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Athena, Oregon, June 5, 1931

REDUCING TAXES

Throughout the nation the tax burden is beginning to crack by virtue of striking directly at the heads of the tax-producing causes in state, county, city and town government. Despite open criticism, Oregon's governor is taking a recognized lead among state executives of the commonwealth in a consistent battle for tax reduction. And he is getting results. His demand that university and college budgets be slashed a million and a half dollars has been followed by the demand of the board of higher education that the University and State College get together in conformity with findings of the federal survey and untangle the duplication of study courses which has cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars and is wholly unnecessary. State departments are coming in for a general house cleaning and the taxpayer welcomes the cleaning up process. The existence of the greatest depression the nation has ever faced demands that every decrease possible be made to lessen the tax burden, the present rate of which is so high that farm lands are unable to meet it and homes are drifting into the delinquent list. In many instances local taxes are higher and are a greater drain on the taxpayer property owner than are his county and state tax. The municipal tax rate can be lowered by decrease in improvements and perhaps to some extent in current overhead expense and this is generally being done in the average small town as well as in the cities, with gratifying results. But the problem of lowering cost of maintaining the public school system so that the taxpayer may receive relief from this top-heavy portion of his budget is not so easily solved. The rule of reason justifies the claim of the taxpayer that the public school tax is out of proportion when compared with other taxes. The salaries paid teachers remain nearer the war period scale than are the wages or earnings of any other profession or remuneration from ordinary business endeavor. When it is known that farmers, laborers and small business men have been facing a 25 to 75 per cent income reduction in the last eighteen months, it is only fair to assume that the public school system is not so constituted as to be in a favored class, but that it is subject to tax-pruning in like proportion to other tax creating agencies.

The claims of Roseburg as the logical site for soldiers' home is and should be generally respected throughout the state of Oregon. No other community, out of fairness to the endeavor and straight forward integrity with which Roseburg initiated and has carried on the movement to secure the home, should for one moment be in the least recognized in the light of superior location for the institution. Apparently, the matter of railway facilities has been injected into the choice of location by Eugene, a late candidate for the site after everybody else had settled back in contented belief that Roseburg had won what was rightfully coming to her. One reflects that Roseburg's railway connections are ample enough to satisfy any traffic condition that may arise through establishing the home there. Since when has it become the practice to resort to excursion trains to accommodate patients and inmates to and from government hospitalization points?

Some idea of what a North Dakota tornado can do when it is twisting things up is revealed in the experience of passengers and trainmen, when the Great Northern's crack limited Empire Builder, was caught speeding along at a clip of 50 miles per hour. Every one of the twelve heavy steel coaches of the train was lifted from the track and deposited on their sides along the right of way. The heavy locomotive remained on the rails, as did the tender, with its broken coupling when the first coach was twisted away from it. Fortunately but one death resulted—that of a man who was hurled from the storm-tossed train through a coach window.

A total of over 5000 cars of corn are now shipped into the northwest annually. These cars hold approximately 40 tons each or a total of 200,000 tons valued at about \$8,000,000. The largest portion of this supply is from the corn belt of the mid-west. Portland received 1374 cars last year. In addition to the supply received from the midwestern states, Argentina averages about 500 cars a year to the northwestern markets. The increase of corn acreage in Oregon since 1920 has been from 70,

000 to 100,000 acres—and still more room for corn.

Scheduling league baseball games seems to have advanced to the point where it has become an art. Anyway, the novelty of breaking up teams that are tied in number of games won and lost in the second division and playing them against teams tied in the first division, is more satisfactory than "pulling straws" to decide which teams shall participate in the championship game. As a matter of correct and impartial procedure, however, why not play the teams tied in their respective brackets, the two winners to play the championship game?

Hog cholera which means tremendous loss wherever allowed to run, will never again be a problem in Oregon if growers and feeders use proper precautions. No purchases should be made from diseased herds and no uncooked pork products should be fed. Most outbreaks in this state are started from these sources or from water-borne infection. Vaccination is now practically 100 per cent perfect and can always be used if there is danger from nearby infection, states Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian.

The Farmers National Grain Association during the latter part of last week sold 16,000 tons of wheat, and 14,000 tons the week before to the Orient which has developed into a good market for American surplus wheat. Indications for the future from this source are now fair. Prices of Pacific coast wheat are 3 to 4 cents high for sales to the United Kingdom. Australia's acreage is 30 percent less this year than last, and Russia's seeding is behind according to crop reports.

It may be a surprise to many of bossy's friends to learn that here in Uncle Sam's domain dotted with dairies, we bought from Italy and consumed 30,000,000 pounds of hard cheese and almost 2,000,000 pounds of soft cheese last year.

