

SHERMAN COUNTY JOURNAL

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FAST WORK

The administration is to be congratulated on the speed with which war time controls are being dropped. Action on the removal of them has been faster than could have been expected unless some preparation had been made for the change in anticipation of the war's end.

So rapidly have the distasteful restrictions been removed that it is feared in some quarters that there may be too much speed in loosening them.

Already there is no gas rationing, no highway speed restriction, no canned food stamps, no wage restriction. Fear that these controls might be continued was of considerable proportions at one time. That fear, however, has been less since the beginning of the Truman administration.

Yet remaining are enough controls but if the administration continues its policy of the past week they will not be in force any longer than necessary.

WHAT KIND OF TAXES

Disregarding the wise crack that every one wants a tax system that raises the needed government revenue from some one else than himself, just what sort of a system of taxation does the ordinary citizen want?

Observation leads to the conclusion that most citizens do less protesting against their tax bill than some other bills. In this county where the tax on a productive section of land may be under \$200 there is little objection to the property tax of this period of time. In the early thirties when taxes were larger and dollars fewer there was a big protest, a protest that was both valuable and effective.

Here property taxes are low and the taxpayers realize it and do no hollering at payment time. The objections, if any, are against the income tax, which is now rather high because there is much income. The rates are not dicierent.

We are speaking here of state taxes, which are under discussion by a 13 man committee, which is to report its findings next summer.

An old observation is that there are but three sources of taxes: property, business and persons. A correct balance between collections from each of these three sources would, therefore, produce a perfect tax system. Because the relative positions of these three sources changes each year a tax system that was perfect in one year would be imperfect the next.

There has been criticism of Oregon's tax system because it is blamed for keeping industry out of the state. The fact that there are many industries coming into the state reflects on the correctness of the argument, but doesn't stop those who hold to that theory. Usually these malcontents are adherents of the sales tax, who take this means of protest although they know that a sales tax does not meet with voter approval.

In Oregon all three of the above mentioned sources of taxation are used. We have the property tax, the excise tax on business and the income tax on persons. A sales tax would be another form of tax on persons. Property is the back-log of our taxation. It must pay the costs of government when other sources fail. It obtains a large measure of relief when income and excise taxes are high. This is such a period and it is probably at an end.

It is probably true that the total of taxes collected will tend to increase instead of decline; the people vote more things that cost money. If there should be a turn in public psychology so that the citizens became more independent and voted to restrict the activities

of government instead of expand them, taxes could be reduced. So far we are becoming more socialist, are giving more authority and more duty to government and it costs money.

There are few untapped sources of revenue. None of them would raise a large amount of money except the sales tax. We might tax gambling devices which would bring in thousands of dollars. But the idea meets an emotional rebuff from many people; there are a number of minor taxes that would bring in a little money. Among these are the cigarette tax, special sales taxes on admissions, cosmetics, etc., business taxes, license fees. Some states, Washington for example, have many of these so called nuisance taxes. Perhaps we would have them here in Oregon if it was not for initiative and referendum.

Whatever tax system is devised will have to meet the approval of the voters or it will be killed. Killing new taxes probably means that property owners will foot the bill until some new tax is made popular or property has to quit paying.

In the meantime if there is any easy solution for the problem let the possessor thereof bring it to the forefront. Even if not easy it will be acceptable.

DISPLACED PERSONS—AMERICAN STYLE

First reports of the newly made jobless are not heartening. A large part of those who are without work are not interested in finding it and many want unemployment compensation immediately. They are entitled to the latter if there are no jobs available.

It is natural that men accustomed to high wages will hesitate to accept employment at smaller wages unless there are no better paid jobs to be had. That might be termed good business on their part. Also, if wages drop, the cost of living also must drop. Some of the government controls have tended to hold up the price of food, especially vegetables.

It may be reasonably concluded that the men who are now out of work are generally the poorer workers, the aged, the weak and those whose mental attitude toward helpful endeavor precludes them from performing much labor. They will be the most argument about taking lower paid jobs and the most insistent about unemployment compensation and whatever benefits accrue to the out of work laborer.

For the man who can do a good job at some of the building professions there should be no occasion for paloffs. There are houses to build, and to repair, there is painting to be done, plumbing to put in, cars to overhaul, machines to repair, sheet metal work to replace. Probably not many men of this kind will need public aid to live or get a job.

Already the roads are full of and trailers on their way back east, back home. It is likely they are the ones who saved some money while at work. The perennially poor may have to remain in Oregon. Those who had no homes before coming to the shipyards may remain because there will be no place else for them to go.

With reasonably good times conditions for these displaced workers should not be bad. They have had more money than ever before, they have been well fed and should be well clothed. There will be jobs for those who have a trade. Wages may be lower, but living costs should drop.

