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WHAT ARE MINIMUM RATES?

The efforts of the barge and truck people to have the wheat league approve the minimum rate proposal were accompanied by varied arguments, most of which dealt with matters unfamiliar to wheat growers. Discussions of rates have little to do with it and are always confusing, even, we suspicion, to those who discuss them.

The situation now is that trucks have minimum rates at their own request. Remember the days when farmers used to haul by trucks and get a little income therefrom. The trucks used minimum truck rates to get them out of business. Competition in the truck business depends entirely on service and the pleasantness of the salesman—not on rates.

Railroads in Oregon are not under minimum rates as enforced by the public utility commissioner. The Interstate Commerce Commission will not let railroads make rates that are non-compensatory, which is a term meaning that they can't cut below cost.

Barges, so long as they haul no more than three types of freight are under no rates at all, federal or state.

The minimum rate bill of the last session of the legislature—and probably of this—would give the Oregon public utility commissioner the right to suspend a new rate made by the railroads. For example, if the railroads offered a lower rate on wheat to Portland anyone could call for a hearing and delay it for an indefinite time depending—probably—on the ingenuity of attorneys. Effect would be to keep the shipper from getting the lower rate.

The mid-Columbia basin wheat shippers have had pretty good luck in getting reasonable freight rates. They have done it by dealing direct with railroads, barges and trucks. They play one against the other to the advantage of themselves. Under a minimum rate law that would be impossible.

Of the three main transportation systems the trucks have little, if any, investment in this county although some taxes accrue from the highway fund. The barge lines pay no taxes to this county and have no investment here. The railroads have a tremendous investment and paid some \$49,000 last month in property taxes.

Either the barges or the trucks are easily replaceable. Any cop in the county can transport or arrange for transport of grain by barge or truck on two weeks notice. But once the railroads are taken out they are gone for a long long time.

Will the rails be pulled out? Once they almost were, back in 1941. At that time the ICC taught us a lesson: as long as you use the railroad, it will be kept there; when you don't use it, you lose it.

A minimum rate law would prevent the shipper from getting the advantages of improvements in transportation. Straighter track, diesel engines, bigger cars, all make it possible to haul cheaper. Bigger barge tug motors, more slack water behind dams make it possible to haul cheaper. Truck improvements do the same. A minimum rate law is a hurdle shippers must jump to obtain such improvements.

We will be better off without it.

EROSION OF RIGHTS

The second amendment to the constitution of the United States and an important part of the famed bill of rights, reads: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Want to try it? There are places where one could buy a six gun bigger than a peashooter but no ordinary person knows where they are. And if you want to own one or "bear" one you'll need a license, a permit and will undoubtedly receive

the careful attention of all police officers.

The most often advanced reason for curtailing the right to bearing arms is that folks got to shooting one another so instead of stopping the practice the government passed a law against ownership of guns. Criminals are the only ones who know how to get one these days.

The other night a speaker said the Russians were not going to rebel although they disliked their government. Reason: the government has the guns.

School children remember the comparative ease the militia of Concord gathered to repel the British. Every man of them had a musket. Men with guns refuse to be intimidated by an oppressive government; men without guns cannot.

Oh, Sure, the matter is entirely academic, folks are better off without guns; we'll never want to enforce our rights. Sure. Sure.

ANYHOW ITS DIFFERENT

A chart in the U. S. News & World Report shows that per capita income in 1933 was slightly under \$800 and that now it is a little under \$1600. Both after taxes.

Taxes were not much of a factor in 1933 when we thought we were poor and are a big factor now when we think we are rich. The figures seem to give a different impression than is current about both the depression and the inflation with the advantage all for the depression.

Certainly costs have gone up more than 100 percent since 1933. If that is true the consumer can buy no more than he could in that year. But he is buying more. Then he saved every dollar because he was in debt; now he spends every dollar because his need for responsibility has been removed.

MONOPOLY

Labor is said to be violently opposed to state laws that make it possible for a man to work without belonging to a labor union. Some seventeen states have laws of this general type.

The leaders of labor want a monopoly on the labor supply. They want to be in complete control of all work that is done by anyone with the resulting influence on industry management and share in industry profits.

It is doubtful if the present labor leaders live long enough to see this happen. In fact, it is doubtful if the American people will permit so complete a monopoly for many, many years.

Labor has extended its demands to several fronts which it might better have left alone. It asks for fringe benefits of varied kinds, a lot of which working men do not care about. Had labor stayed with demands for bigger wages and based the demand on increased production there could be little argument against their claims. The more they earn, the more they should get.

Instead of doing that labor leaders are often found asking for something not earned, paid holidays, pensions, annual wage, for instance.

