

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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WISE AUTO LICENSE LEGISLATION

To maintain adequate support of the state highway system and also give the automobile owner substantial relief it would seem wise for the legislature to pass a bill reducing the license fees not more than one-half on the present weight basis.

Theories about the old car and the new car tax values, different sharing of a property tax on cars between the county and the state, and \$5 license fees with increased gasoline taxes may or may not be all right. But, they are too radical for the present and require too much readjustment to enforce and create a danger that the whole highway department may get into politics and into the hands of the propertyless tin-can driver who wants the lowest license fee at any cost.

When it comes to putting a property tax on cars and making different re-apportionment to the counties then the cities will come in for a share of this tax money. The counties point out that not one penny of the license fee money goes to market roads now and that this is an injustice on real property. They fail to take into consideration that there are millions of dollars invested in city pavements which are a direct lien on property in the form of bonds, a great deal of which are about to be defaulted. When it comes to property taxes on automobiles then the cities where most of the cars are registered are coming in for their share too.

The gasoline goose which has been laying the golden highway eggs these many years can also be slain, even if some politicians seem to think otherwise. With taxes from 20 to 30 per cent of the selling price, gasoline producing states are becoming alarmed at seeing their natural resources disposed of without adequate return to them. The result is going to be continued effort to restrict the production of gasoline and no doubt with the help of legislatures. This of course will force the price up and with the high tax gasoline will become prohibitive. Bootlegging of gasoline will become as remunerative as is liquor at present.

Wise legislation would be to grant a reduction in license fees based on the present schedules and weights and forget for the time being new theories of automobile taxation or division of taxes between state and county.

HALTING FARM FORECLOSURES

One of the most practical efforts to stop foreclosures of farm mortgages occurred recently in Nebraska, one of the solid states that can not be accused of having Communist tendencies. Most of the farmers in that state belong to the class of "kulaks", the one class hated the most by the Soviet authorities. Kulaks are the most progressive of all Russian farmers and their prosperity incites the attacks of the Reds.

It is the American "kulaks" who are suffering most nowadays from the crushing load of debts and mortgages. And it is the Nebraska judges who are trying to meet this condition by blocking the flood of foreclosures. Judges in the Ninth District in that state recently declared a moratorium on all farm debts for an indefinite period. When it is known that one low county recently reported something like 650 farm foreclosures during one term of court one can readily see that unless something is done to stop this trend, it will not be long before the ownership of all land in the United States will revert to the hands of the favored few.

In opening the November term of the Ninth District court, Judge Clinton Case of Nebraska announced that in mortgage cases where no defense had been made he would neither issue decrees of foreclosure nor confirm foreclosure sales. Another Judge, Charles H. Steward, sitting in another county, has announced that he will follow suit.

The net result will give Nebraska farmers a chance to turn themselves. Nobody questions that they will eventually pay their obligations, given time and the chance to get enough for their farm products to be able to pay. The example of the Nebraska judges is worth study by those in every other state in the Union.

MINING MAY COME BACK

A new gravity process for separation of minerals was discussed by mining men from Cottage Grove at the county chamber of commerce meeting last Friday evening in Springfield. This new process which has been tried out on the Noonday mine ore shows 100 per cent separation and extracted minerals worth from \$10 to \$600 from each ton of ore.

If this process proves successful it will greatly reduce the freight and costly smelter charges from the Bohemia district and no doubt be the means of putting hundreds of men to work. There is no doubt many hundreds of thousands of tons of low grade ore both in the Bohemia and Blue river districts as well as other parts of Lane county. A process which can separate this ore profitably would soon bring mining to the forefront as one of our main industries.

This 3.2 per cent beer is not strong enough to suit the wets, but is too strong to suit the dries. Whether it will yield \$5 a barrel tax in competition with home brew is a debatable subject. Prohibition has reared a crop of hundreds of thousands of amateur brewers who must now be figured into the picture. It is not like the "good old days" we hear about when beer was a revenue raiser.

Coach Schissler of O. S. C. refuses to take a cut in his \$8000 a year salary, which has been imposed on other state officials. If the people of Oregon, whom the coach is supposed to be working for, had their way Mr. Schissler would be cut off completely at the pockets.

A sales tax or something else may be necessary to balance the state's budget but it seems too bad that with 20 or 30 per cent of the people out of employment that they must be faced with an added tax placed on the necessities of life.

