

The American

Re-established, September 13, 1925.
Devoted to the best interests of Central Point and vicinity.

Entered as second class matter at the post office, Central Point, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
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ARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor



EDITORIALS

TAX LIMITATION

The bill to limit tax levies on real property to 20 mills by constitutional law, which is to come before the voters this fall, is a very vicious proposition. No provision is made to raise tax money any other way and the bill, if carried, would wreck the entire state.

While we admit the state of Oregon has a very heavy tax system and one which places a heavy burden upon owners of real estate, we can see no sense in such drastic remedies. It is a case where the remedy would be worse than the disease. It is argued that the way to cut taxes is simply to CUT THEM and thereby FORCE the state, counties, school districts, cities, etc., to spend less money.

This argument is all right so far as it goes. All tax spending bodies should, during times of stress, cut out all needless expenditures and save every dollar possible—but to fix a limit so far below the normal is idiotic.

Let us take some concrete facts which must be faced. Take for instance, the Central Point school district. The district, by a vote of the people, voted to issue bonds to build our high school. These bonds were sold and the money so used. We are obligated to pay approximately \$2400 a year toward retiring these bonds, including interest. Now if there should be a 20-mill limitation on tax levies, our district would only be allowed about 5 mills instead of 18 as at present. This would raise less than \$5000, out of which would have to be taken the \$2500 bond payment, leaving \$2500 to operate a grade school of eight rooms and a high school. Anyone using plain common sense knows it could not be done.

If such a limitation should be placed on our state, every city would have to give up its police protection. Every county would have to stop all road work—all care of the poor, etc. Every school would be compelled to close and chaos would reign. We can think of no surer method of wrecking our state.

It is true, as Mr. A. W. Pipes has pointed out, that more taxes have been levied than have been collected. That if the delinquency were paid up there would be more money on hand than needed for normal running expenses. But putting a 20-mill limitation on the levies will not cause that delinquency to be paid. Again take our school district for an example. The board of directors prepared a budget of proposed expenditures. If the levy which was made to raise the amount of this budget had been paid in full, the board would have been able to do what they planned when they prepared the budget. But as it actually turned out, only about 60% of the levy was collected and the board was faced with the problem of either going in debt by issuing protested warrants, or to cut out as many items as possible. The latter was done; and school was run on a reduced schedule. If ever the balance of that levy is paid, the board will be able to reduce the bonded indebtedness of the district by using the extra money to pay off bonds.

THE POOREST GAMBLE

Would you gamble \$17,000,000 against one dollar? You wouldn't of course, no matter how good you thought your chance of winning. At those odds, no wager could possibly be worth the risk you would take.

It is very possible, however, that you take an even poorer bet than that every day—that you accept consciously, or unconsciously, life's poorest gamble.

If you are 35 years old, you will, on the average, live for 17,000,000 more minutes. To save one little minute, thousands of automobile drivers risk losing the entire 17,000,000 minutes that are coming to them.

They take that risk whenever they drive excessively fast, whenever they cut in and out of traffic, whenever they pass other cars on hills or on curves, whenever they are guilty of one of the many acts of carelessness that may cause an accident.

Each year in this country about 23,000 people make the 17,000,000 to-one wager with death—and lose. Hundreds of thousands of others are injured. Millions sustain needless property damage, estimated to reach the total of over a billion dollars.

Think of the odds next time you are tempted to take a chance while driving. Remember that the automobile you are operating is one of the most potentially dangerous of all weapons, both to others and yourself. Then ask yourself if that minute you might save is worth the gamble.

THINGS ONE REMEMBERS

By R. M. HOFER

I dropped into Eugene, Oregon, recently to see the Oregon Trail celebration. Expected to be bored by an ordinary program. Instead I left much chastened and more than ever appreciative of the courage, initiative, ambition and enterprise that developed our United States from the Atlantic coast to the last frontier on the Pacific ocean.

This pageant was so beautifully done and so all-inclusive in picturing the human emotions that carry civilization forward, that in these troubled times it should be shown in every part of the country, with suitable changes for each locality.