None of these reflect the leader's confidence in the working men, who should be able to take care of himself if he gets as much money as he earns and uses reasonable judgment about spending it. Also complaints of industry about high wages are poorly founded as long as the men keep production high enough to justify the wages.

ORGANIZATION NEEDED

Here it is almost Christmas and the do-gooders have been so busy with their own affairs they have almost overlooked one of the fine opportunities to be of signal service. A campaign should be started at once, before it is too late, committees should be named and a small fund raised or a presentation made to the legislature for funds. This is too big for individuals. It requires a group action.

We refer to the sad plight of the sparrows who have no place to bathe during the winter. In summer they can wallow in the dust piles and rid themselves of lice or whatever it is that gives them an excuse for such activity and in summer they can find dripping faucets and other small pools where they may bathe.

In winter that is impossible. Some sad little sparrows are hopping about right in front of our window, looking drab and un-bathed. It is something that should stir the conscience of any do-gooder with a swelling heart and a hand in some one else's pocket book. America must not be held up before the world as negligent in developing sanitary facilities for its sparrows.

SHANIKO

Long time residents of this county will not be surprised at the story from Shaniko telling of the murder of a man near there and his burial in a shallow grave near a little knoll.

Newer residents express sentiments about Shaniko that indicate that they are unacquainted with its once glorious past. There was a time when Shaniko was as lively a town as could be found in all the west. Everything to attract the visitor fresh from the ranges of central Oregon was at hand in sufficient profusion to care for the constant trade.

Shaniko was built at the turn of the century when E. E. Lytle and Walter Moore bought the townsite as a terminus for the Columbia Southern railway then building through Sherman county. J. J. Wiley built the first building and, appropriately opened a saloon.

For ten years long wool trains, six, eight and ten horses, guided by jerk-line, pulled slowly into Shaniko from as far away as Lake and Harney counties. Sheep were driven in from distant ranches to be shipped from Shaniko, the largest interior wool shipping point in the whole country. Cowboys herded their long horned charges into the corrals near the depot before putting up their horses and adjourning to some of the many receptive bars.

Shaniko thrived. It had two hotels, the brick one that remains and a wooden one that went down by flame soon after the bust. Instead of being a one street town as now, it had many busy streets all lined with stores for food and clothing saloons, gambling houses and other places where services unavailable on the ranges were purveyed. The stage left daily for Prineville and later for that new camp at the bend of the Deschutes. The livery stables were immense as shed after shed was added so they could accommodate the horses which needed much more room than the men.

The hotel lobbies were filled with a constantly moving sleek and confident clientele. Gamblers, and homesteaders going to central Oregon to find a claim in the last free land, railroad engineers with their high laced boots, teamsters with their legs bent from riding the near wheeler, ranchers going to sell some stock or returning therefrom, wearing huge gold watchchains across wide vests. It was a man's town.

Now it gets in the headlines again 40 years after the railroad up the Deschutes gave it the final, fatal thrust. The story is of a murder and even that will not arouse the elders to excitement for deeds of violence were common enough in the old days; men were shot over the poker tables, heads were bashed in alleys, and fights accompanied the drinking then as now—more, in fact, for men drank more and fought more in those times.

Moderns call Shaniko a ghost town. Maybe it is. But when it was alive, it was alive, vigorous, brawling. It should at least be a memory town to commemorate the swift passing of the men who went through that town to settle central Oregon and haul its first produce to the railroad.

SALES TAX

The wheat league and the farm bureau have given another kind word to the sales tax and in Portland it is being given its biennial boost.

One thing we do not understand is why a farmer who would have to pay taxes on \$20,000 would be an advocate of a sales tax in order to collect three percent from a man who would pay taxes on \$1000. It may be generosity and it could be misunderstanding.

If it were possible to levy a sales tax and increase the personal exemption under the income tax to around \$3000 or more taxes

ENTIRE BIBLE IS RETOLD IN PICTURES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS



The story of Creation (above) begins the complete story of the Bible in full-color picture strips for use in Sunday schools throughout the country. "Our Bible in Pictures" is a new feature of Sunday Pix, a 12-page picture weekly that is distributed to more than a million Sunday school students of all denominations. It is the first time such a project has ever been undertaken for Sunday schools. Editors estimate it will take three or four years for the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, to be pictorialized in weekly installments. The David C. Cook Publishing Company of Elgin, Ill., which produces Sunday Pix, decided to undertake it because it feels that cartoon strips, which have been used so long and successfully by newspapers to entertain their readers, are a particularly effective educational medium. "Our Bible in Pictures" is expected to give its young readers a religious background they will never forget.

all over would be better equalized. We do not think it is possible. As long as the Oregon income tax reaches clear down to \$600 it gets most of the money that would come from a sales tax, not in the same way, not from the same people, but it does a pretty good job of gleaming the field at that.