FIRST MOVIES by FELIX RIESENBERG

Seventeenth Installment

SYNOPSIS—Johnny Breen, 16 years old, who had spent all of his life aboard a tugboat, plying around New York City, was made motherless when an explosion sank the boat on which he, his mother and the man he called father, were living. He is the only survivor, struggling through the darkness to shore. At dawn, amid surroundings entirely unknown, his life in New York begins. Unable to read, knowing nothing of life, he is taken in by a Jewish family, living and doing a second-hand clothing business on the Bowery. . . . From the hour he set foot in the city he had to fight his way through against bullies and toughs. . . . and soon became so proficient that he attracted the attention of a would-be manager of fighters who enters him in many boxing tournaments. . . . It was here that Pug Malone came in to young Breen's life—an old fighter who was square and honest. . . . He took Breen under his wing—sent him to night school and eventually took him to a health farm he had acquired. . . . The scene shifts and the family of Van Horns of Fifth avenue is introduced. . . . Gilbert Van Horn, last of the old family, is a man-about-town, who meets Malone and Breen at one of the boxing shows. . . . Van Horn has a hidden chapter in his life. . . . which had to do with his mother's maid, years ago, who left the family when about to become a mother. . . . It was reported that she married an old captain of a river craft. . . . Van Horn has a ward, Josephine, about Breen's age. . . . Van Horn, now interested in John. . . . prevails upon him to let him finance a course in Civil Engineering at Columbia University. . . . John and Josephine meet—become attached—become engaged, love grows and they become engaged shortly after Breen graduates from college. . . . Josephine has another suitor, a man of the world named Rantoul. . . . Josephine becomes restless as John gives full attention to his job and sails for Paris to select her trousseau. . . . At the last moment Rantoul sails on the same boat. . . . At sea on the return home the great ocean liner crashes into an iceberg and sinks—all passengers taking to the lifeboats. . . . Van Horn perishes but Rantoul saves himself—with Josephine. Breen learns that Gilbert Van Horn was his father. Josephine breaks the engagement and marries Rantoul. For years John buries himself in work. The U. S. enters the World War.

ing him a divorce, on statutory grounds. He was a vindictive nasty old man without much money. Josephine's attorney asked the jury, twelve disgruntled married men, the historic question, "Why don't you recommend alimony for Mr. Rantoul?" The correspondents paid the costs. Josephine refused to appeal. She praised Gerrit Rantoul. "He is a very jealous man," she added. During the trial, he was gilded with the memory of vanished millions, and his honors and decorations were paraded by Josephine's counsel. "I don't want people to think I married a dud," she said. Josephine came out of the fire smelling slightly of adventurous disinfectant. It also became evident that she was a very wealthy young woman in her own right. Her Rolls, her Japanese chauffeur and footman, her gowns, her friends, her views, her face, her shapely ankles, and her cheerful attitude, quite upset the city and the country at large. She had no intention of going into the moving pictures, the awful purple make-up being something she would never consent to put on. Josephine Lambert, for she at once reverted to her maiden name, took a leading part in the final emancipation of her sex.

She might have been the second (or was it the third?) Princess Casananda, only Prince Miguel looked better in uniform than in A settlement near by had en-

NOW GO ON WITH STORY

Rantoul tore the letter in rage and muttered vehement uncouth oaths in foreign words. The letter was almost accurate. Josephine had seen John and had wondered where the war medals were. He had worn none, and, in fact, was quite indifferent to her.

"How's the old boy?" he had asked, rather, brutally. Josephine thought he looked years older and twenty times better than when she saw him last in those dear sophomore days of the awful aqueduct.

"He's the image of poor dear Gilbert," Josephine kept repeating to herself, thoughtfully. "The living image of Gilbert Van Horn."

When Gerrit Rantoul at last began his attack on Josephine, intending to burn and consume her in the public eye, he still believed in a philosophy outmoded. The Rantoul divorce case was photographed and exploited during a semester of public attention.

The papers, in defense of Josephine, her many poses supplying them with first-class circulation interest, raked up the past of Gerrit Rantoul. He had no idea this would be done. Josephine, on the other hand, testified, under examination by her attorney, Maximilian Schweitzer, that her husband had always been true. She insisted that he was the essence of uxorious fidelity. She even conveyed the impression that this had been a bit boring to her.

Numerous correspondents were named by Rantoul. George St. James had been shadowed and had been caught coming from her apartment at two a. m. She did not deny it.

