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DEBT IS DANGEROUS

Of a recent date the Seattle Times editorialized in praise of the state of Washington's ability to raise almost unlimited sums in the form of taxes. It said, in part, that the state had collected in the last biennium \$66,536,244 and that in this biennium it would collect an estimated \$101,800,000.

It is all very well for Washingtonians to boast of their state's tax collecting ability. As for Oregon, which is often criticized for being backward, it shows no such tendency. Year after year, biennium after biennium, its public expenditures are kept fairly low. It is now taxed less per capita than the average and its public debt is less per capita than the national average.

This is in spite of the fact it issued bonds for its highways, its veterans and its irrigation interest payments and that its towns issued bonds to pay for sundry "improvements" under federal donation acts.

Across the Columbia it may be considered proper for government to take all it can get from the people; over here it is not so popular. The next depression, some time before 1945 is ended, will decide which is proper.

WELL CLUBBED

Comment was made in conversation a day or so ago about the number of organizations, governmental and social, in this country. A preliminary survey indicates that there are nearly hundred including 20 school districts, at least 8 lodges with auxiliary lodges and past master's clubs, granges women's clubs, service clubs and at best count 13 bridge clubs. To administer the school children of the county there are 23 groups, mostly official, and, if truth be known, mostly unnecessary. Of government we have the usual quantity, county and town. There are associations for library, for riding, for book reading, for health, for civic improvement for speaking, for parent-teachers for women and last, but not least for bridge. The almost instantaneously compiled list included 88 organizations of one sort or another.

If the average of officers is five this means that every fifth person one meets is an officer in something or other; and everyone is a member of several organizations. On must be careful of his statements as in a much intermarried community.

Now, no doubt, there is a need for most of these organizations else they wouldn't have been established. A majority of them are women's groups which may mean that the women of the county have more leisure for social affairs or have more need for relaxation from their duties.

With few possible exceptions the men have no social organization at all that hasn't been partially pre-empted by the women. That is, naturally, their own fault for if the men prefer to obtain their social contacts whittling on the street corner, they may. Or there might be room for another club.

SPENDING

On our desk is a compilation of national income by counties. It divides the rural from the urban and shows the amount spent in 1940 in retail stores of the nation.

The average amount spent by rural persons is nearly \$169 per year (in this case rural means towns under 10,000). The amount spent in Sherman county is \$270 per year. A peculiarity exists as far as this county is concerned for we are given credit for \$625,000 spent in this county, whereas our actual expenditures are much greater. This is but a third of our income and of it a third may go to debt retirement, interest, taxes, etc., and a third is spent in other places, and a third at home.

Some other Oregon counties have larger at home expenditures but these are usually aided by in-

come from tourists or are trading points for a wide area outside their boundaries. Many southern counties have an average per capita of less than \$60. This is but another illustration of the fact that residents of this county have a much higher standard of living than the average and, in reality, a standard seldom surpassed anywhere, even in the fortunate United States.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

A little booklet has found its way to the office desk. Its title is "You Can Defend America." Responsibility for its dissemination is the Moral Re-Armament group. It begins like this, "Once China built a wall. She lived behind it. She laughed at her enemies. She felt secure.

"Soon an invader came from the north. Three times China found the enemy inside her gates. They did not storm the wall. They did not go around it. They simply bribed the gate-keeper.

"Yesterday France built a wall. The Maginot line. Steel and stone. She felt secure behind it. She put her faith in it. Yet France fell. Why?

"Something was missing. There was a gap through which an invader came. The gap was not only in the wall. It was in the spirit of the people.

The Moral Re-Armament group have been preaching for years that our age is spiritually lacking, that it needs a new faith. The booklet quotes William Penn, who said, "Men must be governed by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants."

Of national defense, "America needs guts as well as guns. National character is the core of national defense. Congress can't vote it. Dollars won't buy it. It's our job to build it."

And how; "But America has already been invaded. Like paratroopers in the night, fear, hate and greed have slipped into our homes, our industries, our communities. Like termites they are eating away our national character.

"The fight is on. The fight against our softness, graft, laziness, extravagance, buck passing, materialism—allies of the Fifth Column. The battle line runs through every home, every office, every factory, every farm.

"It is a daily battle. It takes courage. Imagination. You've got to be tough inside. You've got to think hard and live clean."

It is much like Churchill's speech to the English when he warned them: there would be "blood and sweat and tears in their future."

