

# The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES  
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**Timely Topics**  
BY HON. R. T. MOORE

The traditional bone of contention between the two major political parties, our tariff policy, again comes to the fore in the formulation of post-war plans. Recent test of strength on the question of extending tariff adjustment powers for the president shows division almost exactly on party lines. With the democrats in control, this probably will mean lowering of tariff barriers to foreign goods in the interest of promoting world prosperity. But there will be strong opposition from industries competing directly with foreign goods. If the sixty million job goal is to be reached all industry must be in full production. And cheap foreign goods cannot be allowed to destroy domestic markets.

The United States has the highest living standards in the world, made possible by mass production with high wages. A few key industries, such as steel, coal, and automobiles, set the pace for the wage rates in other industries. If a small manufacturer of hardware, for example, operated in the Pittsburgh area it must pay wages in line with those of the steel industry or it will get no help. Prevailing labor costs depend almost entirely on wage schedules in major industries.

The major industries can often absorb moderate cost increases by improvements in machines or methods. This can seldom be done in the smaller industries. Tariff protection is therefore essential to the life of the latter because of their helplessness against foreign competition. As long as we have present high wage schedules we must protect them against cheap foreign labor.

A formidable array of industries have appeared in protest before the ways and means committee. Their combined strength may be enough to force retention of at least reasonable protection by tariff. As one of the industries affected will be lumber we are interested in the outcome of the tariff battle. Before the war, Canada had substantial advantage in preferential rates to members of the British Empire. Our Douglas fir industry was prevented from participating in the benefits of the British market. The English have no ambition to play Santa Claus to the rest of the world. They aim to take care of their own industries first. Why should we not adopt the same realistic policy?

The setting of a tariff schedule that will afford protection where needed and yet not shut off the flow of foreign goods entirely is no easy job. Probably the discretionary power just given to the president will add flexibility to present tariff rates and facilitate necessary adjustments before harm is done. But cold logic dictates that we can not maintain our wage rates without a protective tariff, no matter how distasteful this fact will be to free trade advocates. The only controversy will be over administrative policy.

A start towards a general tax relief program has been made by the elimination of superfluous federal agency activities, the re-organization of the cabinet, and the five-point tax relief recommendations of ways and means committees in Congress. The published statement reveals that no rate changes are involved but that relief is offered in other ways. The provisions affect corporate and partnership levies mostly, the need for adjustments in these levies being deemed the most urgent.

The lavish spending by government in pre-war days plus the enormous cost of war means that American tax-payers will have to hand over a large portion of their income to the tax-collector for generations. No one should be misled by statements that relief to the individual or corporate tax-payer will be given through lowering of tax levies to former levels. It will be completely impossible to do that and the people must prepare for very high tax levels in comparison to former days. All possible relief will indeed be given but it can be the ablest men in the state will give

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, June 5, 1925)

Mayor Johnson and all councilmen except Geo. Chaney were present for the regular session of the city governing body Monday evening. A call for bids was ordered for the resurfacing of Front street from the Busy Corner to Ferry street and for the improvement of Willard from Front down to the city dock.

Hall to the champion trapshooters of the state! Last Saturday at Eugene, against the professionals who made up so great a percentage of the other teams, five Coquille men walked off with the big event of the three-day trapshoot, dropping a total of 244 birds out of a possible 250. The records were: J. W. Miller, 49; Earl Graham, 48; Pete Miller, 48; A. W. Chapin, 48; Ray Long, 50.

Messrs. Stokes and Glisan, two deputy state fire marshals, who have been investigating conditions in Coos county, had a conference with Mayor Johnson last Friday evening regarding conditions in Coquille. They made many recommendations but stated that conditions here are better than they are over at the Bay.

Coquille will be represented by three women students in the University of Oregon graduating class this month. They are Mary Donaldson, Helen Sherwood and Camilla Lorenz. Miss Lorenz will receive a degree in music. Miss Donaldson and Miss Sherwood will receive degrees in Education.

Next Sunday at one o'clock, the Wecoma Baths, at Bandon, will be formally opened to the public. This is the new salt wateratorium

not be very substantial in the face of the prospective burden of debt.

Oregon is preparing itself for the coming tax adjustment period by making a thorough study of the state's tax structure during the coming biennium. A committee has been appointed jointly by the legislature and the governor to make the study. An appropriation of \$20,000.00 has been set aside for the work. The personnel of the committee is of the highest type and consists of men of experience and varied interests. Coos county is honored in the appointment of Geo. C. Huggins to a seat on the committee. Mr. Huggins will represent school interests in which he has had an active part for years. It is presumed that the study will be completed in time for submission to the next legislature.

If there is any serious weakness in Oregon's tax structure it is in the over-loading of real property which has to underwrite all of the major public functions of the state. We lack means of levying upon the transient population in proportion to their use of our facilities. Our real property tax tends to discourage home owning and general business building because of the continuing threat of deficits in income tax receipts throwing the whole burden on real property. A sales tax would remove this threat but the people will have none of it.

With the federal government having first lien on income and with heavy federal levies a certainty, great care must be used in distributing other tax burdens as scientifically as possible. Rule of thumb methods are definitely out. The tax structure must be carefully and intelligently built with due regard for economic effect. Sound fiscal policies in both federal and state governments are a must. Any regulations or levies that hamper business should be discarded.

Some one has estimated that to raise the capital necessary to furnish jobs for 20 men would require an individual income of a million dollars per year for ten straight years, so high are the present federal income levies. It does not take much imagination to see what is happening to our American free enterprise under this sort of a set-up. The rich and the poor are automatically frozen in their respective positions and there is no hope of advancement for enterprising young men. All financing on a large scale must be done by bureaucratic manipulation of the tax-payers' money. Private capital is fast drying up as a source of industrial development. The taxpayers must now take the risk that individuals used to. The machinery of progress is in danger of being hopelessly clogged by government red tape.

