

County Owes \$17,000 and Has no Money to Pay

At the meeting of the Moro Commercial Club at Hotel Moro on Wednesday evening when the topic of taxes was under discussion, it was indirectly brought out that Sherman county has an outstanding warrant indebtedness of more than \$17,000 which is drawing interest at six per cent and with no one in authority having the slightest idea as to whether this is the right amount or whether it is twice as large.

Yet Sherman county has been employing a county auditor each year to audit the books of the county and has done so for a number of years. The Sherman County Observer has said in times past that the county audit was "bunk" and money thrown away and this seems to prove it.

Audits have in the past been made of public funds in Sherman county the books returned as correct, and then found to be wrong. The reason is that the audits are conducted after nothing more or less than "getting something for nothing" through easy going slip-shod methods.

This particular \$17,000 debt owing by Sherman county is because of warrants issued by the office of county school superintendent in past years. These are issued, said Lawrence W. Rakes, present incumbent, each year on bills presented from school districts where pupils from this county attend high school in outside counties, from districts in this county that have no high school.

It is known that the warrant debt, said Mr. Rakes, at this time is about \$17,000 with no money in sight to pay. This muddle is because neither the office of the county treasurer nor the school superintendent has a record of the warrants that are outstanding.

That is why we say that an audit of the books of Sherman county is "bunk" and money thrown away. The way to reduce taxes is to spend public money in a manner that secures the result that is desired.

Sherman county has an unknown warrant debt of known dimensions of about \$17,000; it might be \$70,000; no one seems to know.

Under the budget system tax money raised is for certain funds; to be used for the purpose for which the money was raised; there is at this time no money in this fund with which to pay these unknown warrants.

A Freedom-loving Nation

The effect on American life of firearms has always been a healthy one. The love of sport and hunting, inherited from English forefathers, has made for both physical and mental alertness.

It is this phase of the American character, the love of sport and the right to protection, that has made independent and liberty loving citizens unfriendly to laws prohibiting the sale and use of small arms. Guns have been used for unlawful purposes—and so have automobiles, ships and the mails; yet no one would think of abolishing them. The fact that criminals are well supplied with revolvers, knives, poison, hammers, axes, rope, wire, dynamite and similar articles, is certainly no reason for forbidding their use to law abiding citizens for lawful and necessary purposes. Quicker and more severe punishment for the wrongdoer is a better cure.

Crime waves have proven our many "concealed weapon" statutes useless. And yet still more stringent ones are being proposed, apparently in the interest of the criminal, by politicians who seem to have no knowledge of the situation. A freedom loving people will oppose them and see that the honest citizen's constitutional right to own guns is not impaired.

LOCK 'EM UP

Cooking Teacher: What is the best way to preserve cakes in perfect condition after they are baked? Student (with small brothers in mind): Lock 'em up.

"There's only one Uncle John." See him in person February 2nd, at Moro Theatre.

As Well a Personal Duty

Ogden L. Mills, Undersecretary of United States Treasury, says that "the tax problem in the United States today is no longer one of federal, but rather of state and municipal finance."

We have all been gratified with the continued reduction in the cost of running the Federal Government. But it is not yet generally realized that so fast have the expenses of state and municipal government increased that they have consumed all the Federal Government has saved. Mr. Mills states that, as a matter of fact, our total taxes in 1926 were higher than in any preceding year, with the exceptions of 1920 and 1921, and but comparatively little over than in the record high year, 1920. During 1926, Federal taxes were 1,488 millions lower than in 1921. And at the same time state and local taxes were 1,415 millions higher. In other words, local tax expenditures offset Federal economy.

Such statistics as these leave no need for comment—they speak for themselves. The voters have absolute control over the municipal and state governments and they can effect a reform. Action and not words will count. Tax reduction is a civic and personal duty, and the great instrument of the vote should be used to that end.

Tom, Dick and Harry are Not Always Capable

"The machinery of our government or of any other form of government known to man today is utterly incapable of handling technical problems which require the highest type of training applied to the highest type of intelligence," says Professor Michael Pupin, scientist and inventor, of Columbia University.

"Railroads, telegraphy and radio broadcasting, electrical lighting and electrical transmission of power are certainly public utilities, but the intelligent people of the United States will never consent that these things, requiring an enormous amount of expert knowledge, be placed under government ownership."

"All these public utilities are full of complex technical problems which cannot and never were intended to be handled by any government. In Europe we see that where there is governmental ownership the utilities are being run at heavy deficits. And only recently Mussolini has said that he wants to get away from government ownership and accept the American system."

The great achievements of science and industries are living illustrations of what can be accomplished when the problems of science and of the industries are entrusted to the intelligent care of trained hands and superior intelligence.

"This illustration will soon demonstrate, even to a mediocre mind, that it is not true that any man can do any job, as those who control political patronage seem to think. There are many things which Tom, Dick and Harry cannot do; they lack both intelligence and training."

