

Sherman County Journal

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TAX PROBLEM

Objections to the report of the Tax Study commission are (from one source) that it did not include a sales tax and that lowered income tax exemptions will bear too heavily on income tax payers earning \$300 per month.

Taken together those complaints are almost funny. A sales tax bears more heavily on the earners of low income than does an income tax.

It has been estimated that the average earner of a \$300 per month income would pay \$70 under the new plan instead of \$50 as at present estimate. Considering the many benefits that men earning that sized salary derive from the state government \$70 does not seem excessive.

Unless some miracle occurs within the next six months, or some excessive drop in our economic position, much more money is going to be needed next biennium by the state. That condition has not been caused by the legislature nor by the Tax Study commission. Most of it has been caused by the international inflation. That accounts for the increase in costs of state government, in wages and salaries of state employees, in prices of food and clothing for state wards, in costs of upkeep of state buildings, roads, in welfare.

A part of the added cost has been caused by the voters who saddled at least \$5,000,000 more on themselves at last election, a \$5,000,000 that may well be \$10,000,000 if not carefully administered.

A part of the added cost is due to the influx of veterans who are back to demand the education the people voted for them two years ago.

If the people of Oregon are to meet these costs they will have to pay more taxes. Neither the Tax Study commission, nor the legislature, is able to waft indebtedness, actual or moral, away at the flick of an eraser. Those who fiddle with their ballots must also fiddle with their tax notices.

Another critic finds imperfection in the report because it is not all the unanimous opinion of the 13 members. It is definitely stated in the report that it is not unanimous. In fact, little of it is unanimous. If any group of men, representative of the many groups in Oregon, were to work for two years and reach unanimous agreement, their findings would necessarily be simple indeed.

Nevertheless all of the provisions were passed by the majority present at some of the meetings. It is likely to be much too inclusive to meet with legislative or popular approval at the 1947 session or perhaps never, for by 1949 conditions may be so different as to make the recommendations pertinent.

The thoughtful student of the report will conclude that if it was adopted, tax conditions in Oregon would be better than at present. This is true even considering that the commission was faced with the necessity of providing for larger state income as well as adjusting the tax load.

THE FUTURE OF WHEAT

Wheat men like to get at the heart of their problems and always obtain the services of men who are in position to know these problems when they hold a meeting of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League.

It is an admitted fact that farmers of the United States can produce more wheat than they can eat, feed, manufacture and export.

Eating it has reached a standstill, in fact the quantity eaten by humans has been decreasing for a long time. Feeding it has taken care of many more millions of bushels of late years than it used to but there are definite limitations. Manufacture of wheat into starch, cellulose, alcohol is still in its infancy and much must be done if it is to take care of any large part of the normal crop.

There is plenty of chance to export it as far as feeding the peoples of the world are concerned for Chinese have a diet that

is 88 percent grain, the Indians also live largely on grains. Europe needs wheat or other food. All that we grow could be exported for years.

The American price level is so high, however, that we cannot afford to sell it to these starving nations who have nothing to trade us for it that we want or need.

Multilateral trade agreements are suggested and some leaders in the department of agriculture put great faith in them. This might sell wheat to Japan. We do not want to take Japan's cotton goods but the people of Malay and India want them. We might take tin or rubber from the Malay states and thus complete a three way trade agreement. Some of them suggested are much longer and more complicated.

These depend on world peace and on the success of an international bank so all peoples can trade with each other. It may be found to be true that our possible imports will be of some less value than our probable exports which offers a serious complication. Our country is so large that most imports bear heavily on some segment of our population. We so aggressive in trade and so adaptable in manufacture that we want to sell everything. In the example given, it may be that southern mills would develop a cheap cotton cloth with which they would offer competition to Japan and thus curtail export of wheat to the Japanese.

Heretofore this nation has found it difficult to export wheat without paying for some of it in the long run. There is hope, however, that the plan maybe developed.

Perhaps our engineering and manufacturing ability will find a use for wheat that will take the surplus. Upon some of these things seems to depend the market for the unlimited quantities our farmers can—and probably will—produce.