If the state levies a six mill property tax owners of homes and farms will have an additional burden and if the federal exemption is removed those in the higher brackets will be tapped for larger sums. These measures will hit the property owner and larger income maker while leaving the poorer citizen pretty much alone. Some think that a desirable tax system. Yet, there is a limit to it. There comes a time when the overburdened beast lies down on the job or moves to another state.

There are certainly thousands of parents who do not pay enough taxes in any way to pay for the education of their children and who vote to increase those taxes whenever the opportunity arises. These are roughly the ones the sales taxers are after. They will never get them but it might be possible to levy enough taxes against them to cause them to consider their votes more carefully.

At Olympia, Washington, directors have turned down an 11-month school. We can think of no more sensible suggestion and it lacks but one month of being perfect. There is no reason why so expensive a thing as a school should be used so slightly.

WASCO NEWS

A group of 7th and 8th graders including Donnie Swett, Gerald and Howard Deel, Garth Nelson, John Casaci, Robert Lutji and Gary Fields accompanied by Carl Nelson, LeRoy Heggard and Floyd Rathbun drove to Camp Sherman

early Saturday morning to get Christmas trees. They stayed all night at the Nelson home at Camp Sherman and came home Sunday. The trees are on sale at the school house.

CHRISTMAS NOW AND THEN

Time was when Christmas meant a happy time for all. With family close and near to you Never far from call.

A tree trimmed with paper rings Made by kids in school, And popcorn and cranberry strings And a top made from a spool.

An old, old doll dressed all new, Long loving hours employed Just to watch the little girl, And see the gift enjoyed.

A snowman dressed all up for fair Made by children's hands. The family watching from the house While the snow-ball gang disbands

The open hearth and loving warmth Displayed by folks who care. And over all the peaceful sound Of church bells in the square.

Then, as the day wore on The Carolers in the street— Their voices raised in chorus To tell the story sweet.

Yes, Christmas time and gladness Are with us once again, There's little change as we look back In Christmas Now and Then.

—Marie M. Balzer

Bethlehem Chapter No. 72, O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Betty Christianson, W.M. Elsie Jones, Secretary

Eureka Lodge No. 121, A.F. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. Howard Ross, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Althea Burnet N.G. Helen Martin, Sec.

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. C. O. Burnet, N.G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Civil Engineering Land Surveying WALL & TENNESON 908 1/2 E. 2nd St. Phone 5636, The Dalles

LEGAL NOTICES CALL FOR BIDS Bids will be received until January 10, 1955 at 8 p. m. by School District No. 23, Grass Valley, Oregon, for insulation of the school house ceiling with a four inch blanket of approved insulation material and install ventilation louvers. For further information see a board member. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Eva Cantrall, Clerk

WANT ADS

WANTED: Young gentle milk cow. Charles E. Davis, Grass Valley, Oregon. 7c

FOR SALE: Plow Hitch for Two 4-Bottom Tractor Plows. Art Watkins, Wasco. 7-8c

GOOD STOCKS offer one of the best possible ways for the average person to secure extra income and increase capital. Complete investment service. Stocks, bonds and mutual funds U. S. and Canada. J. W. DODD, TYGH VALLEY, ORE. Mgr. Wm. J. Collins & Co., Portland. Call, write or phone collect for latest data on any securities. We wish to buy U. S. National Bank stock rights for cash during December. 5-1c

