

The Athena Press

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
F. B. BOYD, Owner and Publisher

Subscription Rates.
One copy, one year.....\$2.00
One copy, six months.....\$1.00
One copy, three months......75

Athena, Oregon, February 10, 1928

DISCARD SHIFTY POLITICS

Advancing a solution for one phase of the tax question, one of our exchanges says: The American citizen is one of the most heavily taxed in the world. His home and property are taxed, everything he eats, drinks or does is taxed. Worse yet, if he owns a share he knows that for every dollar he receives as a dividend probably more than a dollar has been paid out in taxes. And so it goes.

There is obviously a cure for the tax evil, and it is up to the taxpayer to correct it. Our national government is conducted with a fair degree of economy—but as much cannot be said for state and municipal governments. Thousands of the citizens' dollars are wasted daily, when legislatures are in session, by debating absurd and unwanted laws. Thousands more are expended in trying to put these laws in the already bulging statute books. Bond issues are proposed, disastrous experiments in municipal ownership are tried; and the result is—a few more millions on the tax bill.

A good, well-balanced, municipal and state government, doing away with shifty politics and "red tape," combined with common sense, will come nearer than anything else to effecting tax reduction.

Tom Mix who rides back and forth across the screen for Fox at \$7500 per week, like all good movie actors has separated from the wife. Mrs. Mix asks the court for a monthly allowance of \$1500 from Mix for support of their 16 year old daughter. Based on yearly expenditure, the mother does not believe the daughter would be spoiled with \$1000 for dancing lessons; \$1000 for vocal lessons; piano lessons \$1000; clothing \$4000; groceries and milk \$1,200; rent \$2,400; tutor \$1,200. Scanning the above list, we would suggest that enough is not allowed for the item of milk.

A New Yorker says the theory upon which that state's anti-pistol legislation is based is erroneous. We do not prohibit automobiles, though they are used in committing crimes; nor pens because they are tools of the forger. The real remedy for crime lies in the courts. The Baumes laws of New York have done more to reduce crimes of violence than could be accomplished by all the anti-pistol legislation ever suggested.

Short skirts revealed the slightly bowed lower extremities of Miss Sadie Holland, a Chicago stenographer, so Sadie had a specialist perform a "beauty operation" to straighten them. Gangrene set in and the legs had to be amputated below the knees, and now the girl is fighting for her life. Abas beauty operations; be satisfied with what have you.

J. Ham Lewis who has been dropped from public print for a long time, was found critically ill the other day in an Austrian hospital at Vienna. Time was when J. Ham took up as much front page space—and as often—as is now given Mayor Baker of Portland; only George "holds" for the camera better than the former.

The first of the "big three" commanders in the World War has gone west in the death of Earl Haig, who to the British army was all that Pershing is to the American doughboy, Foch is to the French blue devils.

A carload of 24 Klamath county steers sold on the San Francisco market, brought C. J. Laird \$3954.20, or \$164.75 per head, so Mr. Laird is toying with the silver lining in the stockmen's cloud, as it were.

Uncle Sam is sick and tired of submarines, and through Secretary Kellogg offers to sign a treaty with the powers of the world, prohibiting the use of these detestible water coffins, entirely.

R. Alexander, Umatilla county pioneer merchant has fallen heir to another well merited honor. The other night at Pendleton, the Elks presented "Alex" with a life membership in the lodge.

Comes the announcement that Aimee will open a "light house" in Portland. Will be built on a four square plan, we presume.

President Coolidge's buckwheat cakes and sausage are good enough, but we knew a feller who liked buckwheat cakes and venison steak.

Never a crink in Lindy's speedometer; he's always on time.

A FIRST STEP

(Oregon Journal)

"Radical changes in rules of procedure, calculated to speed up greatly the disposition of cases on appeal before the Oregon supreme court, were announced by Chief Justice Rand Tuesday," says a Salem news dispatch. It adds:

"Beginning March 1, the court will set five cases for argument on each of four days of every week, instead of two cases per day as at present. Three of the arguments will be scheduled for the morning and two for the afternoon. Immediately following the afternoon sessions, the court will go into conference and the cases will be assigned to the justices for the preparation of opinions. With only 250 cases now on the dockets, the court expects, under the new order to keep fully abreast of the accumulation of new appeals in the future.

"Another order of the court reduces by 10 minutes the time allowed for the argument of a case and assigns to each side 30 minutes for argument.

