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THE MAIN PROBLEM

As has been the case for many sessions the principal problem to be solved by the legislature is how large is the tax bill going to be and who is going to pay it?

The who is going to pay it is more important this year than ever before (at least for 12 years) because the so-called surpluses is gone, or going, and there will probably be actual taxation before the end of the 1951-53 biennium, for which the legislature is legislating.

Naturally the taxation committee, if properly cautious, does not rush in with methods of raising a lot of money because such a tactic would encourage the ways and means committee to permit budget increases. Delay on the part of taxation may actually help the taxpayer although he may grind his teeth while it is going on.

This session the ways and means have a \$180.4 million budget to reckon with. It is \$40 million more than in 1949 and this is largely because of appropriations voted by the people last November. In fact of the total of \$180.4 million the people have voted \$75 million by themselves so they cannot evade the responsibility of that much. In fact most of the increases in the past five years have come from votes by the people.

Outside of the possibility of repealing some of the measures passed by the people there is a legislative responsibility to raise all the money needed. It may be possible to cut the budget slightly but there actually is inflation and it is not likely that the state can cut its budget any more than the average householder can cut his. That does not mean that the state budget cannot be cut, only that it will not be easy—nor likely.

There are three kinds of taxes: on property, on income, on business.

There is a proposal that at the general election in 1952 the people be given a chance to say how they want the money raised, a sort of a multiple choice question on the ballot with the method getting the highest vote to be chosen. Whether or not that is constitutional is causing debate with the ants having the upper hand so far.

But presuming its constitutionality there is still doubt as to its propriety. Many voters think that it is the duty of the legislature to resolve the problems of the state to a finer point than to say "what do you want of three choices?" And furthermore, there will undoubtedly be many voters who would prefer to vote for none of them and instead would like to vote for economy.

It seems that a proposal on the ballot that gave the voter a choice between an income tax, a sales tax (another tax on persons) or no tax and state expenditures limited to tax income without additional taxes, (economy) with perhaps another indirect proposal that with no new taxes the burden would fall on property would be too much for the average voter. In fact it would require much reading to understand.

There will probably be a property tax in the year 1952 for state purposes although the recent decision of the supreme court make that a little less probable. The house is trying to eliminate the state property tax and the senate is still afraid to take such a move. If the senate perseveres in its inaction the house may change its attitude and pass some other tax legislation. It could increase the income tax to offset the possible property tax.

These are all, unfortunately, temporary palliatives. Unless there can be drastic state economy in spending the state will have to raise an additional \$50 million per biennium beginning in 1953. We already have income, corporation excise and property taxes as high, or higher, than any state. Should the new tax income be divided among all three, should there be a sales tax, should any one carry the main load or should the budget be cut?

It is a rather simple problem for any single citizen. But the testimony of a dozen brings 12 different answers. Each wants the main load to fall on some one else.

IT IS SPRING

According to the calendar spring is now official and a week or more. Yet there is from 10 to 15 feet of snow alongside the roads in the mountain passes and almost no farming is done. Plowing, that is often finished by Easter, is not started by that holiday this year.

There is nothing in all this to sadden a wheat grower who usually has a better crop after a cold spring. If his wheat has lived through the winter he seems on the way to a successful season.

Of course it is scientifically improper to generalize from a single instance, but it does seem that fall persists overlong into winter and that winter sits in the lap of spring far beyond the proper time. This year it was fall until February when winter belatedly took over to keep the air chilly and wet with snow until Easter.

WRONG EMPHASIS?

One of the originators of the state basketball tournaments for high schools was saying the other day that the effect of them may not be entirely good. The intent was to give recognition to high school pupils who played through the season by providing a state tourney where they could test their wings against state foes and to find out whose team was the best. One effect has been to boost the acceptance of basketball coaches, even in small schools, to increase the pay of such coaches, to increase athletic budgets for all schools and as an overall effect, to give more emphasis to athletics and correspondingly less to education in a more formal sense.

It seems that in the usual school day which is handicapped at both ends by the modern school transportation problem there is not enough time for all the things modern "educators" would like to teach our youth. To make life easier for teacher and pupil alike more emphasis is placed on athletics which is a much more exciting project and more easily understood than algebra, the reasons for the fall of Rome or the democratic method of government.

We have, in the process, developed some very fine supporters of athletic programs, have taught the populace to have an interest in basket shooting and nearly everyone to know the difference between a zone defense and man-to-man defense to say nothing of ball control. If we have lost interest in the history of the race of which we are a part and have given the training of the young to a subsequent employer it is perhaps of minor consequence. Isn't it fun to watch a good basketball game?

QUANTITY OF WORK

The grapevine, which is never quotable and often accurate, has it that some Portland employers are not entirely happy over the construction of a state office building in Portland. The reason is that they feel that work habits of state employees are so inefficient that it will affect those of employees in private industry nearby.

The celebration of coffee time is universal around Salem in its some other offices. (We use "celebration" advisedly). No doubt there are some efficient workers around state offices and it is unfair to place all in the same category of lazy employees. The feeling grows nevertheless that the state has too many employees.

A good reason may be given for it. Certainly there is much work that is seasonal, offices that are busy for two or three months and not so busy at other times. These offices keep their help throughout the year so they can be available at any time. A pool system might obviate some of the evil and save many taxpayer dollars.