The Oregon Turkey Growers Co-operative finds that federal inspection and grading of turkeys is profitable. Over \$200,000 worth of Oregon dressed birds graded and packed according to weight were marketed by this organization last year.

Reports of a severe condition of drouth in central Oregon in the locality between the Cascades and Blue Mountains indicate near crop failure. The greatest drouth severity is along the small streams in the irrigated sections.

Professor Piccard and his companion, Charles Kipper, are not to be considered in the class of highbrows just because they happened to look down on us from a height of some 52,000 feet.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING
Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of School District No. 29 of Umatilla County, State of Oregon, that the annual school meeting of said District will be held at District School House; to begin at the hour of two o'clock, afternoon on the third Monday of June, being the fifteenth day of June, A. D. 1931.
This meeting is called for the purpose of electing one Director and one Clerk and the transaction of business usual at such meeting.
Dated this 21st day of May, 1931.
Attest: J. F. KERSHAW,
District Clerk.
LENNA C. READ,
Chairman Board of Directors.

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as administratrix of the estate of Reed Hill, deceased, has filed her final account and report in said estate with the Clerk of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County; and that the Judge thereof has fixed Saturday, the 20th day of June, 1931, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m., as the time, and the County Court room in the courthouse at Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon, as the place for the hearing of objections to such final account and the settlement thereof.
MARY I. HILL,
Administratrix of the estate of Reed Hill, Deceased.
M22J19
Raley, Raley & Warner, John F. Kilkenny, Alfred F. Cunha, Attorneys for Admx., Pendleton, Oregon.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County. In the Matter of the Estate of Sarah J. Harden, Deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed executrix of the last will and testament of Sarah J. Harden, deceased, by 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 (6) 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 8th day of May 1931.
MARY McKAY, and
Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of Sarah J. Harden, Deceased.
Watts & Prestbye, Athena, Oregon, Attorneys for Estate. MS 35

22 Years Ago

Friday, June 11, 1909

The contract for boring an artesian well on the Athena Land & Trust company's tract has been drawn and forwarded to La Grande, for the signature of Miller & West, a firm of well drillers who for several years have been in the employ of the O. R. & N. Co. S. F. Wilson, secretary of the Athena Land & Trust company, informs the Press that work on the well will begin within 15 days. The contract specifies that Miller & West are to receive \$5 per foot for boring the well and the depth is limited to 1000 feet.

One of the features which claimed interested attention at the Caledonian picnic, was "Jinks" Taylor's band of Indian broncho busters. Fine exhibitions of horsemanship were given on both days of the picnic, among the best riders being a couple of white boys.

Abe Jones visited relatives in Athena yesterday.

Attorney Wilson went to Pendleton yesterday on legal business.

Dr. Plamondon and Will Pinkerton spent yesterday on Meacham Creek.

Pastor Harris, Mr. Young and Jas. Foss are rustication on the river this week.

Mrs. Fred Baddeley visited her mother in this city from Walla Walla this week.

The Shafers and Harpers of Waitsburg, coming down by auto, were guests at the M. L. Watts home during the picnic.

Milton's Strawberry day and horse show was a success in every particular. It was estimated 6000 people

were entertained by Milton Tuesday. The program was carried out in detail.

Miss Lula Sharp was a guest of her cousin, Mrs. Dean Gerking, at their new home near Milton this week.

Fishing parties report success in angling in the waters of Meacham creek and small streams. Some fine catches have been made.

George Rosenzweig returned to his home near Eltopia, Wash., Monday. George took with him a fine lot of trout which he enticed from the riffles of Meacham creek.

Mrs. Alma Wilkenson will leave the first of next week to spend the summer on her ranch at Buhl, Idaho, where her son, Craig is now situated. She will be absent about two months and will visit her brother, O. G. Chamberlain during her stay there.

Mrs. Walter Ely visited friends in Athena this week. She has been in Weston since the Normal commencement week, having attended the alumni meetings. Mrs. Ely will visit her mother in Pendleton a couple of weeks before returning to her home at Boise.

Among the guests from a distance who enjoyed the Caledonian picnic, were Mrs. N. A. Jacobs of Portland, and Mrs. Mary Simard, who resides near the state line. The two ladies visited old friends here, Mrs. Jacobs enjoying the renewal of many old-time friendships.

Word has been received by Mrs. C. A. Barret announcing the death of Mrs. A. R. Bradley, at her home in Omaha, June 7. Mrs. Bradley's health had been declining for some time and a trip to California did her no material good. The deceased was a member of the local Circle and leaves many friends here.

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