It will probably be some months before times will be tough again, and by then the best of them can be reestablished.

This is the time of year that many Sherman county families use for their vacation period. It is a fine time for a vacation and it is a fine thing that so many can go. They are always glad to get away and more happy yet to get back.

From the Observer, Aug. 27, 1926

Light and power was off the Sherman Electric lines Thursday night, supposed to be because of a fire early that morning which had destroyed the transformer used in taking power from the high line to the Hugh Walker farm between Moro and Wasco. C. L. Montgomery went to sleep Sunday night smoking a cigarette. He woke up with his heavy underwear on fire right over his "tummy."

Washington Column

Continued from page one. View advanced by congress.

With no appreciable increase in either the volume of value of services rendered, so far as the public is aware, these have been constant increase in the number of civilian employes on the government payroll, according to a report by Senator Byrd of Virginia, who declares that at least 300,000 could be eliminated without interfering with government efficiency. During last June 700 civilians employes were added to the public payroll every hour of the working day in the United States and 600 for every hour for duties abroad. Total increase for the month was 16,061 for departments and agencies at home and 110,04 hired by the war department outside the United States. At an average salary of \$2,000 a year this means an increase of \$322,000,000 a year to be paid by American taxpayers. On the day Japan surrendered the total cost of the government payroll was more than twice the interest on the public debt. On July 11, there became effective a new law authorizing the director of the budget to establish personnel ceilings, but resort to its provisions will not be necessary now that war has ended and reduction in the number of government employes is expected to proceed in orderly fashion.

A. M. Zevely, county school superintendent, returned Thursday from Baker, Oregon, where he attended a meeting of the committee having in charge the passage of a measure referred to the people by the last Oregon legislature establishing a state normal school in eastern Oregon.

A. C. Buckley of Grass Valley reports the loss from fire of his 2500 combine Monday night. The machine had been used during the day, but was standing idle when it burst into flames.

From the Observer, Aug. 24, 1946

Sherman county farmers are far from being broke. The crop of grain is short, but our citizens are "still in the ring" financially. W. S. Powell has installed a Fairbanks Morse gasoline engine on the farm and does not now depend altogether on his windmill for water.

The new proprietors at Moro Pharmacy, Dr. Goffin and Ladru Barnum, are now prepared to serve the public of Sherman county better than the community has ever been served before since the first settlements.

The Eastern Oregon Land Co. are having the front of their office building painted. The company means they hope to protect their books and papers in case of fire.

From the Observer, Aug. 25, 1946

The city water mains and reservoir was allowed to go dry Tuesday so that they could more easily clean it and put it in condition for another year. Robert Urnhart has purchased the Erskine farm of 280 acres from L. Barnum.

CHURCHES

WASCO METHODIST CHURCH Sunday School 10 A. M. Morning Worship—11 a. m. Subject "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Preaching service at Grass Valley in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. F. L. Cannell, Pastor

Christian Science Society Sunday morning services at 11 A. M. Subject "MIND" includes testimonials of healing. The reading room in the rear of the building is open. All authorized Christian Science literature can be bought or borrowed. Wednesday night service at 8

Pureka 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. C. A. Ruggles, W. M. W. D. Wallan, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78, O.E.S. Meets Every Second and Fourth Thursdays in each Month. Visiting Members invited.—Moro, Oregon. Rose Amidon, W. M. Ruth Sparling, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Clare Houston, N.G. Florence Johnston, S.

Moro Lodge No. 113, I.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in I.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. Ernest Houston N. G. A. R. Kessinger, Secretary

GEORGE G. UPDEGRAFF Attorney At Law Moro and Wasco

"WAKE UP, AMERICA!" Are There 60 Million Jobs? Moderated by FRED G. CLARK, Chairman, American Economic Foundation

As debated by Harry C. Read, Staff Assistant to James B. Carey, Secretary-Treasurer, Congress of Industrial Organizations; Allen W. Rucker, Author of "Labor's Road to Plenty"; President, The Eddy-Rucker-Nichols Company, Management Counsel

MR. READ OPENS: There are 60 million jobs, and saying so is understatement necessitated by our mental stagnation. There is only one valid argument to the contrary, and it is that the world's work is done. The absurdity of that statement precludes its use. In the very nature of things, there always have been and there always will be jobs of work to be done by all those able and willing to work. The lack of vision lies in the failure of men to bring the worker and the job of work together. The obstacle seems to be that there must be in plain view of some people accrual of a profit to themselves before workers and work can be brought together. This theory places the cart before the horse. Profit doesn't make work; it is work that makes profit. Man alone has intelligence to foresee and plan for his future needs, and he is equipped, mentally and physically, to produce always more than his immediate needs. That excess production is profit. It is the appropriation by cunning or force of the individual's just share of the profit from his labor that creates our difficulty. Malappropriation of profits on the false theory that profits breed jobs is the only obstacle to 60 million jobs now and 60 billion jobs in the future.

