

Southern Oregon Miner

Published Every Friday at 167 East Main Street ASHLAND, OREGON

CHAS. M. GIFFEN
WILLIAM SAVIN
Publishers

Entered as second-class matter February 15, 1935, at the postoffice at Ashland, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (In Advance)

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Duty of the States

In the opening days of the Oregon legislature now in session, scores of bills were introduced. A considerable proportion of them involved revenue and taxation. With but one exception—a measure proposing to reduce the state gasoline tax by one cent a gallon—all of them would, if passed, impose a further drain on the taxpayers.

That is the normal tendency of state legislatures throughout the country. But in these highly abnormal times, the lawmakers face an obvious duty which so far seems to have been generally overlooked. That duty is to pare state expenditures to the bone.

This year we will all pay higher federal taxes. And, as every informed person knows, the increases so far approved by congress mark but a very short step along a very long road. Further tax boosts cannot be postponed for long—federal income is now not meeting the regular expenses of government, to say nothing of the tremendous appropriations made for defense. In short, we are going to pay record-breaking federal taxes, and the general standard of living will suffer accordingly.

The states don't pay for war machines. The world emergency has imposed no special burdens on them. And that goes for towns and school districts and counties and all the other myriad taxing bodies that cover the country. Local government must retrench as it never retrenched before. The best brains in local governments, from governors down to village officials, must figure out how tax savings can be made. Let that be remembered by the many state legislatures which will hold their biennial sessions during 1941.

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World's Champion Braggart?

World's champion braggart might be an appropriate title to give Benito Mussolini. When his mechanized legions swept over Ethiopia, murdering and pillaging and forcing Haille Selassie to forsake his kingdom, Benito hailed it as a great triumph for right and justice, vindicating his people for the terrible defeat suffered by a strong force of invading Italians more than 40 years earlier. Again, when Italian troops emerged on the side of victory in the Spanish civil war, Il Duce shouted from the housetops proclaiming the invincibility of the fascist war machine. When war clouds were gathering for the present conflict, Benito warned England that 8,000,000 Italian bayonets were not to be considered lightly.

But how has Mussolini justified this bragging?

Came the declaration of war between England and Germany and Mussolini marked time. He could have moved in on France when Germany took over the northern countries. He might have moved in when his axis partner started the battle of France but he preferred to wait until France was prostrate before tossing his fedora into the arena.

It is all a matter of history how the Italians swept over Albania towards Greece expecting to force the Greeks into submission and perhaps carry on their campaign to force the British out of the Mediterranean. Then there was that little matter of driving the British out of northern Africa.

With all this evidence of Italian prowess, Mussolini stands before a throng of fascists and tells them "we are going to win this war." If Hitler is able to carry out his objectives and the British are stopped it won't be because of Italian help—it will be in spite of it. But if such a thing should happen, we can look for Il Duce to pop up and shout "we killed the bear!"

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Compulsory Insurance Good, But...

Compulsory insurance on all motor vehicles would be a fine thing if public safety were all the state government had to consider at this time. It is right in line with the safety campaign conducted by the secretary of state and having the sanction and assistance of other state officials and all thoughtful motorists. It is true that thousands of cars are being driven by people not financially responsible in case of accident and the ideal situation would be for every vehicle to carry liability insurance.

It is conceivable that every car or motor vehicle owner who has the means is carrying all insurance necessary for protection. There also is another class of motorists who carry fire, theft and collision but who do not feel able to assume the added burden of liability. Many of this class will take on the extra protection whenever possible. The third class includes those who are unable to carry insurance and not a few who would not insure even if able to do so.

It is not the purpose of this newspaper to argue the case one way or the other. It is possible to recognize merits on both sides and in the present situation, with the state government endeavoring to carry on without

OUR DEMOCRACY by Mat

THE NINETEEN HUNDREDS

WE'VE HAD UPS AND DOWNS SINCE 1900, BUT ON THE AVERAGE IT'S BEEN MOSTLY UPS. HERE ARE A FEW SINCE 1900:

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER PERSON — UP 160%
AVERAGE WEALTH OF EACH PERSON IN U.S. — UP 150%
AVERAGE LIFE INSURANCE PER PERSON — UP 100%

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS: 1900-695,000... 1940-6,650,000
THE PROPORTION TO POPULATION — UP 450%
COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS: 1900-237,000... 1940-1,400,000
THE PROPORTION TO POPULATION — UP 240%

MAN AND WOMAN, BOY AND GIRL — AVERAGE FOLKS ARE BETTER OFF TODAY IN THE U.S.A. THAN ANYWHERE, ANY TIME IN THE WORLD'S HISTORY.

imposing new tax burdens, the thought occurs that we might be able to get along a few years longer without compulsory liability insurance and not threaten badly needed highway revenues. It seems almost certain that enforcement of liability insurance at present rates would prohibit thousands of Oregon motorists from buying license plates and there would be a corresponding drop in gasoline tax revenues.

Maybe we're all wet, but our present attitude is that we'll have to be shown.

NEWS FROM

Lincoln School

By SCHOOL STUDENTS

The fourth grade of Lincoln school had a program about Washington Friday, Feb. 21. The children sang songs and had pictures in the balopticon. Then they had the flag salute led by Mrs. Addy's room. They also had an interesting talk by Dr. Sayre about Washington and Lincoln. The children enjoyed it very much.

Miss Ady, art teacher at the college, showed the sixth grade some German art on the balopticon Feb. 21. She showed paintings by Germans and pictures of carvings by German people. German artists usually painted people with sad or serious looks on their faces. The children learned that the Germans were good artists.

Miss Woodruff of the Southern Oregon College of Education brought some interesting maps of industries, types of homes and means of transportation over for the children of Lincoln school to see.

The boys and girls of the fourth grade of Lincoln school made a sand table of Eskimo land. The boys and girls made some dogs, sleds, fish, boats, houses and Eskimo men. Some were carved out of soap and some out of clay.

The fourth grade of Lincoln school gave a shadow show for the sixth grade. It was about Kintu. Venita was Kintu and Barbara Lee was the announcer. It was Charles Culmer brought some pond water for the second grade's aquarium.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Jackson.

In the Matter of the Estate of D. Perozzi, Deceased.

The undersigned having been appointed by the above entitled Court of the State of Oregon, for the County aforesaid, Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of D. Perozzi, deceased, and having qualified, notice is hereby given to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against said deceased, to present them, verified as required by law, within six months after the first publication of this notice to said Louise Perozzi at the office of Briggs & Briggs, Attorneys, Pioneer Building, Ashland, Oregon.

LOUISE PEROZZI

Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of D. Perozzi, deceased. Dated February 28, 1941.

WANT ADS

LOST—Dark brown billfold in or near Greyhound depot. Contained \$5, driver's license, press cards. Please return to Don Plath or The Miner office.

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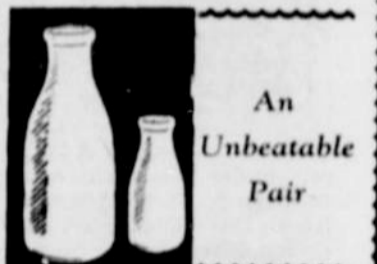
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