We in America are likely to cast such a warning aside as idle talk for our ambitions are largely on the material side and not the spiritual. But the nations we admire, the people we speak of with respect are those who have proven themselves courageous and determined in conflict. No one can gainsay that the Jugoslavs and Greeks have risen in American esteem in recent months. We admire them because they are tough and hard and willing to sacrifice for their ideals of government and we often speak ill of the French because they were not.

It is time for us to ask ourselves what we want our position to be—the leaders of the world because of our moral force or the great nation that disintegrated because of the same materialism that caused the fall of Rome.

La Other Days

From the Observer April 25, 1942 Carl Peetz, W. E. Hines and Dave Biggerstaff have each purchased a new buggy for their summer riding.

J. P. McNery was in the county looking after his farming interests last week.

Moro Base Ball boys uniforms presented to them by J. O. Elrod and L. K. Moore are due to arrive this week from Chicago.

Robert Hickson found time on the 21st to visit his home in this city, returning the same day to resume work with the C. S. Ry surveying crew.

From the Observer May 3, 1942 Miss Jeanette Rutledge is now at home and Frances is having a vacation, but will be here to sing at the concert tomorrow evening.

J. A. Rasmussen was able to come to town Saturday with Mrs. R. and daughter. He had quite a spell of sickness.

The O. W. R. N. Co. is putting in stock yards at Kent. D. W. Wade of the P. C. E. Co., at Wasco, loaded out the last car of wheat Wednesday to leave this city this season.

From the Observer April 28, 1922 Born: Friday, April 21st a seven pound boy to Mrs. T. M. Ball, a sister of Truman Strong.

Nine loads of rock and two loads of dirt were needed to fill the large cave-in of the surface earth under the Johnson well drill foundations, drilling for the city down in the flat.

The Ellsworth Hotel is again open by Mrs. C. H. Ellsworth.

Synopsis of Annual Statement

OF THE MERCHANTS FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, OF NEW YORK, IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, on the 31st day of December, 1940, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Table with columns: CAPITAL, INCOME, DISBURSEMENTS, ADMITTED ASSETS, LIABILITIES. Rows include: Amount of capital stock paid up, Net premiums received during the year, Gross claims for losses unpaid, etc.

SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CENTURY FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, OF NEW YORK, IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, on the 31st day of December, 1940, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Table with columns: CAPITAL, INCOME, DISBURSEMENTS, ADMITTED ASSETS, LIABILITIES. Rows include: Amount of capital stock paid up, Net premiums received during the year, Gross claims for losses unpaid, etc.

THE NORTH RIVER INSURANCE COMPANY

Name of President: LESTER PARSONS. Name of Secretary: DAVID G. WARKMAN. Name of Secretary for service: HERBERT GIBBETT. Name of Secretary: DAVID G. WARKMAN. Name of Secretary for service: HERBERT GIBBETT.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF THE CENTURY FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, OF NEW YORK, IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, on the 31st day of December, 1940, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:

Table with columns: CAPITAL, INCOME, DISBURSEMENTS, ADMITTED ASSETS, LIABILITIES. Rows include: Amount of capital stock paid up, Net premiums received during the year, Gross claims for losses unpaid, etc.

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John W. Kelly

government is trying to devise a method of saving part of the worker's income for him, and this may be accomplished by a tax on hold-back on the payroll. Anyway, taxes will be so heavy from now on that practically everyone must have a few dollars to settle with the internal revenue department. This necessitates saving.

Movies, liquor, tobacco, beauty aids—the long list of items of food, fun and clothing—will carry a tax. It is the theory of the administration that with high wages the imposition of substantial taxes will prevent the cost of living creeping out of hand. The tax collector steps in before the nation goes on a buying splurge.

The administration dislikes a sales tax; doesn't like the name. But intends attaining the same objective—tax money—by calling it a manufacturers excise tax. But regardless of the name or how it is collected, the American citizen will pay. Much of the tax load could be passed on to the next and the next generation, but the best opinion in congress is that the people now should carry as much of the load as possible—pay as you go and borrow the balance. The entire economies of the United States is due for a severe jolt, and life isn't going to be what it was in the "good old days."

Beauty is Only Paint Deep (By Heek) Little swabs of powder, Little dabs of paint Make a modern woman Look like what she ain't.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Carl T. Shearer, has been appointed administrator of the estate of Grace Pearl Shearer, Deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to me, with vouchers properly verified, as by law required, at the office of M. W. Wilkinson, U. S. National Bank Building, The Dalles, Oregon within six months from the date hereof.

Dated this 28 day of March, 1940 21 - 25 Carl T. Shearer Administrator

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed in the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County his Final Report and Account as Administrator of the estate of James C. McKean, deceased, and that Saturday, May 10, 1941, at ten o'clock a. m., of said day, at the County Courtroom, in the Courthouse, at Moro, Oregon, have been fixed by the Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to said Final Report and Account and the settlement of said estate.