MR. RUCKER CHALLENGES: Repeating the discredited theory of the German communist, Karl Marx, proves nothing. Profit is simply "payment for creation and use of tools"; without them our living standards would be as low as in Russia where profits are not permitted. Sixty million jobs without tools means forced labor for even more people. Communism's usual result. Contrast the American way; with tools and brains and only 52 million workers, we produced material to win two wars while maintaining the world's highest living standards. Continued, that system will gradually free school-children, women and the aged from need to work. More production at lower prices will do that; forced labor never.

MR. READ REPLIES: Attributing a solid Christian concept to Karl Marx is true red-baiting. CIO thinks in terms of people as against the materialistic theory that profit is "payment for creation and use of tools." We welcome the admission that working men have been forced to pay over and over again for the use of machine tools in the factories. We believe it follows that a just division of the proceeds of industry would relegate to limbo both materialistic communism and materialistic capitalism, the bloody blood-brothers. Distributed purchasing power would result in full employment which CIO tentatively sets at 60 million jobs.

MR. RUCKER REPLIES: Recall that "10 million hungry (sic) able-bodied unemployed in 1940" followed a five-year trial of the CIO scheme. That trial ended where it began—with 10 million unemployed. Too much attention to restricting work; too little attention to expanding production and lowering living costs, thus not freeing 13 million school-children, mothers and aged persons from need to toil. Acted upon, with American tools and skill, 45 to 47 million able-bodied and productive men can expand our living standards, already highest on earth. We can consume only what we produce; the goal is more production, not forced labor.

Reports from all parts of the county continue to come in stating that this harvest will be very much larger than any one expected. Threshing in the Kent district has temporarily stopped because of green wheat on sucker roots being to green to mix in the sick with the matured grain now waiting harvest in the same fields. This is the first time such conditions has existed in Sherman county.

CORBY'S PRE-WAR QUALITY WHISKEY. 86 Proof 68.4% Grain Neutral Spirits. If you are looking for a light, sociable blend, try Corby's—the whiskey with a Grand Old Canadian Name. PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A. under the direct supervision of our expert Canadian blender. Jos. Barclay & Co., Limited Peoria, Illinois. CORBY'S A GRAND OLD CANADIAN NAME



Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bartron, ent. of last month for their Sherman county friends.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh. Songs for a Better World. We were sitting around the embers of Ed Crumppit's barbecue last Saturday night, finishing our beer and hot dogs, while Ed strummed the guitar... picking out old, friendly songs. Soon everyone was singing. The harmony wasn't too good... but the spirit was—a spirit of friendship and good humor. And it made me think how music—music of the people—overcomes barriers of prejudice and intolerance. A Yankee folksong or an English carol or a Southern melody—they all speak a common language of the heart... bind folks together... help us forget our grudges. From where I sit, music can help to make the whole world kin. Maybe we ought to have a lot more of it... informal stags around the fire, and in the home. And it's sure true that a mellow glass of beer fits into the picture. It just naturally goes with that kind of music. Joe Marsh. Copyright, 1945, United States Brewers Foundation

5 Good Country Tricks for Saving More Used Fats. THIS year our domestic supply of fats and oils will be approximately one and one-half billion pounds less than last year. Right now, we are facing our worst fat shortage since the war began. To make up for this staggering loss, the government is depending on the women of America—and particularly women on farms and in smaller cities. Every spoonful, every drop of fat is needed to help make battlefield and homefront essentials. So roll up your sleeves and do an all-out job, won't you? Clip this checklist and pin it up in your kitchen as a reminder. 1. FRIED SALT PORK—with milk gravy. Salt pork yields so much grease, you won't need it all for gravy. Pour the rest into the salvage can. 2. DEEP FAT FRYING—use the fat over and over, but when it's too dark and smelly to use any more, don't forget Uncle Sam wants it! 3. ROASTS AND CHOPS—save all trimmings (scraps from plates, too.) Keep them in a small bowl; once a week melt them down. 4. SAUSAGES—they're better if you parboil them first. Skim the fat off the cooking water—scrape the fat from the frying pan. 5. CHICKEN SOUP—chill it before you use it. Scoop off the hardened grease (soup tastes better, too!). When the salvage can is full, take it to your butcher promptly. He will give you 2 red points and up to 4c for every pound of used fat you turn in. 100,000,000 More Pounds of Used Fats Are Needed This Year. Approved by WFA and OPA. Paid for by Industry.