

# BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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Beaverton Office—Broadway at O. E. tracks, Phone Beaverton 7503  
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## Wash. County Sheriff Does Good Work

In the quick apprehension of James Oswald, 18 year old suspect and later obtaining his confession implicating a notorious ring of suspects—as printed in this paper—the sheriffs office of Washington county and Deputy Sheriff R. H. Bush, at Hillsboro, are entitled to the highest praise in breaking up what appears to be a desperate gang.

## We Need Boosters

Eastern Washington county certainly offers a splendid opportunity for development, and this paper is pleased to welcome the new Beaverton Commercial club just organized. All the world loves a booster.

## Soaks the Farmer

That the farmer will have to pay a wholesale sales tax on many of the crops that he sells and a retail sales tax on everything he buys, that adoption of the proposed tax in the special election, January 31, will result in increased prices for what the farmer buys and cut the prices of what he sells.

Thus, livestock, wheat and other grains, flax fiber, dried fruits, bared fruits, hops seed and many other crops will have to pay the wholesale tax. But the question is, why such a plan, when better prices for what the farmer sells and lower prices for what he buys increases his buying power and increases the money-flow in the channels of city trade and city activities? It seems doubtful if this doubled taxation on Oregon farms could have been understood by the legislators who, at the special session, adopted and submitted this new sales tax to the people for approval or rejection.

If we must have the sales tax, we must expect, as Lord Pitt said—"My lords, with it you can tax the last rag from the back and the last bite from the mouth."—Journal

## Make it a Happy New Year

Among the things which distinguished the year 1935 was the tremendous and unprecedented interest manifested in the traffic safety problems.

This awakening to the gravity of the accident evil seized the nation with considerable force during the second half of the year. It has yet scarcely gone beyond the point of rubbing the eyes, but the country seems to be ready for a cold shower of facing the facts, and then grid for concerted action. As has been consistently maintained, the real hope for achieving automobile safety resides in aroused public opinion.

One way to help end the automobile accident carnage is for each individual to make a sincere New Year's resolution concerning his conduct as a motorist or pedestrian. The resolution might be based on the following six principles:

1. Courtesy—to drive and to walk with consideration for others in mind.
2. Care—to drive and walk with the care that means safety for all.
3. Knowledge—to learn and understand thoroughly the traffic laws and rules of the state and community in which we drive and walk.
4. Skill—to improve our mastery of the skills which make the good driver.
5. Sense—to use common sense in the many situations encountered when driving and walking, that are not covered by laws or copybook maxims.
6. Cooperation—to cooperate as with the organized efforts to make driving and walking everywhere safe.

Such a resolution rigidly adhered to for a whole year by many persons would produce such salutary benefits, and those benefits would be so apparent, that there would be no question of the resolutions being renewed for more Happy New Years.

## Hard Facts

The Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company of Oklahoma City, recently ran an advertisement that is the best answer to advocates of municipal ownership of electric plants.

Many people are honestly deluded with the idea that there is something superhuman about political management of an industry that permits it to be operated more cheaply than a privately-owned enterprise. But here are the facts—read them, they beat arguments:

The Federal Power Commission of the United States Government recently released its findings in a national survey of electric rates charged by public service companies as compared to rates charged by municipally-owned electric plants. The Government's own figures show that the average residential rate charged by Oklahoma municipal electric plants are from 10 to 50 per cent higher than the rates in similar sized towns served by the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, a privately-owned, tax-paying industry.

In 61 Oklahoma towns served by tax-exempt municipal systems the rates ranged from \$2.47 a month for 25 kilowatt hours, up to \$26.02 for 500 kilowatt hours. In similar sized towns served by the tax-paying Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, the rates ranged from \$2.25 for 25 kilowatt hours to \$17.10 for 500 kilowatt hours.

In addition to providing a more dependable and economical electric service to 231 cities and towns; maintaining a payroll of 1,600 Oklahoma men and women; paying dividends to 7000 Oklahoma shareholders; the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company pays to Government, in taxes, nearly 14 per cent of its gross revenue, which municipal plants escape.

The foregoing are facts of record. There has been an organized campaign in our country, from the smallest village to the halls of Congress, to destroy private ownership of the electric industry as it has been built up under our American theory of government. European ideas of government ownership of the electric industry would be substituted. There is no continuous record for government development in the electric industry in any country to equal that of private development in the United States.

Why any informed person wants to turn from our system of regulated private industry, to foreign bureaucratic systems of government ownership with accompanying destruction of private incentive and property rights, is hard enough to understand. But why they want to turn to that system when facts from all over the world show that it is more costly to users and taxpayers, is really beyond understanding.

## 1935 Business Good

Incomplete figures for 1935 show that it was the best year for business since 1930. Holiday trade was exceptionally heavy, dollar volume advanced greatly. And, of equal importance to merchants, customers bought less cheap, small-profit articles; bought more expensive, long-profit goods.

Worst blot on the record is the fact that unemployment still hovers around the 9,000,000 mark. And the tax Frankenstein dampens business optimism.

## On the Right Side of the Ledger



## Statehouse Gossip

By ERNEST L. GRAY

Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-Six will be an interesting political year from various standpoints. In the state we will have three elections and the threat of another special session of the legislature. Nationally the test of the New Deal promises to stand up—but the battle against it will be one of the chief highlights.

The first election in Oregon will be on January 31, set by the legislature to ascertain whether or not the people will vote a sales tax, actually a gross income tax, because the tax need not be passed on to the consumer. But three other measures will be voted upon, one whether or not the primary election will be in May or September.

The purpose of the sales tax is to raise funds to match federal money for old age pensions. Having been defeated twice before, observers hold out little hope for the passage this time, even for old age pensions. If this occurs, some predict that a special session must be called in March or April to provide money for the needy.

