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TALK AND TAXES

Report has it that the congress is preparing a new tax bill with the customary lack of imagination and common sense. Taxes are to be increased on the same old articles when good sense would indicate that this is the time to broaden the scope of taxation instead of heighten it.

Users of cosmetics, tobacco, gasoline, the telephone, oil and whiskey are going to have to pay higher taxes on the things they buy or use.

Purpose of taxation on some of these may be to decrease the use of them. That theory can hardly apply to gasoline and the telephone, the curtailment of the use of which handicaps business.

There is no doubt that the government needs more money, more money than it ever needed before. It is going to get it some way. Yet, why cannot a tax be laid on some new articles?

There is electric current, for instance, there is transportation by rail and bus that competes with privately used gasoline in freight and passenger traffic. There is the radio, soft drinks, pin ball machines, expensive clothing, and many other things that people like to do and would pay additional to do.

Best plan would be for government to curtail its own expenses during the war. Flocks of "experts" traveling over the land telling people things they already know, federal "publicity men" writing reams and reams about non-essential things to be sent first class in now valuable paper to fill waste baskets, government propaganda, dams, canals, leaf raking, pamphlet writing might well all be stopped for the duration. Not necessarily for the duration of the war, either, but forever.

Washington still seems of the opinion that talk and taxes will win the war if a rural dweller is to judge from what comes out of that crowded city. We can stand the taxes, if assured the money is being used wisely, but we are getting darn tired of the talking. We would willingly increase our taxes for each day that real production was increased and talking curtailed.

TAXES

The tax situation, especially in Multnomah county, is receiving the attention of the politicians, who, no doubt, hope to be swept into office on the wave of dissatisfaction caused by the higher taxes for home owners there.

To change from the yearly basis it was necessary to levy a six months tax. That is being paid this week. A years taxes will be levied in November. For those who pay their taxes in a lump sum—and get the rebate—there will be a year and a half taxes to be paid in this calendar year. Those who figure their taxes by the month—as do some large firms—will pay no more per month.

The legislature considered the fiscal year basis carefully and voted the change by a vote of 57 to 0 in the house with three absent and by a vote of 19 to 10 in the senate. The fiscal year basis puts the state and counties on the same tax year as the federal government, an important matter with so much co-operative aid coming from Washington. Roads, social security, unemployment compensation all obtain money from federal sources.

Normally the legislature appropriated money for a period already begun with the result that trouble sometimes occurred. Now appropriations will be made in January or February for the term to begin in July.

Instead of it being disastrous that the change was made at this time it is an advantage. True, federal taxes are high this year and the burden is heavy, but federal taxes will be higher next

year and likely for years to come. Because of defense work in the state and general farm prosperity the state income tax has brought in much more money than was expected at the time it was passed in 1939. At that time farmers were complaining that the income tax did not give them enough relief. It was raised a percent and a break made in the first \$1000 of taxable income to raise the second \$500 to 3 percent.

In addition it was provided in the law that surplus from the income tax was to remove the state elementary school tax when and if the income tax raised enough money. This was done this year and this county is saving some \$14,000 because of that section of the law.

Governor Sprague has said that the income tax should be lowered or surplus funds from it should be sent back to the counties for further reduction of property taxes. The latter plan would be of greatest aid to this district where nearly everyone is a property owner. The property owner is going to bear a heavy burden after the war and any tax relief that can be given him now will put him in better shape for that coming strain.

In Multnomah county the home owners have long been receiving a lower tax ratio than business property owners. It was unconstitutional and unfair. It still is. The people will have to amend the constitution to change it which means that no executive, administrator or legislature can relieve the situation. The variable ratio makes an opening for favoritism in government and should never be permitted.

This is a time of year to pay taxes and therefore a time to talk about them. This is the last time Oregon taxpayers will have to pay their federal and state income taxes in the same month as they pay their property tax. That is going to help in future years.

As this is a political year there will be candidates who will attempt to capitalize on the unrest caused by the tax payments. So far as is remembered, none of them spoke against the state income tax when it was passed or objected to the change to the fiscal year basis when it was passed.

Both laws will hereafter result in a better distributed tax system for Oregon than prevailed before.

THE WOOD PECKER PECKS

The staccato sound as of distant machine guns heard in the southern part of town is caused by a hard working wood pecker intent on filling his gizzard at the risk of adding his brains.

To passing humans who note his pounding he gives shame. They struggle homeward at night tired and dejected after a day of mental effort consisting merely of rubbing the head, tapping the teeth with a pencil or stroking a jaw reflectively. To such the wood pecker is an object of wonder. His brain must be of sturdy stuff and durable, too.

