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Athena, Oregon, August 7, 1931

In view of the fact that about 77 per cent of the nation's annual food budget is spent for perishables, valued at more than 16 billion dollars, the new quick-freezing process recently perfected by Clarence Birdseye, scientist and inventor, assumes considerable economic and social significance. By "freezing" foods at extremely low temperatures, the new method of food processing is being successfully used in freezing meats, seafoods, poultry, vegetables and fruits so that they become virtually imperishable while kept in a hard-frozen state, holding their original fresh flavor and appearance for months.

Noting the fact that the Florida State Senate voted in favor of an eight-cent gasoline tax, shows the length to which politicians will go in their endeavor to extract money by special taxation from one class of people or industry. One of our exchanges pertinently observes: "The gasoline tax has always been tolerated by automobile users because it was the most practical measure to get funds with which to build roads. Florida again illustrated the old story of working a willing horse to death. An eight-cent gas tax would make it an absolute hardship for most people to drive an automobile."

With a deficit of \$903,000,000 and an increase in the outstanding public debt of \$616,000,000, the Federal Government, on June 30, ended what the New York Times calls its most unfavorable fiscal year in recent history. The government, of course, is in an absolutely sound position, but higher taxes are inevitable unless drastic economies are effected. Depressed business conditions were directly responsible for the \$861,000,000 drop in revenue. The blame for the attendant increase of \$226,000,000 in governmental expense will probably be hurled from shoulder to shoulder until forgotten.

It might be said that the money we spend for roads gives us a better return than almost any other form of government tax expenditures. Quick and economical transport, of goods and persons, is vital to social and economic progress. Particularly is this true of those rural areas where roads have been in essentially the same state of unimprovement since the horse-and-wagon days. Only by building inexpensive, but good roads, can farming sections be given a place in the march forward.

Hijackers have turned their attention to milk trucks down at Portland since the war between the dairymen and the city milk distributors. The same direct methods that are employed by booze hijackers are worked, save and except no one has yet been "put on the spot." In one day, Saturday, 21,875 gallons of milk had been dumped into streams and roadside ditches by exasperated farmers who held up trucks on the highways, and one milk house was "pineappled."

Capone has won round two. He has been permitted to change his plea to not guilty. The Chicago bandit then instructs his counsel to give notice that he will ask for a change of venue from Judge Wilkerson's court on plea of prejudice and he'll get that, too. Then the tussle will be to convict him and it's dollars to doughnuts that they will have a heck of a time doing that, too.

Bill Hanley should make good as a member of the state highway commission. Anyway, it is reasonable to expect some of the Harney county cow trails will be graded into automobile highways. Bill lives in Harney county. He is the only stockman on the commission.

Twenty-two tons of horseshoes are a lot of horseshoes to be received in one shipment at Portland in these days of the automobile, but maybe they will be resold to champion horse-shoe pitchers.

The cows of a Coquille farmer have for their playmate a full grown deer, so he reports. A photograph of this unusual animal association wouldn't look out of place in Ripley's "Believe it or Not."

The Wickersham report brands the police system of the country with general failure. We have long suspected that it needed a brand of some sort; so that it could be identified when needed.

To those who have caught sunfish with banded pin hook and O. N. T.

spool cotton line, news of the taking of a 1900-pound sunfish in the Atlantic ocean is, as a matter of fact, news.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kerns of Fairmont, W. V., have seven sons bearing the names Chester, Lester, Vester, Wester, Nester, Kester and Fester. Why not name the next one Jester?

The Lindberghs are off on their vacation airplane trip to the Orient. What is to hinder them from hopping back home from Tokyo directly across the Pacific? Nothing.

DOG PROTECTS INFANT
 By Nell McEwen
 (First prize story in "Wild Life Lines," Sunday Oregonian.)