The first sales tax defeated was for property off-set tax. It was hopelessly snowed under. The second one was for school purposes and it was defeated two and half to one. The prediction on this one is that it will be defeated, but not by an overwhelming majority. Some are optimistic enough to predict a close vote.

The primary election change is the only other major issues on the ballot this month. This determines whether the nominating election shall be held in May or early September. Early indications are that this will be passed, but the vote will not be very decisive. The general election, of course, occurs in November.

The third issue on the ballot is the repeal of the \$15 annual compulsory student fees at state institutions of higher learning. This is not of such major proportions as some agitators have emphasized. There is more principle, we are told, involved in the matter than actual issue.

The fourth state-wide measure is the constitutional amendment which gives the state legislature the right to set its own salary by statute. No price is fixed. The constitution now provides a \$3 a day fee for 40 days of a regular session and 20 days of a special session. In extended regular sessions members serve without pay.

In addition to all members of the house of representatives and half of the senate—plus vacancies to be filled—the state will see contests for five elective positions only out of the 13

elective jobs in Oregon. These will be three members of the supreme court, state treasurer and attorney general.

The other four members of the supreme court are holdovers as are the governor, secretary of state, superintendent of schools, and the labor commissioner. Supreme court members serve six year terms while the others are elected for four years. Other state positions are either appointed by the governor, the board of control or other boards.

The three supreme court justices to seek re-election are Chief Justice J. U. Campbell and Justices P. R. Kelly and Harry Belt. No reports have been heard of contests for these positions, but the time is still early. Their elections are on a non-partisan basis and should any candidate receive a majority in the primary, election is conceded.

In connection with the supreme court, few perhaps know how the chief justice is chosen. It is always the oldest in years of those serving the last two years of their term. For instance Campbell was chosen from the three seeking re-election because he is older than the others. Kelley would come next and then Belt.

The next chief justice would be Henry J. Bean, since he is older than J. O. Bailey. These two would seek re-election in 1938. The supposition is of course that there are no resignations nor deaths. Following him would be John L. Rand again, since he is older than George Rossman. If there were no changes these three would serve repeatedly as long as they lived.

The contest for state treasurer appears to be the major one however in the matter of personalities. Rufus C. Holman, state treasurer has received a legal opinion to the effect if he were re-elected he could serve another four years. The office is restricted to two terms—rather 8 years out of any 12—but he had served a year longer by appointment. The appointment would not be considered a term.

Earl Hill of Lane county, republican leader in the house, has been mentioned as a primary candidate against Holman, while the past week has seen strong indications that Senator W. E. Burke, who used to "sleep in the same bed" with Holman, was out to defeat him. Burke would have a good following against Holman.

To date there have been no reports of democratic candidates for that position, but don't worry, the rejuvenated democratic party will not let any vacancy go unfilled if they—with the stimulated aid of the Young democrats, can help it.

"Free power for nothing" is a myth, a political legend. You've got to pay for it. Let's face reality."—Charles L. McNary, United States Senator from Oregon.

Dr. Marie Equi, Physician, Room 34, Lafayette Bldg, 531 Wash., AT 4422, Portland, Oregon.

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## Washington Snapshots

The horns of another dilemma are growing swiftly in Washington. One prong is dollar stabilization; the other is continuation of the present unstable monetary program.

A big factor retarding business recovery has been fear about what might be done to the nation's money. Some of that fear originated, perhaps only by coincidence, about the time the dollar was declared to be worth only 59 instead of 100 cents in gold. It was heightened when Congress enacted the Gold Reserve Act of 1934, taking all the gold away from the Federal Reserve Banks.

On January 30, the Presidential power to make the dollar represent even less gold and to continue use of the \$2,000,000,000 stabilization fund expires. It can be continued another year by a Presidential proclamation. But the catch is this:

The administration, and business in general, have been emphasizing and re-emphasizing recent improvement. The only way the monetary program could be extended without legislative action would be by a proclamation "recognizing the continuance" of "the emergency" to use the language of the law. That would be poor practical psychology right now.

Consequently, some folks are looking for a middle road. There is some talk about getting Congress to pass a new bill which would extend the present system for another year or so without recognition that an emergency exists. That, of course, would take the problem beyond the election next November. It also would leave a Damocles sword still hanging in the form of an unanswered question about what finally will be done about money.

Some Capitol Hill chiefs have been predicting that a bonus bill will not be vetoed this session of Congress. But one New Dealer who is especially politically conscious dug up the following remark in 1932 by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York and wonders how that could be reconciled with the absence of a veto: "I don't see how, as a matter of practical sense, a government run-

ing behind two billion dollars annually can consider the anticipation of bonus payments until it has a balanced budget, not only on paper, but with a surplus of cash in the treasury."

The trip which more than a score of Congressmen made to the Philippines intensified talk about tariff and trade policies. The Democrats conceded that Japanese exports were an increasing menace to American trade while Republicans contended their observations in the Orient proved the "futility" of the reciprocity tariff idea.

Tariff legislation is not on the agenda for this session since the drive for a brief meeting continues. President Roosevelt is reported to have told one Democratic leader that the only thing he wanted, in addition to appropriations bills, was a permanent neutrality law. That led the party chiefs to forecast a session ending in April. But the only woman senator, Mrs. Hattie W. Caraway of Arkansas, says there will be "plenty of fireworks" with Congress staying at work until May or June.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Allen Pierce have returned to Cedar Crest Farm, their former home and will assume personal charge of their West Side Auto Camp. Dr. Pierce will open an office there for the practice of medicine. Office hours, evenings. Telephone ATwater 6741. 6259 S. W. Capitol Highway, and Bertha Station.

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