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Athena, Oregon, Decmeber 16, 1927

DUE TO INDIFFERENCE

Extravagance in government is due from indifference arising from a common belief that the "other fellow" pays for it, according to Professor William B. Munro, of Harvard University. Professor Munro declares that this belief is false, and that the burden of taxation falls upon everyone, rich and poor alike.

"Everyone who buys merchandise pays taxes," says Professor Munro. "The retail merchant passes his burden along to his customers in the price of his goods. So with everyone who travels on a street car, or goes to the theatre, or smokes a cigar. They all pay taxes, whether they realize it or not.

"When the gas company or telephone company raises its rates, even slightly, there is a great hue and cry with meetings of protest and fiery speeches. Every householder realizes who's who when it comes to paying gas or telephone bills. But when taxes go up, it leaves the great masses unmoved.

"Extravagance and waste bear more heavily upon the poor than on the rich. If we impress upon the public mind this single, simple economic fact we shall make democracy compatible with economy—and we can accomplish it in no other way."

TAXES OVER A BILLION

Public utilities of the United States, including steam railroads, will pay more than $1,050,000,000 in taxes this year, amounting to one-tenth of the gross receipts of all railroads, street railways, gas, electric light and power, express, telegraph and cable and telephone companies. This is a higher percentage of gross receipts than is paid by any other corporate group, while finance, banking and insurance companies come next, according to the Oregon Public Utility Bureau.

It is evident that in the privately owned public utilities the public appetite for governmental services has found a goose with a large capacity for laying golden eggs for the tax collector, but one that may easily be killed by excessive eagerness on his part.

In contrast to this volume of taxes paid by public utilities, it is estimated that the total cost of federal and state regulation is only about twelve million dollars ayear, or approximately ten cents per capita.

The mayor-elect of Newburyport, Mass., ran for the office to oppose an element that had frustrated his plans for operating a filling station at a disputed site. After the vote was canvassed he said: "The first thing I will do will be to fire the chief of the fire department. After him goes the city solicitor. He won't be fired—he'll be canned. I'm going to smoke out some of the booze joints. The only people who sell booze around here are a lot of foreigners who peddle bum stuff. Of course, you know as well as I do that it is tough to close up every one of these joints, but take it from me, if anybody is going to sell liquor in this town it will be a white man."

Grabbing the coat-tails of the two belligerent premiers of Lithuania and Poland, the League of Nations council at Geneva, have hopes of averting a war between their countries. "Tense Feeling" prevails as usual in the Balkans and the flame of warfare may burst fourth any time. Inasmuch as the present Balkan row was caused by the League when it used Vilna for a football and kicked it from Lithuania over between the Polish goal posts, it seems to be up to the League to unsnarl the tangle.

Professor Lindemann of Oxford, scientist, advances the theory that twenty years of scientific breeding and training would make apes competent to assume the responsibility of servants. In that event, the servant question would become a mere matter of selection.

While people hereabouts were content to bask in front of the cheery hearth, Portland youth was served Sunday on the slopes of Mt. Hood with gay winter sports. Some may like to play with hoary flakes of winter; but give us the good ol' summer time, every time.

Sutherlin, Oregon is progressive; a large tract of land has been leased there for robbit raising. In passing, it may be opportune to remark that there are parts of Umatilla county not under lease, where rabbits raise hell while raising themselves.

Thirty-seven years ago the writer witnessed at Lake Labish one of the Southern Pacific's greatest train wrecks, in which a passenger train crumbled down with a trestle. This year Lake Labish enters history again with the production of 500 car-loads of celery.

Nuts to crack—two twenty-five year old trees at Ashland yielded $90 worth of English walnuts this year.

With temperature seven below zero Saturday night, Athena shook hands with Old Man Winter.

MOTOR TRANSPORTATION
(The Manufacturer)

In a recent address, Mr. F. W. Robinson, Vice President of the Union Pacific System, reviewed the trend of railroad passenger traffic in recent years.

He pointed out that a number of passenger trains in service increased 17 per cent from 1921 to 1926, but that the number of passengers carried decreased eight per cent.

In 1911, the railroads carried the equivalent of each inhabitant of the United States 346 miles. In 1926 303 miles, or 12 per cent less than in 1911.

In 1926, sleeping car and parlor car revenue showed an increase of 27 per cent over 1921, but revenue from passengers in coaches decreased 26 per cent. Mr. Robinson attributes this decrease to only one cause—the automobile, public and private.

The railroads are no longer antagonistic to bus transportation, but feel that as long as the railroads are regulated by both the state and federal commissions they ought reasonably to have protection in the way of regulation of automobile busses in direct competition.

The fairness of such a regulation is recognized, said Mr. Robinson, "and is being given attention, as evidenced by the fact that some of the states in the Union (very few of them so far) are formulating regulatory laws that will gring about compensatory fees for the use of the highways. I sometimes doubt that this regulation is occasioned because of a sense of fairness to the rail carriers, but because the use of heavy trucks and busses has so impaired highways and increased the maintenance cost thot it has been necessary that charges for the use of the highways should be somewhat in proportion to the use made of them.

"Regardless of the reasons that may bring about regulation for motor busses and trucks, it is bound to come about because it is logically sound, and eminently fair."

THREE MONUMENTS TO MEN
(Morning Oregonian)

It so happened that in the one day there recently appeared three similar items of news respecting that homage which posterity pays to heroes—and by heroes, in the broader sense, one means of course men who are celebrated and remembered for their virtue if not for deeds of arms. The race turns often to the memory of its great ones, and is sustained and refreshed by the record.

