

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1926.

Editorial Program

- I. Make Springfield the Industrial Center of Western Oregon. II. Develop a Strong Trading Point; Build a City of Contented Homes. III. Improve Living Conditions on the Farm. Promote the Raising of Purebred Livestock and the Growing of Fruit; Work for Better Markets. IV. Tell the World About Oregon's Scenic Wonderland.

INCOME TAX SHOULD LESSEN BURDENS

School teachers and others who advocate an income tax and then make provisions for spending it are "counting their chickens before they hatch." Certainly there will be no income tax in Oregon if it is to be an additional tax. That's the part that Oregon people are afraid of most—that an income tax will be merely an additional tax instead of relieving the burdens of taxation on real property. If they felt certain that an income tax law would be passed by the voters.

A pure income tax is the easiest tax to pay there is. If one makes sufficient he pays a tax if his income is not sufficient he does not pay. Americans are willing to pay taxes when they have something to pay with but it becomes irksome to pay taxes when one's income is low.

Money raised from an income tax should be used for the same specific purposes as the general property tax and the amounts raised for these specific purposes (as they are now,) should be subject to the six per cent limitation. Hence when less money is needed from the property tax, taxes will automatically be reduced on property. It is only by this method taxes on farm property and other real estate will be reduced instead of added to by an income tax. If an income tax will lessen the burden on real property than there should be no income tax. Otherwise while it might catch a few tax dodgers it would merely mean an additional tax on the great mass of taxpayers.

OLD JOHN'S SPIRIT STILL HAUNTS US

How far the congress will be lined up on the side of modification of the Volstead act may be a debatable question, but it is certain the country is destined to face another battle over the demon rum. The fifty-eight members of the House of Representatives who have been conducting their own investigation into the operation of the prohibition law are now well organized and unquestionably present to the national legislature a bill of alterations.

There is every indication that the country generally is taking a very practical view of the liquor situation. Many of those who remain strongly in favor of prohibition see that their goal would have been reached more quickly had it been approached through the door of temperance; and most of them are compelled to admit that the rampant lawlessness exhibited in both city and village is eating into the very vitals of respect for government.

To enforce the existing statute would tax the financial resources of the nation and turn every other man and woman into a national policeman to watch his neighbor. It is indisputably true that from the economic angle the effect of Volsteadism has been to transfer vast government revenue into the pockets of thousands of bootleggers who have been made millionaires overnight.

It is unquestionably true too that there is an unconscious resistance, born perhaps of our his-

tory, to the very word prohibition. Self government makes a stronger national appeal. The American nation grows restive under the dictatorial lash, though it is always ready to govern itself into reasonable restraint.

A nova Scotia man hunting for his missing wife "with a baby face, and 22" has sent 25 cents to the police chief of Lynn, Mass., to cover the expenses of a search. Wives surely are expensive luxuries.

An Austrian chemist has perfected a glass that can be bent and which will bounce when thrown on the floor.

As soon as a Morrish boy is born his head is shaved and kept shaved until death. American girls have not gone to quite that extreme yet.

Men are children at heart; particularly when the bottle is concerned.

Editorial Comment

The editor of the Junction City Times conducts a personal dialect column each week on some pertinent subject, usually amusing, in his community. Last week a choice bit of irony seemed to creep into the column in the editors commenting of Eugene getting the terminal away from Junction City.

HANS AND HELMINA (JUNCTION CITY TIMES) Written by Hans Himself.

Hans Regrets That We Are Going to Lose the Dog House. "Say, Hans, do ve haf 48 empty houses here tomorrow or de next day?"

"Vot put dot nonsense into your head?" "Vy, de Eushene Guard says so, und der Guard vas always right, don't it?"

"Sure, dey vas always right, but dey is sometimes mistaken. Maybe dey gets 48 new families from somewhere, but dey don't come from Shunetion City. About haf uv dose 48 traimens vas single and de udder haf don't lif here. Eushene vas gone hog vild mit the terminal idem. Tink uv all dose 48 famblys vot Shunetion City had und didn't know it. Vy did we always been shust a little town mit 48 famblys uv railroad men. Den dere vas vone hostler und two helpers vot will go to Eushene. Dot makes 51."

"Yah, but dey is going to still lif here und drive down." "So vil der traimen vot lif in Portland still lif dere, but dot don't count on paper. Maybe dey move der "dog house" too, dot vil make vone more new building in Eushene. Vonder how Eushene grew so big and Shunetion City sayed so little mit all dose 48 famblys and vone "dog house" here Shust tink! Day after tomorrow ven dey mefs der termina dere vil be shust you and me und der chief policeman left in town, und ven ve vant to remember vot Shunetion City voice vas ve go down to der round house und count all dose 48 new famblys und vone "dog house" und say it vas der surfital uv re fit-ist. It must be der fit-ist vot surfitas, because ve is not having any fit about losing der 48 famblys vot ve aln't got. But ve vil miss der old "dog house," because dere is vere Shorty Thornton stays, und ven der dog house is gone Shorty von't haf no table to put his feet on vile he tries to figer out how much oil vas in der big oil tank.

"Anyway dey i going to left der fire vistle, und dot vil help some."

