgaard, G. E. Trott and Orvin Gant.

Timely Topics

By HON. R. T. MOORE

The growing support of the bill levying a real property tax for construction funds to be used by State Board of Higher Education and Board of Control makes it likely that the electorate will approve. The people are evidently becoming aware of the fact that such a tax would be completely offset by income tax receipts and no burden whatever would fall upon real property as a result.

The need for this new construction in our state institutions is incontrovertible. No one can visit our universities and asylums without being struck with the inadequacy of present equipment which is neither equal to the demands upon it nor in keeping with the dignity and prestige of the state. A substantial building program is long overdue and constitutes a "must" in the immediate future. Our state stands on the threshold of agricultural and industrial development and it will be worse than folly not to prepare to take full advantage of our opportunity. A rehabilitation of our state institutions would help very materially in attracting new enterprise.

The attempt being made to place state school support on a more stable basis than the income tax receipts is not meeting with the same public support as the construction bill. The so-called cigarette bill is the device being used. It would raise about two millions per annum for school purposes with an upward trend in receipts as the number of cigarette users increases. And the use of these smokes is very stable in volume regardless of economic conditions.

Opposition to the cigarette bill point out that it is a sales tax, which of course it is, and that it bears more heavily on the lower income brackets and thus is not based on ability to pay.

Proponents admit that it is a sales tax and point to the gas tax which everybody pays without protest and which is a much more drastic sales tax than the proposed cigarette tax. They contend that dependence upon income tax receipts is too dangerous in the support of such an indispensable state overhead as the public schools, that the present system places an inequitable burden on home owners who have to support the schools not only for their own children but for those of the large transient population as well, that tax levies for a public service which every one uses should be confined to sources to which every one contributes and that there should be no free riders.

In spite of repeated defeats at the polls the sales tax is best fitted for school support because of its wide base. Other states have met with great success in its use for school purposes. It has the necessary stability of income and is low enough in levy to be scarcely noticeable to the average family. It has the added advantage of levying upon the transients. And since real property levies in Oregon are near the maximum established by experience as the limit for stable property values it is hard to see how the state can avoid an eventual sales tax for school support. It may not come for some years. But the people will insist that Oregon school standards be kept at the level of neighboring states. This will mean more money for the schools. This money will have to come from added levies against Oregon homes and businesses or from excise levies such as a sales tax. The latter seems to

be the only choice since real property levies are now so high as to permit of very little additional millage.

One factor that may gradually change adverse public opinion on the sales tax is the pay-roll deduction income tax. The latter brings home to the working man the plain fact that he is putting up the bulk of the tax money used by the nation. Heretofore, he has been putting up the money indirectly and did not realize it. But now he pays Uncle Sam directly and is coming to take a very active interest in the distribution of the tax burden. For this reason the sales tax will have more appeal because of its wide distribution of the load.

The president of the New York Stock Exchange has added his voice to the growing clamor for tax relief to private industry. There is almost a certainty that an adjustment of tax rates favorable to business will be made within the next year. Prospective entry into industry of many returning servicemen and urgent need for a high level of industrial employment will combine to force the issue. There will be a retreat from taxation for social purposes and an advance in taxation solely for necessary operational purposes. Heed will be given to the opinions of those experienced in taxation for revenue only and the social reformers will be gradually shouldered aside.

The determining factor in estimating individual income tax levels in post-war will be the ultimate cost of the war itself. The largest item in post-war federal budget will probably be interest on the national debt. Any rise in war costs will mean high levels for income taxes on individuals rather than the corporations because present rates on the latter have reached the point of diminishing returns. No rise in corporate rates being possible, the individual taxpayer must foot the bill. No substantial relief to individuals seems possible for a long time to come.

Since Uncle Sam is the chief customer of all business during the war, any rise in costs comes directly out of the pocketbook of the individual taxpayer. Wage raises and added costs due to inefficiency will have to be paid for out of taxes. And those who have laid aside savings for a rainy day will lose a substantial portion of their nest-egg through inflationary effect of rising costs which are not accompanied by increased production. The loss will not be in dollars but in what can be bought by the dollars.

The fallacy persists that more dollars on the pay-check of the working man means greater prosperity for him. The fact is that, unless the increase in dollars is accompanied by a corresponding increase in production sufficient to hold costs even, there has been a loss instead of gain for the worker. For he will have lost a portion of his savings through higher living costs forced by higher prices and his current financial situa-

tion will remain relatively the same as before the raise. There is no greater enemy to the labor movement than the man who advocates a raise in pay without accompanying rise in unit production.