We live on a wheat farm in Poplar Springs canyon. About three years ago, when Jimmy, my youngest boy, was 18 months old, we had a big police dog, Dolph, who was little Jimmy's playmate. They would run away every chance they had—that is, Jimmy would, with the dog following him. But the two never got farther than out of sight around the nearest bend before we found them, until one day when all of the elders were extremely busy they took the long trail. The supper bell was ringing for the farmhands when I missed the runaways. A quick search in all the nearby places failed to discover my boy. I was frantic. By this time everybody was running helter-skelter and calling anxiously. Only echoes from the distant Eastern Oregon hills answered our frightened prayers.

With my heart in my throat I raced madly down the creek, which winds through the canyon. Twilight shadows were falling, and I was in despair when, in response to my faint shouts, there came the sound of a dog barking.

I tried to dash in the direction of the barks, but my legs wobbled. Instead I seemed to crawl. Maybe Jimmy was drowned! Or what if a rattlesnake had bitten him! Or he might have fallen over a steep bluff that dropped in the canyon to a lower level!

One last faltering step and I was around a clump of brush that hid my son and the dog. There was Jimmy, hung up on a barbed-wire fence he had tried to climb, and good old Dolph was sitting on his haunches as close as he could get to him to give him the comfort of companionship.

Let me add one more bit to this story. Jimmy's coveralls were torn in many places where the dog had tugged at him trying to get his playmate loose!

WHY DISARMAMENT?
 President Hoover in his "Federal Budget at a Glance" gave the public a summary of our national expenditures. His statement showed that approximately 72 cents of every dollar to be spent by the Federal Government during the next fiscal year must go to pay for past wars and preparedness for any that may occur in the future. In relation to the President's statement, the National Council for Prevention of War gives the following information:

The cost of a modern battleship is roughly \$40,000,000—perhaps a little more exactly \$37,000,000 or \$38,000,000. The McKinley High School in Washington, finished September, 1928, cost \$2,022,301.91. Therefore, the cost of a modern battleship would build nineteen or twenty of these up-to-date city high schools.

The aircraft carrier that is now being built is estimated to cost \$19,000,000, with armor and armament. The 10,000-ton cruisers now building are to cost \$17,000,000. The destroyers authorized in the last session of Congress cost \$4,700,000 each. The new aircraft carrier proposed in the bill which failed of action at the last Congress was to cost \$27,500,000. It is interesting to compare these with the endowments of several great universities, as listed in the World Almanac for 1928. The endowment of Princeton University is exactly the amount which one of the new 10,000-ton cruisers will cost. Radcliffe College would not quite pay for the new submarine. The endowment of Smith College is just about enough to cover a destroyer. Duke University would just build the proposed new aircraft carrier. Chicago University would just build a modern battleship, or two of the aircraft carriers now building. The endowment of Yale University is two million dollars short of the cost of the 11 destroyers appropriated for in the last Congress. The endowment of Columbia University would not be sufficient to build a modern battleship and one of the proposed new aircraft carriers. The endowment of Harvard the most richly endowed university, is just enough to have paid for the 58-inch gun cruisers which have been completed within the last year.

According to Dr. Abraham Flexner, internationally renowned educational authority, in a letter to the New York Times, the endowment of all the privately endowed institutions of higher learning in the United States is less than \$815,000,000. This is only about \$100,000,000 more than the expenditure for national defense during the year 1928.

22 Years Ago

Friday, August 13, 1909
 Smut was the cause of an explosion and fire which destroyed the stationary threshing outfit owned by Marion Jack, Tuesday morning. The accident occurred about 11 o'clock on a farm about a mile south of Adams and everything but the engine was burned. The machine was insured.

A Yakima Indian named Lowe, was killed on the Pambrun hill south of town Wednesday forenoon, when the wagon brake did not hold and the team he was driving got beyond control. The Indian was driving four horses to a load of wheat, which he was hauling for Dave Bonifer.

R. M. O'Brien came up from Pendleton yesterday.

Ross Moloney was a visitor to McDougal camp, Sunday.

Will Ferguson will have about a week's run yet before he finishes harvesting.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry McBride returned from a visit with relatives near Meacham, Saturday evening.