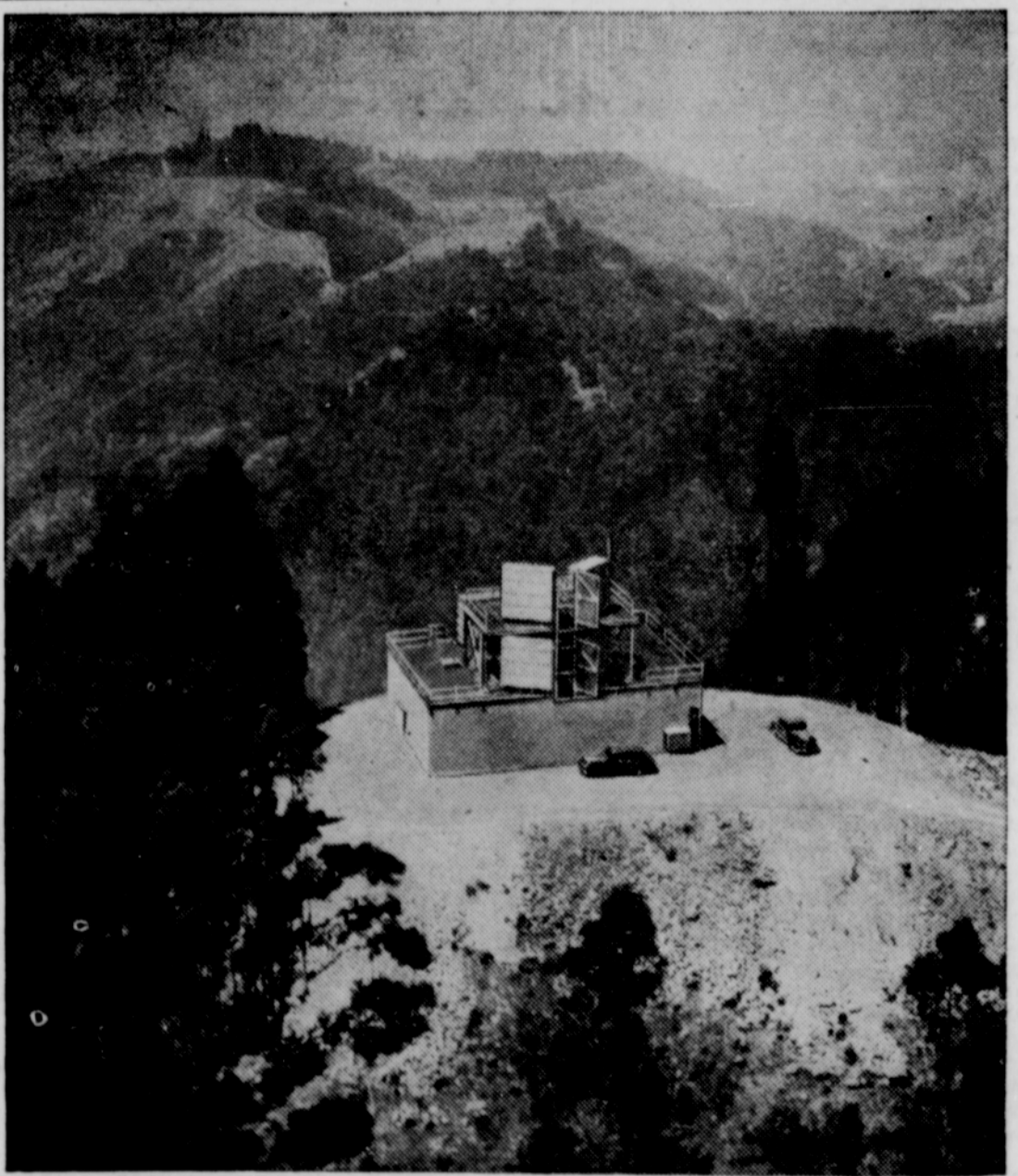
CUSTOM SLAUGHTERING — Meat cutting, wrapping, sharp freeze. Kenny's Market, Grass Valley, Oregon Ph. 242, 47fn

STATE WIDE PAINT CO. complete painting and decorating service, spray or brush Phone 3977 or 5293, 1205 E. 12th St. Vern Campbell and Jack Null, The Dalles, Oregon 38fn

MAY ELECTRIC, electrical contracting, Moro, Oregon, Phone 722. 19 tfn

WANTED: Cab for T-D 6 Int. Tractor. Art Watkins, Wasco. 7-8c

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh
Guess It's Called a Safety "Drive"
Whitey Fisher, from the State Motor Vehicle Department, dropped by to discuss some of our local traffic problems. "Up at Center Junction," Whitey says, "they've got a new sign that really slows down the traffic going through town." "The sign says, 'At 25 miles an hour, you can drive through Center Junction in 2 1/2 minutes!' It slows people down too—some just take it easy to check on that 2 1/2 minutes, I guess. Hasn't even been a dented fender since that sign went up."



Lonely sentinel keeps your calls going through. This microwave radio-relay station overlooking San Francisco Bay is part of a chain that links the Pacific West with the East. Its job: to carry your long distance telephone calls and TV programs. And as it works, no human eye need watch it. For if trouble threatens, it automatically switches itself to stand-by equipment... so your calls keep going through. At the same time, an alarm alerts a testman on duty miles away. Frequently, he can tell what the trouble is—right from his desk. This is one more way we guard your service... while also keeping it low in price. Pacific Telephone works to make your telephone a bigger value every day.

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Happy is the husband whose wife keeps the refrigerator well stocked with rare flavored, refreshing Olympia Beer.
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