The key to tax relief will be high production volume stimulating full employment and maintaining the tax-paying ability of the common people. This must be accompanied by rigid economy in government and encouragement of enterprise. Bad work habits formed during the war when jobs could be held with little or no personal effort will have to be painfully corrected. We will be in competition with European people who have had no war prosperity and who will be working hard to take our markets away from us. They have no illusions about such matters as hours or work or overtime pay. Their sole object will be to make things more cheaply than we so that they can take from us a goodly portion of the advantages we now enjoy. It will be hard for us to get back to earth after the lush war prosperity. But we must, and soon, if we are to hold our leadership.

Homes Should Be Free

Put all the tax on site gradually ten per cent a year and reduce the tax on everything else by ten per cent method.

The city of San Francisco took over six lots on a tax title in 1856. The city leased these lots July 1, 1944, for 99 years to a corporation on a progressive lease. The corporation is now paying \$30,500 per month.

Take this site value from all land. Question 14. If all land in the U. S. were rented in this way would people be more or less independent and why?

The element that makes people independent or free is a job that depends on themselves, a job that no one else can take any part of the labor product produced on the job. To take any part of the labor product

in this way is theft, it may be legal but it is still theft.

Let us get a clear idea as to what a job is. If we analyze any product that we recognize as wealth, we will find that it is made up of two elements: a job plus labor, if either of these elements is taken away the other one is left. If we take a car and analyze it, we find it is made up of a job and labor. The job is the passive element and labor the active element. Take away everything that is labor from the car and the other element must be left, whatever it is must be the job. It is clear that land or natural opportunity is left. To free land would make jobs free. Land could not be held out of use because no one would pay site value and not use it. Land would have no salable value.

Let us take an illustration. If an employer needed 50 men and one of these men could employ himself, wages would go up to the point where the one man would get as much working with the 49 as he would working for himself. That would be the full product of labor. There is a peculiar claim made by labor unions that labor produces all wealth. It is only one of the factors in the production of wealth and not the principal factor.

Question 15. How would it affect patriotism and why?

Patriotism cannot be taught as an abstract proposition, that method has been tried for years with the usual result—failure. No unjust war has ever been fought that appeal has not been made in every way possible and when you see such appeals being made, you know something is rotten. If you are a teacher just attempt to teach love of country the usual way and you will simply be laughed at. Lincoln was right: you can't fool all the people all the time, not even yourself.

True patriotism cannot be taught. If you will have a nation of patriots, you must have a nation of people who own their own homes. People will fight for their home. Convince people that their home is threatened and love of that home will produce a wave that nothing will stop. Try it on yourself. Homes (land or site) should be free.

Jas. Richmond M. D.

See "Spike" Leslie for the best in Liability, or other Insurance. Office, 775 So. Hall, in former hospital bldg., phone 5; residence phone 25L.

Phone 222R, to Art Hooton for your electrical wiring and repair needs. He is located north of the ball park on the Fairview road.

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Friday, JUNE 1-16

CITY CLEAN-UP and SALVAGE WEEK

- ★ Clean out basements, attics and garages
- ★ Trim yards, parkings and shrubbery
- ★ Put all material to be hauled away at curbing

WHEN POSSIBLE PUT ALL GRASS, Limbs or Shrubby in vacant lots or suitable place for burning. City firemen will superintend burning.

Not later than June 16

All persons who can haul their own waste to the city dump are urged to do so. There will be no charge during this time and the dump will be open all the time. All waste must be thrown over the bank.

----Instructions for Salvage----

SAVE ALL PAPER---

Magazines, Cardboard, Books, Newspapers, etc.

Pack tightly in cartons and tie securely in handy sized bundles. Use strong cord. CORD CAN BE OBTAINED at GEO. F. BURR MOTOR CO.

SAVE TIN CANS---

Cans should be thoroughly cleaned and have labels removed. Cut out both ends. Insert ends in can and smash flat by stepping on it.

Pack in boxes or other adequate containers.

Dirty, badly rusted, or unflattened cans cannot be accepted.

If weather is clear, place cans and paper on curbing. If stormy, keep on porch.

Packing Boxes can be had on call at Salvage Depot.

CLEAN UP COMMITTEE

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