Iowa Farm Bloc Leader Wants to Double Tariff

Representative L. J. Dickinson of Iowa, a farm bloc leader, threw a bomb in the circle of house Republican leaders last week when he filed a bill to increase the tariff on farm products.

Although the party chieftains are desirous of doing something for agriculture, they are fearful that should they permit the tariff to be touched for the farmers, the way would be opened for a general assault on the entire tariff schedule.

Dickinson's bill calls for a doubling of the tariff on corn, vegetable oils, oil-bearing seeds, nuts and cattle.

One of the needs of our time is to have the simple faith of our fathers poured into a Twentieth century mold, writes Merle Crowell in the American Magazine. We need the old-fashioned religion—but dressed in a free and flowing robe and not in the strait jacket in which the bigots would encase it. We need more people who can say, "Our Father Who Art in Heaven," and really believe it.

Problem of Insuring Highway Carriers

The Railway Age publishes an excellent article by Henry Swift Ives, Vice President of the Casualty Information Clearing House, on the subject of "Insurance of Highway Carriers."

At the present time, one of the great problems confronting the stock casualty insurance companies is the matter of supplying liability insurance to motor vehicle, common carriers of both passengers and freight, at a price which will not only attract the business but which will also be adequate to furnish sound protection and efficient service. Motor vehicle common carriers are faced with the problem of obtaining liability insurance at a price which they think they can pay. The public, as a third party, is desirous of protection against damage to property or injury to persons resulting from operation of common carriers on the public highways.

Mr. Ives states there are two outstanding difficulties to be overcome, both of which are largely within the regulatory authority of state railroad and utility commissioners: First, reduction of accidents due to safety measures; Second, simplification and uniformity of insurance regulations. He says that until accident reduction is accomplished, there can be little hope of reduction in liability rates.

Mr. Ives points out that insurance companies do not make rates, that they are made by the assured, and as long as accident toll is heavy the insurance toll will be high. Several bus lines operated by steam or electric railways, during the last year, have made admirable accident prevention records, and the same is true of a few scattered so-called independent companies. However, there is much room for improvement, and for the general average of independent operators there isn't much to be said except that they have a mighty hard time getting any insurance, even at a high rate.

Regardless of the carefulness of the bus line, it cannot control millions of private drivers for whom public highways were primarily built. It will always be subject to accidents over which it has little or no control, due to private vehicle operators.

A railroad train or a fast interurban electric could not afford to operate on a track laid on a public highway. The accident element would be too great. Are not the bus companies faced with the same situation? Will they not eventually have to maintain their own private right of ways if they are to operate economically, give the best service, and eliminate the accident danger which is such a handicap to their successful and safe operation today?

Ring Out The Old— Ring In The New

"Farming methods are changing from the mule and small plow to tractors and modern equipment, as diversified farming replaces the old one crop system in eastern Carolina," says Raleigh, N. C., news item.

A. T. Holman, agricultural engineer at State College, states that the tractor that is adapted to planting, cultivating and harvesting as well as plowing, disking and belt work is finding a warm reception among farmers.

It would seem that the influence of the tractor on agriculture will be endless. Significantly, diversified farming and crop rotation increased along with the increase in use of the tractor. Modern farming demands efficiency and speed that old equipment was unable to give.

NOT A BULLET HOLE

Hotel Clerk: You've just arrived from Chicago I see, Mr. Browne. Browne: No; I burned that hole in my coat with a cigarette.

Rufus Local News

Ruth Wilson spent the weekend visiting with Mr. Lyda.

Joy Lathum will leave for Camas, Washington in a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Millard were visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Addington, Sunday.

A party was given in Mr. Deyo's hall, this last Friday evening. The Indians from the One-O-One Ranch, played for us.

Emma Starling and Lois Fowle are again getting back to their music lessons which they had to discontinue during the bad weather.

Herman Brackett and son were visitors in The Dalles Saturday, as also were Mrs. Fowle, her daughter Lois and Emma Starling.

Ted Elliott, Mildred Chase, Lois Fowle and Owen Elliott enjoyed Sunday evening making candy and listening to music with Miss Ruth McBain at the Rufus Hotel.

Mrs. Fowle, is once more visiting her friends here. She surprised them all, herself included, by stepping in on a birthday party at Mrs. Starling's given for her two children, Emma and Dickie Starling, where her daughter, Lois Fowle, was also present. Thus two surprised people, mother and daughter, rushed to greet each other.

RUFUS SCHOOL NEWS

RHS Our school will play a practice game of Basket Ball with Wasco tonight.

RHS We girls expect to play Moro Wednesday night in a scheduled game of Basket Ball.

RHS The Juniors and Seniors started with the Higher Arithmetics this week and all seem to think they will like them fine.

RHS The game played last week, by Rufus and Wasco proved disastrous for the former town, but we are up and ready to go again.

RHS The magazine subscriptions have at last been straightened out and if no other mishap takes place we will probably have them in a few days.

RHS Our eighth grade student, Irene Key, has been returned home from the hospital and is said to be getting along fine. And we, the school, send her our best wishes and congratulations.