One item told of the approval of a proposal presented to the Norwith city council in England for the erection of a memorial to commemorate Lincoln's ancestral association with Norwich. Another told of the visit to this country of Dr. Belisario Porras, ex-president of Panama, whose plan it is to rear a monument to Theodore Roosevelt, on that spot where the blasting of the last dikes completed the Panama canal. And the third narrated a provision in the will of James Stevens of New Jersey, born Demetrios Stathopoulous, who left $5000 for the erection of a monument to the memory of Leonidas, which is to stand in the public square in Sparta, Greece.

The emancipator, the patriot and builder, and that ancient hero who held the pass at Thermopylae—dearly remembered in lands other than their own. Greatness, of course, is truly international, and pettiness cannot long resist it. Men who have served their fellow men do not end that service when they enter the mists of death. The influence of their lives, as inspiration to the lives of others, persists beyond granite and bronze. When the three monuments shall have been leveled by the elements, in a century far in the future, the three mortals commemorated thereby shall still retain their immortality.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION
(Eugene Register)

Over in Bend the other day they voted on a $22,000 bridge bond issue, and it may be mentioned in passing that they voted overwhelmingly against it. From this the inference may be drawn that the people of Bend feel that they would rather cross the Deschutes in the old ways than to add further to their funded debt.

But it is not the intent here to discuss the attitude of the voters of the central Oregon capital toward taxation. We are struck by a statement in the Bulletin, having reference to the election. The Bulletin says: "Incidentally, it is worth noting that although the petition to the council asking for this bridge was signed by some 300 persons only 155 voted for the measure."

The right of petition is an exceedingly precious right. A great deal of blood has been shed in order to establish it, and it is altogether probable that we should willingly shed much more blood in order to preserve it if anyone should seek seriously to deprive us of it. But, in spite of all this, it is apparently that we do not value it very highly.

Someone brings along a petition and shoves it under our noses with the request that we sign it. We do not know what it is all about. The chances are very strong that we care even less. We shirk the job of reading it, and accept whatever explanation is offered as to its contents. In the end we sign it—not because we care a tinker's whoop what is petitioned for, but in order to get rid of the petition bearer. All too often, for all we know, it might be a petition to burn the church and butcher the minister.

The result in a very large number of cases, is that legislation that is initiated by petition means nothing at all in the way of popular demand. It would really be a very fine thing for all concerned if everyone would refuse to sign petitions unless he knows what they contain, is in sympathy with their purpose and wants action along the lines they suggest.

Indian Fishing Methods

The methods used by the Indians in fishing, before the advent of the white man, were quite modern. Starting from the simple device of attaching the bait to the end of a line, the progressive order of fishhooks used by the Indians seems to be as follows: (a) The gorge hook, a spike of bone or wood, sharpened at both ends and fastened at its middle to a line, a device used also for catching birds; (b) a spike set obliquely in the end of a plain shaft; (c) the plain hook; (d) the barbed hook; (e) the barbed hook combined with sinker and lure. This series does not exactly represent stages in invention; the evolution may have been effected by the habits of the different species of fish and their increasing wariness. The materials used for hooks by the Indians were wood, bone, shell, stone and copper. The Mohave employed the recurved spines of certain species of cactus, which are natural hooks.

Austrian Fowls Lack Proper Neck Covering

A peculiar breed of fowls called Naked Neck has come to this country from Austria, where it is said to have originated. The name comes from the fact that the fowls are destitute of feathers from within an inch or two back of the head down the entire length of the neck and on to the shoulders. This peculiarity of plumage is very marked, and the neck and shoulders have an unnatural appearance. They are not attractive; in fact, they are very unattractive, and the peculiar sensation to the hand when grasping the naked portion of the neck is very unpleasant. The skin of the neck is smooth, and, when exposed to the sun during the summer months, turns red and has a raw appearance, as if the blood were gathered beneath and close to the skin They are very hardy; are but seldom seen, and have been bred in Austria only as novelties.

Berlin Eye Turned on Marie's Action.

Berlin.—Newspaper speculation in Berlin on the death of the Rumanian premier, Ionel Bratiano, is largely concerned with the possibilities of Prince Carol's return and Dowager Queen Marie's course of action, with the attendant complications at home and abroad.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.
In the Matter of the Estate of G. H. Schubert, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given to all persons whom it may concern: That A. O. Schubert has been appointed administrator of the estate of G. H. Schubert, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present them, with proper vouchers to said administrator at his home near Athena, Oregon, or to Will M. Peterson and George R. Lewis, his attorneys, at their law offices in the Stangier Building, Pendleton, Oregon, within six months of the date of the first publication of this notice which is the 18th day of November, 1927.

A. O. SCHUBERT, Administrator.
Will M. Peterson, George R. Lewis Attorneys for Administrator.
N18D16

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.
In the Matter of the Estate of H. McArthur, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executrix of the last will and testament of H. McArthur, deceased, by an order of the above entitled Court.

All persons having claims against the estate of said deceased are hereby notified to present the same to me at Athena, Oregon, or to my attorneys, Watts & Prestbye, at their office in Athena, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice. All claims must be verified as by law required.

Dated at Athena, Oregon, this 18th day of November, 1927.

MANDA J. McARTHUR,
Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of H. McArthur, Deceased.
Watts & Prestbye Athena, Oregon, Attorneys for Estate. N18D16.

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Umatilla County.
In the matter of the Estate of William P. Willaby, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed her final account and report in the above entitled matter and that the above entitled Court has fixed Saturday, the 7th day of January, 1928, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock a. m. of said day, as the time, and the County Court room in the County Court house at Pendleton, Umatilla county, Oregon, as the place, for the hearing of said final account and report. Objections to said final account and report should be filed on or before that date.

Dated at Athena, Oregon, this 9th day of December, A. D. 1927.

HESTER WILLABY,
Administratrix of the Estate of William P. Willaby, Deceased. Watts & Prestbye, Athena, Oregon, Attorneys for Estate. D9J6