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FACING THE TAX PROBLEM

From the Oregon Public Utility Information Bureau, we learn of the probability of elaboration of the original intent of a resolution adopted at the last session of the legislature is indicated by Speaker Carkin of the house of representatives. H. R. No. 21 authorized the appointment of a Property Tax Relief commission, "with power and authority to make such investigation as the members thereof may deem necessary for the relief of the burdensome tax imposed upon real property in the hope that some plan may be formulated whereby through suggested legislation all financial requirements of our state government may be hereafter met by indirect methods of taxation, and direct levy on property for state purposes may be done away with as is done in a number of other states."

Speaker Carkin now proposes to go beyond the appointment of a committee of five originally contemplated, and include in the personnel of the committee as many as twenty citizens of the state for the purpose of probing into the whole scheme of state taxation, and giving representation to such major interests as agriculture, industry, banks, public utilities, lumbering, livestock, horticulture and mercantile pursuits. The enlarged committee would be requested to survey the needs of the state and to study possible economies with the object of reducing expenditures where practicable.

While the people have rejected the tax proposals submitted by the last legislature, the problem that confronts the state has not been solved, and it is anticipated that a representative group may agree upon plans that will be satisfactory to a majority of the people and that will attract support from the next legislature. It has been pointed out that in California no direct property tax is levied for state purposes, and it is admitted that in Oregon some classes of intangibles still escapes taxation.

Emphasizing the fact that there is now no adequate program of health education in high school and no great manifestation of interest in the subject, Mrs. Edna Watson Bailey, Ph. D., associate director of practice teaching in the University of California, urges health associations to give their attention to helping to build into the community a demand for a high school program which will concern itself with the welfare of boys and girls from the standpoint of health and happiness. It is the school's responsibility, Dr. Bailey stated, to develop this program. The health worker's part of the job lies in creating the sentiment which will force the school to recognize and accept the responsibility. It is in the high school that the greatest opportunity for health education exists, in the opinion of Dr. Bailey. It is a three-fold opportunity; first, the personal health development of the high school student; second, the long range influence on those who are to be the teachers and parents a few years from now; and third, the citizenship aspect and the creating of a community health consciousness.

The "Dole disaster" was participated in by aviators who, perhaps lured by the adventure of the Pacific flight and the \$35,000 prize money, nevertheless took the chance of disaster at sea, which has seized three of the planes, and doubtless the lives of six men and one woman. Four planes have reached the Islands in safety in flights from the mainland, and a fifth crumpled up on an Island without an ounce of gasoline left. Isn't the experience enough to satisfy those in charge of flight tests that land planes as now constructed, are deficient to lift and carry with safety the enormous gasoline weight necessary for long distance cross-ocean flights?

The latest crop estimate places the wheat yield of Oregon at about 23,000,000 bushels and of the three states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho at 100,000,000 bushels. The estimate for all of North America is 1,190,000,000, which is 58,000,000 bushels less than the yield of 1296. For Europe, except Russia, 1,277,000,000 bushels, against 1,211,000,000 last year; in North Africa 88,000,000 against 90,000,000 in 1926, and in Asia 368,000,000, against 369,000,000 last year.

An Oregon editor says that in making their own wheels go round, the railroads influence the wheels of all other industry.

An industrial item says, "Last section of Klamath Falls highway oiled

to Keno." Well, back in the early '90's we used to play keno with "Doc" O'Hara at Weston, and we never used oil in the game over there; "Kees' Best" was the lubricant at that time.

One reason why only the rich may enjoy cherry pie is found in the fact that one Lambert cherry tree at Hood River, paid its owner \$157.50 this year; and the tree had never been branded with the Washington hatchet, either.

The announcement from Oregon City that Portland Electric car lines are laying new track, naturally leads up to the question as to what is the matter with the auto stage service down there?

It's all over between Chaplin and Lita Grey Chaplin. The comedian traded \$825,000 and permanent custody of his two sons to his wife for an interlocutory decree of divorce, in a California court.

British buyers chased over to the Chase hop yards near Eugene and bought 20,000 pounds of hops at 19 cents. Canada will use the hops and American tourists will drink the beer.

Wallowa county doubtless feels kindly toward old Umatilla. Our game farm sent 'em 300 young Mongolian pheasants the other day.

Southern Oregon may have the tin, but Eastern Oregon has the wheat, take your choice.

Moslem Pilgrim Rites

Pious Moslems who make the pilgrimage to Mecca go seven times round the Kaaba, or tomb of the prophet, reciting prayers and reverently kissing the Black Stone. They then proceed to the sacred spring of Zem-Zem, which is said to be the fountain Jehovah opened in the desert for Hagar and Ishmael. There each pilgrim dips into the water two white shirts held together by strings (no pins are permitted for that purpose). These garments must be dried in the court of the mosque, and afterward are laid aside as the burial clothes of their owners. According to tradition a shroud that has been soaked in the water of Zem-Zem will protect its wearer against the fiery heat of the Last Judgment.

Ships and Tonnage

Tonnage of a ship refers not to its weight, as is often supposed, but to its carrying capacity. The term originated in the time of King Henry VII of England, who introduced one of the first navigation acts of its kind in which the importation of Bordeaux wine in any vessels except those owned by the lieges was forbidden. The liquor was carried in huge barrels called tuns, and, since then, the cargo capacity of a ship has been measured by tonnage or tonnage, the modern term. In connection with war vessels, however, the word refers to the weight of water they displace, or their displacement tonnage, the common way of describing the weight of other ships.

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His Own Religion

I often wonder at religious men, they have such varying ideas on the subject. I was talking lately with a prominent man—one whose name is really a household word—and he said: "I was brought up in a religious family. I have chosen to accept religion in my own way, but never bother others with it. I have no desire to convert the world, I wouldn't give a d—n to convert anybody tomorrow."

"Jingoism"

Jingo is supposed to be derived from the mountain soldiers of Basque, who were employed by Edward I in Wales. The common oath of these Basque soldiers was "by Jaiako." The modern use of Jingo really dates from McBurnett's music hall song of 1878, when war with Russia was threatening Great Britain. The first line of the song ran: "We don't want to fight, but by jingo, if we do."

Oxygen in Air

Normal air contains about 21 per cent of oxygen, says the United States bureau of mines. Man works best at this proportion of oxygen. A candle or oil flame will not burn in atmosphere containing less than approximately 16 1/2 per cent oxygen, yet man fairly well in 17 per cent of oxygen. He will breathe a little faster and a little deeper. But most men cannot work in air with oxygen below 13 per cent, the point where an acetylene flame is extinguished by oxygen deficiency. In an atmosphere containing between 10 and 13 per cent oxygen, men become dizzy, pant, have a rapid heart beat, and often suffer from headache; 8 to 10 per cent usually produces unconsciousness and ultimately death.

Trollope's Cigars

Lord Birkenhead recently boasted a lifelong devotion to cigar smoking, but he can hardly claim to have given more thought and time to his hobby than did Anthony Trollope, remarks the Manchester Guardian. Trollope, as soon as his income was large enough to stand the expense, had one entire wall of his library equipped with air-tight little bins fitted with sliding doors and numbered. These he kept filled with choice cigars, laid across and across like planks of timber, to get thoroughly seasoned. True to the Trollope tradition, he worked through the bins in methodical fashion, refilling each as it was emptied with special imports from Havana. Thus, he declared, he attained the most perfect smokes in the world.

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