From the tall dead poplar near the creek he sends a hollow note as he hears the moving grub inside the tree and digs like a trip hammer. The church steeple resounded with a sharp tone during the winter when it was frozen and since the rain it has been mellow. The increased softness must have been noted in other ways by the wood pecker.

There is much to be said for the way of life of a wood pecker. He takes his risks where he finds them and perches upright on any promising wood which might harbor a morsel of food. His daring is not used to persecute lesser birds and so far as known never uses his sharp and persistent bill for other purposes than obtaining food for himself and family.

But what a neck he must have and what a durable head. Truly he'd be a hard guy to fight.

In Other Days

From the Observer March 16, 1921 Judge J. T. Whaley of Portland is visiting in the county at the home of his daughters, Mrs. Otto Peetz and Mrs. Carroll Sayrs.

An old time Fourth of July is being planned by the members of the Chris Schultz post, American Legion.

B. F. Peetz has accepted a position as title man for the abstract company at Bend and is moving there with his family.

From the Observer March 14, 1913 Two proprietors of Moro business establishments were convicted of illegal sale of liquor and fined \$150 each last week.

Superintendent D. E. Stephens of the experiment station addressed the high school this week on potato culture as one of a series of talks to be given the school.

From the Observer, March 20, 1903 The Moro Iron Works is fitted up in tip top shape for doing all farmers work and Brosson &

Kelly's Column

(Continued from page one)

The federal government owns and operates some 30 fish-cultural stations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Nevada and about 100 hatcheries are maintained by these respective states. The senate committee on commerce has reported out favorable a bill for another fishery experiment station. The original bill called for the establishment in Oregon, but this has been amended to "the western part of the United States." E. K. Burlew, assistant secretary of the interior, has advised the committee that it is difficult to assess the value of the fisheries or the capital investment they represent but says, for example, in 1938 the salmon fisheries of the Pacific coast states yielded an income to fishermen of \$4,365,000; that the manufactured products would exceed this figure several times and that the number of angler's licenses sold in states with the salmon fisheries in 1940 was 901,000. Estimated cost of the proposed station in the west is about \$125,000; annual maintenance would be \$17,800. Only fly—the bureau budget says to wait until after the duration.

Statehouse Gossip

(Continued from page one) time of registration.

All community fetes, fairs, round-ups, regattas or other events attracting crowds of 5000 or more persons must have the approval of the military commander of the Pacific northwest area under new instructions just received by Governor Sprague from Lieutenant General DeWitt. Even after receiving approval these events are subject to cancellation on short notice if later developments justify such action, General DeWitt said.

C. H. Gram, state labor commissioner for the past 24 years, will retire from public life at the expiration of his term next January. In announcing his decision not to seek re-election again Gram endorsed the candidacy of W. E. Kimsey, deputy commissioner in charge of the Portland branch of the labor bureau. Before becoming labor commissioner in 1919 Gram served for 12 years as deputy in the department under O.P. Hoff. He has been elected to the office six times.

Six new men have been added to the state police force to take care of increased traffic problems expected to result from the location of the army cantonments in the Medford and Benton-Polk areas. Three of the new officers will be stationed at Medford, two others will work out of the Corvallis office and one of the new men will join the Salem office. Superintendent Pray said that he would probably add still more men to his force as the war emergency increases demands upon his department.

Investors in revenue bonds issued by Peoples Utility Districts must depend upon revenues from the power and light system for their interest and principal payments according to Attorney General Van Winkle. In an opinion to the State Hydroelectric commission the attorney general ruled that these obligations could not be met through tax levies but must be met from revenues of the district after operating expenses and taxes of the district have been paid.

Business of the state's liquor stores showed a big boom in January. Store sales for the month totalled \$757,974 with profits of \$214,332, compared to sales of \$455,483 and profits of \$127,635 for January, 1941.

Power Company Pays Taxes

Real and personal taxes amounting to \$1840.58 for the half-year levy due March 15 under new state tax laws are to be paid to Sherman county this week by Pacific Power & Light company, according to R. V. Lockhart, local agent for the company here.

The company's total taxes for 1941 jumped 11 per cent over last year, Lockhart said, to reach a new high of \$1,055,810.