J. Kenneth McKean Attorney for Administrator.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A-F & A-M Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us.

Wendell Balsiger W.M. C. V. Belknap, Secy.

Meets Every Second and Fourth Thursdays in each Month. Visiting members Invited. Patricia Woods Sec. Dorothea Moore, W.M.

Moro Lodge No. 113, I.O.O.F. Moro, Oregon Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us.

Joe Ritner N.G. Vernon Miller, Sec. Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Moro, Oregon Meets 2d & 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Helen Martin N. G. Florence Johnston, Sec.

Statehouse Gossip

(Continued from page one)

the Unemployment compensation commission. While the number of applications for benefit payments from these out of state workers has shown a substantial increase the number of Oregon claimants for jobless insurance during the first three months of 1941 was only 30,538 compared to 43,046 for the same period a year ago.

C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner, this week announced the cancellation of the licenses under which 125 insurance companies have been serving as deputies of the labor bureau in the inspection of boilers and elevators. In explanation of his move Gram said, several insurance companies had issued policies against the same elevator. This resulted in duplicating inspections and conflicting reports which could only be reconciled by a separate inspection by an employe of the bureau of labor.

In taking over all of the inspection work into his own department Gram said that he was adding only three more inspectors to his staff of field men.

The interim appointment of Earl B. Day of Medford as a member of the state tax commission to succeed Wallace Wharton, called to military service as a reserve officer, is the first to be made under the terms of an act of the 1941 legislature which is designed to protect the jobs of public officials and employes who are called by Uncle Sam. Just how far this act will protect Wharton in his post as a tax commissioner is problematical but it is understood that the protection extends only to his present term which expires in December, 1942. Day who took over his new duties this week is a former county judge of Jackson county, served two terms in the state legislature as representative from Jackson county and has long been interested in tax problems.

Oregon's per capita tax contribution toward the support of state local government is well below the national average as revealed in a report of the federal census bureau just released. According to this report the average annual cost of state and local government the nation over is approximately \$70 per capita. Here in Oregon tax contributions toward the cost of state and local government averages only \$64 per capita. This includes all types of taxes, ad valorem, income, gasoline, automobile inheritance, gift and city license fees. The per capita state local debt burden here in Oregon also shows up well in comparison with that of other states. While the average for the nation over is approximately \$154 per capita here in Oregon the net debt of state and local governments averages only \$105 per capita. While this debt burden increased by 3.4 per cent taking the nation as a whole, but not including the federal debt, in Oregon the state and local governments reduced this load by approximately 338 per cent in the period from 1932 to 1940.

More than a score of architects have applied to the Board of Control for the privilege of preparing the plans for the new treatment hospital to be constructed at the state hospital. The board has indicated that actual construction work on the new building will probably be delayed for several months in the hope that lumber and labor costs may decline from their present high level.

Plans for the administration of the new hospital fund created by the last legislature were discussed at a conference here this week attended by representatives of a number of hospitals and members of the Industrial Accident commission. This fund will be created by an additional 50 cent charge to be added to the cost of motor vehicle operator's licenses and is to be used in reimbursing hospitals for the care of indigent victims of motor vehicle accidents. It is estimated that the additional charge will produce approximately \$125,000 a year.

If you experience difficulty in fact throttle until the motor starts, starting your motor, try setting suggests the Emergency Road the hand throttle about one third Service of the Oregon State Motor open and refrain from using the Association.

Advertisement for Hermitage Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whisky. Text: 'SINCE THE COVERED WAGONS FIRST RUMBLED INTO OREGON... there's never been a better Kentucky bourbon than... And more and more men are finding that out every day. Have you? A four-year-old whiskey famous since 1870. \$2.10 QUART \$1.10 PINT. NATIONAL DISTILLERS PRODUCTIONS CORP. N. Y.'

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Advertisement for Blitz-Weinhard Beer. Text: 'Every second of every day 2 glasses of every of BLITZ-WEINHARD BEER are being enjoyed because... It's Brewed To Satisfy You! Two glasses every second. 120 every minute! That's a lot of beer. But then it ought to be, because Blitz-Weinhard is the largest selling beer in Oregon. It's brewed the way you like it! After all, the real test of any good product is... do the customers buy it again! They come back for Blitz-Weinhard... a customer every half second! GUARANTEED SATISFYING BEER. BLITZ-WEINHARD COMPANY, PORTLAND, OREGON.'