Lack Of Sunshine Possible Factor In Tooth Decay

Lack of sunshine and altitude may turn out to be the reason behind those extra trips to the dentist made by many Oregon children if preliminary research results at the Oregon State college experiment station are confirmed by more complete studies.

Tests made in three geographic areas of the state—the coast region, Willamette valley, and Central Oregon—have shown a definite pattern of regional differences in tooth decay rates among native born and reared school children in the 14 and 16 age group, according to Dr. D. M. Hadjilmarkos, OSC research associate professor, and Dr. Clara A. Storvick, OSC professor of foods and nutrition.

Studies in the three regions have demonstrated that fluoride content of public water supplies, available of dental services, and consumption of candy and carbonated beverages are not responsible for the regional differences in dental health.

The habit of being careless with taxpayer dollars is common all over the world. The spending of other people's money is one of life's greatest pleasures, apparently, and it is seldom done with the care and prudence the taxpayers would enjoy.

Many legislators would like to know an answer for the problem but none do—and neither do county courts, nor city councils, nor other employers of labor on behalf of the public. Does any one?

Higher rates of tooth decay were observed in the coastal and Willamette valley regions west of the Cascade mountains, while Central Oregon enjoys a lower prevalence among its children.

The only significant differences discovered between regions was the amount of sunshine and the variations in altitude. Tooth decay was highest west of the Cascades where there are fewer hours of sunshine and low altitudes. In Central Oregon, where tooth decay rates the lowest, there are more hours of sunshine and higher altitudes.

Sunshine is believed to be important during the calcification period of the permanent teeth because of the production of vitamin D through the action of ultra violet rays of the sun on the skin. Teeth formed during periods of vitamin D deficiency are thought to be more susceptible to tooth decay.

A paper giving the results of the studies in the Willamette valley region was presented recently at the 29th meeting of the International Association for Dental Research in French Lick, Ind.

When studies of three other areas of the state are completed, Oregon will be the first state to have a full picture of tooth decay among its school children. Further tests of the quality as well as the quantity of sunlight also are planned. The research is financed by state appropriations obtained through the efforts of the Oregon Extension Women's council.

This country is accumulating wealth—and the bad habits that go with it—even though none of this generation will admit decay. Maybe future generations will think differently.

OSC Scientists Seek New Cattle Grub Controls

The search for better controls for the two damaging species of cattle grubs is being expanded by the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station. Plans for new studies on seasonal development and control of the grubs have been announced by OSC entomologists.

The two species on which the research will be conducted will be concentrated have caused serious damage to Oregon cattle herds for many years. Losses result from the damage to hides and meat caused when the grubs bore into the backs of the animals after hatching from eggs laid by flies and migrating to the backs.

Work already has begun on a state-wide survey of these problems. Robert W. Lauderdale of Phoenix, Ariz., newly appointed to the OSC experiment station staff as a research assistant, is in charge of the work. Lauderdale is a graduate of OSC.

One phase of the study will include observations of the development of the grubs on the backs of animals throughout the state. Timing of control measures will be determined from results of these observations.

FIRST ENTRY SIGNED FOR P. I. LAMB SHOW

PORTLAND—The first entry for the Second Annual Pacific International Lamb Show and Sale to be held May 22nd was received recently. Ward Farms of Newberg, Oregon have entered one pen of ten lambs in what

promises to be one of the year's most successful livestock events. Additional premiums of \$100 to be added to the original \$600 have been provided by the Oregon Wool Growers Association. The Lamb Show and Sale is one of many events prior to the Pacific International Livestock Exposition to be held October 6-13, 1951.

U. F. REDUCES SIZE OF RAILROAD TICKETS

A railroad ticket the size of a dollar bill has been adopted by Union Pacific to replace the traditional long, confusing strip of perforated paper travelers have been using for more than a century.

The newly-designed ticket is in handy booklet form to be carried like currency in a billfold or pocketbook.

J. C. Cumming, general passenger agent, said at the railroad's northwest headquarters here that the greatly simplified form is being adopted for the convenience of rail passengers. The new booklets are now being sold at Union Pacific's city ticket offices at Portland and other large cities.

EXAMINER COMING

A driver's license examiner will be on duty in Moro Tuesday, April 3 at the court house, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., according to word received from the Secretary of State's office. Persons wishing licenses or permits to drive should get in touch with the examiner well ahead of the closing hour.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Slim And His "Ali Species"

Slim Baker, who's always doing something crazy, had a lot of people smiling last week because his entry won a ribbon in the Women's Club Annual Pet Show.

Seems as though Slim saw a strange-colored alley cat with no tail over at Central City and brought it home. He washed, combed, and brushed it and put a collar on it with a card reading "Ali Species." Then he enters it in the show.

Hanged if the ladies didn't think it was some rare kind of cat and gave it a special award! When

one of them asked Slim where she could get one like it, he said, "It's all yours, M'am—I can get an 'Alley Cat' anytime I want!"

From where I sit, some of us are pretty easily "taken in" just because someone else says it's so. Whether it's awarding prizes or passing judgment on a person's right to enjoy a temperate glass of beer—let's take a good look from stem to stern, and learn what it's all about before making up our minds.

Joe Marsh

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