"Bless my eyes," he remarked, "I never knew it was so late." As a matter of fact, after the death of Aunt Wentworth, Josephine lived independently. Her servants were Japanese, little efficient men; she had three of them, apparently not afraid of her. The butler, Tashi, an adept at Jujitsu, could toss out an unwelcome guest with astonishing completeness. "I only wish what they say was true," St. James ruefully remarked, remembering many efforts.

John Breen was named, in a long, purchased affidavit from Paris, but he was in South Africa and could not be reached. Some of the correspondents, afflicted with wives, found themselves under double fire and fought valiantly, giving the performance an exciting interest. Josephine denied nothing, smiled, enjoyed the fuss, spent no money, whatever on her defense, Schweitzer being retained by a syndicate of the indignant correspondents. If Josephine was guilty of anything, it was not stupidity. She was clever enough not to let Rantoul know more than an ineffectual husband should know. She may have been as spotless as New York snow, on the hour of its fall, or she may have been a wicked woman. Millions of readers debated the subject endlessly and took sides.

After a long trial a verdict was rendered in favor of Rantoul grant-

From time to time John read the papers, off in far camps. Uncertain glimpses of the Rantoul divorce news came to him. One of his associates had received a paper, sent out by obliging relatives, containing testimony bearing on his own misdeeds. Was Josephine half as bad as Rantoul contended. So far as he was concerned he knew she was blameless. What was she like, after nine years? He remembered her in Paris, rather attractive, he thought, although he was fed-up on uniforms, and her air was too self-conscious. But he would probably see nothing of her; he cared very little if he did or not. He would take an office, in a high tower, for a year or two, and enjoy himself. Then, well, then he could go out again, for good.

John had been in the city all summer, going out to Greenbough for a week at a time, but always back again to his little office. He had no sign on his door, had no special business. He lived at the Engineer's Club, was pointed out, at times, as the John Breen.

It was in the fall that John Breen first met Josephine, quite by accident, as simple a meeting as life ever arranges for us after its most elaborate maneuvers. John was becoming more and more concerned with the tenements the slums, if you will. He came upon Josephine in Rivington street.

A settlement near by had en-



For nine years John Breen, C. E., had worked in Argentine; railroads, bridges, dams.

bathing, as pictures taken as Palm Beach testified to interested millions. Josephine was supremely unconcerned.

"I am opening up the old house again, Marvin," she informed Judge Kelly, after the divorce. "It's about time I settled down to life, my dear." She looked anything but settled.

"Gilbert would have liked to hear that," Judge Kelly looked at her thoughtfully. "And so would John Breen. He's coming back to New York."

Josephine went to the piano, ran her fingers over the keys, her head thrown back, with a saucy toss. "Spring is coming to town," she laughed. The new apartment at the Du Barry was cozy, "hope he's more civilized, now." Judge Kelly looked out of the window. What a damnable town it was! But a woman like Josephine could always survive. Perhaps John Breen might master her. And if he did?

For nine years John Breen, C. E. had worked in the Argentine; railroads, bridges, dams. He had been called to Paraguay, he had thrown spans over gorges, had visted and reported on great works in Chile. His reconnaissance, surveys, and reports were on file in London and New York. A dozen commissions awaited him at the completion of every work. He was known in Europe and America, he was a member of the great American Society of Civil Engineers; a corresponding member of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Great Britain. John Breen was becoming a distinguished engineer, still in the sunny forties; but he was utterly unknown to the public at large. He was out of touch with fame.

John was heavier than when we saw him last, working with Colfax, heavier but compact. Years in the open had tanned him, his hair and eyes were strangely light in contrast. John was still an athlete, in far camps he had often amused himself by boxing. He had read, as men read who are free.

As the Western World neared Sandy Hook, John noted the increasing filth afloat, the slow out-push of accumulated sewage, slogging the blue sea. Why had he come back? They had called him in London. Almon Strauss had written him from Paris. He could have started for China, on a work as great as that of the ancient wall. He wanted to see Pug to again talk with Harboard, to shake hands and look into the knowing eyes of Judge Kelly, to walk, once more, on Washington Heights. It was the city that called him. He wanted again to feel the insistent pressure of millions.

cared for the privilege, was the scene of a meeting and catholic discussion on the evils of the time. It seemed that The Lemmas, a society of eager intellectuals, was assembled there for no other purpose than to talk. Professor Audrey Fessenden of the Bouge School was expected to speak on Trends! The room was crowded.