The Oregon Trail pageant portrayed the discovery and settling up of the Oregon territory from the time of the legendary Mayas down to the present. The trapper, the prospector, huge trains of covered wagons, travel by stagecoach, the pony express, all passed in a colorful historical review across an open-air stage 250 feet long, with settings of typical mountain scenery. A starlit western sky and a warm summer evening breeze carrying the scent of the mountains added a final touch of realism.

Pioneer life was shown—hard, tragic, beautiful, character building—with its love stories, marriages, births and deaths. Here also was shown the family life, the welcome rests at night with wagons forming a circle of protection while the weary travelers danced, played, played games—anything, in an effort to forget the constant danger from savage Indians. The audience lived

through the conferences of the tanned, grim-faced leaders upon whose shoulders rested the fate of hundreds of families, women and children, members of the caravan. A wrong decision on their part meant a horrible death for loved ones.

At the conclusion of the program, the pioneers whose courage had brought happiness, prosperity and plenty to this region stepped to one side as the present generation of young people and college graduates—gallant gay arrogant—filed past and disappeared in the shadows of Mt. Hood. The pioneers' work was done, our land was turned over to youth and the moral drawn was, How well will it administer and protect the glorious heritage placed in its hands by the pioneers?

After witnessing such an impressive display of American history, one wonders if the rugged adventurous spirit ("rugged individualism," if you please) that struggled to carve the United States out of a wilderness, is becoming stagnant under paternalistic trends such as have already engulfed other nations of the world.

Will we awaken some day from the confusion of business depression and world-wide unrest to find that individual thought and action have been wiped out in our own great land—Ja land founded by our forefathers on the primary principle of guaranteeing life, liberty and pursuit of happiness?

Eugene is to be complimented on presenting such a portrayal of real American life.

TREAT MINING FAIRLY

In connection with the hope for an early mining revival, it should be constantly kept in mind that fair legislative treatment is essential to mining recovery. Reasonable regulatory laws and reasonable taxes can be great aids to bringing it back—oppressive laws and onerous taxation can keep it in the doldrums.

The mining states should give every effort to helping the mines, in their interest of employment, industrial development and the general welfare.

Fire Center Has War-Time Aspect

AENEAS CREEK FIRE, CURLEW, Wash., Aug. 15—With the establishment of the forest service base at the town of Curlew for the campaign against the red enemy of the big Aeneas creek fire, in north-

eastern Washington, this little village has taken on the aspect of a wartime center.

Trucks with men, supplies and equipment, roar in and out day and night. Airplanes carrying observers, scar overhead. Field telephones and army emergency wire have been strung out to the line camps. More remote camps are in communication with the new forest service short wave radio sets which are proving a valuable tool in forest fire control. Trucks throw up clouds of dust on mountain roads and pack strings plod the trails. Telephones ring constantly, radio messages come and go, orders are snapped in, all is motion, activity,—the ceaseless tireless motion of the well oiled back-of-the-line machinery so necessary successfully to fight a big forest fire.

And far into the night lights burn as staff chiefs and line commanders receive latest news from the front and plot the strategy of the next day's battle.

New Bulletin Tells of Fish Parasites

Parasites of one kind or another have been found in every important species of game fish which occurs in Oregon, although in most instances these parasites do no serious damage if present only in small numbers, says a new bulletin published by the Oregon State college experiment station, entitled "Some Diseases of Oregon Fish and Game and Identification of Parts of Game Animals." The mere finding of parasites in fish and game, it goes on to say however, should not be reason for condemnation for food, as all meat-producing animals serve as hosts for parasites.

The new bulletin reports results of studies of problems concerned with diseases of Oregon fish and game some of which were begun as early as 1925, by the department of veterinary medicine at O.S.C. in cooperation with the Oregon State Game commission. Authors are Dr. J. N. Shaw, Dr. B. T. Simms and O. H. Muth of the veterinary medicine department.

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Some of the fish eating birds are known to be carriers of parasites which live a part of their lives in fish, the bulletin says, and such birds may severely contaminate lakes and streams. Because life cy-

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