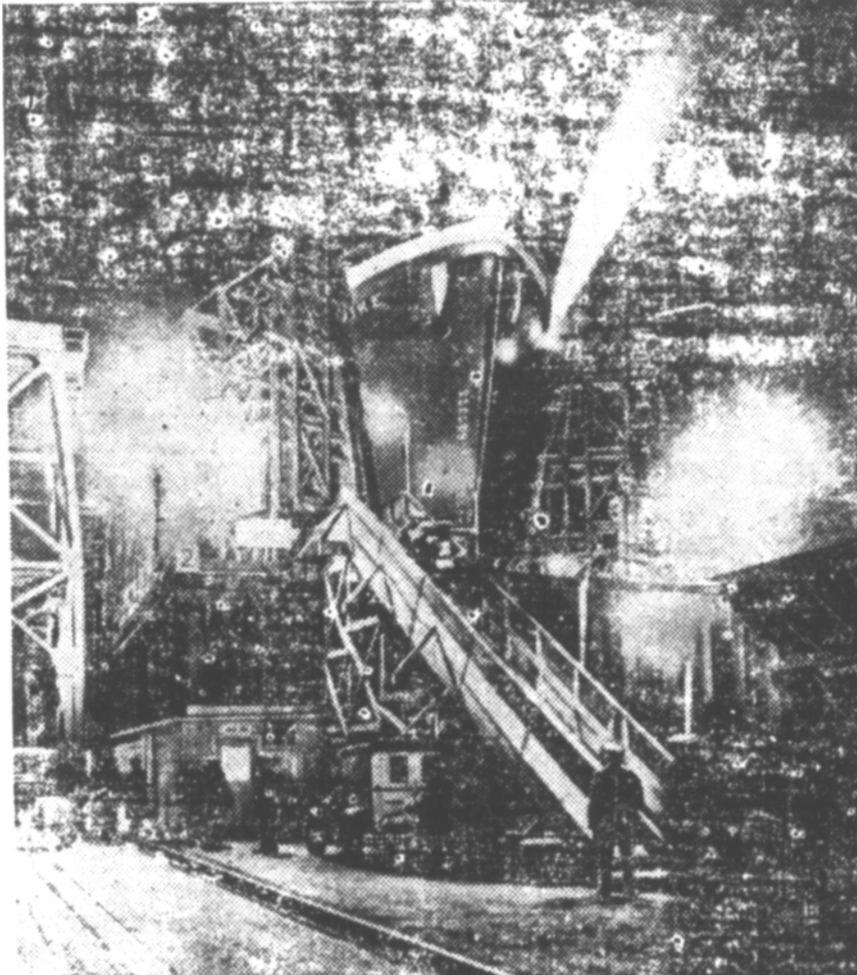
In addition to state and local levies, this total included payments to the federal government of more than \$413,000, or enough money to pay a year's interest charges on \$13,600,000 of U. S. defense savings bonds.

Peters know their business. Bailey & Kelsey revive the Shamiko Leader as the Central Oregonian, Silver Lake.

We understand John Reckman has refused \$20,000 for his Kent farm under which coal is known to exist in paying quantities.

What Should You Save To Help?
WASHINGTON, D. C.—The following table issued by the Treasury Department is intended as a savings yardstick for the average income-earner. It suggests how everyone of the 48,909,000 employed persons in the United States may participate in the war effort through the systematic purchase of Defense Savings Bonds.

Racing Against Time—And Tide



The steel and tie work for a new bridge, we're told. By the Zebulon Pike, a new bridge, was launched at five in the morning because the next tide would be at 5 p. m. That would have meant a 12-hour delay in laying the steel for the next tide, and by this war, time is important. The launching was made at the California shipbuilding yard, Los Angeles.

Kent Cemetery Being Improved By New Parts

The wooden posts around the Kent L. O. O. F. Cemetery are being replaced by steel ones and the wire being restretched.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Matthes, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schadewitz and son, John, Lee and Leland Barnett went to Cow Canyon Sunday where they were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Barnett. The occasion being the birthday anniversary of Johnetta Jennings, grand daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Barnett.

Mrs. Floyd Miller and Miss Esther Cramack spent the week end in Salem with relatives.

Chauncey Rambo, who has been receiving medical treatment in Moscow, Idaho, arrived here Saturday evening to spend an indefinite time with his wife and son at the home of J. H. Wilson.

Charles Purchase and Hugh Hoskinson went to The Dalles Saturday when Mr. Purchase visited his wife at a hospital.

Those shopping in The Dalles Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Verne Mobley, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Martin and the latter's mother, Mrs. Ellen Summer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lyons and son Jack.

Mr. and Mrs. Wren Hogue of Grass Valley spent Thursday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Amick.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson and J. H. Wilson visited relatives in Rufus Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Helyer and Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Barnett were shoppers in The Dalles Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith who have been living at Redmond moved their household goods here and will work at the J. L. Davis ranch. They spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith in Portland and returned here Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cramer of Bend were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Max Pluemke Sunday.

Jack Rucker made a business trip to Moro Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sather, Miss Helen Halvorsen and Mrs. J. L. Matthes attended Pomona grange at Rufus Saturday.