Harboard pulled John by the arm into an alcove offering an exit toward the door while groups continually blocked the way.

"For the love of Mike, Harboard, let us get some air." John was turning—the women put him out of tune; the snatches of this and that rolled and goaded him; the smoke and breaths were oppressive.

TO BE CONTINUED

MARSHALL TELLS DANGER OF FIRE

Mechanical Toys New Factor in Fire Spread During Holiday Season; Others Given

State Fire Marshal, H. A. Averill, this week issued his annual Christmas season fire warning. Highlights of his warning this year are:

First of all, the Christmas tree should be placed several feet away from any heating or lighting fixture and fastened securely so it cannot topple over. Lighted candles, even in this age of electricity, sometimes are used as ornaments on trees and in windows, but since this is a hazardous practice it never should be permitted.

Ornaments that are either slow burning or incombustible are recommended for trees and room decorations instead of paper, cotton or other burnable materials. As an additional protection, costumes and decorations may be partially fireproofed with the following solution: Two ounces of carbonate of soda; two ounces of ammonia carbonate; two ounces of boric acid and five gallons of water. The mixture should be allowed to come to a boil and then be strained and sprayed upon the material to be protected.

Toys sometimes are the cause of fires. Mechanical toys that use alcohol, kerosene or gasoline as a source of heat or power are extremely dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced child. They should be used under close supervision of an adult—or better still outside of the house. Safer toys are recommended. The supervision of adults is also suggested for electrical toys to insure safety. Perhaps the most dangerous toy of all is the miniature motion picture machine which can use regular nitrocellulose film. Usually these toys come equipped with one or two reels of safety film. Child and parents soon tire of these, and commence renting films which are apt to be the dangerous nitrocellulose type. Not only are these films highly inflammable, they also give off poisonous gas when burning. In attempting to extinguish flames in this type of film, one is likely to inhale the fumes, which usually cause death.

Smoking should be discouraged in rooms which are profusely trimmed with quick burning decorations.

Particularly stressed by Fire Marshal Averill is the importance of removing the tree and evergreens from the house shortly after Christmas, before they become dried out. The tree should be burned outside—never in the fireplace—as the dry, brittle and pitch-filled foliage, limbs and trunk will start a roaring fire imperiling the chimney and producing such intense heat as to endanger the house. In some foreign countries it is considered bad luck to keep the Christmas tree up after December 31.

FIRST DRIVER TESTS TO BE GIVEN HERE JAN. 13

Glenn Bown, deputy license examiner for the Oregon State Automobile registration department will be in Springfield Friday, January 13, 1933, at the City Hall to conduct examinations for private operators and commercial licenses. This will be the first of such examinations to be held in Springfield.

Copies of the Oregon Motorist's Manual are available at the City Hall and should be studied by those expecting to take the tests.

Last Minute Gifts can usually be found at the drug store. Here we are stocked the year round with useful and necessary articles that anyone is glad to have. If you're undecided let us suggest something. Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas KETELS DRUG STORE "We Never Substitute"

CHRISTMAS Every imaginable kind of delicious candy is here to make your Christmas and the Children's more delightful. EGGIMANN'S "Where the Service is Different"

Greetings We wish to extend to our many friends and patrons the season's greetings. It is our hope that the patronage we have enjoyed this past year has been justified in our service to our friends. We wish for everyone of you a very Merry Christmas! Wright & Sons

Safety First! Consideration for the safety of those who ride with you demands that you keep your car in safe driving condition constantly. Don't just think your car is safe. MAKE SURE... Here's Our December and January Safety First SPECIAL Inspecting and adjusting brakes. Focus headlights. Replace bulbs if necessary. Check wiring. Check battery. Remove front wheels. Clean bearings, pack with new grease. Align front wheels. Check steering wheel and steering gear. Check and inflate tires. REGULAR PRICE... \$3.75 Special \$1.75 Labor ANDERSON MOTORS, Inc. J. W. Anderson Ford Ray Nott 5th and A Sts. Springfield, Oregon Closing at 6 o'clock Christmas eve, Saturday, Dec. 24

The MODERN GIFT for MODERN MOTHERS IS ELECTRICAL The Greatest Joy will accompany an electrical gift. Every day in the year will bring thoughts of appreciation from Mother. There is an electrical gift for every purse. MOUNTAIN STATES POWER COMPANY