In Other Days

From the Observer, Dec. 23, 1927 Cecil Gragg was shot in the face with bird shot Tuesday night when out sparrow hunting to help decide the annual local hunt contest. Four shot were taken out of Gragg's face near his eyes, but serious injury is not anticipated.

First prize in the school pupil's contest for the best essay on the service and accommodations to be found at Hotel Moro was won by Viola Hansen with Ethelyn Kessinger second in the high school division and Leora Peetz first with Arnold Landry second in the grade division. The judges made their decision on Saturday evening. The prizes were awarded by Manager Larrimore on Monday morning in the presence of the school board and teachers of the winning scholars.

John McClure left here the first of the week for Portland, where he will spend Christmas with his mother.

Congratulations are being extended Mr and Mrs A. Douma upon the arrival of a baby daughter, born Monday at a hospital in The Dalles.

Edward Sargeant says that near as he can figure it, the side captained by George McDonald in the annual sparrow hunt has an edge of 16,000 points over their opponents. One thing sure McDonald's side at one time had all the ammunition in Moro bought up and in use.

WHEAT LEAGUE STORY (Continued from Page One)

When we get 35 percent above that we get marketing quotas. If they are not voted there is no loan.

Our export for 1945 was 376 million bushels, most of which was to UNRRA which is being discontinued. We have put up 72 percent of the money for it although we have been paid for the wheat.

He hoped that multilateral trade agreements whereunder can trade through several nations to obtain the exports we need can be perfected. International agreements so we can make them essential as is continued high employment, he said.

Willard Crawford of Walla Walla, field secretary of the northwest Crop Improvement association, spoke of the development of markets in the northwest so we may continue to attract eastern millers to come and use our superlative northwest wheats.

He asked that we market wheats true to type and of the quality that the millers and bakers and manufacturers need for these specialty goods.

D. D. Hill, paid a high tribute to D. E. Stephens and the Moro station when he said that most of the development in varieties was due to the work done here. Tillage methods have also been im-

proved through the fine set of experiments established by Mr. Stephens. It is not known how long we can grow wheat and we have already exceeded the average in one crop areas, but careful research and proper care of the land may make continuance possible.

Harvey McAllister told of the work being done toward the wheat fed stock show and sale May 27-28.

—Buy Christmas Seals—

MORO NEWS The Moro high school basketball team met defeat at the hands of the Hood River team last Friday night by a score of 47 to 15. The second team lost as well but by a smaller comparative score. The team defeated the Pa-oooses of The Dalles 28 to 26 members of the team played some Tuesday, December 17th. All 19 time during the game and The Dalles won the game for them by dropping a ball in our basket. School ended for the holidays Friday after a Christmas program

WASHINGTON NEWS Continued from Page One cameras, medical equipment and other desirable items. After next February 28th, no certificates for set-aside items will be honored. Sales already advertised under existing procedures will not be affected by the changes.

—Buy Christmas Seals—

CHURCHES Moro Community Church Sunday School 10:00 a. m. Church Services 11:00 a. m. Wasco Methodist Church Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. Classes for all ages. Special Christmas service at 11:00 a. m. The choir has been rehearsing for several weeks, they will be looking for you, don't disappoint them. Children's program at 7:30 p. m. and treats for the children. Preaching service at Grass Valley Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. F. L. Cannell, Pastor

Christian Science Society Subject of Christian Science Lesson Sermon 11:00 A. M. "Ancient and Modern Necromancy Alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism Denounced"

WASCO CHURCH OF CHRIST 10 a. m. Church Bible School W. D. Watkins, Supt. 11 a. m. Divine Morning Worship The message: "Unto Us A Child Is Born" Christmas program given at the Bible School hour. Wishing all a Real Merry Christmas. F. Claude Stephens, Minister

Bethlehem Chapter No. 78, O.E.X. Meets Every Second and Fourth Thursdays in each month. Visiting Members Invited.—Moro, Oregon Helen Ruggles, W. M. Edna Melzer, Secretary

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

E. Nest Houston N. G. A. R. Kessinger, Secretary

Lureka 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. LeRoy Wright, W. M.

H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. L. McLachlan NG Florence Johnston, S

Merry Christmas and best wishes from PERCY THOMPSON



A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MIKE AND MARY ANN MULICK

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