In spite of population increase, the number of marriages in 26 representative cities fell off 2433 last year compared with 1924. What's the trouble with the young crowd? Is the little cupid no longer able to wound them with his pointing arrows? Probably the fundamental trouble is that the standards of the present day are growing higher. The young men know that the girls expect comfortable homes and some chance for enjoyment, and many of them do not see how the same can be provided out of their present limited wages. This prudence is all right if not carried too far. A young couple ought to have some money ahead before getting married. But some who are spending dollars where their fathers used to spend dimes, would better think more of the calls which family needs will make on them in the future.

WOULD NOT INCREASE GAS TAX

The Oregonian quoted me as favoring a one-cent increase in the gasoline tax; this was a mistake. What I stated at the convention of County Judges and Commissioners was, that if there was an increase in the gas tax, it should go to the counties and not to the state, as the counties at the present time were unable to meet the demands of the state on account of lack of funds.

We paid the state in 1924, as their share of the automobile license \$175,919.70, our share being \$58,639.99, which is put in the retiring bond interest and sinking fund. Adding the estimated gas tax from this county, based on the average ratio of the gas tax to the returns from automobile licenses, and I find we paid the state in 1924, something over \$325,000.00 as their share of the automobile license and the gas tax collected in this county. In 1925 the state's share of the automobile license from this county was \$233,382.06, Lane county's share was \$77,794.02. It is fair to presume that the gas tax collected in Lane county during 1925, would at least be \$216,617.94 or a total of \$450,000.000 in automobile license and gas tax above the amount returned to the county.

Considering the increase from year to year, it is evident that we should be in a position to cooperate with the state to a larger degree than at present, or should receive a larger proportion of the license fund or a portion of the gas tax, but the county's position seems to be just the opposite of the state's, except as to the auto license which must go into the fund to retire bonds and pay interest on them.

Since 1921 we have been budgeting a certain amount to the cities and have also, since 1923, been compelled to anticipate our income and deduct this from our budget before the levy is made. Then, due to our large increase in population and the low levy, we were compelled to base our increase on, we are unable to raise for road purposes anywhere near as we formerly did.

In 1925, after taking advantage of the 6 per cent limitation, we were compelled to deduct from our road fund (the only flexible fund we have) \$13,000.00, in order to meet the increased demands of the schools and the natural increase in county expenses due to the large increase in population. In 1926 we are compelled to deduct \$22,000.00 from the same fund for the same reason, the consequence being that our road fund at the present time is about \$60,000.00 short of what it formerly was. This compels us to go before the people and get their sanction of special levies to meet the state on state highways, such as the Eugene-Florence and the McKenzie, in order that we may complete these highways and turn them over to the state for maintenance.

I am enclosing a resolution which I presented to the convention in 1925, and I think the sentiment of county judges and commissioners is the same at the present time. While it may seem unjust to charge the same license fee for an old car, on the other hand this money is used to improve and maintain the roads which are used as much by the old cars as the new ones, and it will be hard to enact a law covering such a complex question that will be satisfactory to everyone. For this reason we doubt the wisdom of making any change in the gas tax or auto license as it applies to pleasure vehicles.

I might say in conclusion that, personally, I think the gas tax is the fairest tax we have, as a person does

not pay unless he receives the benefit. At our convention I asked that a resolution increasing the tax on gas one cent, be laid on the table, as I did not wish to disrupt the present law. However, in view of the large increase in income from this source, I am inclined to believe that the state would not be crippled if the counties received one-half instead of one-fourth of the license license fee. Yours very truly, C. P. BARNARD, Lane County Judge.

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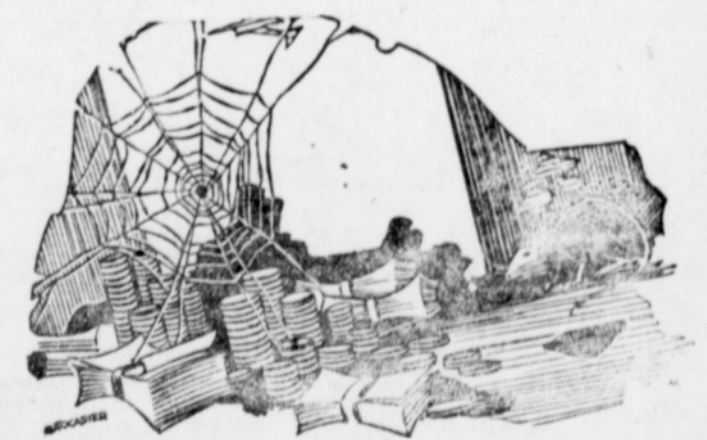
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This Hoard Would Have Doubled in Value--

Deposited in this bank at 3% interest hoarded money which has been lying idle for years would have doubled in value instead of merely accumulating dust and cobwebs.

Happily not many persons today actually hoard money with the belief that it is safe from theft or accident. Money need not be buried in old walls or cellars to be hoarded. It is hoarded money if it is idle money, useless money.

The safest way to make your money work for you and the community is to deposit it in the bank, where it is safe, draws interest, and helps build up the local community, thus enhancing the value of your property.

Our officials are business executives and can help to make your money work more profitably for you. Consult them without obligation.

Commercial State Bank

Springfield, Oregon

Bozo Butts They Drive Him Nuts

By "Rube" Goldberg

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