Inspires Confidence

Within the past year the highest courts have done much to clarify and make more definite and certain the acceptable ways of determining the value of utility property.

These decisions have served to increase confidence in the securities of gas and electric utility companies. The high favor in which such securities are held today is common knowledge.

A survey made during the past year showed that 269 gas and electric companies had sold 4,870,000 shares of stock to employees and customers since the inauguration of the customer ownership movement. One company published its annual statement in 14 different languages.

Prediction has been made that the broadcasting by radio of annual stockholders' meetings can be expected in the near future, as a development of the large growth in the number of security holders.

The cowboys in Happy Valley enter a beauty contest—see "Galloping Fury," Tuesday.

American Telephones Do The "Impossible"

The year 1927 was one of the most notable in telephone history. No longer is telephone communication limited by our country's boundaries.

During the year, transatlantic service was established and found practical, paving the way for greater speed and efficiency in international business and foreign relations. In addition, the telephone lines of America were linked with those of Mexico, and Canadian service was much improved and increased. Television became an actuality, and on April 7th, a group of people saw the face of Herbert Hoover, 250 miles away, as he talked over the telephone to Walter Gifford, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Thus science overcomes seeming impossibility.

Tripartite Interest in Tariff

Agitators have claimed there is a conflict of interests between capital and labor and tariff. The mythical barrier between capital and labor has been exploded. The public now realizes that neither labor nor capital can exist alone.

But there is still a tendency to pit the farmer against the manufacturer on the tariff question, when the farmer's best market is laboring men industries.

Many of our farm crops and industries could not exist under our present wage and hour system in competition with cheap labor foreign competition, without tariff protection equalizing prices.

For instance, one little beet sugar company in Utah paid \$2,250,000 for labor and nearly \$4,000,000 to the farmers for sugar beets, in 1927.

Without a reasonable sugar tariff this beet sugar factory would not have existed with resulting benefit to labor and agriculture. Without this domestic supply of sugar, our nation would be wholly at the mercy of foreign producers.

The tariff is a business and not a political issue. It should be treated as such in considering best interests of American labor, agriculture and manufacturing.

"I like to kill people." See how it is done, at Moro Theatre, February 2.



DR. G. WHITFIELD RAY

DR. G. WHITFIELD RAY has been called the "Lincolnton" of South America. He has spent the greater part of the past seven years in exploration work, and for many years was the official explorer for the Bolivian Government. He is to speak here soon on his strange and remarkable experiences.

Last Lyceum Number Moro Legion Hall Monday, January 30th

Welfare of Electric Power Companies is Public's Welfare
Says New York Herald Tribune

"The theory of regulation is that utility service shall be furnished at cost, which includes a fair return on the value of the property used to furnish the service. It contemplates utilities sufficiently prosperous to furnish high grade service, not corporations held down to starvation rates."

More than any other industries, the power companies represent a partnership between business and the public, both in service and in fact.

Far from being mere corporate abstractions, their capital is owned by the American people through stock-holdings of more than 3,000,000 individual investors, including security holdings of banks, trust companies, insurance companies and similar institutions in which the savings of the public are invested.

Stabilizing as they do, through the essential nature of their service, the entire social, industrial and economic structure, they also must be assured of a stability of earning power to maintain the efficiency of that service and protect the interests of their owners—the American public.

Such stability of service and capital depend upon the continuance of the principle of individual initiative under which these companies have been developed to their present high efficiency.

The additional money required, if electric light and power companies are to continue to meet the country's growing needs, can be obtained only by the expectancy of a reasonable return, after paying the cost of high grade service.

The vision, courage, ability and skill which have made American electrical achievements the envy of all the world, have also produced satisfactory earnings, at the same time materially reduced the cost of service.

Sherman Electric Co.
Always at your service

The Watch Shop
Watch, Clock and Jewelry Repairing
By an Expert Watchmaker
With 16 Years Experience in Watch Repairing
ALL WORK GUARANTEED FOR ONE YEAR
We Buy, Sell or Exchange Watches
Turn your old watch in on a new one
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Located at Main Street Barber Shop

When You Need

Mill Feed	Lumber	Wood
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Your patronage will always be appreciated
By The

Farmers Elevator & Supply Co.
Office at Farmer's State Bank
Moro, Oregon

Be sure and see the new Calkin's Combined Seed Treater and Fanning Mill at either the Farmer's Elevator and Warehouse or at the fair grounds during the fair.

"Proxies"
A THREE ACT COMEDY
American Legion Hall
Thursday, February 2nd
PRESENTED BY
The Pierriot Club
of Cherry Park Grange, The Dalles
Curtain at 8 o'clock Admission 25c and 50c

The Moro High School Glee Club.
PRESENTS A MUSICAL PLAY IN TWO ACTS ENTITLED
"Carrie Comes to College"
By Estella Merryman Clark and Palmer John Clark
Moro Opera House
Friday Evening, February 10th, 1928
Eight o'clock Admission 50c and 35c