Corliss Andrews of Portland visited friends here over the week end. He was accompanied here by Evelyn Davis of Portland who spent the week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Davis.

Lester Wilson went to Dufur Sunday to get his wife and daughter, Karen, who spent several days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wilson went to Portland Thursday where they visited friends and relatives.

Visitors in The Dalles Wednesday were Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson, Mrs. Grace Gregg, Mrs. Guy Hoskinson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barnett and son Lee, and Mrs. Carl Schadewitz and son John.

Those attending the farewell dance at Antelope Saturday night for the boys leaving for the army were Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Mobley and Eugene Norton.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Dunlap and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kock of Grass Valley attended the Rebekah card party here Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Koenke and daughters, Marquita and Helen of Redmond arrived here Friday evening to spend the week end visiting relatives at Kent and Grass Valley.

Mrs. Grace Gregg went to Warm Springs Sunday afternoon to visit her daughter, Dolores. She also visited Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gregg and family in Bend and returned to Kent Monday.

DRAFT LIST

- Continued from page one.
T 23 Thompson, Dewey M. Moro
T 34 Trimble, Ted Guy G. V.
T 26 Trumbo, Clifford U. Rufus
T 23 Updegraff, Geo. Gavin Moro
T 83 VanGilder, Darwin A. Moro
T 25 vonBorstel Amandus, Kent
T 90 Wilson, Charles C. Moro
T 3 Wilson, Walter B. Kent
T 52 Wells, Roy G. V.
T 60 Wilde, George T. Wasco
T 12 Wilcox, Geo. Harding G. V.
T 84 Zell, Hildred M. Wasco

Wool To Be Scarce Even Here

Even though Oregon home makers live in the heart of a major wool producing region, they will profit by helping conserve wool while war time restrictions are being imposed on the use of the limited wool supply, points out Lucy R. Lane, extension specialist in clothing and textiles at Oregon State college.

Suggestions worked out by the federal bureau of home economics on how to obtain maximum service from wool garments are endorsed by Miss Lane.

Brushing wool coats and dresses thoroughly after each wearing will help keep up their appearance and prolong their life, she says. Hanging garments on hangers as soon as they are taken off and allowing them to hang a few days after a period of wear are other good ideas. These rest periods allow the wool to spring back into shape and reduce the amount of pressing required.

Other suggestions are to hang wool clothing out to sun and air occasionally. This kills moths as well as their eggs and larva. Dry cleaning or washing in neutral soap also rids wool of moths.

A double cloth is recommended for pressing, with a wool cloth laid next to the wrong side of the material, covered by a damp cotton cloth. The actual pressing is best done by setting the iron squarely on the top of the press cloth, lifting it, and setting it down again, without undue pressure. Never press the moisture completely out of the wool, as this will leave it with a lifeless appearance, Miss Lane adds.

Golfer—Why, Jock, you've holed in one!

Jock—Aye. It's helpful that way—it saves wear and tear on the ball.

Deputy Sheriff McCaleb returned from Idaho with J. E. Friend an altogether too industrious real estate rustler wanted by C. J. Deikmann.

Virgilia D. McKee
Vleda D. Van Gaasbeek
Clifton I. Dunlap
Veva D. Marshall
Geo. G. Updegraff,
Attorney for Executrices
and Executor 18-21

Herman Schilling, 19-22
Geo. G. Updegraff,
Attorney for Administrator.

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

Paul May, N. G.
Percy Thompson, Sec.
Bethlehem Chapter, No. 78 O.E.S.
Moro, Oregon
Meets Every Second and
Fourth Thursdays in each
Month. Visiting members
Invited

Marie Hoskinson, W. M.
Pauline Douma, Sec.
Eureka Lodge No. 121 A-F & A-M
Meets on the 1st and
3rd Thursday
evenings of each month.
Visiting members are
cordially invited to meet
with us.

Darwin Van Gilder, W. M.
C. V. Belknap, Secretary
Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116
Moro, Oregon
Meets 2d & 4th Tues-
day of each month.
Visiting members wel-
come.
Lucille May, N. G.
Florence Johnston, Sec.

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any person, who while serving in any capacity with the Army Air Corps of the United States, including the National Guard and the Organized Reserves, subsequent to April 6, 1917, has distinguished himself or shall distinguish himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement, while participating in an aerial flight. On a bronze pate a four-bladed propeller; in the re-entrant angles, rays forming a 1-inch square. On the reverse are engraved the grade, name, and organization of the recipient. The cross is suspended by a plain straight link from a silk moiré ribbon composed of alternate white and blue stripes, the white dominating.

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