A number of Athena Odd Fellows attended the funeral of M. J. Cockerline, at Weston, Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. B. D. Tharp and family and Mrs. Barbara Willaby and daughter attended the circus in Walla Walla yesterday.

Master Raymond Harris returned to his home at Dayton, Wash., after a two weeks visit with his brother Ellis B. Harris.

Hugh McIntyre left yesterday for a trip to Grant county. His family will enjoy an outing in the mountains during his absence.

Constable Keen overhauled C. V. Spencer, a young man who was making a get-away without liquidating his obligations, yesterday. Spencer was at Helix, where he was to take the train for the East, yesterday.

G. B. Kidder assisted his family in preserving a generous share of the huckleberry crop in the mountains, Monday and Tuesday.

P. L. Fountain, a brother of Mrs. F. M. Mansfield, spent a couple of days this week in Athena. Mr. Fountain is a prosperous real estate dealer of Klamath Falls.

Dr. Joseph Baddeley, veterinary surgeon, finds his professional services much in demand. At the present time there seems to be a great deal of sickness among horses.

There was a pleasant reunion at the O. R. & N. station in this city Saturday, when Samuel Potts of Minneapolis, and Ed Potts, brothers, met for the first time in 25 years. The brother from Minneapolis was accompanied by his wife and came to the coast to visit the Seattle fair, some weeks ago.

Mr. West, of the firm of Miller & West, who have the contract for boring the artesian well for the Athena Land & Trust company, arrived in the city Wednesday from La Grande, where he has been supervising drilling with one of the company's outfits. In one of the wells near La Grande, Mr. West struck a flow of water at a depth of 158 feet.

Kohler Betts' fifth birthday was appropriately observed at McDougal camp. Twenty-four playmates assembled, playing games, and feasted on a splendid collation of edibles.

Miss Leta Edington came up from Corvallis Saturday, and is the guest

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of her aunt, Mrs. W. R. Taylor near town. Miss Edington is a student at O. A. C. and will finish at that institution next year.

Herbert Parker, of this city, one of the youngest barbers in the state, is employed in a Pendleton shop at present.

James Bell claims the record for one day's run with a steam threshing outfit in this vicinity. For one day a total of 1602 sacks of wheat were threshed. Three headers were used in getting the grain to the machine.

George Dunlap will have a sale at the T. J. Kirk place in this city, Saturday August 28, at 10:30 a. m., at which he will dispose of his stock, farm implements and household goods. Free lunch will be served at noon.

Steel casing to the amount of 260 feet, arrived Wednesday, and work is again progressing at the artesian well. It is believed by the drill operators that hereafter the work will not be interfered with on account of black sand.

C. A. Barrett who was a delegate to the National Irrigation Congress at Spokane returned home Wednesday evening. Mr. Barrett says the Congress was well attended. Oregon was represented by a larger delegation than any other state.

Passenger traffic on the main line of the O. R. & N. has increased to such an extent that a third overland train each way, daily, has been added. The present arrangement is in accordance with recommendations of traveling passenger agent O'Neil.

The local wheat market lopped off another cent today, the price quoted being one cent lower than yesterday's quotations. About 100,000 bushels have been sold in Athena since the market opened two weeks ago. A good portion of the sales went at 80 cents and upward.

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Editorial
 Don't blame a successful man for bragging a bit—no one with a good catch of fish ever goes home by way of the back alley.
 A. M. Johnson, Editor

Those who fail to take advantage of the present low prices of building materials and repair and repaint their homes are much like the man who went to the Sahara Desert to get rocks to build a rock garden in the Rocky Mountains.

A house that cost \$3,000 to build two years ago can now be built for about \$2,250. Some saving, eh what?
 A young Swede appeared at the court house and asked for a license.
 "What kind of a license?" asked the clerk, "a hunting license?"
 "No," was the answer. "Aye tank aye bane hunting long enough. Aye want a marriage license."
 The hunting season isn't far

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