"Still another rule adopted will limit attendance upon the Pendleton term of court to one department, comprising the chief justice and three associates, the other department remaining in Salem to hear arguments. In the event of a case from Eastern Oregon requiring the attention of the entire court, arguments will be heard in Salem."

The high court is entitled to credit for this first step in bringing the business of courts in Oregon out of confusion into order. Judges in the lower courts of the state may well take notice of this disposition in the supreme court to speed up justice.

It is the power of the courts to exercise more influence than any other agency in putting a check on the rising and costly tide of crime. Every layman knows that the absurdities permitted by the judges, high and low, in allowing quibbles and technicalities to delay trials and judgements have gone to unreasonable and inexcusable limits. The crooks know it even better, and regularly count on escape from the penalties of their crime from the fact that "the administration of the criminal law in the United States is a disgrace to our civilization," as former President Taft has repeatedly said.

The Oregon supreme court has a great deal of power that it can exert to make judgments under the law quick and sure. This is well known and quietly said by many judges in the lower courts who are not willing to make the statement openly through fear of reprisals in the higher court. They know, and many laymen know, that long-winded opinions in the supreme court are a fruitful source through which much time and energy are lost in the body.

Everybody knows that something has to be done and done soon to combat the intolerable crime carnival now running riot in America and rapidly growing worse. The crooks will go just as far as the courts and officials and people will permit them to go. They have no more respect for law and order and society of human life than a hyena has for a wounded robin. They are the gray wolves of life, and the kidnaping and slaughter of little girls has become the pastime of some of them.

The Strangler was a beast unspeakable, and an example of the limits to which the jackals of society are going. In a Los Angeles court there is the great farce of insanity pleaded as the reason for Hickman. In a

Michigan prison sell is Hotelling, a church elder, and in her grave is his little 5-year-old victim.

The reason for the Strangler and Hickman and Hotelling are in part the quibbles, the nonsense, the dodging, the dawdling of American courts in dealing with the brutes and beasts who flock to this country from all over the world to carry on because "the administration of the criminal law in the United States is a disgrace to our civilization," as was said by Howard Taft, former president, now chief justice of the United States supreme court.

BOUNDARY DISPUTE

(Morning Oregonian)

There was an allusion in the "Twenty-five Years Ago" nook on this page recently to approval by the senate of the treaty providing for a commission to settle the Alaskan boundary issue, on the heels of which follows a news dispatch saying that Canada now wants to reopen the question. The incident is a reminder that boundaries always have been, as they perhaps always will be, prime causes of international negotiation.

This was pointedly illustrated when the treaty of 1846 between the United States and Great Britain unwittingly left the Oregon question partly unsolved. The dispute over San Juan island brought about the appointment a full quarter century later of a joint high commission, of which Oregon's distinguished citizen, George H. Williams, was a member, by which it was referred to the emperor of Germany as arbitrator. More than twenty-six years passed between the signing of the treaty of Washington and final adjustment of matters on Puget sound. In point of elapsed time, and in some other respects, there are analogies between that situation and this.

The contour of the famous Alaska panhandle peculiarly lends itself to dispute. When discussion arose in the early years of this century, a commission consisting of three Americans, two Canadians and one Englishman was appointed, and in the settlement the Americans and the Englishman constituted the determining majority. The literal reading of the Russian treaty ceding Alaska was followed, it providing that the line should begin at the intersection of the Portland canal and the 56th parallel of latitude, and "proceed along the summits of the mountains" to the 141st meridian of longitude, except when the summits were more than ten marine leagues from the sea. In the latter contingency the line was fixed at ten leagues inland and parallel to the coast.

But the mountains were jagged and so is the littoral. What in Scandinavia would be called "fords abound." The ridge of the mountains is irregular. Canada holds that the line should extend from peak to peak, which in several places would make it extend across the heads of the inlets. Canada at present, by reason of the zigzag character of the parallel ten-league line, has no outlet to the ocean north of the Portland canal. Seaports, of course, are the crux of Canadian desire.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. In the matter of the Estate of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the last will and testament of Martha J. Shick, deceased, by an order of the above entitled Court. All persons having claims against the said estate 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 13th day of January, 1928.

ARTHUR E. SHICK, Executor of the Last Will and Testament of Martha J. Shick, Deceased.
Watts & Prestbye Attorneys for Estate, Athena, Oregon. J13F10

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