It is most timely that this tax study is being made in Oregon. Though the work of interim committees is seldom effective and almost never headed by the legislature, this particular study will be used as a guide during the 1947 session. Some of much of their time to this work. Veteran members of the assembly will insist upon adoption of the committee's findings as far as is practicable.

which Jack Kronenberg has just finished on the bluff, north of the Queen Anne cottage.

Some people do not appear to know the law in regard to capturing fawns. It is just as much a violation of the statutes to take a fawn as to kill a deer. And a doe, after its offspring has been touched by human hands, will have nothing more to do with it.

June started in with soaking rains here the first of this week and it is still cool enough to keep the furnace going.

Geo. F. Burr and family returned Tuesday evening from a week's trip to Oakland, Calif., where George spent considerable time in the Star plant watching the manufacture and assembling of this car, which is handled by the White & Burr Motor Co.

C. H. Lowery, who has owned and conducted the cleaning and pressing business, known as the City Cleaners & Tailors, for the past 18 months, sold the business Wednesday to L. C. Newman from whom he purchased it.

Mrs. Alex Sandon and four children intend leaving next Tuesday by auto for Ladysmith, Wis. They are planning to remain there for a year, but as she has not sold her place on Sanford Heights, expect to return next summer.

The following is the list of those who graduated last week from the Arago High School — Ethel Fish, Dorna Lett, Mary Root, Edythe Woodward, Christina Vetter, Edward Fredenburg and Harry Hickam.

### We Are A Nation Of Liars—Tax System

The city of San Francisco took over six lots on a tax title. The city leased these lots July 1, 1944, for \$30,000 per month. If this value is a value produced by government or society and if taken by society or government would pay every tax that is paid in the United States. The ground the Empire State building is built on was leased from the Astors (half of them in England) at nearly \$1,000,000 per year. This value is produced by government and is going to a private family which produces no part of this value and one-half of it goes to England.

Question 16. How would the taking of this value all over the U. S. affect the fear of want and why?

Let us see clearly what we mean by the above question (It does not refer to a famine where all would want.) The question means the insecurity of a job or means of making a living. To do away with this fear, we must know that a job is open to us at all times. Now let us review the condition that must obtain to make that possible.

First, there must be some way to make the job depend on ourselves or what is equivalent to the same thing.

Second, the amount of wealth must depend on ourselves and this would secure plenty or want at our own convenience.

Third, the government should have no right to take any part of the wealth produced, by the individual.

Fourth, no union, church or any other organization should have the right to take any wealth involuntarily, under any circumstance, only voluntary.

Fifth, it must be possible for people to move from place to place freely: If one climate or soil does not please the producer, it should be possible to move and not fear want.

To do away with the fear of want, land of opportunity must be accessible and this means free land. If you have to pay for land it is to that extent not accessible. It must be impossible for anyone to hold land out of use and if the site value of land were paid to the government, land would not be held unless used.

Question 17. Would it increase or decrease the cost of government and why? It would do away with all of your national tax officers and investigators. It would do away with nearly all of your state and municipal tax men. A former assessor of this county told a crowd in Barrow's office (I was one of them) that with the tax (Henry George) system here advised, he could do all the assessing in the county alone and not move out of his office. Your home would be free from any tax men whatever. What a paradise this would be!

(there is really no vice president) or presiding officer of the senate. He gets \$5,000 pay increase (\$15,000 pay as vice president, \$15,000 increase for office help and a large, fine car and chauffeur.) His brother, as postmaster in Memphis gets \$7,000, another brother as his secretary gets \$4500; Mrs. McKellar gets \$2800 as clerk of postoffice committee. He milks the government of \$44,300. If we ever needed anything in this country it is a check on government theft. Government could not get more than the site value of land which it has a moral right to take because it produces it. Let us make our government moral. —Jas. Richmond, M. D.

### Favorable Vote on State Measure Does Not Mean More Taxes

Oregon voters who will be away from home and thus unable to vote on election day in the special election Friday, June 22, may vote by absentee ballot any time up to June 17, five days prior to election, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell states.

"It has come to our attention that there are a number of conventions scheduled in Oregon during June and some of them may cause voters to be away from home on election day," Farrell said. "Voters who will not be home to vote on June 22 should obtain their absentee ballots now and cast them prior to the deadline, five days before June 22."

At the special election, voters will be asked to authorize a post-war building program for new buildings and additions at the state institutions, including institutions of higher education.

"It is important that voters understand they are not being asked to authorize collection of additional taxes in this election," Farrell said. "Oregon now has the \$10,000,000 needed to finance the building program in income tax surplus, but under the state's constitution, this money cannot be expended unless the people authorize a ten mill tax levy."

"When this tax is authorized by people, the tax commission can then apply the income tax surplus to offset the property tax which then will not be collected. The levy is a mechanical device necessary under Oregon law to authorize the expenditure of the existing surplus fund from income taxes." Farrell emphasized the fact that

the building program is one that is needed to enable over-crowded state institutions to meet demands on their facilities. In addition, it will provide sound employment projects during the post-war period.

"It Pays To Insure in Sure Insurance." See Ernest R. Smith, office Roxy Bldg. Phone 97.

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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**

General Chairman ..... George F. Burr, phone 195 or 278J

Advertising and Publicity ..... O. L. Wood, Mrs. Geo. Chaney, H. A. Young

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**CALL ON ANY OF ABOVE FOR INFORMATION AS DESIRED**